

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY

Candlelight vigil: There will be a candle memorial and dedication of a Christmas tree at 7 p.m. at Kellogg Park in Plymouth. The community is welcome to come and remember children who have died. For more information, or to register a child's name, call Barb Kilgore at (734) 455-8679.

TUESDAY

Last chance: Today is the final day to make a donation to the Canton Goodfellows. Donations of non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys will be accepted in a drop box at the Hanford Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford, until 3 p.m.

Local government: The Canton Township Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m. in the administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

School board: The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth.

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Thinking about a new car or a good second car? You'll find a huge selection of auto ads in today's HomeTown Classifieds



Contract near for superintendent



A delegation of Plymouth-Canton school officials will likely offer the district's top job to Berkley Schools Superintendent Kathleen Booher Friday after visiting her current district this week.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@oe.hometown.com

If all goes as planned, Berkley school superintendent Kathleen Booher could be offered the job as Plymouth-Canton's new superintendent as early as Friday.

School board and community members will converge on Berkley Thursday in an all-day site visit discussing Booher with teachers, administrators, community leaders and business owners.

Unless a bombshell arises, the Board of Education is expected to offer Booher, 50, the job at a special meeting scheduled for 7 a.m. Friday.

"At that meeting we'll decide if we'll offer her a contract," said Susan Davis, Plymouth-Canton school board president.

"I would like to see us wrap this up as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of the year."

Ten people will visit Berkley on Thursday to get a look at Booher's present district and ask questions. The visit is expected to take all day as Plymouth-Canton school officials want to affirm last Tuesday night's decision to make Booher the number one choice for the job.

"We're looking to find out her strengths and weaknesses, leadership style and how she works with the community," added Davis. "I think the site visit gives you a different feel on things we've already heard."

Davis will team with Pioneer Middle School principal Tom Owens, meeting with secondary school administrators and teachers.

Trustee Judy Mardigian will talk to elementary personnel and parents with Maureen Sullivan-Wolski, chairperson of the Superintendent Selection Committee.

"I want to meet with parents and discuss how Kathleen interacts with the community," said Mardigian. "I've heard good things, but I want to hear from them how she does it."

Board member Mark Slavens, who

Please see **CONTRACT**, A6

Cyber shopping sprees



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HIRSCHMANN
Looking ahead: Andy Wrenbeck, manager of Planet Cycle looks to the future of additional sales on the Internet

For a partial listing of Canton businesses operating Web sites, please turn to page A4

Local businesses sell to the world on the Internet

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
sdaniel@oe.hometown.com

Few businesses live up to their name. But with the help of the Internet, Planet Cycle is doing just that. The Canton-based bicycle shop routinely ships products to England, Germany, Mexico and Australia.

"I expected more local stuff," said manager Andy Wrenbeck, who launched a Web site in 1996. "But the local guys are blowing us off. It's all international."

Planet Cycle is one of a growing number of local companies doing business on the Internet. While a hard figure is difficult to determine, the Web is clearly affecting bottom-lines across Canton and Plymouth.

"Last year we sold 36 homes off of the Internet," said Lee Bittinger, owner of RE/MAX Classic Realty in Canton. "That's 25 percent of our overall sales. It has had a significant impact."

That trend is growing nation-

ally as well.

According to Shop.org, an association of Internet retailers, about \$9 billion will be spent on the Internet this holiday season. Online sales for the third quarter of 1999 grew at a rate of 160 percent over the same period last year, it claims.

Companies such as Ebay, an auction site, Amazon.com, Toysrus.com, and etoys.com are leading the charge. Shop.org reports. While local businesses don't gear their sites to Christmas as much, getting the word out is still important.

"I thought it would be a good avenue to reach people," Tom Gerou, a Canton chiropractor said. "It's also a good way to educate people about chiropractic."

Roger Ballard, president of Plymouth-based Community Federal Credit Union, said his company's Web site also informs. But it's evolving

Please see **INTERNET**, page A4

Site builder rides the Web wave

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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It wasn't long ago that Ken Sroka had to convince business owners that getting on the Web was in their best interest.

Now as co-owner of Katoo Enterprises, a Canton-based firm specializing in Internet site development, he has to almost shake them off with a stick. Business folks have done a 180-degree turnaround, according to Sroka.

"People weren't sure about it

before," he said. "Now it's everywhere. People realize they have to get in on it. They don't question it."

Todd Benner, who owns and runs a similar township company, Netheadz, agrees. He thinks businesses not on the Web are missing the boat.

"It's a cheap way to round out your advertising," Benner adds. "You can put information on there that people may not see otherwise."

He notes that Canton is a

Please see **WEB SITE**, page A6

Pro bono: Attorney works from his heart

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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The best presents, Christmas or otherwise, aren't always delivered in a package.

It's a concept local attorney George Dovas understands. He recently lent his time and expertise to help Teresa Smith, a worker at Johnson's Restaurant in Canton, keep her disability benefits.

All of the work was done free of charge.

"She's the kind of person that deserves help," said Dovas, who's based in Livonia. "I was totally convinced that she was entitled to those benefits."

Smith wasn't sure how she'd survive if the checks were cut off. She was pleasantly surprised when she heard the good news.

Please see **ATTORNEY**, A8

Marking a milestone

Canton Place seniors call complex 'home' for 10th year

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
sdaniel@oe.hometown.com

Residents and managers of Canton Place celebrated the facility's 10th anniversary Tuesday.

About 100 seniors gathered for a noon luncheon in the activity room. It was one of several activities planned for the day.

Elizabeth Bologna has lived at Canton Place, which sits near the corner of Ford and Sheldon Roads, since it opened.

"The apartments are lovely and it's near shopping," she said. "You couldn't ask for anything more."

More than 100 seniors, with an average age of 78, live at Canton Place. It's one of two township facilities run by National Church Residences.

The Ohio-based non-profit organization began 35 years ago and has 200 facilities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Seniors must meet income guidelines to qualify for a subsidized apartment.

Ginnie Hauck manages both buildings. She thinks Canton and Sheldon Place meet the needs of seniors that can live independently. But she says there's more to do.

"We need more affordable assisted living in Canton," Hauck said. "I'd like to find land and build a quality, affordable assisted living facility."



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HIRSCHMANN

Party: Original residents Millie Hay (left) and Estelle Roths pick up their lunch in the buffet line during the Canton Place 10th anniversary celebration Tuesday.

For now, Hauck was happy to celebrate Canton Place's anniversary.

"It has been a journey," she told seniors. "It has been exciting and we've had our ups and downs."

Barb Yack is one who helps keep things positive. She worked with

Hauck for more than six years doing mostly administrative work.

"It's not like going to work," said Yack. "I get to visit with everyone and have coffee with them. It has become

Please see **MILESTONE**, A6

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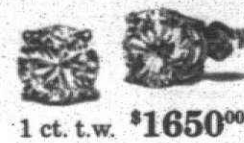
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Man ambushed at gas station

A 35-year-old Westland man was the victim of a strong-arm robbery in Canton Tuesday evening.

According to township police reports, the man stopped at a Speedway Gas Station at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Lotz Road at about 6 p.m. to pick up a soft drink.

As soon as he stepped out of his car, reports said three white males ages 17-20 attacked him. One described as 5-foot-9-inches tall and 170 pounds took a cell phone off of the man's belt.

All three men hit the Westland man, reports said. He eventually turned over \$15 in cash to the trio. Reports said they hit him again and then ran south behind the gas station.

The Westland man was able to drive himself home. His mother then took him to Ann Arbor Hospital for treatment.

Reports said he suffered a broken nose, numerous facial bruises

and injured wrist. A gas station clerk said she noticed the three men hanging around the station about 45 minutes before the attack. She didn't, however, see the robbery.

Break-in

More than \$4,500 worth of damage was done to a Belleville Road business late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

An unknown person(s) broke into Clark Block and Supply between 9 p.m. Tuesday and 4 a.m. Wednesday, reports said. A pair of Hi Lo vehicles were driven into equipment and a garage door causing extensive damage.

An office was also broken into on the site. Reports said a vending machine was smashed and food stolen. A microwave and cell phone were also damaged in the

COP CALLS

Retail Fraud

An unidentified woman was arrested for trying to shop lift about \$65 worth of merchandise from Meijer Monday.

The woman, whom reports didn't describe or identify, took medicine, makeup and a pair of movie videos and concealed them. Reports said she then tried to leave the store without paying.

Loss prevention officers stopped her. She was later transported to Canton's Police Department and given a 35th District Court appearance date of Jan. 6, 2000.

MDOP

About \$50 worth of damage was done to a Canton woman's

lawn Monday. An unknown person drove over the 41-year-old woman's grass at her Sussex Street home, according to reports.

Paraphernalia

A 24-year-old Plymouth man was arrested in Canton Tuesday after drug paraphernalia was found in his car.

Police reports said the man, who was driving a 1998 Ford, was stopped near the intersection of Morton Taylor Road and Candlewood Street for speeding at about 4 p.m. The vehicle was traveling 43 mph in a 25 mph zone, reports said.

The man initially gave police a false identification and was arrested. A subsequent search of his vehicle revealed a marijuana pipe.

The Plymouth man was held on \$300 bond, according to reports.

Canton woman in pageant

Jennifer Presley of Canton will compete in the 1999 National Pageant Dec. 16-21 in Orlando, Fla.

Presley, 23, was named 1999 Ms. Detroit in the local competition sponsored by Nationals, Inc. last June at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn.

The RN at Children's Hospital in Detroit scored marks of 90 percent or better in her personal interview, casual wear and formal wear competitions to take the top local prize.

Her prizes included an expense-paid trip to the national pageant in Orlando, where she will compete in her division for the chance to win scholarships and other awards.



Jennifer Presley

Canton Observer

(USPS 963-670)
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES		Mail Delivery
Monthly	Carrier Delivery	One year \$55.00
One year	\$47.40	One year (Sr. Citizen) \$44.00
One year (Sr. Citizen)	\$38.00	One year (Out of County) \$65.00
Newsstand	per copy 75¢	One year (Out of State) \$80.00

All advertising published in the Canton Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, Canton Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. (734) 591-0500. The Canton Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric always have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Park Players mark 30 years

The 1999-2000 school year marks the 30th anniversary of the Park Players of Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton high schools.

This spring they will celebrate their tradition of excellence with an alumni tribute weekend and a special production of "Fiddler on the Roof." The April 8 performance of the show, which runs April 7, 8, 14, and 15 will bring together former and current Park Players on stage.

Special weekend schedule:

■ Friday, April 7, 2000
■ Rehearse "Tradition" 2:30-4:30 p.m.
■ Pre-show meet and greet 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Gold row alumni tribute

■ "Fiddler" 8 p.m.

■ Afterglow party

■ Saturday, April 8, 2000

■ Rehearse "Tradition" and

■ The Exodus 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Alumni and current Players

perform "Fiddler" 8 p.m.

■ Afterglow party

All Plymouth Park Players

from 1970 to the present are

asked to drop a line to: Gloria

Logan, c/o Plymouth Salem High

School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton,

MI 48187 (734) 416-7723, with

their current address, phone

number, E-mail, and also that

information for any other Ply-

mouth Park Player they may

know about.



CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth will accept sealed bids until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2000 for the following:

TROPHIES

Specifications and proposal forms are available at the office of the Administrative Services Director during regular office hours. The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

CAROL STONE
Admin. Services Director

Published: December 12, 1999

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CANTON CONNECTION

Contest winners

Seven area students were named award winners in the 21st annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

The contest is co-sponsored by the Canton Fire Department, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and AutoNation during October, which is National Fire Prevention Month.

Receiving first-place awards were Julie Kayganich, a second-grader at All Saints School, and Sjarina Bello, a fourth-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Second-place recognition went to Justina Spinalo, third-grader at Eriksson Elementary and Rebekah Hunter, fourth-grader at Agape Christian Center.

Third-place awards went to Henri Pierre Jacques', first-third grades at Plymouth Christian Academy and Lyndsay Ross, Gallimore Elementary fifth-grader.

The AutoNations Choice Award was given to Patrick Lutz, fourth-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Rallying for a cause

Several area businesses have ongoing campaigns during the holidays to help benefit local families in need.

■ Holiday Market is collecting canned goods and non-per-

ishable foods through Dec. 15 in conjunction with Toys for Tots.

■ Canton Bread Company owners Jerry Sprague and Scott Taylor are donating bread to several organizations in the area, including First Step and the Salvation Army, along with several metro Detroit soup kitchens.

■ The Canton Public Library is selling quilt raffle tickets through Dec. 15 for the Canton Goodfellows. The library has also launched its "Food for Fines" campaign, in which they will forgive overdue book fines up to \$10 if a patron donates a bag of food.

■ The Canton Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents Committee has donated \$100 to the Canton Goodfellows.

Skater earns medal

Katrina Alber of Canton took second place at the recent Westland All American Classic.

The 9-year-old representing the Plymouth Figure Skating Club performed her second program to Disney's "Bare Necessities" and was good enough to beat out skaters from Melvindale, Westland and Farmington Hills for the Silver Medal.

Katrina also recently finished third in a multi-state competition at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Candlelight vigil for deceased children set for Sunday night

There will be a candle memorial and dedication of a Christmas tree at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Kellogg Park in Plymouth. The community is welcome to come and remember children who have died. For more information, or to register a child's name, call Barb Kilgore at (734) 455-8679 or e-mail at TKilgore99@aol.com.

You need not be present to have a child's name included in the memorial.



Class project: Several classes from Bird Elementary School in Plymouth dropped their donations off at the Observer office last week and then posed for a group picture.

Cheer Club in home stretch

There's still time to make a donation to the Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club.

The Cheer Club is open to new and returning "members" through Wednesday. All that's required is a donation of new toys, clothes or food to our office at 794 S. Main St., Plymouth, during business hours.

On Thursday, we will turn over the collected items to the Salvation Army so that they can be distributed to needy people in Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

Your friends, neighbors and

colleagues who have donated to this year campaign include:

Plymouth residents Bob and Cindy Modras, Beverly E. Booker, Mike and Nancy Riemenschneider.

Barb and Gordie Bardien, the Cortellinis, George Veach, William and Lorraine McLeon, Carrie Blazewski, Canton residents Jaunita Tenkill, Ron and Nowel Lustik, Garret and Drew Blazkowski of Pickney, and Mary Fedoroff's third-grade class, along with Mrs. Olvera's third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders from Bird.

The idea is to make the holi-

days 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 to our office, we'll ask you to leave your name and city or township of residence. Or, you can donate anonymously if you prefer.

Happy Holidays! Please keep our Cheer Club in mind.

Observer collecting for First Step

The Plymouth and Canton Observers are collecting items during the holiday season to donate to the First Step Shelter for victims of domestic violence.

The collection will run at the Observer circulation office in Canton, 5820 Canton Center Road, Suite 150. Collection hours are 1-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays-Fridays through Dec. 20.

Items needed by First Step include:

■ Kitchen utensils such as silverware, pots and pans, storage containers and plastic baby bottles.

■ Personal care items including tooth brushes, toothpaste, hand soap, shampoo.

■ Baby items like diapers, training pants, baby shampoo, baby powder, wipes.

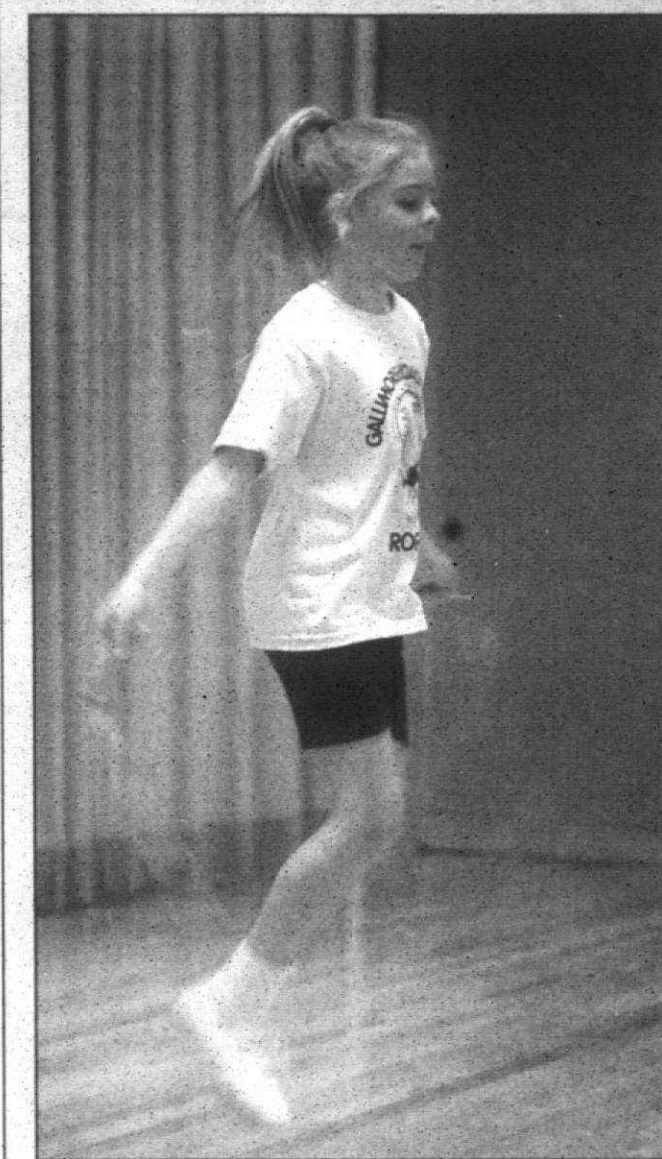
■ School supplies, linens, office supplies, cleaning supplies.

■ New clothing.

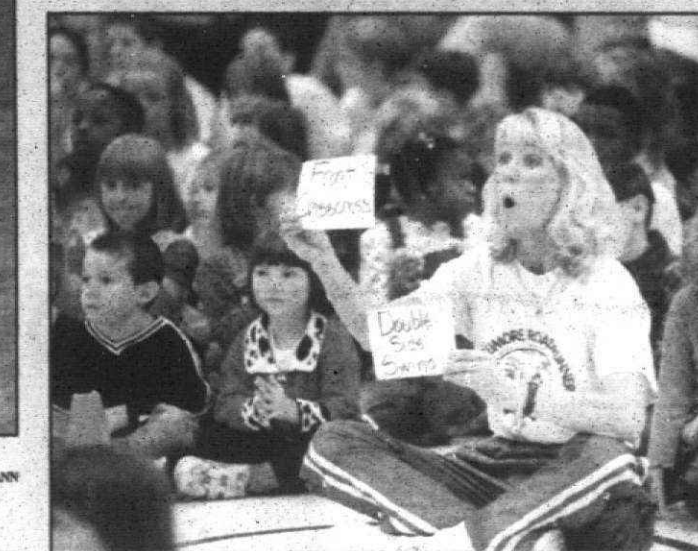
■ Non-perishable food items. Donations will be accepted at the Canton office only. Call (734) 416-9400 for information.

For additional information on needed items, call First Step at 416-1111.

Gallimore jumpers take their routine on the road

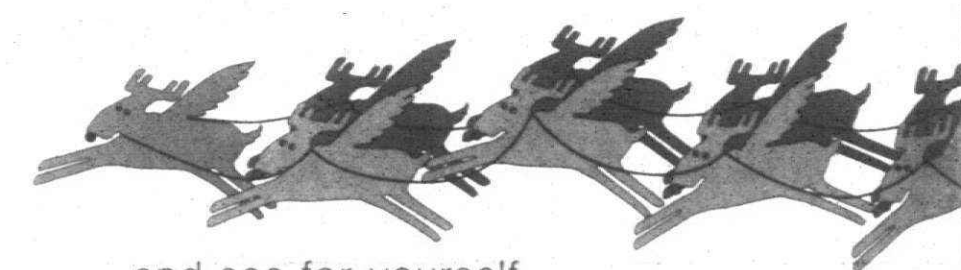


Teamwork: Austin Bradley (first grade), Josh Boor (second grade) and Kyle Wilkinson (second grade) jump rope to a Backstreet Boys song.



Instructions: Coach Linda Rotramel holds up cue cards as she encourages the jumpers during a routine.

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Internet from page A1

beyond that to become truly interactive, he explained.

"We're trying to bring personal service to the Internet environment," Ballard said. "We're all about fulfilling member needs, either electronically or face-to-face."

Pedaling ahead

Planet Cycle opened its doors more than two decades ago in Canton. It built a strong patron base by providing bikes for enthusiasts and to local families. In 1996, Wrenbeck sought to get ahead of what he saw as a coming wave in the business — Internet sales.

"We saw it as a cheap way of advertising," the manager added.

For the first two years of planetcycle.com, that's exactly what it was. But about 14 months ago, Wrenbeck began "e-commerce" on the site.

"We're hoping to have 10,000 hits (on the site) by March," he said.

A variety of products are sold, including parts, clothing and other cycling gear. The only thing not sold on the site, oddly enough, is bicycles.

"It's too complicated," said Wrenbeck. Most items sold over the Internet cost \$50 or less. Wrenbeck said it's common for Planet Cycle to receive one to two Internet orders each day.

"The first thing I do every morning is check the e-mail," he said.

While Internet sales have gone well and the shop plans to do more, it's still a relatively small piece of the pie.

"It's less than 5 percent of our sales," Wrenbeck said.

Bigger impact

For Bittinger, the Internet plays a much larger role. The Realtor, who runs the business with wife Noel, has seven Web sites.

"We're on the leading edge of technology in terms of real estate companies," said Bittinger.

He sees the Web as a tool for his agents and customers. Many home buyers, in fact, are doing a lot of the leg work in finding

their dream digs online.

Bittinger encourages it by including information on local school districts, such as state test scores, as well as a myriad of community information. He thinks it's a less threatening environment for buyers.

"We find that people like to go search for their home on the Web," he said. "It's a total non-pressure situation for them."

At bittinger.com, shoppers can view real estate listings that are updated weekly. Price, style, location, size, number of bedrooms and bathrooms are listed for each home as well as a photo.

Having that type of information saves both shoppers and Realtors time, Bittinger said.

"People come in already educated," he added. "They know what they want. It eliminates showing houses they probably won't be interested in."

Bittinger has invested more than \$100,000 in hardware and software to create and maintain his Web sites. Agents are encouraged to become Web savvy and have their own pages.

"We attract agents because of our technology," Bittinger said.

"We have 55 agents. That's unheard of for a three-year-old RE/MAX."

Family act

The name Gerou is a familiar one in Canton and Plymouth.

While Tom practices chiropractic south of Joy Road, Mike is a civil and criminal lawyer in downtown Plymouth. Instead of launching separate sites, the brothers share Gerou.com.

A main page serves as a portal for both. A click takes surfers to Mike's or Tom's separate Web pages.

"I've gotten a few referrals from it," said Tom Gerou. "But I haven't worked at it like I should."

The site was launched in 1997. One reason, the chiropractor said, was to lock in the "domain" name of Gerou.com. Having the domain registered means that no other individual or company can use it legally.

Tom plans on utilizing his site more in the future. He has started to list the Web site on company letterhead and other promotional materials.

Hometown 'hits' on the Web

What businesses in Canton and Plymouth are on the Web? Here's a partial listing:

■ **Retail**
Flowers — www.mrsbees.com
Gifts — www.giftprofessionals.com/basketsbybecky.htm
Cigars — www.hismokers.com
Bicycles — www.planetcycle.com
Pizza — www.toarmas.com
Newspapers — www.oeonline.com

■ **Real estate**
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■ **Personal services**
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Dentistry — www.mindspring.com/~jigilinskidds
Web page creation — www.netheadz.com
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Banking — www.cfcu.org

Many of Canton and Plymouth's larger stores can also be accessed on the Web. Most, such as Meijer, Target and Kmart, can be reached by typing the company name followed by .com.

"I think in the next few years if you're not on there you're going to be in the stone ages," said Gerou.

Mike Gerou views his Web page as a way of rounding out his advertising campaign.

"We're trying to incorporate our Web address on into other kinds of advertising we do," he adds. "It has generated some clients for me."

Convenience be thy name

Patron demand led to the creation of Community Federal's Web site last year. Members who were already using phone banking and ATM services pushed for Web access, Ballard said.

"We found there was a strong correlation among the three," he added.

The average consumer may not think of a financial institution in the same vein as a Meijer or Kohl's. But Ballard says his credit union has products to market just like a department store.

"We consider ourselves a retail business," he commented.

Its Web site is increasingly fashioned to sell. Vehicle, home

equity and mortgage loan information are offered as well as personal lines of credit and credit cards through the credit union. Members can complete an online loan application for many of those services.

The future of Community Federal's Web site will be customization, according to Ballard. The idea isn't to reinvent the wheel, he adds, but to pattern after sites like Yahoo and America Online which allow users to create a personalized Web page, such as "My Yahoo" or "My AOL."

Patrons would be able to manage checking, savings and loan accounts on such a page. Some bills might also be paid, Ballard said.

"We want to make it interactive," he commented.

The credit union has added staff to service its Web site. Community Federal's "virtual branch" has a manager and a half dozen support personnel who answer member questions and respond to e-mail.

"We're backing up on Web efforts with personal service," said Ballard.

Principals can join unions, but not in Detroit

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@hometownnews.com

Principals and supervisory personnel in local school districts dodged a legislative bullet Wednesday, Dec. 8. They'll retain the right to form unions and engage in collective bargaining ... but not those in the city of Detroit.

Republican lawmakers voted to narrow a proposed ban on unionization of school district administrators to Detroit

STATE

only. That drew a furious response from Democrats.

"This bill is both racist and union busting, and the people of this state will not forget," Rep. Lynne Martinez (D-Lansing) said in anger during the debate on the House floor.

"There is no excuse for this political

body to pass bill after bill after bill damaging the people of one city in the state, a city about which you know nothing and wish to have no responsibility."

Verbiage from Detroit Democrats was even harsher.

Rep. Irma Clark (D-Detroit) called the proposal "disgusting" and labeled the House of Representatives a "prostitution ring" for considering it.

"Maybe we should pass some legislation for the rest of the state," Rep. Bob

Brown (D-Dearborn Heights) said.

Republicans bristled at the charge of racism. Sen. Leon Stille (R-Spring Lake) said he had listened to the House debate and found it "embarrassing."

"This is about improving education in the city of Detroit," Rep. Gene DeRose (R-Manchester) said. "If we were racist, why would we care?"

As initially proposed, Senate Bill 663, sponsored by Sen. Loren Bennett (R-Canton) would have banned unions for all school principals and supervisors

across the state. He said he had been spurred to introduce the bill by last fall's teacher strike in Detroit. Some principals, he said, joined teachers on the picket lines.

"When the bill left this chamber, it was good public policy," Bennett said.

There ought to be a definite distinction between labor and management. But the House pared it down to a number of distressed schools districts. This

See UNIONS, A9

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Contract from page A1

will be teamed with fellow trustee Elizabeth Slaven to talk with present and former school board members, has a number of questions he wants answered.

"I want to know if they feel she's a leader, and what type of vision she's had for the district," said Slaven. "I'm also interested in how she has developed contacts with her state lawmakers and local government leaders."

"I've been pleased with both of her interviews with us, and I think she's a great fit," added Slaven. "Unless something really negative turns up, I'm ready to offer her a contract."



Kathleen Booher

'I want to meet with parents and discuss how (Booher) interacts with the community.'

—Judy Mardigian, Plymouth-Canton trustee

The two other groups will consist of Canton Township Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter and board member Steve Guile, who will interview government leaders; school trustee Darwin Watts and Plymouth-Canton Education Association President Chuck Portelli will talk with unionized staff.

If a contract is extended and finalized soon, Booher said she would be able to start her new position sometime in February.

Milestone from page A1

like a family."

It's a statement that residents echo.

Bologna came to Canton Place after increasing rent forced her out of a mobile home in the township. Between bingo, cards, exercising and pot luck dinners, she has a busy social calendar and lots of friends.

"Too many," Bologna said. "I can't spend enough time with them all."

Anna Anderson, who is one of 36 original Canton Place residents still at the facility, said she has a good life.

"You've got friends here, you've got shopping," she said. "Everything is in close proximity."

Anderson said residents watch out for each other, too.

"If we see somebody's missing we'll inquire about them," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN

Speech: Ginny Hauck, who manages both Canton and Sheldon Place for the Ohio-based National Church Residences, makes some comments during lunch for the Canton Place 10th anniversary Tuesday.

Web site from page A1

'I think e-commerce is still in its infancy. People will do more and more business on-line.'

—Ken Sroka, co-owner, Katoo Enterprises

very connected community in terms of Internet access. Benner thinks the introduction of cable modems will also bring more local residents to the Web seeking products and services.

"Our area is very wired up," he commented. "There's no reason why anyone in Canton shouldn't be on the Web."

Sroka started Katoo with a partner in 1996. Since then, the firm has built a client base of about 35 ranging from Realtors to small Internet service providers.

It takes Katoo two to three weeks to create a new Web site. Sroka said the process begins with an interview.

"We try to find out what their needs are and set realistic expectations for their site," he commented.

Developing a central message for the site is also key.

"The goal is to get people's attention," Sroka said.

Sites are also designed with search engines in mind. Including key words or phrases on the site means getting noticed by those engines, said Sroka.

While each site is tailored to fit the needs of the client, most have common elements.

"About us" generally includes biographical information about the company. "Feedback" gives Web surfers the chance to inquire about the company and its products.

"Contact" usually includes e-mail addresses and company phone numbers. "Links" send users to related Web sites.

While it's unclear how many local companies are utilizing the Web, Sroka thinks the numbers

will continue to grow in the years to come.

"I think e-commerce is still in its infancy," he said. "People will do more and more business on-line."

Creating and maintaining a Web site is relatively inexpensive, according to Sroka and Benner. Katoo charges about \$150 per Web page. Typical Internet sites are from one to four pages or more, said Sroka.

"Host" fees are also charged. Client sites are stored on Katoo servers for about \$30-\$35 per month.

Netheadz, meanwhile, offers three separate pricing packages.

Rates are affected by the number of linked Web pages and photos, plus the amount of time spent creating custom graphics

and interactive order forms for the site.

Clients can spend as little as \$800 to more than \$2,000 to create a Web site. After that, yearly storage and access fees range from \$300 to \$1,200, again depending on the Web site's complexity.

Benner, who founded Netheadz in 1996, says one-on-one service is the strength of his firm.

"I work well with people," he said. "I will spend as much time as needed to inform and educate clients about having their own Web site."

Benner works with about a dozen clients. While many are in the Canton-Plymouth area, some are miles away.

Netheadz serves three companies in Toledo and another in Traverse City. Benner said proximity isn't that important in creating a solid Web site.

"I'm good at working with people and getting to the core of what their business is," he adds.

AAA Michigan urges motorists to use caution

(PRNewswire) — In Michigan, the first snow of the season often catches some drivers off guard.

By early Monday after the first snowfall, AAA Michigan has served 400 motorists, with battery trouble, flat tires and spin-outs among the most common problems. Numbers are normal for a Monday morning.

Drivers find out the hard way that slick driving conditions can affect a vehicle's handling and braking ability. In fact, says AAA Michigan, the leading

cause of traffic crashes on ice-slicked, snow-clogged roads is following the car in front too closely. The driver in front stops; you can't.

AAA Michigan recommends increasing your following distance on slippery roads from the good-road gap of 3 seconds to 6 seconds.

A good way to measure the six-second time gap is to pick out a distinct road marking or sign, and then begin counting when the car ahead passes that spot — "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two

Use extra caution on shaded areas and bridges, overpasses and intersections — areas where ice is likely to form first or be slipperier because the shiny ice surface has either been polished by previous traffic, a thin layer of water covers melting ice below or a temperature difference exists.

Improve visibility by clearing all snow and ice from the entire car — hood, roof, trunk, turn signals, lights, windows, mirrors, even fender wells. Also, driving

with headlights on low-beam provides the better road illumination in snow and fog than using high-beams.

Remember, posted speed limits are set for ideal road and weather conditions. Avoid sudden starts, stops and turns. Accelerate carefully so car wheels don't spin.

Don't brake hard. In a skid, ease off the accelerator and don't lock up the brakes. Carefully steer in the direction you want the car to go

and straighten the wheel as soon as the car begins to go in the desired direction.

Anticipate potential danger such as ice on bridges, snow-covered lane markings, stalled cars and poor visibility. Adjust speed, increase distance between other cars or change lanes to avoid trouble. Watch for other drivers who may be unprepared for changing road conditions.

Motorists should carry shovel, boots and other winter items in their trunks.

Northwest adds flights to Rome from Metro

Northwest Airlines will begin nonstop flights from Detroit to Rome starting April 2, 2000.

The U.S. Department of Transportation issued Northwest a permit Tuesday to operate that flight and a Detroit-Milan, Italy, route. The daily flights will be operated in cooperation with Alitalia Italian Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines as part of the airlines' proposed tripartite agreement.

The DOT granted anti-trust immunity for a Northwest/Alitalia/KLM alliance on Dec. 3 to allow the three carriers to closely align their routes in the weeks ahead. In addition, the DOT announced Monday that an "Open Skies" agreement had been reached between the United States and Italy.

Effective April 2, Northwest flight 66 will depart Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport daily at 5:30 p.m. and arrive at Rome's Fiumicino International Airport at 8:25 a.m. the following day. Return flight 65 will depart Rome daily at 11 a.m. and arrive in Detroit at 3:10 p.m.

In the Milan market, Northwest flight 64 will depart Metro at 5:25 p.m. and arrive at Milan's Malpensa International Airport at 7:45 p.m. the following day. Return flight 63 will depart Milan at 9:50 a.m. and arrive in Detroit at 1:30 p.m. The Rome and Milan services will operate with Northwest DC-10 aircraft.

Northwest will operate convenient connecting service to and from the Italy flights at Detroit from major markets throughout the Midwest, southwest and western regions of the United States. Northwest operates more than 500 daily departures at Detroit, its largest hub.

Rome and Milan are Alitalia's two primary hubs. Northwest officials plan to offer service beyond Rome and Milan to major cities in Italy, southern Europe and the Mediterranean, according to Ray Vecchi, Northwest's president of Michigan operations.

Forum scheduled for GOP hopefuls

The Western Wayne County Republican Club, formerly the Westland Republican Club, will hold a Candidates' Forum 7 p.m. Monday, at Amantea's Restaurant, 32777 W. Warren, Garden City. Participating will be announced Republican candidates for the 20th State House of Representatives district.

The district includes the city and township of Plymouth, Northville Township and the Wayne County portion of the city of Northville, along with the northwest area of Livonia.

There are currently four Republican candidates who have announced their intentions to run for the seat. All have indicated they will participate in the forum. They are: David McDonald, Plymouth councilman recently selected as that city's mayor; Eric Colthurst, a Plymouth attorney from Northville who was formerly a magistrate at the 35th District Court; Theresa Folino of Northville, vice chair of the Republican 13th Congressional District Committee and party activist; and Matthew Cowles of Northville, a former legislative assistant to then-State Sen. R. Robert Geake.

The current representative, Gerald Law, is unable to run again due to term limits.

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Attorney

"It was like, I can't believe it," said Smith. "Finally, something went right for me."

The 46-year-old Plymouth resident has suffered from epilepsy since childhood.

The disease, which is characterized by recurring attacks of motor, sensory or psychic malfunction with or without unconsciousness and convulsions, has gotten progressively worse since then. It has left Smith unable to work full time.

After years of fighting the Social Security Administration, she was finally able to get disability benefits in 1996. Smith, however, was notified in July that her benefits would be terminated.

"I was expecting another fight," said Smith. "I knew the next step would be in front of a judge."

The attorney, who has practiced civil and criminal law in Westland and Livonia for three decades, said several witnesses testified at the hearing. He wasn't surprised at the outcome and said Smith was deserving.

"She does everything she can to help herself," Dova commented. "She's a good person."

Smith's case will be reviewed by Social Security every year. While it's unclear if she'll have to fight to keep her benefits each time, she's just pleased that Dova was able to help this time.

"I can't express my thanks to him enough," Smith said.

With his help, she appealed the decision. A hearing was held in front of a Social Security appeal board on Nov. 5.

Dova argued on Smith's behalf for nearly two hours. The board handed down its decision in her favor shortly before Thanksgiving.

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HARRIETT W. SCHRODER
Services for Harriett W. Schroder, 99, of Grand Rapids (formerly of Plymouth) were Dec. 3 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth with Pastor Brent E. Miller officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth.

She was born Oct. 25, 1900, in Livonia. She died Nov. 30, 1999, at Porter Hills Presbyterian Village, Grand Rapids. She was a retired school teacher. She was attended school in Plymouth and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1922. She then attended Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) and received a bachelor's degree in education. She then taught in the Plymouth school until her retirement and transfer to Grand Rapids where she taught sight saving. Her career extended for more than 50 years. She had a great love for children, teaching and her family.

Survivors include her sister, Gladys Latta of Jackson, Miss.; three nieces, Joann Buby of Southgate, Patricia Crook of Dallas, Texas, Gail Kohlhepe of Wellington, Fla.; two nephews, Jack Schroder of Commerce Township, Douglas Meredith of Florida; 10 great nieces and nephews; and six great-great nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Michigan Humane Society, 37255 Marquette, Westland 48185 or to Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 S. Rochester Road, P.O. Box 5000, Rochester Hills 48307.

IRENE G. SIMMS
Services for Irene G. Simms, 73, of Livonia were Dec. 4 in the Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland, with the Rev. Drex Morton officiating.

She was born Nov. 14, 1926, in Detroit. She died Dec. 1 in Livonia. She was a technician for Burroughs Corp.

Survivors include her three daughters, Vicki L. Simms of Canton, Paula (Michael) Bradbury of Livonia, Linda (Keith) Sexton of Ala.; one son, Charles (Barbar) Simms of Inkster; one

son, Barbara (Loren) Bouse of Redford; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, 29777 Telegraph Road, Southfield 4807.

DALE F. DUTHIE
Services for Dale F. Duthie, 50, of Canton were Dec. 8 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church with Fr. George Charney officiating.

He was born June 30, 1949. He died Dec. 5 in Canton. He was a systems analyst in the computer industry.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia; one son, John; one daughter, Karen; one brother, Dennis (Marlene); and one sister, Diane (Gary) Williams.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice or to the Karmans Cancer Institute.

Local arrangements were made by Neely-Turowski Funeral Home.

HELEN J. BARNETTE
Services for Helen J. Barnette, 85, of Canton were held Nov. 22 at St. Thomas A'Becket Church.

She was born Feb. 25, 1914, in Erie, Penn., and died Nov. 19. She was a manager in the food and beverage industry.

Survivors include her three daughters, Charlotte Hall, Carole D. (Norman) Kuehn and Catherine Rogoulot; one son, James (Lucille) Barnette; one sister, Irene Haeger; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to The Michigan Burn Center, St. Judes.

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

LAMBERT L. PENCE
Private services were held for Lambert L. Pence, 88, of Plymouth.

He was born Oct. 8, 1911, in Delaware County, Ind., and died Dec. 4 at Farmington Hills Hospice. He was a carpenter for a construction company.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; one son, Larkin; one daughter, Joan Pence; and one granddaughter, Eleanor.

CARL F. THORP
Services for Carl F. Thorp, 92, of Westland were held Dec. 10 at St. Michael Lutheran Church with the Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

He was born Jan. 23, 1907, in Port Huron and died Dec. 7 in Superior Township. He retired in 1972 after 30 years of service with Burroughs Corp. where he was a final inspector.

Mr. Thorp originally hailed from Detroit, moving to Dearborn Heights in 1957 and to Westland in 1992. He was a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton Township. He was an avid Detroit Red Wings fan and enjoyed coaching boys baseball. He had a great sense of humor and especially enjoyed being with his family.

Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. The funeral was Friday, Dec. 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church with Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial took place in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

Memorials may be sent to St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48187.

yes included: Loren Bennett (R-Canton), Bill Bullard (R-Highland), Mat Dunaskiss (R-Lake Orion), Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) and Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia).

John D. Cherry Jr. (D-Clio), George Z. Hart (D-Deerborn) and Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield) voted no.

In the House, representatives voted 56-53 for the Detroit-only revision. Voting yes were Bruce Patterson (R-Canton), Andrew Raczowski (R-Farmington Hills) and Laura Toy (R-Livonia).

Bob Brown (D-Deerborn Heights), Eileen DeHart (D-Westland) and Gerald Law, R-Plymouth voted no.

Rep. Tom Kelly (D-Wayne) did not vote.

Sen. Mike Rogers, R-Howell, said all those requirements were in the bill already since it required that charters follow existing state laws.

"Let's not be afraid of a little competition," Rogers countered. "We ought not just put up barriers, pulling in the reins on kids who need our help. Public schools cannot be all things to all people."

Rogers disagreed again. "I wish the minority had taken the time to read this bill because it is already in there," he said.

Both amendments failed in 15-22 party line votes. On final passage, senators approved the bill 22-15, only to have the bill stall again in the House.

Among the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper coverage area, here's how the legislators in the Senate voted:

Yes - Sens. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, Bill Bullard, R-Highland, Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, and Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia.

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Sen. Mike Rogers, R-Howell, said all those requirements were in the bill already since it required that charters follow existing state laws.

"Let's not be afraid of a little competition," Rogers countered. "We ought not just put up barriers, pulling in the reins on kids who need our help. Public schools cannot be all things to all people."

Rogers disagreed again. "I wish the minority had taken the time to read this bill because it is already in there," he said.

Both amendments failed in 15-22 party line votes. On final passage, senators approved the bill 22-15, only to have the bill stall again in the House.

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Charter school cap will not be raised this year

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

Unable to find the necessary votes among representatives, Gov. John Engler and the House Republican leadership gave up hopes of raising the cap on charter schools by the end of this year.

Despite approval by the Senate Wednesday, Dec. 8, of House Bill 4959 - a bill already voted out by the House but amended in the Senate to contain verbiage raising the limit on university-authorized "public school academies" from the current 150 to 200 in the coming year - House leadership didn't even take a vote before adjourning for the year early Thursday morning.

A handful of House Republicans could not be convinced of the need to raise the cap. The primary concern of opponents, on both sides of the aisle, was accountability of charter schools to the public and the state legislature.

Locally, two lawmakers were among the holdouts who defeated the bill - Rep. Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham, and Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

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

LAMBERT L. PENCE
Private services were held for Lambert L. Pence, 88, of Plymouth.

He was born Oct. 8, 1911, in Delaware County, Ind., and died Dec. 4 at Farmington Hills Hospice. He was a carpenter for a construction company.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; one son, Larkin; one daughter, Joan Pence; and one granddaughter, Eleanor.

CARL F. THORP
Services for Carl F. Thorp, 92, of Westland were held Dec. 10 at St. Michael Lutheran Church with the Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

He was born Jan. 23, 1907, in Port Huron and died Dec. 7 in Superior Township. He retired in 1972 after 30 years of service with Burroughs Corp. where he was a final inspector.

Mr. Thorp originally hailed from Detroit, moving to Dearborn Heights in 1957 and to Westland in 1992. He was a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton Township. He was an avid Detroit Red Wings fan and enjoyed coaching boys baseball. He had a great sense of humor and especially enjoyed being with his family.

Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. The funeral was Friday, Dec. 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church with Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial took place in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

Memorials may be sent to St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48187.

yes included: Loren Bennett (R-Canton), Bill Bullard (R-Highland), Mat Dunaskiss (R-Lake Orion), Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) and Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia).

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Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, wanted provisions added making charter schools as accountable for spending as public schools.

Law explained that charter schools have been allowed to operate like private schools, but get taxpayer money to pay for operations. He wanted provisions added making charter schools as accountable for their spending as public schools.

Godchaux said the charters draw money away from public schools. That makes it more difficult for failing school districts to improve their performance. In the meantime, the state is doing little to support those students left behind in the distressed school districts.

Engler had wanted the limit increased by the end of this year so that new charter schools could open next fall. According to his spokesman, John Truscott, some 140 schools are already in operation in the state and another

100 are ready to seek approval. With the failure of the bill, new charter schools will have to (a) wait a year, (b) seek authorization through an agency other than a state university, such as a school district or community college, or (c) count on lawmakers passing the bill early next year with enough additional votes to give it immediate effect.

When the House could not move the bill the previous week, Republican senators took the initiative. Starting with House Bill 4959 - a non-controversial bill allowing gifts made to school districts to be moved to foundations, already approved by representatives and awaiting action in the Senate - lawmakers in the upper chamber added the wording to raise the cap on charter schools. The amendment would have raised the limit by 50 in the following year, then by 25 more in following years.

On the floor, Sen. Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga, sought to amend the bill to increase accountability. Her proposal would have required charter schools to release audits to the state, obtain criminal records of employees, require credentials for teachers, provide special education services, adopt conflict of

interest policies, comply with state procurement policies and review complaints made by parents.

"This is straightforward. It is reasonable ... I'm not against charter schools. These will help them to be successful," she said.

Sen. Mike Rogers, R-Howell, said all those requirements were in the bill already since it required that charters follow existing state laws.

"Let's not be afraid of a little competition," Rogers countered. "We ought not just put up barriers, pulling in the reins on kids who need our help. Public schools cannot be all things to all people."

Rogers disagreed again. "I wish the minority had taken the time to read this bill because it is already in there," he said.

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WCCC receives accreditation

PRNewswire - Evaluators from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will recommend a 10-year accreditation for the Wayne County Community College District, the highest ranking accreditation. The association is the principal accrediting body for Postsecondary and secondary schools in the Midwest.

Over a 2½ day period, members of the team met with college officials, faculty, staff, students and representatives from the corporate, religious and civic communities to determine the quality

and integrity of programs and services offered at community college.

This included visits to all five campuses, local extension centers and an exhaustive review of materials and documents relating to the organization, staffing and delivery of instructional services to more than 18,000 students enrolled at the institution each year.

As a result of their fact-finding visit, Dr. Vernon Crawley, president of Moraine Valley Community College in Palo Hills, Ill., and chair of the 10-member on-

site team, reported to the college that the team will forward to NCA a recommendation for a 10-year period of accreditation with no focus visits.

Since 1976, Wayne County Community College has had continued accreditation with an increasing length of time awarded by NCA between on-site visits. In 1987, a five-year accreditation was awarded to the college. In 1992, WCCCD received a seven-year accreditation as a comprehensive community college.

This recommendation by the

on-site evaluators marks the first time the 32-year old institution has earned the highest level of continued accreditation the agency offers. Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor of the five-campus district is pleased with the team recommendation. "This is an historic moment for WCCCD and an opportunity to build upon the success we've worked so hard to achieve," Dr. Ivery said. "The efforts of all members of the college community have finally been recognized and certified by their peers."

Directory available

(PRNewswire) - The Detroit Regional Chamber has recently released the third edition of its Manufacturing Directory to Regional Detroit.

Produced by the Chamber's Research and Information Center, this comprehensive guide lists more than 3,400 manufacturers throughout the 10-county region. Companies in the directory are listed alphabetically and by SIC code.

Also included in the directory is the Regional Detroit Guide to Business Parks. Produced in conjunction with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, business park listings include park name, location, acres available, zones, road and rail access, contacts and more.

Cost for the directory is \$35 for chamber members, \$50 for nonmembers; or on disk at \$175 for chamber members, \$200 for nonmembers. For more information or to purchase a directory, call (313) 596-0333 or email: carter@detroitchamber.com.

Group honors McNamaras for support to organization

DETROIT/PRNewswire/ - Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara and his wife, Lucille, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from Life Directions Inc., a young adult mentoring and guidance organization in Detroit.

The McNamaras were honored for their longtime support to Life Directions at the organization's annual Tribute Dinner Thursday at the Hotel Pontchartrain.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the recipient of Life Directions' Lifetime Achievement Award last year, the 25th Anniversary of Life Directions. The McNamaras have supported the organization both personally and professionally during his political and civic career. They were presented with the award by Ron Reed, vice president, Ameritech.

Life Directions recognized several other Detroiters who have contributed to the organization in past years. It has created the Mary Ball Award, named for the recently deceased civic activist. The Mary Ball Award is dedicated to an activist or journalist who has made the community more aware of the challenges facing young people. WDIV Channel 4 news anchorman Emery King is the 1999 recipient of the Mary Ball Award, which will be presented to King by Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm.

Life Directions has also created its Symbol of Service Award, which will be presented posthumously to Joan Petitpre, another longtime supporter of the organization, by Cameron Priebe of the Wayne County Executive's Office. Petitpre passed away two months ago.

Life Directions works with and for the benefit of young people, particularly those who are economically poor, ages 13 through 35, to foster the attitudes needed for growth into responsible adults. The core values of the mission are the fostering of a mission-driven attitude, partnership in diversity, balance in relationships and self-responsibility for one's own future.

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Reg. 94.00, sale 47.00.

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A large selection of women's shoes from Jones New York*, Calico, Ipanema and more.
Reg. 49.00-90.00, sale 24.50-45.00.

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Reg. 24.00-28.00.

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Flannel pajamas from Parisian Intimates.
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Reg. 72.00.

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Reg. 15.00-40.00, sale 7.50-20.00.

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A large selection of famous-maker handbags and small leather goods.
Reg. 16.00-248.00.

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Selected holiday dresswear from Goodlad, My Michelle and Jonathan Martin.
For infants, toddlers and girls.
Reg. 32.00-100.00, sale 19.20-72.00.

MEN SAVE 50%

Selected Preswick & Moore woven sportshirts in solids and pattern styles. Reg. 34.00, sale 17.00.

SAVE 50% Selected styles of Forest Club cloth outerwear.
Reg. 130.00-230.00, sale 65.00-115.00.

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OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

2nd in state

The Farmington Hills Mercy pom pon squad placed second in the dance competition held recently at Saginaw Valley State, just a half-point behind the first-place finisher.

Scores were based on creativity of original choreography and its execution.

Among the squad members are: Ashley Armbruster, Lauren Burniac, Beth Lamborne and Emily Sharpe from Plymouth and Canton; Angela and Cristina Corsi, Amy Firlik, Kalli and Lindsay Fortune, Katie Landsberg, Antoinette Mazzoni and Jessica Stoller from Farmington; Shauna Barcewicz and Alexis Thebolt from West Bloomfield; Elisa Brunetto of Westland; Emily Butler of Redford; Christa Davis of Dearborn; Tayna Giroux of Clarkston; Katie Kenny from Novi; Maribeth Phillips of Brighton; Amber Young of Rochester Hills; and Beth LaCroix and Linda Karbo of Livonia.

The team is coached by Heather Carney.

Hitting camp

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger will conduct a Winter Hitting Camp for baseball at Madonna Sunday, Dec. 19 and Monday, Dec. 20.

Class times are 1-4 p.m. for 13-18 year-olds and 5-8 p.m. for 8-13 year-olds. Cost is \$90 per person.

For further information, call Haeger at (734) 432-5609.

AAU hoop tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats have a series of tryouts coming up for their various girls basketball teams when the new year arrives.

• Jan. 3: 11-and-under ('88), 6-7:30 p.m. at Tonda Elementary; 12-and-under ('87), 7:30-9 p.m. at Tonda Elementary; 13-and-under ('86), 8-9:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

• Jan. 4: 14-and-under ('85) and 15-and-under ('86), 6-7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; 16-and-under ('83), 17-and-under ('82) and 18-and-under ('81), 7:30-9 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

• Jan. 5: 11-and-under ('88), 12-and-under ('87), 8-9:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; 13-and-under ('86), 7-9 p.m. at West Middle School.

• Jan. 7: 16-and-under ('83), 17-and-under ('82), 18-and-under ('81), 6-7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; 14-and-under ('85), 15-and-under ('84), 7:30-9 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

For further information, call Bob Blohm at (734) 414-8156 or Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746.

Winter hockey leagues

A new over-50 hockey league, to be called "The Silver Sticks Hockey League," is now forming. Games will be played Tuesday mornings at the Arctic Pond Ice Arena in Plymouth.

There will be free coffee and donuts after all the games. The season starts Jan. 18 and will last 10 games plus the playoffs.

Cost is \$165 per player. To register, call John Wilson at (248) 471-0658, or e-mail him at john@rspi.net

Hoop tryouts

The Livonia Starz will have tryouts from 1:30-3 p.m. Dec. 18 at St. Edith's gym, located across from Ladywood HS in Livonia. There will be a \$10 fee.

For further information, call Nathan Jerome at (734) 484-4439.

Hockey clinics

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct its four-day Christmas Clinics for ages 6 through 14 during Christmas break in two sessions Dec. 20 and 27 at six metro Detroit locations.

The cost of the clinics is \$130 per player. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. Call (248) 478-1600 for more information.

The schedule for Dec. 27-30 clinics at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills is as follows: Power skating and puck handling — Mites session 1, 9-10:20 a.m.; Mites session 2, 10:30-11:50 a.m.; Squirrels, noon to 1:20 p.m. Checking and scoring — Pee Wees and Bantams, 1:30-2:50 p.m.; Goaltending — all ages, 10 a.m. to noon.

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.

Putting it together

Strong goaltending, timely goals boost Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Canton hockey coach Dan Abraham has a problem he hopes doesn't get solved until around late March, if ever.

"I have two hot goalies right now, which is a problem I think all coaches would like to have," Abraham said following his team's 4-3 win over Farmington Friday night at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. "Both of my goalies — Ryan Zielinski and Brad Arsznov — are playing outstanding, so they're both going to get playing time."

The victory improved the Chiefs' record to 4-3 in their inaugural season. Farmington dropped its first game of the season after winning its opening five contests.

Friday night, it was Zielinski's turn to wield a sizzling blocker. He turned away 27 shots, three of which came during a furious last-minute Flyer rally.

"One of the nice things about this team," Abraham said, "is that it is self-motivated. These players do not need to be told when to pick it up."

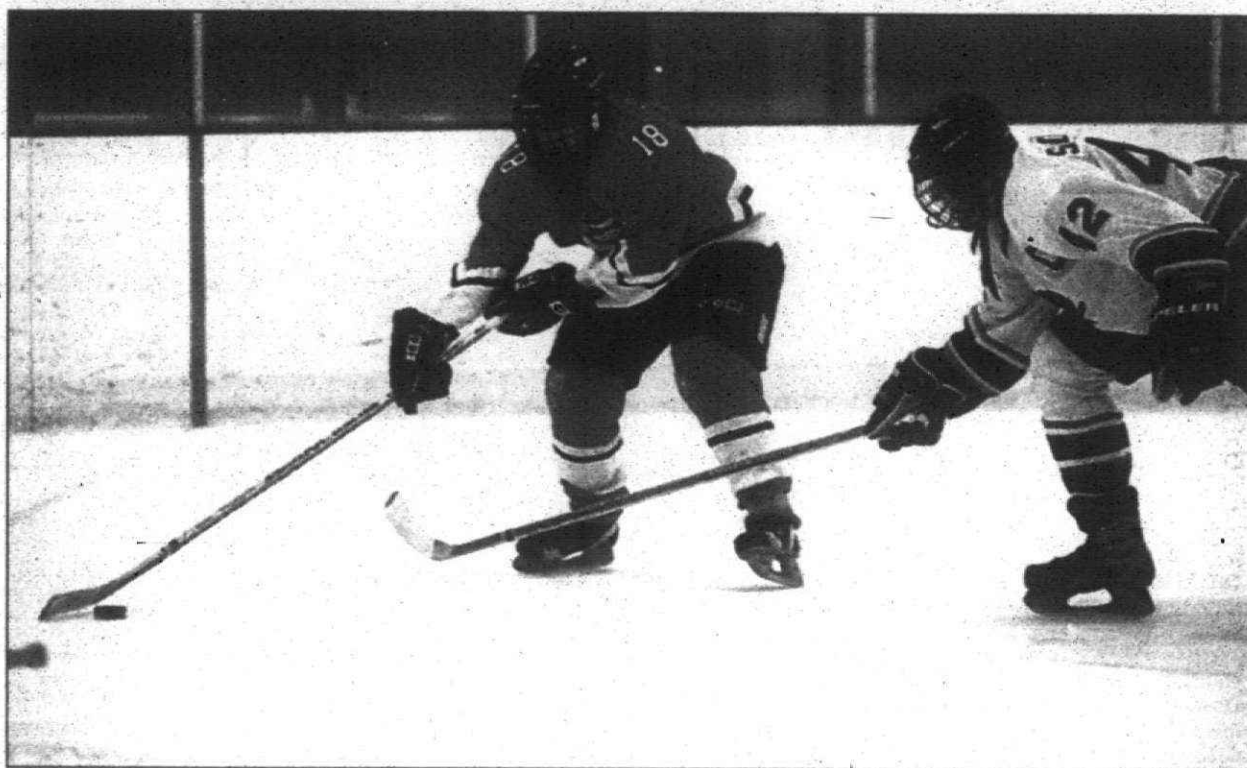
Abraham was especially pleased with the play of forward Brad Wolfe and defenseman Matt Ringer, both of whom shined on opposite ends of the rink Friday night.

Wolfe was the Chiefs' offensive mainstay, scoring the eventual winning goal late in the second period after dishing out two assists earlier in the game.

Ringer's name didn't show up on the stat sheet, but the sophomore's presence was felt on a regular basis by the Flyers' forwards whenever they crossed the blue line.

"Brad Wolfe had an outstanding game," Abraham said. "He sees the ice very well, which helps create scoring chances."

"Matt Ringer is really coming into his own. He started out this year a little rusty, but he has really come on. He's proving to be someone we can count on to be there every night."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

A winner: Canton's Brad Wolfe (left) provided several big plays in the Chiefs win over Farmington Friday, including scoring the game-winning goal.

Defense reigned in the game's opening minutes until Canton's Ryan McCabe broke the scoring ice when he wristed in a rebound shot past Flyer goalie Chris Tobe at the 7:12 mark of the first period. McCabe was assisted by Jeremy Majszak and John Bockstanz.

Just over a minute later, Farmington evened the count when senior forward Chris Hone took a pass from Aaron Wilkin, outskated the Canton defenseman and slapped a shot over Zielinski's shoulder.

Bockstanz sent Canton into the first

intermission with a 2-1 lead when he deposited a pass from Wolfe past a diving Tobe.

The Chiefs' third goal of the night came right out of the pages of a "How to Score in Hockey" textbook. Just over three minutes into the second period, defenseman Andrew Plagens, Wolfe and forward Sean Depp surged across the blue line in unison toward Tobe and a lone Farmington defenseman.

Plagens pushed the puck to his left to Wolfe, who promptly one-timed a pass to Depp, who back-handed it into the net, putting the Chiefs up 3-1.

With only 25 seconds left until the second intermission, Wolfe stole a Flyer clearing pass, skated around a defenseman and wristed in the Chiefs' fourth tally of the game.

The Flyers made it interesting in the final period when sophomore forward Matt Lee scored on a wrap-around at the 9:58 mark, cutting the home team's deficit to 4-2.

Seconds after pulling their goalie with just under two minutes left in the game, the Flyers dented Canton's lead even more on Tom Close's goal with

Please see CANTON HOCKEY, B2

4th-quarter comeback saves Canton

Talk about role-reversal.

Plymouth Canton's basketball team picked up its first win of the year thanks to a superb fourth-quarter rally, beating Monroe 61-54 Friday at Canton.

The result evened both team's record at 1-1.

The Chiefs outscored Monroe 20-14 in the opening quarter and had a 33-27 halftime lead, thanks to some strong inside play from center Jason Waidmann (15 points).

But the third quarter was all Monroe. "The third quarter was a total change of momentum," said Canton coach Dan Young. "They changed (defenses) on us, from a man to a zone."

Which limited Waidmann's effectiveness; he had just five points in the second half.

The Trojans went on a scoring spree, outpointing

BASKETBALL

Canton 21-6 in the third to take a 48-39 lead into the final period. "We had our backs against the wall," said Young.

Now it was the Chiefs' turn to rally.

Behind the pinpoint shooting of Mike Major, Canton got its game back in gear. "We finally figured out what they were doing," said Young. "We made some plays; the guys started hitting."

Particularly Major. Held to four points in the first three quarters, he busted loose for 12 in the fourth, including a pair of three-pointers.

"He got rolling and it opened everything up," said

Young. "We were resilient. We hung in there."

After being outscored by 15 in the third, Canton outscored Monroe by 16 in the fourth.

Waidmann finished with 20 points and nine rebounds. Major had 16 points and Kenny Nether netted nine — including four straight free throws in the final minute to ice the victory. Nether also grabbed 12 boards, dished out four assists and blocked three shots.

Myron Johnson's 24 points paced the Trojans. John Minagawa-Webster had 12.

"They're a very good team," said Young of Monroe. "Strong, athletic, competitive... we were fortunate to come out with a win."

The Chiefs are idle until Thursday, when they travel to Ann Arbor Pioneer.

SWIM PREVIEWS

Salem seeks 8th

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
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The mantle should fit snugly by now. Certainly Plymouth Salem's swim team has grown quite used to wearing it.

But like a president nearing the conclusion of his second term, the Rocks must realize it isn't theirs. Someday an upstart is likely to lay claim to it.

Yet, they also know that unlike a two-term president, they don't have to surrender it.

That mantle belongs to whomever proves to be the best in the Western Lakes Activities Association, and for the past seven years Salem has been that team.

"I think they're thinking about it," said Salem swim coach Chuck Olson. "Which is good. The goal of every team in the conference is to win it. Realistically, some can't do that, but they still want to do the best they can."

"This (Salem) team has got quite a few guys

returning that want to do the best they can, too."

What separates the Rocks from an eighth-straight WLAA championship is the loss of several top-notch swimmers. Gone from last season's squad are co-captains Andrew Locke, Matt Casillas and Kevin Crabill, and Paul Perez, a versatile performer (butterfly, freestyle, individual medley) who would have been a junior for

See SALEM SWIM, B2



Distant threat: Salem's Brian Mertens is a two-time state qualifier in the 500 free.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Back on track: Canton's Aaron Reeder finished fourth in the 100 backstroke at the WLAA finals and qualified for state.

Chiefs new coach has high hopes

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

And so, a new era in swimming begins at Plymouth Canton.

After a couple seasons of moderate success under Kyle Lott, the Chiefs have new leadership: Ed Weber, who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Weber, who coached Berkley HS's boys team the past two years and the girls team for one, took a teaching job at Canton — then found out about the coaching position. "That worked out real well," Weber said.

He hopes the swim season fits together as nicely. The Chiefs opened their campaign yesterday at the Eastern Michigan University Relays; they'll continue it at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Dexter before competing at the Western

Please see CANTON SWIM, B2

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 14 South Lyon at North Farmington, 7 p.m. Adrian at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Garden City at Divine Child, 7 p.m. Belleville at Salem, 7 p.m. Churchill at Franklin (NJ), 7 p.m. Lakeland at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Harrison at Brighton, 7 p.m. Andover at Farmington, 7 p.m. St. Florian at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m. Fairlane Christian at Agape, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 Canton at AA Pioneer, 7 p.m. Salem at AA Huron, 7 p.m. Warren Cousino at Franklin, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Churchill (NJ), 7 p.m. Agape vs. Huron Valley	at Marshall MS, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 Wayne at Romulus, 7 p.m. Redford CC at OL St. Mary's, 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Park at Garden City, 7 p.m. West Bloomfield at Farmington, 7 p.m. Melvindale at Thurston, 7 p.m. Southgate at Redford Union, 7 p.m. Claremont at Det. Urban, 7:30 p.m. Luth. Westland at Luth. NW Tournament, TBA Saturday, Dec. 18 Luth. Westland at Luth. NW Tournament, TBA ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Sunday, Dec. 12 Whalers at Kitchener, 6:30 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 17 Whalers at Erie, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 Whalers at Erie, 7:30 p.m. PREP HOCKEY Tuesday, Dec. 14 GP North vs. Ladywood at Arctic Pond, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 Stevenson vs. Churchill WI Central vs. Franklin at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 Berkley at Farmington, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 Ladywood vs. W. Bloomfield at Det. Skating Club, 8 p.m. Redford Unified at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 17 Franklin vs. Salem at Ply. Cultural Center, 8 p.m. PH Northern vs. Churchill at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Stevenson at Redman Tournament, TBA New Trier (Ill.) vs. Redford CC at Redford Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m. Stevenson at Marquette Tournament, TBA Saturday, Dec. 18 Stevenson at Redman Tournament, TBA Farmington at Northville, 6 p.m. NB Huron vs. Canton at Ply. Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m. New Trier (Ill.) vs. Redford CC at Redford Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m. Stevenson at Marquette Tournament, TBA WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 15 Schoolcraft at Lansing CC, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 Wayne State at Madonna, 6 p.m. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Monday, Dec. 13 Lakeland at Farmington, 7 p.m. North Farmington at Milford, 7 p.m. DePores at Bishop Borgess 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 Saline vs. Huron Valley at Livonia St. Paul's, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 Churchill, John Glenn, Wayne at Wayne Tournament, 5:30 p.m. Canton at AA Huron, 6 p.m. Novi at Harrison, 7 p.m. Canton at Allen Park Inv., 8:30 a.m. Churchill at Airport Invit., TBA Stevenson at Delta College Inv., 8:30 a.m. Mercy at Grand Rapids Tournament, TBA Garden City at Taylor Inv., 8:30 a.m. TBA — time to be announced.
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Salem swim from page B1

the Rocks. He was second in the 100 butterfly and third in the 200 individual medley at last season's WLAA final.

Now he's a junior at a high school outside of Chicago, where his family moved.

"That's a lot of points to replace," admitted Olson.

But while the losses are notable, they are not great in number. Salem has 36 swimmers on its team, including 12 freshmen (eight more than last

season) — including several who will contribute immediately.

Team captains are seniors Dan Jones, Mark Witthoff and Ryan Kappler. Jones is a freestyler who seventh in the 100 and 11th in the 200 at conference meet last year; Olson is hoping he'll be like one of his predecessors — Casillas — and have a big finish to his prep career.

Witthoff is versatile, with the ability to fill in at several spots (free, fly, backstroke and IM).

Other notable returnees (all of whom scored at the conference finals) include Jason Rebarchik, a senior breastroker who can also swim sprint free, and the IM, Brian Mertens, a junior distant freestyler who has qualified for the state meet in the 500 free for the last two years (he was third at the WLAA's and eighth in the 200 free); Aaron Shelton, a junior do-everything who has swam the IM, breast and back and a leg of the 200 free relay; Greg Kubitski, a junior diver who was fifth at the WLAA's and is being depended upon in an

event Salem is lacking in; Jim Ross, a junior distant freestyler; Eric Lynn, a sophomore backstroke and IMer; and Mike Johnson, a sophomore sprint freestyler who swam legs on the 200 free and 200 medley relays last season.

If there is a problem area in the Salem lineup, it's at diving, where Kubitski is the lone returnee with varsity experience. "We only have two divers," noted Olson. "It's the event that has most concerned right now."

Next on the list is butterfly, what with the unexpected loss of Perez. "That's got us a little bit concerned," said Olson. "But we've got some people we can move around."

Of the WLAA race, Olson said, "We know they're out there. We're not going to take any of them lightly."

"Funny things can happen. All you can do is train hard and see how things fall out at the end." The Rocks hope that the mantle will still be theirs when everything is completed.

Canton swim from page B1

Lakes Activities Association Relays at noon Saturday at Salem.

Weber, a 1991 graduate of Royal Oak Kimball and a 1995 graduate of Albion College, isn't a newcomer to WLAA swimming. He was an assistant coach at Farmington Harrison two years ago.

And he will have some swimmers to develop, to be sure. Only seven of his 20 swimmers are juniors and seniors.

Two of them are newcomers to the team: transfers Brett Reidsma, a junior, and Andrew Suarez, a senior. Reidsma, from Portage, could have an immediate impact, especially in the butterfly events. Suarez, from Texas, needs work but could help in the sprint freestyle events.

"We have a large sophomore

class that makes up most of our team," said Weber. "But the leadership of the seniors is really going to set the stage."

There were only five seniors on the team last season, but they took a lot of scoring with them: Justin Allen and Kurtis Hornick, the team's co-captains, together with Chad Williams, Bill Stewart and Don LeClair. All scored at the WLAA Meet.

Canton finished fourth in the conference, behind Plymouth Salem (which won its seventh-straight title), Livonia Stevenson and North Farmington.

Moving up in those rankings would be nice, but at present it isn't the main concern for Weber. "Right now, some of our goals would be to have some more state qualifiers, both individual and in the relays," he said. "And

then to get some swimmers who haven't scored at the league meet to score there."

"I've told the guys 'I will get your best time.' That's how I'll judge if this season is a success, by the way."

Certainly Weber has some talent to work with, starting with senior co-captains Aaron Reeder, who placed fourth in the 100 backstroke at the league finals and qualified for state, and Matt Schacht, who was 14th in the 100 fly at league meet.

Weber expects Reeder to expand his repertoire. "He'll swim basically anything he wants to swim," he said. "We're going to see if we can strengthen his backstroke for the IM (individual medley)."

Schacht will probably be in the fly and breast. Indeed, one

strength Weber believes Canton has is enough depth to cover all the events.

"We have distance swimmers, specialty swimmers, and we should have some real strong relays," he said.

The sophomore class, which is the biggest on the team, has several swimmers Weber expects to contribute. Among the best at the moment are a pair of distance freestylers: Brad Nilson and Ryan Ahern.

Nilson finished 10th at the WLAA's in both the 200 IM and 500 free. "He's a very strong swimmer," said Weber. "He's come along quite well."

Despite the lack of upperclassmen, Weber remains optimistic — mainly due to the upperclassmen. "The ones we have are real leaders," he said.

Now the only question is: How far can those leaders, and Weber, can take the Chiefs?

well. They came out and skated. "I thought our second line of Brian Marion, Kevin Temerowski and Chris Hone played well."

Penalties were a non-factor as Canton was whittled for four two-minute minors while the Flyers spent just six minutes in the box.

Farmington fired 30 shots at Zielinski while Canton had 17 shots on goal.

The two also excel academically with Melissa carrying a 3.42 grade point average and Michelle a 3.28.

Canton hockey page B1

1:29 remaining.

But that's as close as they got, thanks to some last-second heroics from Zielinski, who kicked away a point-blank shot by Marion with 25 seconds left.

"We played well in the third period," said Farmington assistant coach Bernie Buller, who was filling in for head coach Glenn Breuhan. "Canton played

Harrison's Teachman stepping down

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
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BASKETBALL

Farmington Harrison will start a new season in boys basketball with a new coach for the first time in 22 years Friday night.

Mike Teachman, who had coached the Hawks since 1977-78, made a stunning decision Monday to step down from his longtime role as varsity head coach.

Teachman, 54, also teaches math at the school and is the building athletic coordinator. He said he felt physically and mentally drained and didn't think he could devote the same energy to coaching the varsity.

Instead, he will coach the Harrison JV team for this season with the intention of retiring from coaching basketball at its conclusion, Dave Turquist, who has been the JV coach for the last 11 years, is now the varsity coach.

"I hit a wall, physically and intensity wise," Teachman said. "I didn't think it was fair to this varsity team that has put in all the freshman, JV and summer time to have a guy was really, really weary."

"I figured the best thing is for them to have someone who has the adrenaline going and that's Dave. My job this year is to turn out players for next year's varsity team. It's really no different at practice, but I won't be scouting, preparing scouting reports, preparing practices for special teams, stats and that kind of stuff."

"If this is my last year and I'm already tired, then I don't think I'd be doing a good job. I've always been critical of people who stayed too long. Willie Mays was one of my favorite players

and watching him play for the Mets at the end was depressing. He wasn't the same Willie Mays, and it was obvious he wasn't enjoying himself. In the case of being a high school coach, players know if you're not enjoying yourself."

Teachman said the timing of decision, coming just days before the season opener, was right. It wouldn't have been fair to the players to start the season and make a switch later, he said.

"This way neither the JV nor varsity teams as of Monday had been together due to injuries and illnesses from football," he said. "Neither team had sought its own identity and was taking on a personality. So it's a good time to make the switch."

Teachman, who has coached for 33 years, also wants to spend more time with his wife, Pat.

"This is my 33rd year of being married to the same lady, and she deserves more than somebody who just comes

home at night and falls asleep in the chair and wakes up and looks at videotape," he said.

Teachman will remain the Harrison athletic coordinator and continue as the girls varsity softball coach.

"If I don't recover my zeal, I might think a little differently (about softball)," he said. "There's certainly less scouting in that. Right now I'll be out there in shorts again."

Teachman also said he was under no pressure from players or parents. Such a thing did not contribute to his being tired.

"I had some tight relationships with people on that team," he said. "I have to say 'Am I going to be selfish, because I do get a lot out of being with the players? They might not get a whole lot from being under the guidance of someone who's not full-boor for them."

"I can still support the guys on a different level, not being the boss, so to

speak, but the guy who's there to give them a pat on the back and a suggestion once in a while."

There's a chance Teachman might remain JV coach after this season, and he said Turquist has asked him to leave the door open on that subject.

"If it works out well and I get back to tip-top physical shape, then maybe this be a good marriage this way," he said. "Turquist has been my support and development (for the varsity) for years. Now I owe it to him this year and maybe more."

Teachman said the lasting memories of his career is not of wins and losses but of the players he has coached and people he has known.

"I can still flash back to moments, but they all revolve around people," he said. "There's probably just as many on a bus, in a restaurant or at a team camp as there are games."

Harakas twins sparkle for Blazers

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
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Their first names are Michelle and Melissa — an M&M that's a handful for opponents and sure to make college coaches melt over their talents next year.

The Harakas sisters, fraternal twins and juniors at Livonia Ladywood, made their mark on Overboarder basketball this fall. Michelle, a 6-foot-1 center, earned first-team honors and Melissa, a 5-8 guard, was named to the second team.

The Redford Township tandem has been scoring points and winning games on the basketball court since the days they attended St. Valentine.

The pair helped the Blazers to one of their better records in years before they were upset in the Class A district final by Southfield, 45-44. Ladywood was the Catholic League runner-up, finishing with a 16-6 overall record.

With most of its players returning, Ladywood hopes to make it back to next year's Catholic League championship game and a long run in the state tournament.

The two also excel academically with Melissa carrying a 3.42 grade point average and Michelle a 3.28.

Melissa is known for her quickness, not only in basketball, but on the soccer field where she has started on the varsity since her freshman year.

Actually, the label stuck the day she was born, arriving in the delivery room five minutes before her sister.

Each was five pounds, 12 ounces, and parents Greg and Corinne never guessed they'd turn out as tall as they are.

"They were 'peanuts' when they were born," said their mother, who thought she was having a boy and a girl up until the arrival date.

Melissa was the taller one until the sixth grade when Michelle hit a growth spurt and passed not only her sister but most of the boys in their school.

Michelle's growth earned her the nickname "tree" while Melissa has been tagged with the name "Mo" for years.

"One of Greg's friends called her 'Melissa' once and we just kept the 'Mo' part," their mother said.

Greg laughs about a picture the family has of Michelle as a toddler resting her entire body in a five-pound bucket.

"Now she can't even stick her foot in there," said Greg, a sales and leasing closing manager for Mel Farr Ford and a Redford

Thurston graduate.

Melissa has been a starter on the Ladywood varsity basketball team since her freshman year. Michelle's freshman year on the varsity was cut short by a foot stress fracture that caused her to miss all but two games.

Michelle also decided to quit soccer and concentrate only on basketball because of the injury, but she's thinking about trying out again for soccer this year because it's another sport she loves.

The Harakas girls have different personalities but one thing's for sure: they hate to lose.

"Both are super competitive," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "They're always the hardest working in practices and games. Either one would give up points and honors just to win."

They think alike on the court and sometimes off the court, too. "They'll sometimes say the same thing at the same time and people say 'It must be because they're twins,'" Gorski said.

The two almost did the unthinkable three years ago, nearly leading tiny St. Valentine to the Catholic Youth Organization championship before losing

in the final to mighty St. Joan of Arc from St. Clair Shores in the final.

Being twins actually hurt them in the finals, they recall. They aren't identical twins but have a resemblance and Melissa accidentally was given a foul, her fifth, that should have been given to Michelle, who had only three fouls at the time.

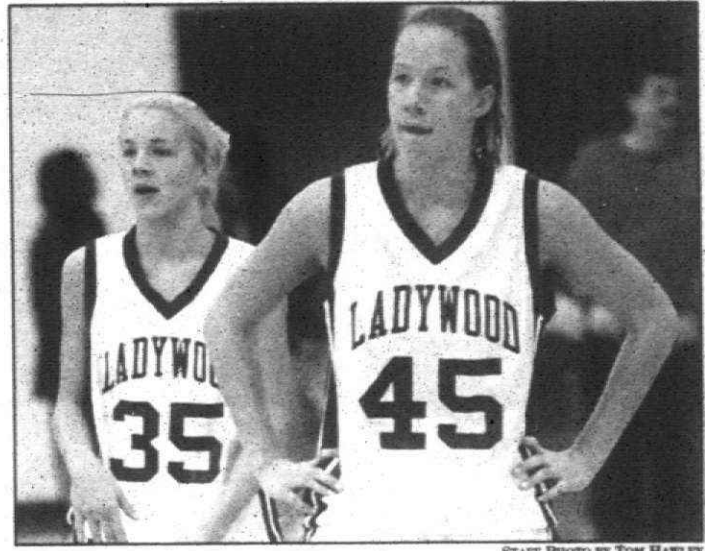
The referees' mistake cost the team half of their prized pair with Melissa fouling out in the second half.

The Harakas girls have a younger sister, Stephanie, a freshman at Ladywood. Her athletic career ended before she got to Ladywood and she has other interests.

"She goes to games to socialize," said Greg, sounding very believable because as he's saying it Stephanie walks into the living room holding a portable phone in her hand.

The three drive to school together, taking a car the twins share. Michelle usually doing the driving in the morning.

"I'm more of a morning person," said Michelle, who worked in the restaurant last summer at Western Golf & Country Club.



Twin trouble: Melissa (left) and Michelle Harakas were a problem for opponents all season long.

Michelle and Melissa also still share a bedroom, which they say is neatly kept on both sides. It's just that Melissa has a lot more to organize.

"Melissa just keeps so much stuff," their mother said.

Much of their summers are spent playing at basketball camps and traveling with their AAU basketball teams, which have qualified for the national tournament four straight years.

They're roommates then, too. "It's just easier to deal with each other than someone else," Melissa said. "We're used to each other."

The two have the same interest in boys, preferring athletic/intelligent types, though they hardly have time for boyfriends.

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In our December 12 insert, we advertised the CD Still I Rise by 2Pac + Outlawz as available Tuesday, December 14. Due to manufacturing delays, this title is not currently available. However, we will be offering rainchecks on this title.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

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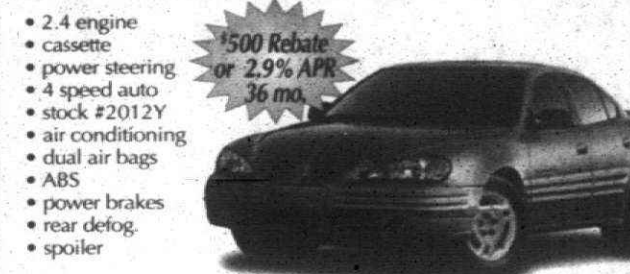
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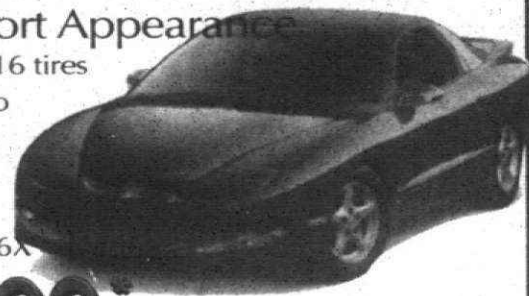
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2000 JIMMY 4 Door

Sunroof, V-6, automatic, SLE luxury trim kpower seat, air conditioning, stereo, steering wheel audio controls, liftgate, deluxe overhead console, enhanced speakers. Stock # 5164Y. Was \$31,353*



SALE PRICE **\$26,127***

LEASE FOR **\$298²⁶*** 36 MO. \$2368.86 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$24,393³⁹***

GM LEASE **\$230²⁹*** 36 MO. \$2287.81 due at signing

2000 Sonoma Pickup

60/40 seat wideside, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, air conditioning, cast aluminium wheels, stereo CD, tilt, cruise control, tachometer. Stock #5094Y. Was \$15,123*



SALE PRICE **\$12,694***

LEASE FOR **\$129¹⁷*** 36 MO. \$1723.62 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$11,509⁷⁸***

GM LEASE **\$94⁶⁷*** 36 MO. \$1092.15 due at signing

2000 Safari Passenger Van

Power drivers seat, running boards, rear heat, front & rear air cond., V-6, auto, 7 pass. seating, SLE trim, dutch doors, stereo cassette, deep tint glass, overhead console, cast alum. wheels, luggage carrier. Stock #5286-Y. Was \$25,680*



SALE PRICE **\$23,004⁵⁰***

LEASE FOR **\$299⁸¹*** 36 MO. \$2352.52 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$21,401⁶⁰***

GM LEASE **\$251⁸⁰*** 36 MO. \$2281.61 due at signing

2000 SAVANA CARGO VAN

7100 lb. GVW V-8, automatic, trim rings, fixed side & rear door glass, air conditioning, tilt, cruise. Stock #6032Y. Was \$24,184*



SALE PRICE **\$20,927***

LEASE FOR **\$257⁴²*** 36 MO. \$2257.57 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$19,984⁵⁸***

GM LEASE **\$228³⁰*** 36 MO. \$2282.12 due at signing

2000 SIERRA REG. CAB PICKUP

Split bench seat, deep tint glass, V-6, auto, cruise stereo cassette, tow hooks, air cond., power door locks, sport side, deluxe front appearance, chrome rear step bumper, chrome wheels. Stock #6028Y. Was \$20,392*



SALE PRICE **\$18,645***

LEASE FOR **\$261⁰⁰*** 36 MO. \$2286.36 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$17,669¹⁶***

GM LEASE **\$230¹²*** 36 MO. \$2233.63 due at signing

2000 SIERRA EXTENDED CAB PICKUP

Deep tint glass, locking differential, V-8, automatic, fog lamps, tow hooks, SLT decor, air conditioning, sportside, power windows & locks, cast aluminium wheels, power driver & passenger seats. Stock #6202-Y. Was \$30,281*



SALE PRICE **\$26,894***

LEASE FOR **\$330³⁸*** 36 MO. \$2436.90 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$25,108⁰²***

GM LEASE **\$274⁴⁰*** 36 MO. \$2330.56 due at signing

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SALE PRICE **\$33,879***

LEASE FOR **\$394¹⁴*** 36 MO. \$3612.49 due at signing

GM PRICE **\$31,304⁵⁵***

GM LEASE **\$315¹²*** 36 MO. \$3513.17 due at signing

1999 ENVOY

Envoy package, power windows & locks, air conditioning, V-6, liftgate, steering wheel, audio controls, leather seats. Stock #5801X. Was \$34,975*



SALE PRICE **\$31,013***

GM PRICE **\$27,635***

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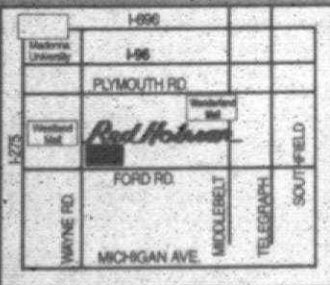
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ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Painter plans to keep up fast pace

Audrey Harkins beamed with pride as she looked around the Fine Arts Gallery at the Livonia Civic Center Library. All 49 of the watercolors in her one-woman show were painted within the last 10 years. That's quite an accomplishment for the 69-year-old watercolorist who is constantly on the go.

A resident of Livonia for more than 35 years, she belongs to four art clubs, and regularly attends meetings, and exhibits paintings in their shows. She also makes time to visit with her four sons and seven grandchildren.

Harkins accomplished much of her art work while attending classes at the Visual Arts Association of Livonia. She took her first class nearly 20 years ago after her youngest son started high school.

On exhibit

"A lot of these were done in VAAL classes and with Edee Joppich up in Northport," said Harkins, whose watercolors of garden paths, still life, landscapes, and florals continue on exhibit through Thursday, Dec. 30.

A painting of red and white petunias greets visitors at the front of the gallery. The painting is not for sale. It was selected to be published in the book "Best of Watercolor Series, Painting Composition" in 1997. Placed side by side are Harkins' dramatic "Fruit and Flowers I" and "Just Geraniums." Red resonates through these two works.

"I always love painting flowers," said Harkins. "Most I paint from life because you can't get the detail and true color from photographs. I hold the flowers in my hands as I paint them."

Harkins loves gardening and has worked on hers as long as she's lived in Livonia, and it's still not finished. For painting purposes, she would like to have a flower in bloom every day from spring until fall.

"My downfall is living next to Frank's Nursery at Five Mile Road and Levan. My car automatically turns into the parking lot," said Harkins. "There's a balance between having enough time to paint and weeding the garden, and I'm still looking for it."

Paintings from a trip Harkins took to Arizona and New Mexico with Livonia artist Yvette Goldberg are found in the center of the gallery. Harkins said she was mesmerized by the beauty of the Painted Desert as she stood at its edge.

"I still haven't caught up with my vacation paintings from trips to Nova Scotia, the Caribbean, and the waterfalls in the upper peninsula this past year," said Harkins. "I'm just way behind."

Experimenting

It's apparent by looking at the works that Harkins likes experimenting with technique. Goldberg taught her the process of solar painting. These works are created by placing a pan of water outdoors then soaking paper in it along with natural materi-

Please see EXPRESSIONS, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Fine art: Audrey Harkins presents some of the 49 paintings that are featured in her one woman show in the Fine Arts Gallery at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Days of Detroit

Paintings awaken Motown memories

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

Although Jim McConnell has lived in Livonia for many years, he's never forgotten the architecture he fell in love with on boyhood trips to downtown Detroit.

So when he saw artist William Moss' recreations of vintage Detroit buildings at an art fair several years ago, McConnell never forgot their magic. As the time drew near to select an artist for the Detroit Historical Society's 2000 calendar last December, McConnell thought Moss' scenes would stir memories in anyone who grew up in the area.

The old ballpark at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull especially reminds McConnell of his childhood, not to mention his lifelong passion for studying the past.

A former history teacher for Dearborn Public Schools, McConnell and his wife Annette developed the idea for "The Days of Detroit" calendar two years ago.

"Briggs Stadium puts it back in the 1950s when I went there as a boy, and then in college I remember going and sitting in the bleachers in Tiger Stadium," said McConnell, education coordinator for Detroit 300, the celebration planned for the city of Detroit's 300th birthday in 2001.

"Though I have fond memories of the Hudson's Parade, it's going to the store as a kid and taking

my kids that I remember best. One of my other favorites is old City Hall. Did you know in 1960 John Kennedy opened his campaign for president in front of the building?"

McConnell and Moss share their love of vintage Detroit buildings in the calendar that notes historic political, economic and social events day by day. The McConnells began acquiring information for the calendar about three years ago, and now have a database of 5,000 separate events in Detroit history. All the dates are new this year except for July 24, the founding of Detroit, and May 17, when Ralph Polk developed his first Detroit Business Directory in 1870.

For the second year, R. L. Polk & Co. of Southfield underwrote costs for the calendar. Sales benefit the Detroit Historical Society, the major source of private funding for the Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Historic Fort Wayne, and Historic Moross House.

"It's been fun learning about the diversity of events from the first mile of pavement on Woodward to the founding of Kiwanis in 1914, and the great fire of Detroit in June 1805," said McConnell.

Memories of Detroit

Moss has spent as much time researching his artworks as the McConnells have the dates of historic events. Moss first fell in love with Detroit architecture while growing up on the east side. He used to

change buses in front of the old City Hall on the way to art classes at Cass Tech. Moss continued to note the characteristics of the city's buildings while studying for a bachelor of fine arts degree at Wayne State University.

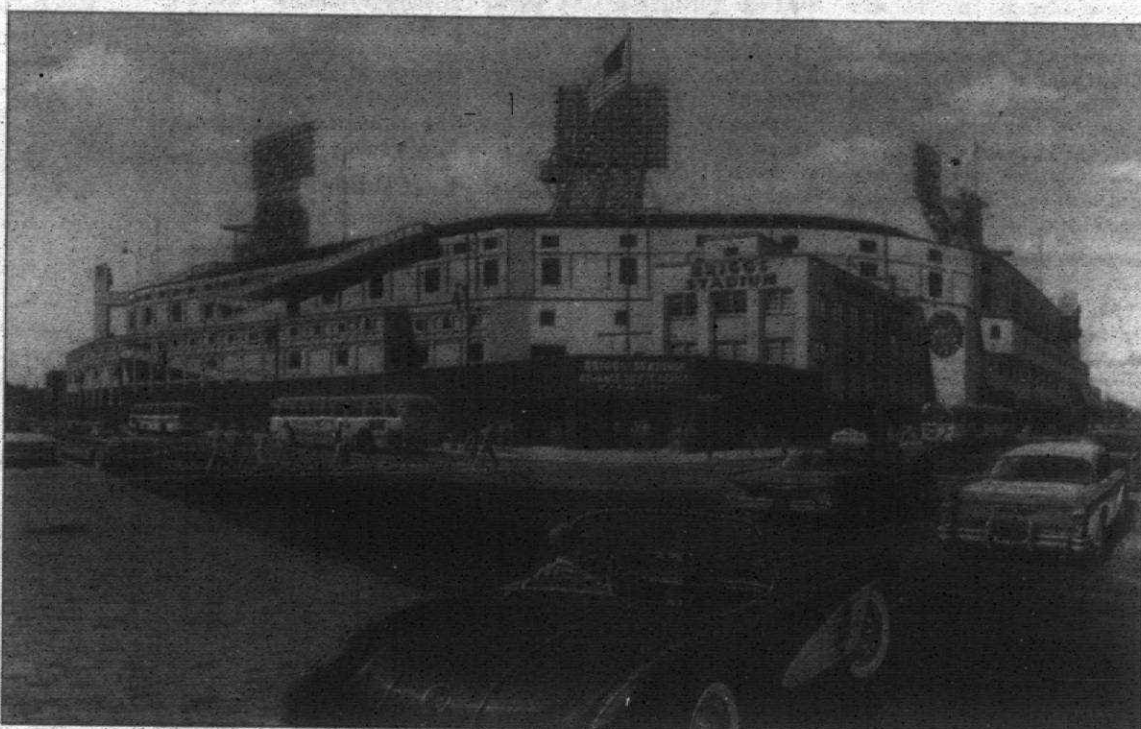
"I was always interested in architecture and art and wanted to show what it looked like then - the old movie palaces, theaters and other places from my youth," said Moss, an architectural delineator in Tennessee. "The Foot of Woodward painting with the Bob-Lo Boat took dozens and dozens of photographs to put together - to have the proper buses for the proper time."

Moss was elated to find the original blueprints for Detroit's old City Hall in the Burton Historical Collection. He used the plans as reference for the painting of the building that stood on the corner of Michigan and Woodward avenues from 1871 to 1962.

While going through the archives, including thousands of news photographs from the Civil War era to the 1960s, Moss found a memory that was especially precious - a photograph of his mother standing behind the mayor as he removed the corner stone from the old City Hall before it was demolished.

"One of the wonderful things is it brought back what happened that day," said Moss who still paints part time on the Detroit's east side. "She'd walked

Please see DETROIT, C2



Briggs Stadium: The old ballpark at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull was named after Detroit industrialist and baseball club owner Walter O. Briggs between the years 1938 and 1960.



Big Red Barn: (Above) William Moss' painting of Olympia shows hockey fans lined up to purchase tickets for the 1955 game which brought the Red Wings their seventh Stanley Cup.

Fizzy memory: (Left) This painting (c. 1954) by William Moss depicts the old Vernor's factory at the foot of Woodward Avenue and the Bob-Lo Boat deck.

CONCERT

Vocal groups prepare to 'Jazz Up the Holidays'

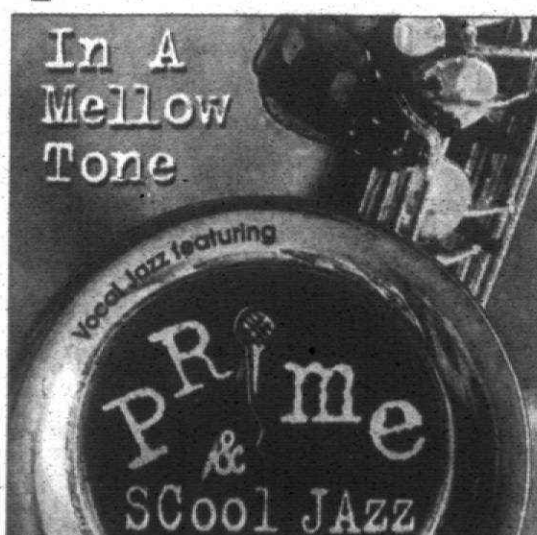
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Steve SeGraves, SCool Jazz and SCool Jazz PRIME have been working with hardly a break since returning from their two-week European tour in July.

The two vocal jazz groups played the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the North Sea Jazz Festival in The Netherlands.

"Two days after our return we were in the Michigan Jazz Festival," said SeGraves, a Plymouth resident who has directed the Schoolcraft College-based groups for the past seven years. "The tour was pretty amazing. Who would have ever thought we'd do both of these festivals. That was pretty ambitious. We're really excited about all the kinds of things opening up for our groups as a result."

Shortly after coming home from Europe, the vocal jazz groups went into The Brookwood Studio in Ann Arbor to record the songs they sang on tour. "In a Mellow Tone" features standards ranging from "The Shadow of Your Smile" and "Fly Me to the Moon" to "When Doves Cry."



Mellow sounds: SCool Jazz and SCool Jazz PRIME sing selections from their new CD during a "Jazz Up the Holidays Concert."

SeGraves, a tenor with SCool Jazz PRIME, believes the CD is a nice way for the groups to leave a legacy, and creates a benchmark by which to judge future

progress.

The CD will be available at the groups' annual "Jazz Up the Holidays Concert" Wednesday, Dec. 15 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

SCool Jazz PRIME's six vocalists, pianist Eileene Standley and drummer Karen Tomalis were counting down the number of rehearsals left before the concert, which is programmed to spotlight several selections from the new CD, and seasonal favorites such as "Cool Yule" recorded by Louis Armstrong. It's just one of the upcoming performances for which the professional vocal jazz group was rehearsing Monday night at the Radcliff Center in Garden City SCool Jazz, which is comprised of students, rehearses separately during the day.

As they were about to warm up, PRIME's members reflected on their tour. The harmonious sounds of baritone Carl Rinne, lead soprano Cat Hadrian, Hazel Park; second soprano Ginny Lundquist, Orchard Lake; alto Gwen Jacques, Novi; and bass Mike Begian, Wyandotte would soon fill the Community Room.

"It was great," said Standley, a Plymouth resident. "In Utrecht our hosts were a young group, DeKoor, and they were so good to us. My favorite was singing at the World Choral Symposium. But I enjoyed singing everywhere: old bridges, buildings and stages."

Rinne won't soon forget singing an impromptu con-

Please see JAZZ, C5

Detroit from page C1

down there to see that. The paintings bring back all my favorite memories of going back home to Tennessee from the Michigan Central Train Station, the Bob-Lo boats and the Vernors Plant."

Moss remembers seeing The Beatles at Olympia in 1965, and that's about all. "When The Beatles came out on stage, you couldn't hear anything," said Moss, who began painting ships and giant side-wheelers down on the river at 11 years old because the floating cities reminded him of architecture. "The screaming drowned them out."

Moss' painting of the "Big Red Barn," as it was affectionately known, shows hockey fans lined up to purchase tickets for the 1955 game which brought the Red Wings their seventh Stanley Cup. It's one of his best selling prints, along with a view of Tiger Stadium during the 1984 World Series, at galleries around town.

In addition to Barnes & Noble, B. Dalton, Borders Books, Waldenbooks and the Detroit Historical Museum gift shop, the "Days of Detroit" calendar is available at The Print Gallery in Southfield; Frame Art, Birmingham; Frames Plus More, Farm-

ington; Fabulous Gallery, Rochester; Frames Unlimited, Bloomfield Hills; American Business Concepts, Rochester Hills; Framery & Gallery and The Art Show Gallery, Troy; Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village shops, and Creative Framing & Gallery, Plymouth.

Moss will make a guest appearance Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 15-16, at Creative Framing & Gallery during the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular.

Best seller
Customers are ordering the

calendars in multiples at Creative Framing & Gallery in Plymouth. Co-owner Pat Korona said, people love Moss' limited-edition lithographs and meeting him during bi-annual visits to the shop. In addition to the prints which will be on exhibit, Korona is framing the sketches Moss created when he visited Creative Framing in July during Art in the Park.

"The calendars are selling very well," said Korona. "People love it. I gave a friend one for his 90th birthday and his wife came back and ordered seven more. What a great gift for \$11.95."

"We're looking forward to his visit in January. Bill is such a fun person to talk to and to listen to how he paints these."

Expressions from page C1

als. Ink or watercolor paint is then sprayed on top of the water or dropped into it.

Maple tree seedlings turn into ethereal-looking doves in flight in the painting titled "Morning Flight." Cheesecloth and shells leave impressionistic imprints on an abstract nearby.

"I just had more fun doing these this summer," said Harkins. "I can't wait for winter to do crystal paintings. You use the same process but get sharp edges where the ice forms."

Harkins learned how to do string art from Al Weber, a Livonia artist. Her yellow and red marionette literally dances across the paper.

"You wet string or ribbon and then dip it in acrylic paint and then throw it on paper." Sounds simple enough, but putting down the line art is only the beginning.

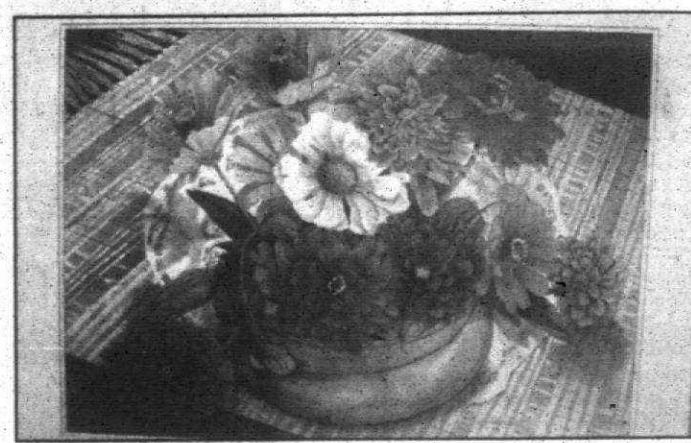
"Then you have to see what you think it looks like. As soon as I saw it, I thought it looked like a dancer."

Future in art

Harkins has no plans to slow down. While she's no longer on the board at VAAL, Harkins has no plans to quit VAAL or for that matter the Farmington Artists



Ornate landmark: Detroit's sandstone City Hall (c. 1960) is one of 12 William Moss paintings featured in the "Days of Detroit" calendar.



Zany Zlonas: Audrey Harkins loves to paint florals. Her one woman show continues at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Club, Livonia Artists Club or Michigan Water Color Society. And as a member of the Detroit Founders Society, she's looking forward to seeing the Vincent van Gogh exhibit opening March 12 at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"I think the reason artists live a long life is because they have something interesting to do when they get up in the morning. Many artists live into their 90s and I hope to be one of them."

The Livonia Civic Center Library is at 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, until 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 23-26.

If you have an interesting idea for a story, call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.hometeam.net.

Noteworthy

Gallery exhibits, art shows, classical concerts

MAKING CONTACT: Please submit items for publication to Frank Provenzano, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or fax (248) 644-1314

ART SHOWS & FESTIVALS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART FAIR

The 29th annual fair takes place 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Oakland Community College, Building H, Farmington Hills. (734) 662-3382.

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER

Weekends of special holiday sales. The "Small Works" fine art sale runs through Thursday, December 30 in the DeSalle Community Gallery with more than 200 works priced under \$300. Hours are Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. in December. 1516 Southfield, Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. (248) 644-0866.

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Presented by the Southfield-Lathrup High School Art, Music, Drama and Dance students at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16. 19301 W. 12 Mile, Southfield. (248) 746-7489.

GALERIE DE BOICOURT

Scandinavian holiday decorations and crafts on sale until Dec. 25. 251 E. Merrill, Birmingham. (248) 723-5680.

MANISCALCO GALLERY

Holiday Salon, a sensory feast of art, music, poetry, monologues and holiday cheer, 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. 17329 Mack Ave., Detroit. (313) 886-2993.

AUDITIONS & CALL FOR ARTISTS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Paint Creek Center for the Arts seeks applications from artists interested in exhibiting fine arts or crafts at the Juried Art & Apples Festival in Rochester Municipal Park. Applications must be received by March 1. Entry fee is \$25. To obtain an application form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Art & Apples Festival, POA, 407 Pine Street, Rochester. (248) 651-4110.

LIVONIA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

Open registration begins Dec. 14 for the Winter Semester which runs Jan. 19-March 11. 407 Pine Street, Rochester. (248) 651-4110.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Classes and workshops for all ages at the center, 774 N. Sheldon Road. Live model session 9:30 a.m.-noon, every third Tuesday of the month. (734) 416-4278.

VISUAL ART ASSOCIATION OF LIVONIA

Classes in watercolor, figurative drawing and painting; workshops in batik and watercolor monotypes, at the Jefferson Center, Room 16, 9501 Henry Road, Livonia. (734) 455-9517.

CONCERTS

CEREMONY OF CAROLS

The Women's Chamber Chorus the Chamber Males presents a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. (313) 534-7730.

CLASSICS AT THE LAKE

Ervin Monroe and Alexander Zonjic perform a "Piper's Holiday Concert" 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 in the shrine chapel on the college campus at Orchard Lake and Commerce. (248) 683-1750.

DETROIT CHAMBER WINDS & STRINGS

Holiday Brass, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Christ Church Cranbrook. (248) 362-9DCW.

DETROIT ORATORIO SOCIETY

A Yuletide Benefit Concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at Andiamo's Italia Ristorante Banquet Center, 7096 East 14 Mile Road in Warren. (248) 650-2655.

DSO NUTCRACKER

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Ballet Internationale perform the Nutcracker through Sunday, Dec. 19 at the Detroit Opera House, Detroit. (313) 576-5100.

FEAST OF CAROLS

6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Royal Oak First United Methodist Church, 320 W. Seventh, Royal Oak. (248) 541-4100.

FIRESIDE INN JAZZ

The Matt Michaels Trio with special guest Judi Cochill, 8:11-11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 28937 Warren, two blocks east of Middlebelt Road. (734) 762-7756.

GABRIELI CONSONT & PLAYERS

Performs with the UMS Choral Union 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic

Church, 2250 East Stadium, Ann Arbor. (734) 764-2538.

HOLIDAY BRASS

Performs at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 362-9329.

HOLIDAY POPS

A Yuletide celebration featuring David Briskin conducting Dec. 16-20 at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. (313) 576-5111.

MUSIC AT KIRK IN THE HILLS

Annual service of lessons and carols, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 626-2515.

SOUTHFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Performs with the Japanese Business Society of Detroit Men's and Women's Choruses at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. (248) 557-2085.

WESTMINSTER CONSONT

The 20-member flute ensemble will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort Street, Detroit. (248) 548-9393.

DANCE

EISENHOWER DANCE ENSEMBLE

Holiday Dance Spectacular at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Lake Orion Performing Arts Center, Lake Orion. (248) 362-9329.

MT. ZION SCHOOL OF DANCE

Presents "The Nutcracker Ballet" 7 p.m. Saturday Sunday, Dec. 17-18, Lake Orion High School. Tickets \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door. (248) 391-0116.

EVENTS

LIVING NATIVITY

An enactment of the story of the birth of Jesus at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the First Baptist Church, Birmingham. (248) 644-0550.

NATIVITY PAGEANT

The annual festival of gifts is at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 when parishioners bring a gift to the cradle. Gifts will be distributed the next day to Wayne and Oakland County human service agencies. Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 644-5210.

WASSAIL FEAST

Royal Court begins 6:30 p.m. Dec. 17-18 with an open bar in the Kresge Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The revelry continues in the Great Hall with a five-course meal fit for nobility. Entertainers, jugglers and strolling minstrels perform nightly, 5:00 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 833-4005.

Exhibiting



Gritty: Glenn Barr's new work, "Underbelly," on exhibit through Jan. 14 at CPOP, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-9901 for information.

MUSEUMS

CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Through Jan. 2 - Turbulent Landscapes: The Natural Forces That Shape our World, Sunday Brunch lecture at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 is "Reality Check: Fake, Forgery or Copy?" 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. 1-877-GO-CRANBROOK.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Through March 26 - Robert Frank: The Americans. Through Jan. 9 - "What is a rare book? A Glimpse into the Research Library's rare book collection. Through May 31 - "Glass, Glass, Glass: From the DIA's Collection." Through Jan. 2 - Rembrandt: Masterpieces in Etching from the Morgan Library. Through Jan. 2 - paintings by Bob Thompson. Through Feb. 13 - The Painted Arch: Idealizing the Gothic Age. 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 833-7900.

TROY MUSEUM

Through March 30 - "Going West: Michigan Cavalry in Indian Wars." 60 Wattles, Troy. (248) 524-3570.

CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Through Jan. 2 - "I made this jar." The Life and Works of the Enslaved African American Potter, Dave. 315 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART

Through Jan. 2 - When Time Began to Rant and Rage: Figurative Painting from Twentieth-Century Ireland. 525 South State, Ann Arbor. (734) 764-0395.

GALLERY EXHIBITS (OPENING)

JEFFREY CLAY GALLERY

Opens Thursday, Dec. 16 - the lusts of Paul Krich. 404 East 4th Street, Royal Oak. (248) 584-2223.

GALLERY EXHIBITS (ON-GOING)

ARIANA GALLERY

Through Jan. 1 - Feliz Navi-dod-dad! featuring doodads for holidays. Through Jan. 1 - "Let There Be Light." 119 S. Main St., Royal Oak. (248) 546-8810.

ALFRED BERKOWITZ GALLERY

Through Dec. 12 - "The Michigan Friends of Photography Annual Membership Exhibition." Mardigan Library, University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn. (313) 593-5400.

BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH

Through Dec. 12 - Paintings, drawings and prints by Jud Coveyou. 651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 647-2380.

CARY GALLERY

Through Dec. 24 - oil paintings by Lila Kady. 226 Walnut, Rochester. (248) 651-3656.

CASS CAFE

An exhibition of photography by Millard Berry, Ralph Rinaldi and Bill Waters. 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. (313) 831-1400.

COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY

Graduate Works in Progress exhibition. 28 S. 4600-Guilem Mall-Wayne State University, Detroit. (313) 572-423.

CPOP GALLERY

Through Jan. 14 - Glenn Barr: Underbelly. 4160 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 833-9901.

DETROIT CONTEMPORARY

Through Jan. 9 - "364 Days" featuring Paul Snyder, James Stephens and Robert Berry. 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. (313) 898-4278.

GALERIA CASA DE UNIDAD

Through Dec. 17 - Day of the Dead. Offrenda exhibit. 1920 Scotten, Detroit. (313) 843-9598.

JANICE CHARACH EISEN GALLERY

Through Jan. 27 - "The Mountain of the Lord: Scale Models of Jerusalem Temples." 6600 West Maple, West Bloomfield. (248) 661-7641.

CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

Through Dec. 30 - An exhibit by the Chaldean American Association of Fine Arts. 47 Williams Street. (248) 333-7849.

ELAINE JACOB GALLERY

Through Feb. 4 - "Misbehaving!" Works from the studio of Sandy Skoglund. 480 W. Hancock, Detroit. (313) 993-7813.

GALLERY: FUNCTIONART

Through Dec. 18 - Michigan Student Furniture/Functional Art. Design Competition. More than 30 works by area students will be on

display. 21 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac.

GALERIA BIEGAS

Through Jan. 1 - Breaking Through: a multi-media art exhibit. 35 Grand River, Detroit. (313) 961-0634.

GALERIE BLU

Through Jan. 4 - Works by Lenore Gimpert. 7 North Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 454-7797.

GALLERY 212

Through Dec. 12 - The Marriage, a solo exhibition of Rx. Harrington. 212 S. Main, Ann Arbor. (734) 665-8224.

GALLERY AT MARYGROVE COLLEGE

Through Dec. 15 - The works of Sandra Cardew/Marilyn Schechter. 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. (313) 927-1336.

G.R. N'NAMDI GALLERY

Through Jan. 12 - Herbert Gentry: Different Wants, Different Wishes. 161 Townsend, Birmingham. (248) 642-2700.

HABITAT GALLERIES

Through Dec. 31 - new work by Kreg Kallenberger. 7 North Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 333-2060.

HILL GALLERY

Through Dec. 31 - Donald Sultan: Selected Drawings. 407 W. Brown St., Birmingham. (248) 540-9288.

SUSANNE HILBERY GALLERY

Through Jan. 8 - New paintings by Robert Wilbert and jewelry by Darcy Miro. 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham. (248) 642-8250.

ARNOLD KLEIN GALLERY

Through Dec. 30 - A Tribute to Time group exhibition. 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak. (248) 647-7709.

DAVID KLEIN GALLERY

Through mid-Jan. - A group show of abstract art featuring Jasper Johns, Al Held, Richard Prince, Joan Mitchell, Stephen Ellis, Barbara Voss and William Wood. 163 Townsend, Birmingham. (248) 433-3700.

LIVONIA ARTS COMMISSION

Through Dec. 30 - Audrey Harkins: watercolors in the Fine Arts Gallery. Through Dec. 29 - Bob Roderick LGB trains in the exhibition cases. Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia. (734) 466-2490.

MANISCALCO GALLERY

Through Jan. 8 - Imaginary Expressionism, a group exhibition. 17329 Mack Ave., Detroit. (313) 886-2993.

MASTERPIECE GALLERY

Through Dec. 18 - Carlos "Drine" Rolon: New Works and Constructions. 137 West Maple, Birmingham. (248) 594-9470.

MEADOW BROOK ART GALLERY

Through Jan. 9 - Collars and Cuffs. The Politics of Fashion in European Portraiture. 1630 to 1880 Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Oakland University, Rochester. (248) 370-3005.

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Through Dec. 20 - Document USA: a survey of art at the end of the millennium. 7 North Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 334-6038.

OAKLAND COUNTY GALLERY

Through Jan. 17 - Views and Visions, an exhibit of the Milford Village Fine Arts Association. 12 North Telegraph, Pontiac. (248) 668-0415.

PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Through Dec. 23 - Barbara Abel: Tragic Beauties. 407 Pine Street, Rochester. (248) 651-4110.

PEWABIC POTTERY

Through Dec. 31 - "Earthy Treasures," the annual holiday show and sale. 10125 East Jefferson, Detroit. (313) 822-0954.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Through Jan. 26 - "Spirit Earth," recent watercolors of Todd Marsee. 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. (734) 416-4447.

PRINT GALLERY

Through Jan. 5 - Mona Lisa Maria. 29173 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. (248) 356-5454.

SISSON ART GALLERY

Through Jan. 14 - Unconformity: Unexpected Layering. Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 845-6490.

SOUTHFIELD CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Through Dec. 23 - Exhibition by Southfield photographer Christine Redmond. 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield. (248) 424-9022.

SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Malls & Mainstreets

Observer & Eccentric

WTOF* Page 6, Section C

Nicole Stafford, Editor 248-901-2567 nstafford@oe.homecomm.net on the web: http://observer-eccentric.com Sunday, December 12, 1999

The romance of diamonds is alive for New Year's

THE JEWELRY LADY



DENISE RODGERS

Where do you plan to be on the 31st? And what do you plan to wear? Ringing in the New Year has taken on more significance than the bicentennial moments we celebrated back in 1976. Then again, we're not talking centuries. We're talking about a millennium, which does tend to put a little pressure on the celebration and on the idea of New Year's Eve gift-giving.

After all, we won't have another chance for this kind of celebration for another 1,000 years. Even if you think you'll be around in the year 2999 for the next media overkill, that's a long wait.

That said, the gifts of choice to celebrate the millennium make perfect sense: diamonds and platinum. Could anything else be more beautiful, versatile and enduring?

While I intend to ring in the New Year by watching the Times Square ball drop from the comfort of my bed, I will be wearing diamonds!

Don't believe me? Read on. Romance is alive and well for the millennium. One man who is taking romance seriously this New Year's Eve is Kevin Burke, of Birmingham. He purchased a diamond engagement ring from Frank Yanke of Yanke Designs in Franklin.

"He plans to spend New Year's Day with his girlfriend in Chicago, where they met," said Yanke. The prospective groom also has an elaborate date planned. He'll begin with brunch and a romantic walk to the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Once there, he'll light candles and propose to his girlfriend in the glow of the dawn of the new millennium. Now that sounds like a plan to me. Not to mention, it includes diamonds!

"We're expecting a lot of proposals for New Year's," said David Norman, executive vice president of jewelry.com, a Troy-based Internet jewelry seller that debuted this fall. The site features 2,000 pieces of jewelry, including officially certified diamonds, and the company plans to double their web site offerings in their first months of operation.

Alexia Bongiorno, of Alexander J. Bongiorno Creative Jewelers in Troy, shared another romantic tale from his customers. It's about the lasting love and friendship of three couples, who have been celebrating New Year's Eve together for the past 42 years.

This year, they plan to do add some dazzle to the celebration; each of the three men in the group has commissioned Bongiorno to create a small, diamond-set platinum cross for their wives. Each piece will be presented, as these special friends ring in the new century and millennium together.

But perennial diamond favorites, like diamond stud earrings and diamond tennis bracelets, also are getting notice when it comes to celebrating the New Year.

At Skyline Diamond Setters in Troy both are being purchased as Christmas gifts for recipients to wear on New Year's Eve, said Skyline's Jennifer Cleveland.

Also, many customers are upgrading their stud earrings to impressive sizes. One in particular was sized up to an ear-dragging total weight of 3.18 carats, she said. Then again, the size of engagement ring diamonds seems to be getting larger, too, said Cleveland.

If you have news, comments or questions about jewelry, The Jewelry Lady may be reached by fax, (248) 582-9223, by e-mail, rodgers@mtch.com, or by writing to: c/o Observer/Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Parent's helpers Retailers keep kids busy this holiday

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
SPECIAL EDITOR

nstafford@oe.homecomm.net
Joshua Smith and his mother Catherine waited two hours in line at the Somerset Collection in Troy to visit with Santa.

Though Catherine felt the wait, two-year-old Joshua was too busy playing games and watching holiday performers.

"He was entertained all the way through," Smith said of Somerset's efforts to make the wait as easy as possible. "The parents will feel the wait, but the kids won't."

But anything local malls and retailers can do to keep kids busy and upbeat during the holiday shopping season is helpful, said Smith, who lives in Birmingham. "It's a tough time of year. You're trying to run errands and you want to spend time with your kids."

While time and patience have always been a part of parenting, most of today's mothers and fathers have less of both to spare. Holiday shopping and traditional activities, like taking the kids to see Santa, only makes parents' schedules more hectic. To keep families coming out, malls and retailers are finding ways to make visits less stressful and more enjoyable.

In at the Somerset Collection, children waiting in line to visit Santa can play checkers, read books, explore Santa's castle, catch and throw oranges and interact with performers dressed in medieval garb.

After talking with Santa and having their pictures snapped, children receive a copy of the book "The Giving Season" and select three gold coins—they're worth 75 cents at a handful of mall stores.



St. Nick: Nicolas Rabah, 4, of Farmington Hills, sits and talks with Santa while his mother takes a break.



Little extras: Jordan Hiebay, 1, of Sterling Heights, takes in all the fun at Santa's castle at the Somerset Collection in Troy. After visiting Santa, children select coins from a treasure trunk worth 75 cents at several nearby stores. Helpers and performers at the castle make the wait less stressful for kids, and thus, parents.

from a massive treasure trunk. Located on the third floor near the store's youth departments, the shop is filled with inexpensive gifts for family and friends and manned by shopping helpers.

The service not only gives parents a break and makes children a part of the holiday shopping experience, but also resurrects a tradition, said Michelle Shulman, Hudson's regional public relations director.

Many of the parents and grandparents who today come to the Little Door Store recall when they were kids and visited the children's holiday shop Hudson's had at their old, downtown Detroit store.

"It's not only the children that have warm memories but also the parents," said Shulman of Hudson's take on making the holidays warm and fuzzy in the world of retail. "This is how memories and traditions start... and, hopefully, we're establishing some of those warm memories."

While Darmetko admits the mall is trying to attract shoppers who have children, she said the result is a more meaningful, and less commercial, shopping experience. "You do something that includes kids and something that the whole family can do together, and it becomes an outing, a special trip, something more unique," she said.

Another offering aimed at helping busy parents get through the holiday shopping season is a pager and two-way radio service being offered by a private company at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills.

Inside Fairlane Towne Center's holiday shopping relaxation room, activities keep children busy while parents put up their feet.

At Wonderland Mall in Livonia, there's a new tree house on which kids can play and a full-sized carousel they can ride.

And for a second year, Hudson's at the Somerset Collection in Troy has put up the Little Door Store, a colorful, kids-sized castle where children

can shop for holiday gifts on their own.

Located on the third floor near the store's youth departments, the shop is filled with inexpensive gifts for family and friends and manned by shopping helpers.

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On their own: Tommy Rayle, 5, of Birmingham, shops for holiday gifts for his friends at Hudson's Little Door Store.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Holiday Happenings will keep you informed about holiday shopping programs, services, events and boutiques during the busiest shopping time of the year. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich. 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

HOLIDAY MUSICAL PRESENTATION

The Livonia Civic Chorus comes to

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

STORYTELLING
Wonderland Mall in Livonia hosts Auntie Pook's story time for children and families, 2-3 p.m., Food Court stage.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

MOVADO SHOW
Jacobson's in downtown Birmingham hosts a show of Movado pieces, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Fine Jewelry.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

BADGLEY MISCHKA SHOW
View Badgley Mischka's special order collection for spring at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, through Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Designer Salon, second floor.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Livonia Mall to make a holiday musical presentation at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, near Sears fountain. For additional information, call (734) 476-1160.

HOLIDAY PUPPET SHOW

Wonderland Mall in Livonia hosts Holiday Carnival of Stars, a presentation by the Heiken Puppets at noon, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18 and at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19, on the Food Court stage. For more information, call (734) 522-4100.

NORTHSTAR TROLLEY SERVICE

Northstar Express trolley service between Southfield's Northland Center and area businesses runs 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dec. 13-16. Shoppers may access the trolley service, which includes a box lunch en route to the mall, from designated Southfield businesses. For details, including pick-up and drop-off information, call (248) 443-5311.

SANTA BEAR APPEARANCE

The Hudson's Santa Bear visits with children in his millennium costume between Thursday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 19 at the retailer's store at Summit Place Mall in Waterford. For details, call (248) 682-0123.

GALLOPING HOLIDAY HELPERS

Deputies and horses from the Oakland County Mounted Division assist with traffic direction and greet shoppers at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi every Saturday and Sunday through the end of December. Shoppers may pet horses and visit with their uniformed riders.

REBECCA COLLINS TRUNK SHOW

Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, holds a trunk show of Rebecca Collins' jewelry, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Jewelry, first floor. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

REBECCA COLLINS TRUNK SHOW

View minerals and stones from around the world in the jewelry collection of Rebecca Collins at Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, through Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Jewelry, first floor. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

TOY SHOW

Vendors sell model trains, dolls, beanie, Pokémon merchandise and other collectibles at a toy and hobby shop at the Novi Expo Center through Dec. 19. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under age 12. Also, toys will be collected for Toys for Tots. For additional information and a schedule, call (734) 455-2110.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

ROBERT LEE MORRIS TRUNK SHOW

Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, holds a trunk show of Robert Lee Morris' jewelry, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Jewelry, first floor. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

REBECCA COLLINS TRUNK SHOW

View minerals and stones from around the world in the jewelry collection of Rebecca Collins at Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, through Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Jewelry, first floor. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

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SANTA VISITS GREAT LAKES CROSSING

Jolly old St. Nick visits with children at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills every day during mall hours through Dec. 24. Santa has set up shop near the Star Theatre. Photograph and portrait packages are available. For schedule and price information, call (248) 454-5000.

RELAXATION ROOM FOR SHOPPERS

Fairlane Towne Center in Dearborn has new service for frenzied holiday shoppers, the Relaxation Room. Furnished with couches and children's videos and activities, the room is located on the second level near Lord & Taylor. The Relaxation Room opens one hour after the center does and shuts down one hour prior to the mall's closing through Dec. 24. For more information, call (313) 593-1370.

CHOCOLATE TASTING

Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts a Joseph Schmidt chocolate tasting, noon-4 p.m., Trim-A-Home department, first floor.

TASTE OF LAUREL PARK

Enjoy free food samples from Max & Erna's restaurant while you shop at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, noon-4 p.m., near Center Court.

WHERE CAN I FIND?

This interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate merchandise that's difficult to find through reader feedback. If you've seen or are looking for an item, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We publish readers' requests for merchandise twice. If you don't hear from us or see information about the item within a few weeks, we were unable to locate it. When we find an item owned by another reader, rather than for sale at a store, we will call you. But, please, be patient; we handle an overwhelming number of requests each week.

WHAT WE FOUND:

- A Timex wind-up watch for women can be purchased through the Vermont County Store catalog, (802) 362-8440 (page 46, item #23861, \$39.95).

- Bayberry candles can be purchased at the Country Cupboard, 15970 Middlebelt Road in Livonia; (734) 425-1990, and at the Bon Ton Gift Shop, at Six Mile and Newburgh roads.

- One set of Bookhouse books for Barbara.

- Scissors can be sharpened at the Bon Ton Gift Shop at Six Mile and Newburgh roads or at any Joanne Fabric stores.

- Cosmetic bonnets for dressing can be purchased at Levin's Beauty Supply at 15 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

- Lip Chic, the product recommended several weeks ago by Malls & Mainstreets beauty columnist Mary Anne Tocco, can be purchased at Red The Salon in downtown Birmingham.

- Arpege perfume is sold at Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy.

- Sander's products can be purchased at Sears at the Macomb Mall.

Sander's hot fudge can be purchased at the following stores: ACO hardware stores, Nino Salvaggio on Rochester Road in Troy, Kroger on 13 Mile Road in Royal Oak, The Chocolate Shop at 12 Mile and Farmington roads, CVS (formerly Arbor Drugs) stores and F&M stores.

- Sander's bumpy cake can be purchased at the Hard Ice Cream Café, 10930 Farmington Road, one block south of Plymouth, in Livonia.

A video tape of the film "Heidi with Shirley Temple" for Virginia.

FIND & SEARCH NOTES

- Linda is looking for a business that rents table space. She would like to have a garage sale but lives in an apartment.

- We're doing our best to help readers locate items they want or need for Christmas. We hope we're helping and thank readers for paying special attention to the column during the holiday season. For those readers we were unable to help, we wish you luck in the next few weeks in finding your items.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- A 1999 Shaman calendar with paintings by Susan Seddon Boulet for Nancy.

- A store where men's garters for socks are sold for Barbara.

- A store where Germaine Montell lip moisturizer is sold for Maxine.

- Lyrics and music for the song "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" for Eileen.

- A store where Prince Machiavelli's Golden Autumn cologne is sold for Kathy.

- A 1955 Detroit Cooley High School yearbook for Robert.

- A used Bone Shaker Penny Farthing, high-wheel bike for riding in parades for Tom.

- A store where tie-dyed children's shirts (sizes 8/10 in purple or blue) are sold for Pat, who lives in Troy.

- A fiesta ware sugar bowl lid in cobalt blue and a Mrs. Beasley Doll for Julie.

- Hudson's 1999 millennium Santa Bears for three readers, Mary, Norma and Barbara. Hudson's has sold out.

- Family Circus kids figurines, ornaments, plates and other pieces for Marzie.

- A store where Maybelline cake mascara with a brush (in a red plastic case) is sold for Pat.

- A Mrs. Beasley doll for Linda.

- A commemorative plate for the Green Mead Church Historical Park at Eight Mile and Newburgh roads for Angela.

- A store that sells Clinique Color Rub liquid rouge in "Pink Bronze" for Mattie.

- A store where Coty 24-hour lipstick in "Pure Watermelon" is available for Doris.

A video tape of the film "Heidi with Shirley Temple" for Virginia.

- "Binky the Clown," which was sold in the 50s and '60s by the Redford Suburban League, for Pat.

- A video tape of the film "Mr. Krueger's Christmas," which starred Jimmy Stewart and showed on television in the 80s for Connie.

- The '60s children's album "Songs for a Rainy Day" with Rosemary Clooney for Denise.

- The album "Happy Birthday Jesus" by Mike Douglas for Nancy.

- A store where a cookie press can be purchased.

- A business or person who does ribbonery, which is like embroidery, for Pamela.

- Pope Gosser china dishes (#52) in the pattern "Silver Dawn" from the '50s for Donna.

- Hudson's 1994 Santa Bears for two readers, Christie and Barbara.

- A store where a Big Bend wind-up clock with two bells on the top can be purchased for Darlene.

- A store or a catalog from which to purchase tan CoCo door mats (24-by-36-inch) for Sue. The Vermont Country Store catalog formerly sold them.

- A yogurt maker with 68-ounce containers for Mary.

- A silver "Nerolizer" toy from the movie "Men in Black," which had been available at Burger King restaurants for Teresa.

- John Willard Bloody Mary seasoning and a 18-by-56-inch, non-standard, ironing board cover for Marlene.

- A place-setting of Minton china in the pattern "Saturn" in black for Allison.

- Milton Bradley's 1950s game "Pirate and Traveler" for Karen.

- A recipe book with blank pages and index tabs for Janice.

- A store where Crown Ducal Ironstone pottery by AG Richardson from Staffordshire, England may be purchased for Mary Jane. LB King in the Fisher Building formerly carried the pottery.

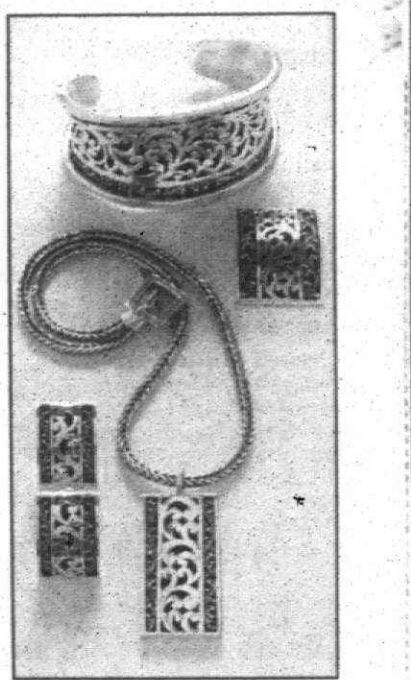
- White Christmas china, which was sold through the Spiegel catalog, for Karen.

- A store or catalog that sells Cheetham nylon wind-breakers for Candy.

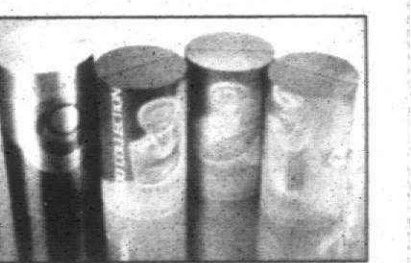
- A store that sells 12-by-12-inch gray or brown carpet tiles with a glue or self-adhesive backing for William.

a la carte

STUFF WE CRAVE



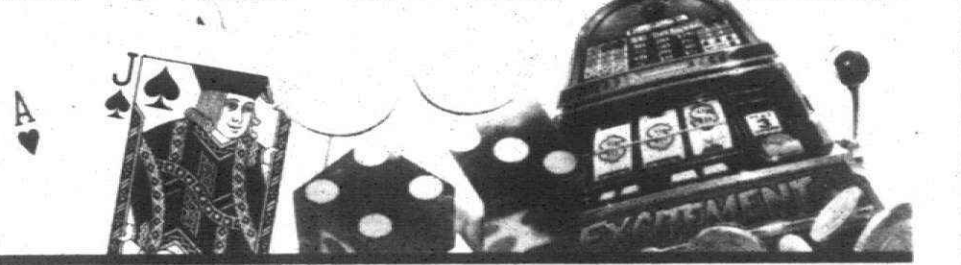
Curves and angles: Lois Hill's sterling silver jewelry is hand-carved, classic and elegant, \$115-315 exclusively at Jacobson's stores.



Special scents: Bulgari Parfums has packaged fragrance collections in colorful boxes for the holidays, \$82-112 at area department stores.

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ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

NEW EXHIBIT

Canton artist Jim Isakson exhibits his pointillist paintings through Friday, Dec. 31 at the Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Four of the paintings were completed within the last year. All together there are 11 works in the show.

AMAH! AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

The Friends of the Opera of Michigan and Conlen Productions present "Amah! and the Night Visitors," a tender, Christmas season musical-drama for the entire family 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at St. Martha's Church, 1320 Oakwood Blvd., across from Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

Tickets are \$10 and available by calling Friends of the Opera at (313) 582-0997.

VAN GOGH TICKETS

Tickets for the exhibition,

"Van Gogh: Face to Face," are now available for purchase. The show, featuring 70 paintings and drawings from public and private international collections, will be exhibited March 12 to June 12 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave.

This is the first exhibit to focus on Vincent van Gogh's evolving approach to the portrait throughout his tragically brief life.

Tickets, which include Acoustiguided audio tour, are \$16 adults Monday-Friday, \$18, Saturday-Sunday, \$8 ages 6-17, and available by calling (248) 433-8444. Founders Society members and children age 5 and under are free.

To schedule an adult or private group visit, to book a student function, or for more information, call the Van Gogh Hot Line at (313) 833-8499. To join or renew membership in the Founders Society, call (313) 833-7971. For exhibit information, visit the Web site at www.dia.org

ROCK 'N' ROLL PHOTOGRAPHY

Garden City photographer Kathleen Wayt exhibits a collec-

tion of images featuring area rock 'n' roll bands through Thursday, Dec. 23, at Innisfree Irish Pub & Grill, Middlebelt and Maplewood, Garden City.

"It's Only Rock 'n' Roll" travels to the Magic Stick in downtown Detroit after leaving Innisfree.

FREE CONCERT

The Livonia Civic Chorus presents "Once Upon a December" 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at Clarenceville High School Auditorium on Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Livonia Arts Commission is looking for artists to exhibit in Fine Art in the Village June 10-11 at Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia. More than \$2,500 in prizes will be awarded with a grand prize of \$1,000. The exhibit is held in conjunction with the 24th annual Livonia Arts Festival.

Artists interested in entering work should call Livonia Community Resources Department at (734) 466-2540.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

On Feb. 5 Cranbrook Institute of Science opens a new traveling exhibit, "Take My Picture, Please: A Festival of Cultural Snapshots," and the most important part of the exhibit is you.

The Institute wants a photograph of you, a loved one, your pet, or a special moment or event in your life. Selected photos and descriptions will become part of the Snapshot Gallery in "Take My Picture, Please." The exhibit explores our reasons for taking pictures.

For a "Cranbrook Institute of Science Wants Your Face" photo form, call (248) 645-3224. To enter, send your photos to Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1221



Pointillism: Canton artist Jim Isakson painted this untitled acrylic.

N. Woodward Ave. Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48303-0801. When they receive your entry, you'll be eligible to win a Minox CD-70 35mm camera (child) or Konica Z-up 140 Super 35mm camera (adult).

MUSIC CLASSES

Evola Music is now taking registrations for the Winter/Spring session of classes in Kindermusik, piano, violin, and organ. Call (734) 455-4677 or visit the Web site at www.ismi.net/kindermusikatevola

DIA HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in India will construct a man-

dala sand painting Monday-Friday, Dec. 27-31 as part of the special holiday programming at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave.

Painting with colored sand is one of the most unique and exquisite of all the artistic traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. Mandalas have outer, inner and secret meanings.

The opening ceremony begins noon to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, during which time the monks consecrate the site. This is done by means of chanting, music and mantra recitation. At 3 p.m., visitors will have the opportunity to ask the monks questions. They continue work daily from 11 a.m.

to 4 p.m. At 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 the monks perform "Sacred Music, Sacred Dance" in the DIA Theatre. Tickets are \$10, \$8 Founders Society members, and available by calling (313) 833-4005.

Other programs during the holiday break week include puppet shows, storytelling, drop-in workshops, and drawing in the galleries. Other than the concert, programs are free with recommended museum admission of \$4. \$1 children. Holiday hours (Sunday-Friday, Dec. 26-31) are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a schedule of programs, call (313) 833-4249.

Behind the controversy of a sensational exhibit

JUDITH DONER BERNE

SPECIAL WRITER
NEW YORK — The "Sensation" exhibition of young British artists at the Brooklyn Museum of Art remains a hot topic.

And so it happened, that over the check-out counter at the new DKNY store on Madison Avenue, a rather hip, young salesman, the female cashier and I spent a few minutes discussing it. They particularly wanted to know how someone from the Midwest viewed the exhibition, which runs through Jan. 9.

They weren't aware that Detroit had just gone through an art museum controversy of its own when another exhibit designed to shock closed shortly after it opened at the Detroit Institute of Arts in mid-November.

Once upon a time, New Yorkers weren't interested in anyone from anywhere past Jersey, unless they were from the West Coast. That they expressed interest in a Midwesterner's opinion shows progress.

My reaction to "Sensation," I told them, was that over the years, particularly at the Whitney Museum of American Art, I have seen equally shocking art. That includes the current exhibit, "The American Century Art and Culture 1900-2000," part two.

"Sensation," of course, is the exhibit of 86 works by 41 young British artists that attracted a record number of visitors in its inaugural presentation at the Royal Academy of Arts in London and is doing the same in New York.

It's the exhibit that New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani attempted unsuccessfully to close down by threatening to cut city funding to the museum.

Basically, "Sensation" is challenging because it concentrates on controversial works and themes. It's worth noting that neither the artists nor their works have stood the test of time.

One often unreported aspect of the controversy is that museums are venturing into the domain once reserved for galleries, namely showing new art.

But to think that all these

pieces by British artists of the 1990s are worthy of being shown in major museums is, at best, a stretch.

Still, "Sensation" has some potentially important pieces. Particularly impressive works in "Sensation" are the paintings of Chris Ofili, Richard Patterson and Jenny Saville and the sculpture of Rachel Whiteread.

The pieces by Ofili, including the much-maligned and infamous "The Holy Virgin Mary," are magnificent. Ofili's paintings are intricate, delicate, and dazzling. The precise placement of clumps of elephant dung (the elephant is revered in Zimbabwe) while he revamped his style of painting is his method of grounding them in a cultural as well as a natural landscape.

His paintings are not "smeared" with elephant dung, as described in some media reports.

Jenny Saville's huge oil paintings depict Rubenesque nudes in an apparent statement about the discomfort of contemporary women with their body images. In "Pian," for instance, the amazingly tinted flesh shows markings like that of a plastic surgeon, defining what route to take to reconfigure a body.

Richard Patterson takes cheap, plastic toys, alters them to his taste, photographs them and paints them on a monumental scale. Two of his works, "Motorcrossed II" and "Blue Minotaur," bring to mind "Persistence of Memory" by surrealist artist Salvador Dali.

Meanwhile, Rachel Whiteread also turns to everyday objects, such as bathtubs and sinks, which she fashions out of stark white plaster or alabaster-colored polystyrene.

In "Untitled (100 Spaces)," she explores the concept of negative space in a roomful of 100 delicately tinted, translucent resin sculptures.

"Sensation" raises a lot of questions about what art is. For instance, what is the point of Damien Hurst's exhibit of a shark, a lamb, two pigs and the cross-sections of two cows suspended in formaldehyde? Do these belong in an art or a natural history museum?

Guys from page C5

After their initial effort won two national Telly Awards for outstanding production and content in a children's program, Yarmy and Daldin were contacted about by a division of ABC/Disney about a full, 13-program series.

Suddenly, what they admitted was a project they did on the side moved front and center. Quickly, they became convinced that there was a future in inspiring kids about the value of "loving your work." (The creators of "Bob" both admit to having had jobs they hated — sandblaster and car salesman.)

"The message for kids is: 'Keep reading, do well in school and don't stop dreaming,'" said Daldin.

In time, "Bob's Job" will try to dispel stereotypes and help kids build a broader awareness of the world around them, said Yarmy. For years, the cashew nut at Video Design has been corporate videos. High-end stuff that makes looking at a car seem like a stroll through the Louvre.

But then came "Bob." In a few weeks, "Bob's Job" will air the second episode on WTVS. Doubtless should be prepared to get on the Bob Train.

After I had viewed one or two of these installations, I vote for the natural history museum.

Another startling piece is Ron Mueck's "Dead Dad," which is an exact replica of his father's naked corpse, perfectly detailed but reduced to the size of a child. Viewers are forced to confront the body (and the notion of death), as it lies on the floor of the exhibition room. The in-your-face immediacy recalls acclaimed photographer Cindy Sherman's mannequin images.

Two walls of photographs of Richard Billingham's dysfunctional family have been exhibited to great acclaim in galleries in New York, Milan, Paris and London. Yes, they, too, are difficult to look at.

"Sensation" isn't an easy exhibit to view or understand. But its place in art history may well rest on the money and control issues raised rather than its emphasis on shock art.

A front page story by David Barstow in Tuesday's New York Times reports that the artistic demands of Charles Saatchi, the British advertising executive who donated \$50,000 as a corporate sponsor of the exhibit.

The Times piece also suggests that Christie's auction house pledged \$50,000 as a corporate sponsor of the exhibit.

Barstow writes: "... the documents provide a rare look at the ethical perils confronting American museums as they stage expensive, blockbuster exhibitions in an era of declining government support. For museum directors, the challenge is to maintain artistic independence and integrity while raising private money that may come from those with a financial stake in their exhibitions."

The issue may be particularly relevant to residents in Oakland and Wayne counties. This August, voters could consider a ballot issue on public funding for our regional arts institutions.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomfield resident is a former managing editor of the Eccentric! Newspapers.

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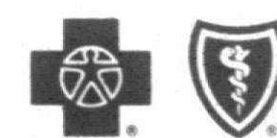
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TRAVEL

New York City: Visit again and again and again

"People come to New York because they're looking for something, only to find once they get here that the city raises more questions in one's soul than it answers..."

Nancy Franklin
The New Yorker, Feb. 22, 1999

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE
SPECIAL WRITER

On the shuttle bus ride in from Newark Airport to Manhattan, I overheard a mother recounting to her young son some of the sights they would see on his first trip to New York City: the Statue of Liberty, the top of the World Trade Center, South Street Seaport, Greenwich Village.

We dropped them off at their hotel in the heart of Times Square. I figured she wanted him to be as close as possible to the lights of Broadway. And they could easily walk to his first Broadway show.

It made me think about the first time my parents took me sightseeing in New York ... the sights my husband and I visited during the 10 years we lived in and around Manhattan ... the sights I showed my children.

It's been a number of trips to New York since I deliberately set out to see such "sights." And many of them have changed over the years. For instance, the twin towers of the World Trade Center, not the Empire State Building, are New York's tallest structure.

You don't merely ferry to the Statue of Liberty and back, but now can more fully understand the immigrants' experience through the museum that opened in 1990 on Ellis Island. The United Nations headquarters was once a definite must-see. I'm not sure how true that still is since its power and promise haven't been realized.

People now live on Roosevelt Island, which once only held jails, asylums and hospitals. The short aerial tram ride to this East River isle offers interesting views. You can board at Second Avenue and 60th.

New York, arguably the world's premiere city, has in common with other world class cities that the more you see, the more there is to unravel. The joy of returning over and over is that you can become more than a tourist. The wonder of New York is that something extraordinary is around every corner.

So where you stay in New York is important. And I'm not talking about fancy versus not so fancy. It's that where you stay is your neighborhood for that particular trip. Moving around the city - west side, east side, midtown, downtown - provides a chance to get a true feel for the various sections.

Recently I'd been remiss. Since we usually go to New York during the winter months, it's tempting to stay in the 50s on the west side. That way you're less dependent on a taxi to get to Broadway or Lincoln Center if the weather is bad. Ready for new vistas, I opted for the east side and a hotel I hadn't stayed at on my most recent trip.

At the Regency Hotel, Park Avenue at 61st, I experienced a lovely hotel in the last stages of renovation, with a gracious lobby and courteous, accommodating service. Their concierge expediently called to find the hours and specific subway directions to PS 1 - the edgy art museum in Queens that recently associated with the Museum of Modern Art. In the hotel's wood-paneled, bookshelf-lined library, you can sink into comfy settees to have anything from breakfast to an after-theater supper. And their workout room is spacious and well-equipped, although on the basement level.

I also was delighted that just around the corner was my favorite delicatessen, the original Viand on Madison at 61st. Viand occupies a sliver of a storefront (the aisle between counter and the wall of single-file tables is significantly narrower than at Steve's Deli at



Looking Up: The Christmas windows of Buxton (right) and Escada, two high fashion stores on 57th Street.

Maple and Telegraph, for example. Still, New Yorkers are willing to wait "on line" for their incredible turkey sandwiches for as long as it takes.

A highlight for me is running in Central Park. Its 843-acres (the principality of Monaco would fit within its confines, according to Fodor's guidebook) present not only an oasis for New Yorkers but a microcosm of the city surrounding it. Around each bend is a new "neighborhood" whether it be the skating rink, the Carousel, the Sheep Meadow, Strawberry Fields (which John Lennon immortalized), Central Park and Tisch Children's zoos, and the various wetlands and waters.

Running the park from the east side rather than the west affords new sightings, such as the bronze mountain lion mounted on the rocky ledge above a major running route and the statue of a Polish hero off the beaten path.

I had never before run as far as the Reservoir, where I joined the herd of joggers circling its 1.6 mile perimeter. It affords a great view of the high-rise buildings that surround Central Park, including the renowned Dakota, where Lennon lived and died.

On the return route, I caught up with a truly New York sight - a professional dog walker high stepping it with 10 (by actual count) leashed canines of assort-



Fairlyland: Holiday lights adorn trees along Park Avenue near Grand Central Station.

ed breeds keeping stride.

Another advantage of the near east side is that the major art museums are within walking distance. Smartly, they have staggered the days each closes so visitors don't miss out: the Metropolitan on Monday, MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) on Wednesday, the Guggenheim on Thursday, the Whitney, Monday and Tuesday. I headed for the Guggenheim, with its glass-domed, innovative spiral rotunda design by Frank Lloyd Wright, which I have visited often since its opening in 1959.

Although some disparage its six-story, quarter-mile ramp as a poor space for viewing art, you don't wonder whether you're viewing an exhibition in the proper order, as can happen in more traditional museums.

This time it was Picasso's paintings, sculpture and sketches from the Spanish Civil War through the end of World War II that occupied the bulk of the ramp.

The remaining space was devoted to 10 years (1959-69) of work by pop artist Jim Dine. Picasso, of course, is a hard act to follow and Dine suffers as a result. Both exhibits run into May.

Generally, I've sacrificed food to theater. However, this trip I tried to work in more than soup before, pastry after. I picked a restaurant within walking distance of our hotel from the best

new restaurants of 1998, according to departing New York Times reviewer Ruth Reichl. The arepas at Bolivar, a South American restaurant at 206 East 60th, are sensational. On the regular menu, these Columbian griddle cakes are made with fresh corn and served with creme fraiche. This night, they also served them as an appetizer: three blini-sized pancakes, each topped with a different delicacy - caviar, crabmeat, creme fraiche. A 6:15 p.m. reservation and friendly, efficient service allowed us a relatively leisurely meal.

Since it was Monday night and most theaters were dark, it was easy to catch a cab to Lincoln Center for the Metropolitan Opera's performance of Il Trovatore. A few empty seats - unusual for the sold out Met - probably reflected the ho-hum review it received in that day's Times.

But whatever the production, attending the opera in that glittering house, arguably the best in the world, is a glorious experience.

Which brings me to the art of ticket getting. Unless it's a last-minute trip, calling the theater listing usually works. I had no trouble getting good seats to "Art" about six weeks before, but although it's a Tony Award-winning play it's been running a while.

For hot tickets, such as next season's premiere staging of the

new Great Gatsby opera, I rely on the brokerage firm of Global Tickets. They charge above the box office price. But throughout 10 years of using them I've yet to be disappointed by either their failure to book what I want to see or by poor seats.

Yes, Times Square recently has been cleaned up, free of prostitution and adult movie houses. But now it's criticized for looking more like Hollywood than New York - "Disneyfied" I believe is the description.

The same could be said for Fifth Avenue, where Saks Fifth Avenue and Bergdorf Goodman stand like book ends propping up more paperbacks (including a Disney store) than hard covers.

The posh shopping has moved over an avenue to Madison between 59th and 79th. Calvin Klein, Prada, Betsy Johnson and similar designer boutiques rule, giving way to art and antiques as you continue to the upper east side.

Over my three-day visit, you could say I was true to my east side neighborhood (although I didn't set foot in Bloomingdale!). Maybe next trip I'll check out one of Soho's new hotels - the Soho Grand or the Mercer - and spend my time in Lower Manhattan.

Sure, I'll miss running in Central Park, but Manhattan becomes so narrow downtown that the East River and Battery Park are viable substitutes. And, of course, off-Broadway, off-off Broadway and a whole different art, fashion and restaurant scene are indigenous to Soho, the Village, Tribeca, the East Village, Little Italy and Chinatown.

I guess I'm actually a bit envious of that woman on the airport shuttle. Been there, done that is not something you can ever say about New York.

Judy Berne has more time for travel now than when she was managing editor for the Eccentric Newspapers. She continues as a regular columnist for the Eccentric's op-ed page and frequently writes on travel for the O&E's Sunday Arts and Leisure section.

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Berlin	385	Basel	467
Geneva	385	London	385
Geneva	377	Luxembourg	422
Leipzig	385	Paris	422
Hannover	343	Prague	422
Leipzig	385	Vladivostok	422
Shanghai	385	Warsaw	422
Warsaw	385	Warsaw	422

Holiday Travel 800-836-7554

2 UNIQUE



KELLI LEWTON

Be of good cheer with festive holiday sips

Temperatures are dropping, festive outdoor lights are being hung, trees are twinkling and everyone is getting into the holiday spirit.

As a child, I knew Christmas was near when my favorite movie, "It's a Wonderful Life" was being featured on TV, and there was eggnog in our refrigerator. I still refer to eggnog as Christmas milk, and cherish the memory of sipping this thick, lightly fragrant, drink.

Most of our holiday food and drink traditions have come from around the world. The are rich in flavor, taste and often even richer in their history.

Holiday libations are the pre- and post celebration of the event itself. As a holiday buffet brings people together, its counterpart, the celebratory communal bowl, mug or glass of festive liquid spirits, is warming the way to holiday cheer.

Special gatherings brimming with holiday cheer, and the splendor of all that is familiar would seem to be met by a warm liquid libation this season.

Eggnog is an essential component of an American yuletide feast. Although people have been sipping eggnog for two centuries, the etymology of the word itself extends back even further.

The word "nog" is an old English term for strong beer or ale. Some folklorists believe the word eggnog was derived from "noggin," a small birch cup used to serve tavern patrons versus a large mug given to those who sat by the fire.

Over time eggnog developed into a potent egg- and spirit-based beverage with other added ingredients such as cream, sugar and spices, especially nutmeg.

In England people whisked red wine into their nog. In Colonial America, people added rum, brandy or whiskey. Although eggnog's birth was as an alcohol-based beverage many people drink alcohol-free varieties today.

A toast

"Hail Hail, Wassail" — was the toast the farmers would chant as they grabbed their weapons and headed to their apple orchard in Devonshire, England on Jan. 7. The farmers would circle the oldest apple tree in their orchard and sing songs or chant to praise the tree for its fruit.

Drinking cider and a feast of roast beef accompanied their praise to the orchards. "Ves heill," is Norse for "be in good health." It is an old toast as well as the origin of the word. Wassail is a warm winter drink consisting of ale or sweetened wine steeped with spices and apples, and even garnished with small, roasted apples.

French traditions

The French never to be forgotten in the culinary world, are famous for serving holiday wine as an aperitif. It is prepared by simply infusing red wine with orange and lemon peel, vanilla extract, and cloves. After a two-week rest in a dark place, Framboise berry liqueur or brandy is added to the wine mixture.

Without a doubt the French are masters at making champagne, which is always a holiday favorite. Champagne is very versatile, and wonderful with a splash of most citrus juices and sweeter liqueurs. Perhaps a little Chambord and Champagne (Kier Royal) would get the sugar plum fairies dancing at your next holiday brunch.

Non-alcoholic drinks

Don't forget to serve non-alcoholic drinks at your party. Spices often play an important role in many of our warm winter drinks. Good quality mulling spices are a must for any

Please see 2 UNIQUE, D2

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

- Holiday roasts
- Focus on Wine

A STRESS-FREE HOLIDAY

It's the best gift to give yourself



BY PEGGY MARTINELLI-EVERTS
SPECIAL WRITER

The holidays come but once a year ... and thank goodness for that. Added to our usual work schedules, deadlines, and children's activities is gift shopping, wrapping, baking and entertaining out-of-town guests.

It can turn December into a "bah humbug" kind of month.

That said, it is also the time we receive greetings from so many old friends, take some time to remember the less fortunate, party with those we usually work with, and pause to remember what it feels like to be a child.

Take some time to reflect on your life. Do you feel better today than you did at the beginning of the year? Are you ready to give yourself a holiday present? The best thing you can do for yourself and for your family is to stay healthy.

One important way to stay healthy is to eat healthy. Don't let holiday parties sabotage your efforts. Remember, the three most important points about healthy eating (and perhaps life in general) are balance, variety and moderation.

Balance: As the rhythm of the holiday season cranks up, it is important to eat smaller, more frequent meals to keep your energy up. This is surprisingly easy to adapt to during the holiday season since social events tend to be opportunities for "grazing," or eating a little here, a little there.

Try to avoid heavy, fatty meals because they can make you feel sluggish. Avoid skipping meals or you'll get too hungry and overeat with abandon later on. Drink plenty of water. It is the best gift for healthy kidneys. Help yourself to holiday treats, but be reasonable about portion sizes and the number of servings you take. (See sidebar on serving sizes - Size Savvy.)

Variety: Make time for exercise and activity. It can come in many forms. Activity and movement help relieve stress and will make you feel better. The holidays are a perfect time to try something new. Try different foods. See the recipe for caviar mousse inside; it's a wonderful dish for a special occasion.

Moderation: I believe dieting doesn't work. Dieting adds stress and guilt. Focus on habits that contribute to good health. Food and celebrations can be partners. Try to slow down your eating. This allows your body a chance to feel full but not overstuffed.

Listen to your body's internal cues. When you are doing your holiday cooking and baking, substitute lower-fat ingredients for high-fat ones whenever possible. Select recipes that contain whole grains, fruits and vegetables such as pumpkin pie, banana bread, oatmeal cookies, blueberry muffins and carrot cake. It is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of the season. We shop too much, party too hard and eat without restraint or forget to eat at all. Try to stop and cherish the past, give yourself the gift of the present and look forward to the future.

Here are some ideas.

- Cherish the past: Fill your house with the scent of grandma's sugar and spice cookies and grandfather's spiced wine.
- Give yourself a gift: Slow down. When you are preparing food, cook in double batches. You can share with a friend or freeze the remainder for a busy day.
- Look forward to the future: Sign up for a yoga class or calligraphy or something else you've been longing to learn. Find a walking partner. Plan a vacation. Buy a calendar and fill it with all the year's birthdays.

Remember, the best present is the gift of good health. Slow down, enjoy the holidays and have a wonderful, happy New Year!

Peggy Martinelli-Everts, R.D., a Clarkston resident, is a registered dietitian and director of clinical operations for HDS Services, a 32-year-old Farmington Hills-based food service and hospitality management and consulting company, specializing in food service management for hospitals, long-term care facilities, businesses, private clubs and private schools. HDS Services has approximately 230 management accounts throughout the United States and Japan. See recipes inside.

Holiday Gift Suggestions

Here are some gift ideas that promote wellness:

- Healthy cookbook
- Flavored vinegars
- Pasta bowls
- Gourmet coffee
- Flavored popcorn
- Air popper and unpopped popcorn
- Vegetable steamer
- Olive oil spray bottle
- Gravy skimmer
- Garlic press
- Pot and seeds for an herbal garden
- Fruit basket
- Colorful or fun salt and pepper shakers
- Homemade trail mix with nuts, dried fruits, seeds and other ingredients
- Exercise gear such as socks, a helmet, cassette tapes with up-beat music
- Subscription to a health-oriented magazine

Size Savvy

We have become quite used to seeing enormous servings of foods. Even so-called healthy foods can pack in a lot of extra calories if the serving size is large. Here is a general guide to what is considered a "serving" on the Food Guide Pyramid.

- 1/2 cup cooked pasta = normal ice cream scoop
- 1/2 cup cooked rice or beans = a tennis ball
- 1 cup raw leafy vegetables = your fist
- 1/2 cup cooked vegetable or fruit = a tennis ball
- 1 medium apple = a tennis ball
- 3 ounces of cooked meat = a deck of cards
- 4 ounces of cooked meat = a cassette tape
- 2 tablespoons of peanut butter = a Ping-Pong ball
- 1 1/2 ounces of cheese = a pair of dominoes
- 1 teaspoon of margarine = the tip of your thumb (from the knuckle up)
- 1 ounce of potato chips = 2 palm-fuls

Celebrate The Millennium

In many countries, windows and doors are opened at midnight, and homeowners bang pots and pans together to chase away the evil spirits.

In Spain, just before midnight, everyone is offered a handful of 12 grapes. Make a wish. As the clock strikes midnight everyone eats their grapes, one by one as the 12 bells toll. If you can do it your wish will come true.

Bishop's wine, a hot spiced beverage, is served in Holland on St. Nick's Eve and New Year's Eve. (See recipe inside.)

In Latin countries party hostesses invite certain special guests to put on a gift of a pair of red briefs or panties. It promises to bring a year of passion to the wearer. A rum-based punch, cafe de olla, tamales and bunuelos will probably be on the menu.

In South America, revelers trek around the house or pool carrying their suitcases. It promises you'll take plenty of trips throughout the year.

Brazilians may enjoy feijoada, their national dish. It's made with a variety of meats, black beans, kale, rice and orange slices. To prepare a simple version to suit U.S. tastes, serve smoked pork chops and chunks of sausage with black beans, white rice, sautéed kale and orange slices. You can find a good selection of feijoada recipes online at <http://soar.Berkeley.EDU/recipes/ethnic/brazil/>

Have a kids' party

Invite cousins, neighbor kids or your kid's friends. Their parents will think you are wonderful because they won't have to find a sitter. Serve punch, shrimp, meatballs and little sandwiches. Play party music that all ages enjoy, like the Hokey Pokey and the chicken song. Set out games and a jigsaw puzzle and wrap it all up with a movie. Bang those pots and pans at midnight and the kids will remember this night forever. And so will their parents.

Form a spirit circle

At midnight invite everyone to go

Please see CELEBRATE, D2

Turkey Alfredo is a tasty, healthy dish

MAIN DISH MIRACLE



MURIEL WAGNER

One of the goals of my nutrition counseling is to help patients learn to modify their favorite recipes so that they can continue "Eating Younger" and enjoy what they're eating.

You may remember an earlier recipe I shared with you for an Eating Younger Fettuccine Alfredo. This one, however, is slightly different and has several additional virtues. You can stock up and have the Fet-

tuccine Alfredo ingredients readily available on your pantry shelf and in the freezer. Use fresh or frozen vegetables. You might try canned varieties. They cut prep time and are similar in nutritional value to fresh cooked or frozen. If carrots and broccoli aren't popular at your house, substitute asparagus, green beans or whole kernel corn.

The turkey might be some of your frozen stash from the Thanksgiving bird. Cooked and skinned chicken breast, ham, cooked shrimp or rinsed tuna fish are other stand-ins. The recipe has enough flavor to make it an interesting all-veggie option.

Do be sure to use freshly grated imported Parmesan or Romano cheese. Don't buy cheese that's already grated. It doesn't provide the necessary flavor spark to create the "Italian" aura.

As you probably know, the fiber can be increased by adding vegetables. But try substituting Chinese Lo Mein noodles for the pasta. There

are 6 grams of fiber in a half cup of Lo Mein noodles in contrast to only 1 1/2 to 2 grams in the same amount of pasta. Besides, I prefer the chewiness of the Chinese noodle. You can find them in the Oriental food section of most markets.

This is one of those recipes that takes longer to eat than it does to make. When your day isn't long enough for all you need to do, this is a recipe you can turn to for smart eating. You can probably have it ready to eat faster than you can "order in!" Happy healthy holiday eating.

Look for Main Dish Miracle on the second Sunday of the month in Taste. Muriel G. Wagner is a registered dietitian and nutrition therapist with an office in Southfield. She publishes "Eating Younger," a quarterly newsletter with recipes and nutrition tips. To subscribe, send a check for \$13.50 to "Eating Younger," P.O. Box 69021, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069.

TURKEY-VEGETABLE ALFREDO

- 1 (11.5 oz.) can "Healthy" Cream of Chicken Soup
 - 1 (10.5 oz.) can "Healthy" Cream of Mushroom Soup
 - 1/2 cup Evaporated Skim Milk
 - 1 1/2 cups cooked turkey breast, skinned and cut into strips
 - 1 (8 1/4 oz.) can sliced carrots, drained
 - 1 cup cooked broccoli flowerets
 - 1 (4 oz.) jar whole mushrooms, drained
 - 4 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan Cheese
 - 6 ounces cooked pasta (your choice) or Chinese Lo Mein Noodles
- Mix undiluted soups with milk in saucepan until smooth. Simmer (low heat) until serving temperature, stirring constantly. Add vegetables and cheese, stirring gently. Serve over hot cooked pasta or noodles. Sprinkle with additional cheese, if desired. Serves 4.
- Food values per serving:** calories, 360; fat, 6.5 g; saturated fat, 2.5 g; sodium, 830 mg; cholesterol, 50 mg.
- Food exchanges:** 3 1/2 lean meat, 2 starches, 1 vegetable.

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1 DAY TUESDAY, DEC. 14 9 AM - 9 PM

Toast the holidays with delicious sippers

See related 2 Unique column on Taste front. Recipes compliments of Chef Kelli Lewton, 2 Unique

WASSAIL

10 small apples
10 teaspoons brown sugar
2 bottles dry sherry or dry Madeira
1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground ginger
3 cloves
3 allspice berries
1-inch stick cinnamon
2 cups superfine sugar
3/4 cup water
6 eggs, separated
1 cup brandy

Core the apples and fill each with a teaspoon of brown sugar. Place in a baking pan and cover the bottom with 1/8-inch of water. Bake in a 350°F degree oven for 30 minutes or until tender.

Combine the sherry or Madeira, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, allspice berries, cinnamon, sugar and water in a large, heavy saucepan and heat without letting the mixture come to a boil. Leave on very low heat. Beat the egg yolks until light and lemon-colored. Beat the whites until stiff and fold them into the yolks. Strain the wine mixture and add gradually to the eggs, stirring constantly. Add the brandy. Pour into a metal punch bowl, float the apples on top and serve in 8-ounce mugs. Makes about 10 servings.

ENCHANTED NOG

3 cups whole milk
1 cup heavy cream
8 tablespoons sugar

1 cup Dark rum
1 cup heavy cream (whipped until soft peaks form)
6 egg yolks
1 star anise
1 cinnamon stick

Bring 2 cups (out of 3) milk and spices to a boil in medium sauce pan.

Mix egg yolks and sugar in bowl and whisk.

Steam warm milk and whisk into egg-sugar mixture, whisking constantly.

Pour back into sauce pan, heat on low an additional 2-3 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in remaining milk and cream. Chill down quickly in ice bath in an open vessel in fridge.

Add rum and fold in whip cream.

Pour in glass, garnish with sprinkle of nutmeg.

To make drink non-alcoholic, replace rum with 2 teaspoons of rum extract.

BUTTERY RUM

4 oz Dark Rum
Twist lemon and orange peel
1 cinnamon stick
3 cloves
1 star anise
16 ounces cider
1 1/2 tablespoons whole sweet butter
Nutmeg

Warm cider with spices, simmer for 5 minutes. Add rum, strain spices, add whole butter. Divide into four 4 ounce mugs. (Warm mugs with hot water) Garnish with sprinkle of nutmeg.

MULLED WINE

16 ounces claret or other dry red wine
Dash Angostura bitters
4 cloves
1 cinnamon stick
Twist lemon peel
1 teaspoon superfine sugar
Pinch allspice

Combine all ingredients in a small, heavy saucepan and heat, but do not allow to boil. Strain into two 8 ounce mugs.

SCANDINAVIAN YULETIDE DRINK

There are a number of variations of this traditional Scandinavian Yuletide drink. Dry red wine, muscatel and sweet vermouth, with aquavit in place of the brandy, may be used. In another version, 2 bottles of dry red wine, preferably Bordeaux, are used with the quantity of aquavit increased to a whole bottle, which is poured over the flaming sugar.

GLOGG

1 bottle tawny port
1 bottle Madeira
1 bottle medium dry sherry
1/2 bottle dry red wine
15 cloves
15 cardamom seeds
1 stick cinnamon
1/2 pound sugar cubes
1/2 cup brandy
1 cup raisins
3/4 cup blanched almonds

Combine all ingredients except the sugar, brandy, raisins and nuts in a heavy saucepan and heat slowly. When the wine mixture is hot, place a rack on top of the saucepan so that it covers half of it.

Arrange the sugar cubes on the rack, warm the brandy, pour it over the sugar and set it aflame. Ladle the wine mixture over the flaming sugar until sugar is dissolved. Serve in 8-ounce mugs, garnished with the almonds and raisins. Makes about 10 servings.

CELEBRATION CIDER

1/2 gallon apple cider
2 cinnamon sticks
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
6 cloves

Place spices in a bundled cheese cloth or in a tea ball strainer. Put cider in water reservoir of coffee maker.

Put ball or cheese cloth bundle in coffee carafe, then brew.

GARNISHES FOR HOLIDAY DRINKS

Whole cinnamon sticks
Fresh whipped cream
Grated cinnamon and nutmeg
Frozen grapes
Rim glasses with colored sugars

A dollop of ice cream in a hot cocoa or coffee
Fresh raspberries or strawberries
Put fresh cranberries into ice cube trays, add water, freeze
Coffee cordials such as Irish Cream, Frangelico, Chambord, Kahlua
Peppermint sticks
Rock candy or chocolate stirrer sticks
Fresh fruit slices

Celebrate from page D1

2 Unique from page D1

■ Celebrate a fresh millennium with your closest friends watching a parade and the football games.

Celebrate a fresh millennium with your closest friends watching a parade and the football games. Serve some strong café de olla, a Mexican coffee flavored with piloncillo.

This unrefined cone of brown sugar is available at specialty stores or a Latino grocery store. See recipes on Page D3

outside with a lit candle. Within a circle of all guests the host or hostess says a special prayer for their friends and family, making special mention of the newest babes and the dearly departed.

Afterward, everyone in the circle adds a brief comment as they blow out their candle and toss it in a can.

Then everyone dashes in from the cold to dance until breakfast.

New Year's Day breakfast

Be an optimist. Have a breakfast or brunch on New Year's Day morning.

respectable cider as well as to add spirit to a variety of juice punches.

Virgin strawberry margaritas or daiquiris served in a festive glass frosted with sugar lend spirit and color to your holiday drink selection. White grape juice and Sprite, is another popular non-alcoholic drink.

Serve coffee or cocoa with steamed milk, flavored syrup, chocolate shavings, vanilla or almond extract, or a peppermint stick. Add eggnog to coffee, top with a whip cream hat, and a sprinkle of nutmeg for a special holiday drink.

The new popular warming drink seems to be chai tea with soy, milk or cream. "Skol," "L'Chaim," "salute," "prosit" or "cheers!"

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and wishes for a bright millennium.

Chef Kelli L. Lewton is owner of 2 Unique Caterers and Event Planners in Bloomfield Hills. A graduate of Schoolcraft College's Culinary Arts program, Kelli is a part-time instructor at the college. Look for her column in Taste on the second Sunday of the month.

Sunny, wholesome citrus fruits are a welcome gift

Few gifts are more welcome during the holidays than a basket filled with wholesome, sunny citrus fruits. Just coming into their peak of color, quality and nutrition, the oranges, tangerines and grapefruits of December can make an exciting addition to almost any meal.

Citrus fruit is rich in vitamin C and dietary fiber. Oranges, tangerines and red or pink grapefruit are also great sources of vitamin A, and provide calcium, iron and potassium. In addition, researchers are learning more about the significant disease-fighting potential of substances called phytochemicals. These substances are found in plant foods such as citrus and, according to the American Institute for Cancer Research, may help prevent various forms of cancer.

Introduced to the New World with the visits of Columbus and other early European explorers, today citrus fruits and juices are found in virtually every American home. Yet most of us don't take full advantage of the potential of these flavorful fruits in our menus. Although Mediterranean and Asian cooks have used citrus in their cooking for centuries, Americans are just beginning to recognize how the fragrance and tartness of citrus can give distinction and appeal to even the plainest of ingredients.

Selecting citrus fruit that is heavy for its size, indicating sweetness and juiciness. It should have firm, taut skins without any soft or puffy spots. Green coloration is not an indicator of ripeness. It only shows that the fruit has been through cold nights before picking. Bright color does not ensure better flavor. Citrus can be stored in the refrigerator, removed from any plastic wrapping, for a month or more.

Grapefruit and oranges for breakfast are traditional, but consider adding orange juice and zest to waffle batter and topping these moist, delicious treats with a pile of mixed fresh fruit. Or, make a warm fruit medley with pink grapefruit sections, pear and banana slices and raisins, heated in a saucepan with orange juice, honey and ground ginger.

Tangerine sections are delicious in a rice salad with snow peas, or as a nutritious alternative to marshmallows in a sweet potato casserole. Serve chicken breasts with red grapefruit sections and lemony rice that's cooked in a mixture of chicken broth and lemon juice. Or, make an orange-fennel salsa by peeling and removing the pith and membrane from three navel oranges, placing the pulp and juice in a bowl. Add one coarsely chopped fennel bulb, a minced jalapeno chile, 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves, half a thinly sliced red onion and a bit of salt. Use the salsa to add color and zip to grilled fish or poultry.

Recipes and information provided by the American Institute for Cancer Research.

QUICK CITRUS CRISP

1 cup orange juice
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 tablespoons honey
4 cups assorted oranges, grapefruit and tangerine sections, seeded
1 cup frozen unsweetened, pitted dark sweet cherries, thawed and halved
1-1/2 cups low-fat granola (without raisins)

Preheat oven to 375° F.

In a small saucepan combine orange juice, cornstarch and cinnamon. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture is thickened and bubbly. Stir in the honey.

Place citrus sections and cherries in a 2-quart square baking dish. Pour hot sauce over fruit. Sprinkle with granola. Bake for 10 minutes. Serve warm.

Nutrition information: Each of the six servings contains 214 calories and 2 grams of fat.

Simple dessert: Quick Citrus Crisp is a simple, yet flavorful warm dessert.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Treat guests to something special

See related holiday presents story on Taste front.

CAVIAR MOUSSE

Approximately 8 servings
1 tablespoon unflavored gelatin
2 tablespoons cold water
1/2 cup boiling water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 pint fat-free sour cream
1 pinch dry mustard
4 1/2 ounces caviar

Soak gelatin in cold water until soft. Add boiling water; stir until dissolved. Add lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce. In another bowl combine mayonnaise and sour cream. Pour liquid mixture into this. Add dry mustard and caviar.

Mix gently but thoroughly and pour into a 3 or 4 cup mold.

Chill 6 hours. Unmold by dipping the mold in hot water and shaking the contents loose onto a serving plate. Decorate and serve as an hors d'oeuvre or mold in individual molds and serve as a first course. You may wish to "froast" with additional caviar. Serve on toast points, melba rounds or crackers.

Nutrition information per serving: Calories 57, protein 2 grams, fat 3 grams, sodium 164 mg, carbohydrates less than 1 gram, percent of calories from fat 46.5

Recipe compliments of A recipe of HDS Services

BISHOP'S WINE

1 bottle red table wine
1/2 bottle water (use wine bottle to measure)
1 orange, sliced
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cinnamon stick
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon dried rosemary
1 bay leaf
30 cloves
Sugar to taste

Let everything simmer, except sugar, without boiling for a few hours in a covered pot. Add sugar according to taste, pass through a sieve. Place a silver spoon in each wine glass and pour hot into wine glasses. The spoon prevents heat breakage.

CAFE DE OLLA MEXICAN SPICED COFFEE

1 cup water
3 tablespoons dark roasted coffee, coarsely ground
1 stick cinnamon
Piloncillo (unrefined dark brown sugar) to taste

In an earthenware pot, bring water to a boil. Add the coffee, cinnamon, and unrefined dark brown sugar. Bring to a boil twice, then strain and serve.

COOKING CALENDAR

HELP FOR HOLIDAY HOSTS

AAA of Michigan will bring their popular "First a Friend, then a Host" program 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 to Busch's Livonia, 37083 W. Six Mile Road in the Newburgh Plaza. AAA of Michigan representatives will mix and serve two alcohol-free drinks — "Kirk Chocolate Maltby," and "Joe Louis Party Punch." Both drinks were awarded prizes in AAA of Michigan's annual Great Pretenders contest. Recipes of all the winning drink entries, and taste samples will be provided.

In my family, learning is everything.

Books don't just enlighten. They empower. Our children are growing up knowing this. A good education is one of the most important things we can give them. And we will, with the help of U.S. Savings Bonds. Through the Payroll Savings Plan, we put aside something with every paycheck. And little by little, it will add up to college for our child.

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MEDICAL BRIEFS

Book fair

The Henry Ford Medical Center in Livonia hosts a book fair 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at the center, 29200 Schoolcraft near Middlebelt. New books will be sold for 30-70 percent discounts. Proceeds benefit the center's volunteer program. Call Janet Estes at (734) 523-2403.

Goal setting

Therapeutic Books & Wonders in Plymouth's Old Village are the host of a goal setting discussion after the holidays to help people stay focused and maintain their upcoming New Year's resolutions. Owner and mental health counselor Steven Powers, will feature a local inventor who recently received a patent on a product called the "Seven Principles." It's a tool individuals can use to help them maintain focus and set goals based on Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." The stained wood product features rods with inscribed values such as career, health, love and family. The rods can be rotated or ranked on a daily basis, based on what area of your life you're focusing. Two discussions will take place at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29 and Wednesday, Jan. 5 at Therapeutic Books & Wonders, 965 N. Mill St. Old Village. For information call (734) 453-4950.

Young mothers

The Young Mother's Assistance Program (Y-MAP) will host their December support group from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13 at Newburg United Methodist Church (36500 Ann Arbor Trail) in Livonia. For information call (734) 513-7598. Y-MAP provides moms an opportunity to meet with other young parents and share feelings and experiences with each other.

Laryngectomy support

For people who have had or are going to have surgical removal of their vocal cords (laryngectomy) and their family and friends. In coordination with the Michigan Cancer Foundation Support Services. Meets Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. free of charge. Call (734) 458-3381.

Stroke/aneurysm

For those who had or have a cerebral aneurysm or stroke. Family members/friends welcome. Group will meet at Tuesday, Dec. 21 at Garden City Hospital to promote a sharing interaction (free of charge). Call 458-4396 for the location and time.

Holiday blood drive

During the holiday times the South-east Michigan Red Cross supply of blood is especially short. Garden City Hospital will host a blood drive at the Allan Breake Medical Office Building Dec. 29 and 30 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donors are asked to call (734) 458-4396 to make an appointment.

We want your health news

There are several ways you can reach the Observer Health & Fitness staff. The Sunday section provides numerous venues for you to offer newsworthy information including Medical Databook (upcoming calendar events), Medical Newsletters (appointments/new hires in the medical field), and Medical Briefs (medical advances, short news items from hospitals, physicians, companies). We also welcome newsworthy ideas for health and fitness related stories. To submit an item to our newspaper you can call, write, fax or e-mail us.

CALL US:

(734) 953-2111

WRITE US:

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Specify: Databook, Newsletters or Briefs
Attn: Kim Morton
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150

FAX US:

(734) 591-7279

E-MAIL US:

kmorton@oe.homecomm.net

SUPERBUGS

Overuse of antibiotics endangers health of society

BY KURT KUBAN
SPECIAL WRITER

With the inevitable arrival of winter, the flu and cold season is about to rear its ugly head. With it will come the dreaded coughing, sore throats, sniffles and fevers. Looking for a quick fix to cure these ailments, many sick people will go to their doctor seeking a prescription for an antibiotic.

However, by doing so, the majority of these people will actually be doing harm to themselves, as well as the rest of society, by helping to create "superbug" strains of bacteria.

For years, people have viewed antibiotics as a kind of cure-all drug. While they are extremely effective in the fight against illnesses caused by bacterial infections, such as meningitis and some kinds of sexually transmitted diseases, they are nearly useless against those caused by viral infections.

Historically, doctors have prescribed antibiotics to help patients fight coughs, fevers and other symptoms brought on by influenza or a cold. The trouble with this is both of these ailments are caused by viruses.

As a result of these needless prescriptions, a whole host of antibiotic-resistant bacteria are evolving and spreading throughout the community.

"It is a huge problem," said Nicholas Lekas, chief of Infectious Disease at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. "Doctors are partially to blame, because we want to do good and help our patients. So we err on the side of giving treatment for something that might not necessarily require treatment."

Recent medical evidence suggests that at least a third of the time family doctors are needlessly prescribing antibiotics to treat conditions brought on by viral conditions. Considering there were over 150 million antibiotic prescriptions written by office-based doctors last year, you can begin to realize how the problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria strains has escalated.

"Antibiotic therapy is a huge part of the healthcare cost. In hospitals

we spend millions of dollars on antibiotics every year. In pharmacies it is one of the most commonly requested medications," Lekas said. "Nearly every surface of our bodies is covered with various types of bacteria."

Most are harmless, and some are even beneficial. Unfortunately, when someone needlessly takes an antibiotic to fight the flu, it will kill some of the normal bacteria, creating a vacuum or a void that will be inevitably filled by other bacteria. Sometimes these new bacteria can cause disease, which must then be fought with another antibiotic.

The medical community, especially the drug companies, has had an easy time keeping up with antibiotic-resistant bacteria strains. "The concern is that once these 'superbugs' become common, we will not have anything to treat people with infections, and we might go back to a pre-antibiotic era situation where a very common organism can cause very serious diseases," said Daniel Nafziger, Medical Director of Epidemiology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. "Recent experience suggests that the bugs seem to be outsmarting us faster than we can outsmart them."

Area resident Paul Schrader provides a good example of what can happen when these "superbugs" run amok in a person's body. Schrader was recently diagnosed with leukemia and went to Henry Ford Hospital to receive chemotherapy. Doctors realized he was running a fever caused by a bacteria infection, which prevented them from beginning the chemotherapy. So they began a series of antibiotic treatments to fight the fever.

"The bacteria in my body were resisting the antibiotics and the fever persisted. Finally, after about six weeks, the doctors had to try an experimental antibiotic called Linezolid. Fortunately it worked and I was able to start chemo," said Schrader, 51, who is now in full remission. Lekas believes three precautions will help end the spread of the "superbugs."

First, he said that a leftover antibiotic prescription should be discarded and never given to a family member.

Secondly, people should get themselves and especially their children vaccinated, which will prevent them from getting sick in the future. Getting a flu shot falls into this category.

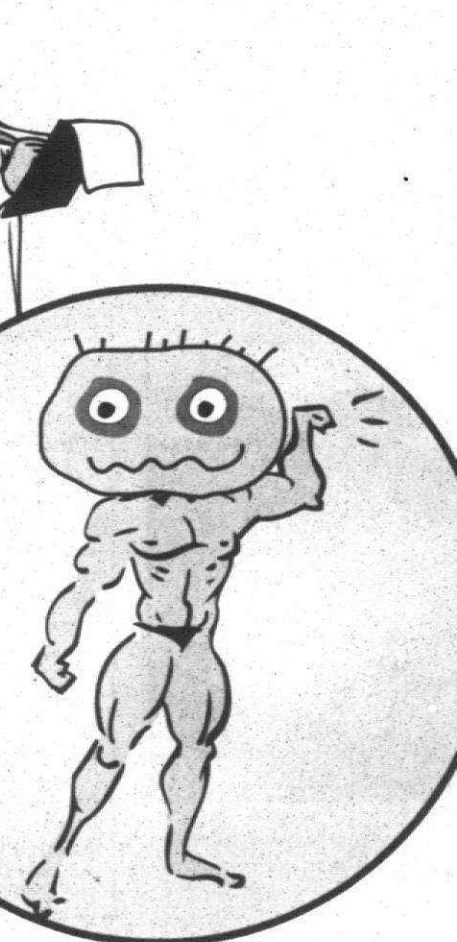
Finally, and most importantly, Lekas believes people should not pressure their doctor into prescribing an antibiotic when they are not convinced the patient will benefit from one.

Alternatives to asking a doctor for an antibiotic to fight a miserable cough or fever include taking cough drops and decongestants, getting enough rest, making sure you eat nutritionally, and taking in enough fluids.

"Often times it is simply letting your own body take care of itself and let the illness run its course," Nafziger said.

Still, the problem of the "superbugs" does not look as if it is going to subside in the near future.

"More publicity, as well as discussion in the medical community will help, but this is not a situation that will be simple to fix because of a past physician practices and past patient expectations, and the fact that everybody wants to feel safer," Nafziger said.



They, like all bacteria, can be spread in several ways, such as through the air when a person coughs (tuberculosis is a classic example), or by a contaminated stool. Places like daycare centers are virtual breeding grounds for bacteria. In that type of environment, all it takes is one child who has an antibiotic-resistant bacteria for it to spread. The domino effect continues when the children go home.

The medical community, especially the drug companies, has had an easy time keeping up with antibiotic-resistant bacteria strains.

"The concern is that once these 'superbugs' become common, we will not have anything to treat people with infections, and we might go back to a pre-antibiotic era situation where a very common organism can cause very serious diseases," said Daniel Nafziger, Medical Director of Epidemiology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. "Recent experience suggests that the bugs seem to be outsmarting us faster than we can outsmart them."

Area resident Paul Schrader provides a good example of what can happen when these "superbugs" run amok in a person's body. Schrader was recently diagnosed with leukemia and went to Henry Ford Hospital to receive chemotherapy. Doctors realized he was running a fever caused by a bacteria infection, which prevented them from beginning the chemotherapy. So they began a series of antibiotic treatments to fight the fever.

"The bacteria in my body were resisting the antibiotics and the fever persisted. Finally, after about six weeks, the doctors had to try an experimental antibiotic called Linezolid. Fortunately it worked and I was able to start chemo," said Schrader, 51, who is now in full remission. Lekas believes three precautions will help end the spread of the "superbugs."

First, he said that a leftover antibiotic prescription should be discarded and never given to a family member.

Secondly, people should get themselves and especially their children vaccinated, which will prevent them from getting sick in the future. Getting a flu shot falls into this category.

Finally, and most importantly, Lekas believes people should not pressure their doctor into prescribing an antibiotic when they are not convinced the patient will benefit from one.

Alternatives to asking a doctor for an antibiotic to fight a miserable cough or fever include taking cough drops and decongestants, getting enough rest, making sure you eat nutritionally, and taking in enough fluids.

"Often times it is simply letting your own body take care of itself and let the illness run its course," Nafziger said.

Still, the problem of the "superbugs" does not look as if it is going to subside in the near future.

"More publicity, as well as discussion in the medical community will help, but this is not a situation that will be simple to fix because of a past physician practices and past patient expectations, and the fact that everybody wants to feel safer," Nafziger said.

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Computer virus outlaws make hay off Y2K



MIKE WENDLAND

As if the general confusion and chaos over the so-called Y2K computer glitch isn't enough, experts now say they have detected two potentially devastating computer viruses in circulation that are set to activate on or shortly after Jan. 1, 2000.

I'm not a big one on virus warnings. Most such reports are hoaxes or, at best, great exaggerations.

But a lot of industry and government people are sounding some major alarms. "We think of this as the kickoff," MSNBC quoted one expert as saying last week as the reports began to surface. "Y2K is the Super Bowl for virus writers."

Virus creators seemingly want to take advantage of Y2K and fool as many people as possible into thinking their computer problems are Y2K related, rather than virus-caused.

Even the FBI has issued warnings about computer viruses and cyber-terrorism in the early days of the new millennium.

"Many extremist individuals and groups place some significance on the next millennium, and as such it will present challenges to law enforcement at many levels," says an FBI report called "Project Megiddo" available through the bureau's Web site (www.fbi.gov). Think this is overblown? The FBI says cyber-terrorism, which certainly includes the malicious spreading of computer viruses, can hardly be taken too seriously.

"Perhaps the greatest potential threat to our national security is the prospect of information warfare by foreign military against our critical infrastructure," said Michael A. Vatis, the director of the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center. "We know that several foreign nations are already developing information warfare doctrine, programs and capabilities for use against

each other and the United States or other nations."

It's frightening to think what a dedicated spy agency from a hostile country could do with computer viruses.

But we do know of two serious Y2K viruses now in circulation. And while there is no indication they are linked to any governmental or political plots, their potential for harm is still plenty serious.

Here's what's out there: ■ The Myrics worm — This one affects users of Microsoft's popular Outlook e-mail and scheduling program. It comes

education classes that provide helpful information for people with or without heart disease. This week's topic will be "Integrating Exercise Into Your Lifestyle." Location: Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor from 6-7:30 p.m.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT
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MALL WALKING
Botsford's Livonia Mall Walking Club: Free December blood pressure screening. Enjoyable, low-impact, climate-controlled exercise. Blood pressure screenings available the third Wednesday of every month, 8-10 a.m. Livonia Mall is open to walkers 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday. Located at 29514 Seven Mile Road (at the corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads.) For more information, call (248) 477-6100.

THUR, DEC. 16
THE SOY STORY
Learn more about the benefits of soy, different types of soy products and how to cook with soy. \$10 fee. Program begins at 6 p.m. at the Providence Medical Office Center in Novi. Call (877) 345-5500 to register.

BREASTFEEDING CLASS
St. Mary Hospital will host a breastfeeding class from 7-9 p.m. Call (734) 655-1100 to register.

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For people who have had or are going to have surgical removal of their vocal cords (laryngectomy) and their family and friends. In coordination with the Michigan Cancer Foundation Support Services. Meets at 2 p.m. free of charge. Call (734) 458-3381.

ADULT CPR
Three hour evening class conducted at 6 p.m. at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road (between Ford and Warren Roads) teaching one person rescue through a film, lecture, demonstration and return demonstration. Call (734) 458-4330.

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Hot from the oven sweet delicious cakes, breads, rolls and pastries. Who could possibly resist our fabulous bakery? We're willing to bet you can't...in fact, we know you can't. For any special occasion, for any amount of people, our bakery will design a cake you'll be proud of!



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"Jet Fresh" seafood rushed fresh to us everyday. From Cape Cod to San Francisco, our buyers are at the docks early every morning selecting the best of the catch. Every catch is rushed to us in special refrigerated containers.



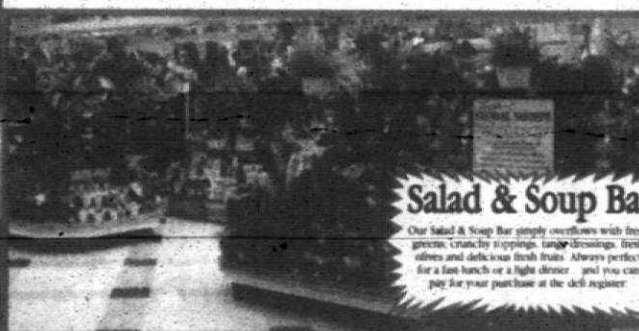
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Our Farmer Jack Floral Shop has a perfect fresh gift idea to fit any occasion or to brighten any day. If there's something special you want made up, talk to our expert Florist. Watch for all the holiday decorating ideas to make your holiday parties easier to plan.



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Our Full Service Pharmacy inside Farmer Jack is ready to serve you 7 days a week. Drop off your new or current prescription and we'll take care of all the rest with our free prescription transfer service. Most major health care programs are honored. Your corner drugstore...just around the aisle.

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7 DAYS A WEEK

