

Canton Observer

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Sunday
January 16, 2000

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 55

CANTON, MICHIGAN • 62 PAGES • <http://observer-eccentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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EVERYDAY HEROES

Do you work with the public every day - and love it? Do you know someone who gives his or her customers that extra special touch? The Observer wants to hear about it. We're looking for people who put the service in customer-service jobs:

- restaurant staffers;
- postal carriers;
- mechanics;
- meter readers;
- convenience store clerks;
- office receptionists;
- or even telemarketers.

We'll take reader nominations and profile a different person in the Canton community each month.

Nominations will be accepted:

- by phone (734) 459-2700
- by fax (734) 459-4224
- or by e-mail at - tschneider@oe.homecomm.net

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Music Makers: Evola Music hosts "Friends and Family Week," through Saturday at 7170 N. Haggerty in Canton. Visit a group class for free during Open House Week. For information, call (734) 455-4677.

THURSDAY

Update breakfast: John Santomauro, Canton Public Safety director, and Supervisor Tom Yack are the featured speakers for the Third Thursday Update breakfast 7:30 a.m. at Summit on the Park.

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Chief: Stuck valve led to ammonia leak

BY SCOTT DANIEL
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Wednesday's ammonia leak at a Haggerty Road food processing plant was caused by a faulty valve, township officials said.

Workers at Norquick Distributing were unable to close the valve after a routine maintenance procedure. Oil first drained from the valve then ammonia, Canton Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher said.

"Nothing broke," he added, "they just were not able to close it."

About a dozen workers scrambled out of the building shortly before 7 a.m. last Wednesday. A build up of ammonia gas caused an explosion about an hour later. It blew a 20-foot wide piece of paneling from the building's exterior and ignited a small fire.

Western Wayne County's Hazmat team stopped the leak by 11 a.m. Traffic on Haggerty from Joy to Warren was shutdown until about 4 p.m., Rorabacher said.

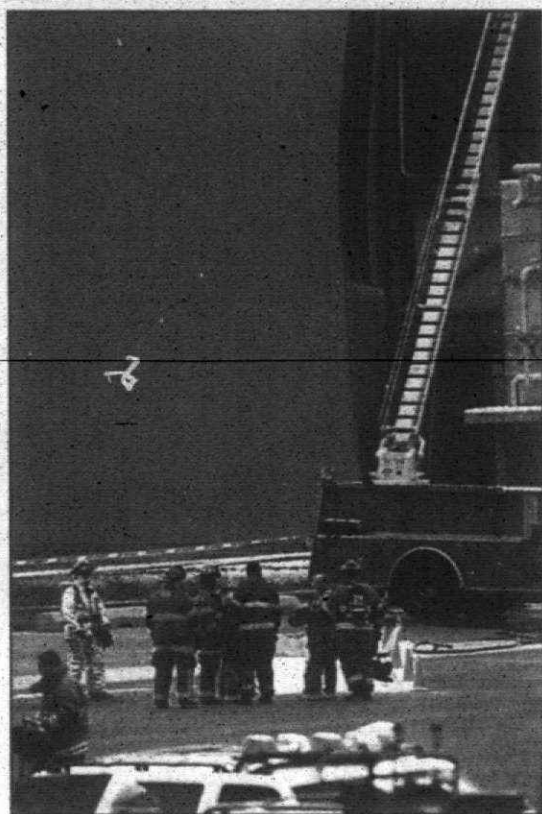
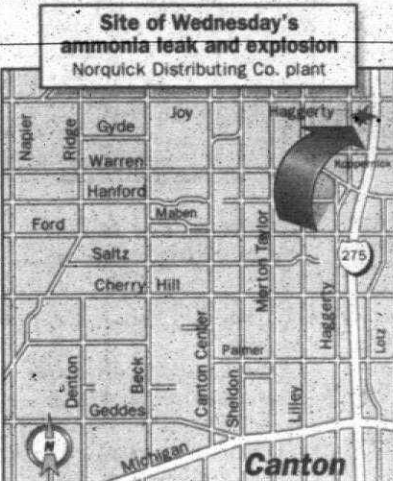
"We haven't had any chemical leaks of this magnitude in Canton,"

he said. Potentially dangerous chemicals are used in several township businesses, Rorabacher said.

"All of these places take what they do very seriously," he added. "There are some that we use to train us."

Three men were injured in the incident.

Michael McManamon, 41, of Redford suffered first-degree burns on his hands and ears and reported difficulty breathing. Rorabacher said he



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

On the scene: Wayne County Hazardous Materials team members prepare to enter the Norquick food storage plant on Haggerty south of Joy Wednesday morning following an ammonia leak which led to an explosion and small fire.

suffered the injuries while trying to close the valve.

Benjamin Brand, 22, of Mount Clemens reported minor respiratory problems. Canton Department of Public Works employee Jerry Lica,

Please see AMMONIA LEAK, A2

Failing to yield

■ Plymouth-Canton school bus drivers say motorists are putting students - and themselves - in danger by ignoring signal lights and driving around waiting buses.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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Plymouth-Canton school bus drivers say it happens to them on a daily basis: Motorists ignore flashing red signal lights and drive around a stopped school bus which is unloading students.

Not only is it dangerous, it's illegal. As a result, Plymouth Township police have begun a sting operation to catch motorists who don't obey the law.

"It happens to me all the time," said Jennifer Sanders, who's been driving Plymouth-Canton school buses for two years.

Sanders drives a mostly rural route, Ann Arbor and Gtfredson roads, where many of the problems occur.

"A lot of elderly drivers don't even realize they're doing it," she said. "And a lot of it is impatience by drivers."

Plymouth Township patrol officers will be utilizing marked and semi-marked cars in an effort to make sure drivers obey the law.

"We're going to selective enforcement in a number of areas where we

Please see YIELD, A3

Neighborhood coordinator is newest township post

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

While the image of Canton as a fast-developing community of new homes is accurate, the township isn't without more mature neighborhoods.

Issues such as sidewalk restoration, curb repair and overall beautification are key in such areas. So much so that the township is creating a new position - "neighborhood coordinator" - to help homeowners address them.

"We want this person to get to know the presidents of the homeowners associations in town," said Supervisor Tom Yack. "We want to anticipate the issues facing homeowners instead of reacting to them. We want this person to be our eyes and ears with the homeowners' associations."

Canton's Board of Trustees approved the position Tuesday. The neighborhood coordinator will earn between \$36,300 and \$55,200 and report to Municipal Services Director Aaron Machnik.

According to Yack, the position stems from

Please see NEIGHBORHOOD, A2

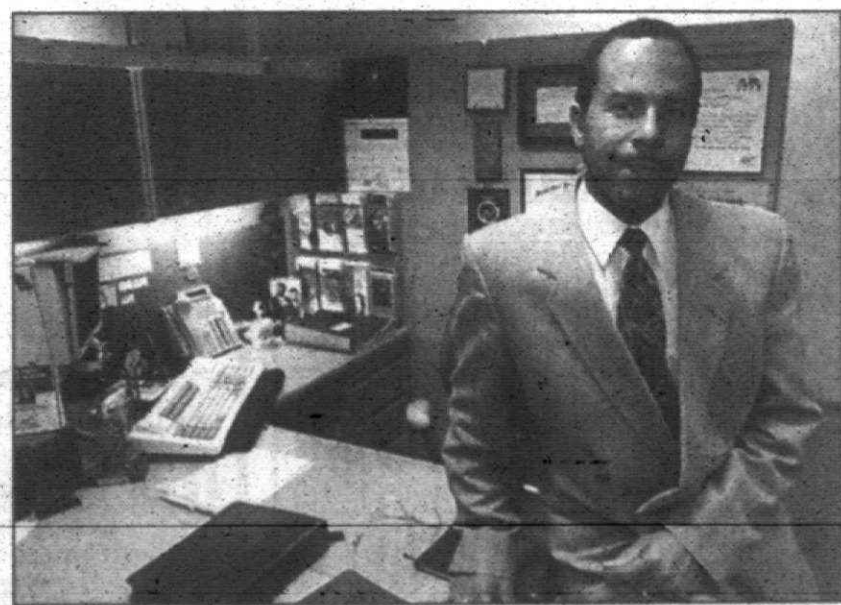
Coollest show in town



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Shear magic: Becky Lewis of Wyandotte, 9 (left), and Jennifer Lucas of Riverview, 9, check out a carving of a child riding a bike with a dog in the basket in downtown Plymouth Thursday evening. For more on the 18th annual International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, please turn to Page A3 in today's Observer.

DDA's Greene helping to remake the community



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Vision: Greg Greene of Canton poses in his office at AAA of Livonia Thursday.

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

Greg Greene enjoys working out. Whether it's a jog around town or pumping iron in his basement, the Canton resident is determined to maintain his health. But his body isn't the only thing he likes to exercise.

As a board member of the Canton Downtown Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce, Greene is also into developing and improving his community's strength.

"I like to function as a team player," he said. "I like being a part of Canton's development. That's why I like being on the DDA."

Greene and wife Debi are quickly becoming two of the town's most recognizable faces. Township Clerk Terry Bennett says Canton needs more folks like them.

"Greg is a wonderful resource in this community," she commented. "He's active in the DDA and has been active in a lot of other community committees."

"They are committed, responsible and enthusiastic about the community. We're delighted that they're a part of making Canton a better place. They're good people."

The couple came to Canton nearly a decade ago. After making numerous friends and finding it easy to get involved, they decided to make the township their permanent home.

"We like the environment," said Debi Greene, noting that being a bi-racial couple has never been an issue in Canton. "We like the way we're treated."

"Everyone accepts us for who and what we are."

Both are Detroit natives. Greg graduated from Cooley High School and went on to Lawrence Technological University.

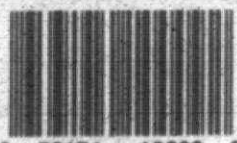
The 48-year-old initially dreamed of a career in architecture. He eventually wound up in construction planning and sales.

Finally in 1987, Greene found a home at AAA of Michigan. He started

Please see GREENE, A6



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Back-door thief gets cash, TV

More than \$5,000 worth of cash and equipment was stolen from a Devon Street home Tuesday.

According to township police reports, a 47-year-old Canton man returned home from work at about 2:30 p.m. and discovered his rear patio door open. Once inside the home, he found \$4,000 cash, a camera and television all missing, said reports.

The cash and camera were in a bag on a kitchen table. Nothing else in the home was disturbed, reports said. Police have no suspects.

A 32-year-old Canton woman was charged with child neglect after leaving her 8-year-old son home alone Tuesday.

Township police were alerted to the situation by a Holmes Elementary School teacher at about 8 a.m. Officers went to the child's home in the 51000 block of Mott Road to investigate and found the boy alone.

Police later interviewed his mother. She told officers that she was at work and that the boy's grandmother usually watches him when he's home from school. Reports said the grandmother was out of town Tuesday, however.

Police released the boy to his mother, reports said.

Skating benefit aids area teen

A special roller skating benefit, "Skating for a Cause," is planned for 8-10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at Riverside Arena, 36635 Plymouth.

Money raised will benefit an experimental treatment for

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Ammonia leak from page A1

34, was treated for inhalation of fumes. McManiamon and Brand were treated and released from Annapolis Hospital in Wayne Wednesday. Lic declined medical treatment.

After the explosion, firefighters sprayed water on the building to keep ammonia fumes from building back up. Utilities were shut off to the building before Hazmat members went in to stop the leak.

Marine Pollution Control, a Detroit-based firm, was called in to help clean the mess. Much of the solution, which is commonly used in homes as a cleanser, was sucked into trucks and then drained into nearby sanitary sewers, said Rorabacher.

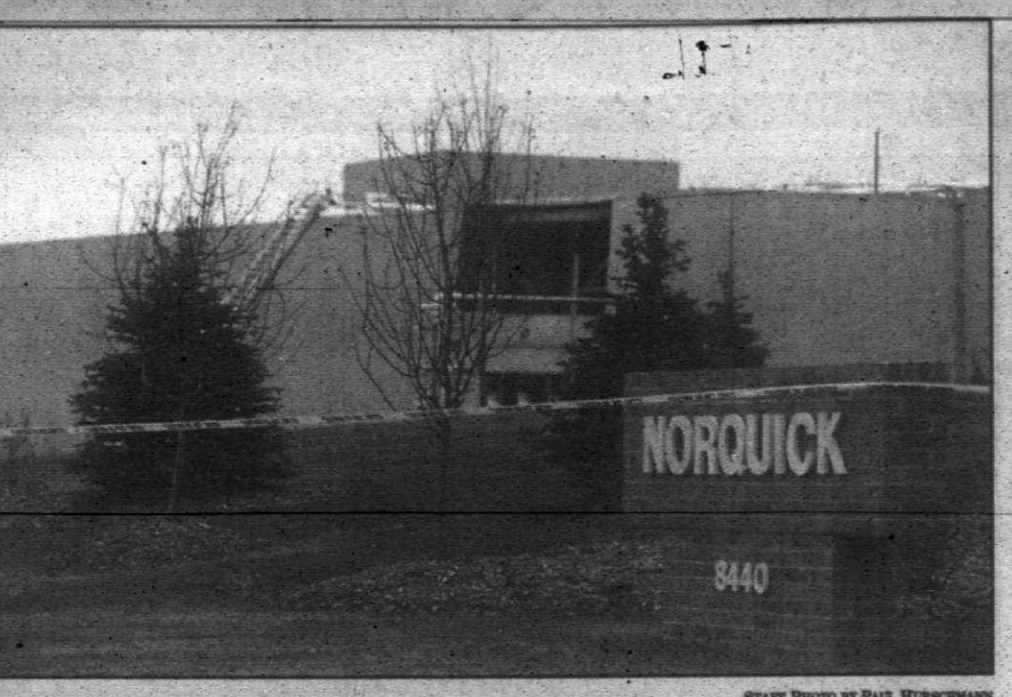
He noted that state and local permits were acquired before that was done. Crews, the chief added, were at Norquick much of the night cleaning the mess.

Hazmat team is ready for anything

Hazmat is mobilized 10 to 15 times per year. Eight to 10 members, known as a "tag-team," typically respond to a run.

There are few common denominators in incidents involving Western Wayne County's Hazmat team.

From gasoline spills to Wednesday's ammonia leak in Canton, the consortium of local firefighters sees and deals with it all.



Aftermath: The facade of the Norquick building on Haggerty, following Wednesday morning's explosion.

"I'm very happy with how it went."

Stoneybrooke Apartments sit directly behind Norquick and several businesses are adjacent. But evacuations weren't necessary, said Rorabacher.

nia in 1976 and finally to Canton in 1998.

Norquick operates a \$6.7 million, 77,000-square-foot facility on 17 acres between Joy and Koppernick roads.

Each firefighter goes through hours of training before they're allowed on a run like Wednesday's. Members are certified for specific tasks.

At the operations level, team members are qualified to decontaminate people exposed to hazardous materials.

A Hazmat specialist is trained to analyze unknown chemicals. "Incident commander" is the highest level and certification is granted through

Neighborhood from page A1

work done in committee over the past few years on Canton's mature neighborhoods.

The committee developed criteria on how to judge each neighborhood based on its general appearance and aesthetics. The

committee then judged "mature" neighborhoods of nearby communities and Canton.

"The basic question we were trying to answer was which ones looked good and why," said Yack.

Women's Retreat

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Annalyze and assist in the resolution of neighborhood issues. It may involve coordinating with the business community.

fences and home upkeep were all found to be important factors, said Yack.

The neighborhood coordinator will help homeowners and associations to cut through red tape to make improvements in those areas, he added.

According to township documents, the neighborhood coordinator will also:

Prepare and implement marketing programs for neighborhoods.

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Ice time Festival draws crowds from across town, around the world

BY BRAD KADRECH STAFF WRITER bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net

Kate Rosevear was on a cruise a few years ago through the Norwegian fjord when a fellow passenger asked her from whence she hailed.

When informed Rosevear was from Plymouth, the inquirer replied, "I've heard of that. That's where the ice show is."

Such is the influence the Plymouth Ice Spectacular has taken on in its 18 years. Its reputation has grown to the point people in many corners of the world recognize the name of this little burg tucked among the western suburbs of Detroit.

And that's as it should be, according to folks like Rosevear, a former member of the Plymouth Ice Spectacular Board of Directors.

"It surprised me a little, but it made me feel good," said Rosevear, who also encountered Plymouth-knowledgeable travelers on a trip to New Zealand.

The ice show, the oldest and largest ice carving event in North America, runs through Monday in downtown Plymouth. The event annually draws visitors from the United States, Japan, Canada and other countries.

included teams from as far away as Japan, said executive director Mike Watts. Watts said he even got a call from a South African directing the festival.



All smiles: Noelle Milad of Plymouth, 4, grins when she notices she is being watched, while her dad purchases a hot dog on Penniman Street Thursday evening.

Participants this year have radio station — and it's summer there.

"I think that's incredible," said Watts, in his ninth year of

promotion for Plymouth.

"We try to do some things to bring people out," Watts said. "It's a And if it's drawing attention in New Zealand, it must be working."

Watts has also talked to a representative from the U.S. Olympic Committee about taking a look at the festival to try and turn it into a complementary event for the Salt Lake City Olympic Games.

Watts is hopeful the USOC representative will come Sunday.

"We've talked with them about a joint endeavor, about coordinating and maybe helping with the 2002 games," said Watts.

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No starch: Dawnmarie Chmiel (left) uses an iron to even out the edge of a block of ice as Casaundra White watches Thursday evening in The Gathering in downtown Plymouth. The two Schoolcraft College culinary arts students were working on a sculpture of a clock.



Lotz Road paving set for 2001

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

A one-mile stretch of Lotz Road will be paved, but probably not until the end of next year.

Property owners along the road recently agreed to form a special assessment district to fund the project.

agreed to form a special assessment district. Machnik said 60 percent of owners along Lotz agreed to the move.

Besides roads, sewers, lighting, sidewalk and retention ponds are common improvements made with special assessment districts.

The township's role is to oversee the project. Canton's Board of Trustees Tuesday awarded a design contract to Livonia-based Ayers, Lewis, Norris & May, Inc.

ject's cost-at about \$1.1 million. Construction won't likely begin until next year, he added.

Design and acquisition of rights of way will be completed this year. Machnik said it will be a difficult project because of drainage issues, topography and trees.

In other township road news, construction of Morton Taylor from Warren to Ford appears to be on target.



Dangerous situation: A school bus drops off middle school students Thursday near Saltz and Canton Center roads in Canton. Bus drivers are complaining that drivers are ignoring the flashing lights, stop sign — and the law — and driving past the buses while students are disembarking.

Yield from page A1

have reports of violations from bus drivers," said Jamie Senkbel, Plymouth Township police officer.

Drivers of newer buses have flashing amber lights, which are used 200 feet before a stop to alert motorists that buses are pulling over.

Older buses, which only have red lights, flash them to signal an impending stop.

Plymouth-Canton bus transportation director Mary Bartal said there are an increasing number of complaints by bus

red ones come on, which they have to stop for, they get mad and whip around the bus."

Drivers of newer buses have flashing amber lights, which are used 200 feet before a stop to alert motorists that buses are pulling over.

"The violation is happening quite frequently on a daily basis," said Bartal. "It's happening this year more than normal."

Bartal said many times bus drivers will try to get the license plate number of a violator and report it to police.

"People are running late for work, they get behind a school bus and they don't want to be stopped," Bartal said.

"The flashing red lights are supposed to allow children to cross the street safely. Motorists are really putting kids in danger."

RESA offers scholarships to future teachers

Wayne RESA, the county intermediate school district, has established the Future Teachers Scholarship Program to help put the best and brightest teachers in Wayne County's classrooms.

To assist aspiring teachers in the pursuit of their educational goals, Wayne RESA is offering \$2,500 scholarships, for a cumulative four-year maximum of

\$10,000. High school students, current undergraduate students and those adults exploring a new career as a teacher are eligible to apply.

submit transcripts and outline their education, community service and leadership activities. A written essay addressing "Why great teachers are needed in our communities" will be required.

The deadline for applications is Feb. 18. To receive an application visit RESA's website at resa.net/scholarship or call (734) 334-1373.

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Funds OK'd for high-tech center

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

A new technology center and an expansion of the Waterman Center at Schoolcraft College may soon become a reality.

A subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee approved the projects in December, then Gov. John Engler signed the related bill. Schoolcraft officials expect to begin planning for the new Business and Industry Training Center, a new culinary arts kitchen and larger meeting rooms at the college.

The House subcommittee also approved \$10.2 million in 2000 and \$11.3 million in 2001 for the midfield terminal project at Detroit Metro Airport, according to state Rep. Laura Toy (R-Livonia).

Schoolcraft will construct a new one-story technological center just north and west of the Waterman Center, which also will be expanded to allow more room for the culinary arts department. The center and the



Richard McDowell:
Schoolcraft College president

renovations will add about 45,000-square feet of space and cost about \$20 million.

Schoolcraft President Richard McDowell, who was pleased with the news, said the state will

SCHOOLCRAFT

later reimburse Schoolcraft for one-half of the project cost. "The state will fund about \$10 million," McDowell said.

McDowell said appropriating funds and starting the actual building would be a three-year process. Last year administrators began the planning for the facility, while this year's activity will focus on the architectural drawings and bid documents.

"This month we will ask the board (of trustees) to approve a contract with Ghafari," McDowell said.

Toy, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is a vice chair of the capital outlay subcommittee, said in a press release she was "proud and happy" to get funds for the projects.

"It gives me great joy to see these dollars go back to our fine Schoolcraft College and local airports, and help fuel the economic progress in our area," Toy said.

An expanded Waterman would

allow for increased corporate training and community use of the facility. Groups would have more space for corporate functions, including meetings, fund-raising activities and hosting functions used in recruiting.

Currently the college does not have a facility to house 400 to 500 people, according to Butch Raby, Schoolcraft's vice president for business services. Current facilities also do not allow the college to use Waterman for large groups at lunchtime because students also eat there.

"It will allow for three lunch functions going on at the same time," Raby said of the renovations. "You can have one large room, or three smaller ones, similar to (a hotel's) banquet facilities. We can't do that now, at least not effectively."

Large fund-raising dinners, such as the annual Madrigal Dinner, are scheduled at night or on weekends when students are not on campus, Raby said.

Other renovations will include painting walls, new ceilings and new lighting at Waterman.

Blue Cross lays down 'laws' on winter safety

DETROIT, Jan. 12 (PRNewswire) - Remember the L-A-W-S of winter safety, advises Dr. Thomas Simmer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan vice president and corporate medical director.

"Layer clothes, alert driving, watch for fire hazards and safe snow removal are the L-A-W-S of winter safety," says Simmer. "Follow these four simple laws to enjoy Michigan's winter wonderland."

Hypothermia and frostbite pack two of winter's bitterest punches. According to Simmer, the best way to protect yourself from Michigan's frigid weather is to dress in several light layers of clothes. The layer closest to your skin should remove moisture away from your body. The next layers should focus on warmth, while the outer layer should protect you from the elements.

Adjust your speed to weather conditions such as snow and fog, and if roads are slick,

always leave extra distance between your car and the car ahead of you. When you travel long distances, call ahead and let someone know when to expect you. If you are stranded along the road, findings suggest you should remain in your car.

If you keep the following supplies in your car, it could save your life, or at the very least, make it easier to dig your car out of a snowdrift.

- Shovel
- First aid kit, including any essential medications
- Change for phone calls, or a cell phone
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Bottled water and snacks
- Warm blanket
- Watch for Fire Hazards
- Before you shovel, it is a good idea to warm up with a few stretches. Once you begin shoveling, don't try to do too much at once. Push the snow instead of throwing it.

Engler vetoes funding for CREST center

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

State money for Oakland Community College's Combined Regional Emergency Services Training (CREST) center fell victim to Gov. John Engler's line-item veto pen before he signed the state's capital outlay budgets.

A grant of \$100 for "planning of the center, along with 31 other similar small allocations, was crossed off the list by Engler before he approved money for building projects all across the state. In total, the allocation gives the go-ahead to \$203 million for building in the year 2000 and \$472 million in 2001.

Small grants, like the \$100 for OCC's CREST center, are significant because they authorize agencies to begin planning and drawing renderings for their projects, explained John Truscott, spokesman for the governor. These little grants also "hold a place in the budget so they are first in line" when money is again made available.

Usually, five to 10 little grants get tacked on by lawmakers in the budget process, Truscott explained. This year, there were 32.

The governor had warned lawmakers he would take a dim view of projects that got tacked on late in the budget process, Truscott said.

"We had no information about these projects. There was no one lobbying for them. In many cases, there was no planning, and they couldn't even identify what the projects were," he explained.

But that is not the case with the CREST center. Planning for the center is finished and OCC expects to break ground on the \$7.27 million, 22-acre project this spring. When completed, the CREST center will be a simulated city giving police, firefighters and other emergency service workers a place to train in life-like surroundings.

To be located on the Auburn Hills campus of OCC, it will be the only training center of its kind in this section of the country and is often compared to training facilities at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

It's anticipated CREST will be utilized by police agencies throughout Michigan and the Midwest.

"Well, if they are ready to break ground, then they are all set to go and they don't need state money," Truscott responded.

That confirms the fears of OCC board members. When Oakland County police chiefs grew frustrated over the past summer about delays in the start of construction, board members said they believed that beginning to build could reduce

the chances of getting a state grant. Still, the board agreed to move ahead to alleviate the concern of the chiefs.

Money for the CREST center was part of a bond tax approved by voters in 1995. Oakland police chiefs campaigned for passage to get that center. But OCC

Chancellor Richard Thompson had hoped for state assistance, about \$4 million worth, so that more bond money could be put into other projects in OCC's long list of improvements and renovations.

In December, Rep. Patricia Godchaux (R-Birmingham)

attempted to add \$3.5 million for the CREST center in the state's budget, but the move failed in the House of Representatives.

A short time later, Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) managed to tack on the \$100 planning grant to the capital outlay budget in committee.

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Sports & Recreation

The Observer

INSIDE:
Prep hockey, B3
Recreation, B6

P/C Page 1, Section B
Sunday, January 16, 2000

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

All-Star goalie

Plymouth Whalers goalie Rob Zepp has been selected to play for the Ontario Hockey League's West All-Star team in the All-Star game, which will be Jan. 25 at the Hershey Center in Mississauga, Ont.

Zepp has been a major reason the Whalers are challenging for first place in the West Division in what was expected to be a rebuilding year. Going into the weekend's games, he led the OHL in goals-against average (2.30) and was third in wins (19).

"One of my goals for this season was to be named to the All-Star team," said Zepp after learning of his selection. "It's a great personal accomplishment. I owe a lot to the team in front of me. They've played great all year."

Top Prospects

There are 40 players in the Canadian Hockey League who will take part in the fifth annual 2000 Home Hardware Canadian Hockey League Top Prospects Game Feb. 2 in Toronto — and five of them will be Plymouth Whalers.

No other team will be as well represented.

Three Whalers' forwards and two defencemen will take part in the game. The forwards are Justin Williams, who was tied for the team lead in scoring (through Jan. 10) with 37 points, on 18 goals and 19 assists; Tomas Kurka, who led the Whalers with 20 goals, including five game-winners and six on the power play, and had 33 points; and Kris Vernarsky, who had eight goals, 13 assists and 21 points.

The two defencemen selected are Jared Newman (one goal, seven assists, 75 penalty minutes) and Libor Ustrnul (five assists, 99 penalty minutes).

The Top Prospects game will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 2 at Toronto's Air Canada Centre.

Mixed results

Hope College's men's basketball team discovered that the new millennium would require working overtime. Which is what the Flying Dutchmen did in their first two games of the new year.

Hope lost in OT at Olivet Jan. 4, 93-86. It was Olivet's first win over the Dutch since 1994. Four days later, in their second Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association game, Hope evened its record at 6-6 overall and 1-1 in the MIAA with a 76-67 victory over Albion at Hope.

Mark Bray, a senior co-captain for the Dutch and a Plymouth Canton graduate, scored 15 points in the loss to Olivet. A 6-foot-1 guard, Bray remains one of the team's top shooters, connecting on 32-of-63 floor shots (50.8 percent) and 43-of-59 free throws (72.9 percent); he is averaging 11.3 points, 3.6 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 23.8 minutes per game.

Soccer registration

The city of Plymouth's Recreation Department is currently taking registration for youth soccer from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at its offices, located at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer.

Cost for six-year-old, seven-year-old and eight-year-old players living in the city of Plymouth is \$45; the fee for non-residents in those age divisions is \$65. For all other age divisions, the fee for city residents is \$50 and for non-residents it's \$80.

All registrations require a birth certificate. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (734) 455-6620.

Join Silver Sticks

A new over-50 hockey will be being formed Tuesday mornings at the Arctic Pond Ice Arena in Plymouth.

The league is open to retirees, second-shift workers or players with a flexible schedule looking for a fun and recreational hockey.

Game times are 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, starting Jan. 18. The cost is \$165 per player (includes 10-game schedule, plus playoffs, along with free donuts and coffee following games).

For more information, call John Wilson at (248) 471-0658 or E-mail Wilson at JOHN@RSPI.NET.

Chiefs crumble in lopsided loss to Raiders, 57-42

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington entered Friday night's Western Lakes Activities Association game at Plymouth Canton like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The defending WLAA co-champions' record (3-4) was soft and unimpressive, but their game had plenty of bite.

North Farmington stymied Canton's offensive effort with a quick, swarming zone defense and shot 71 percent from the field in the first half before cruising to a 57-42 victory.

The Raiders improved to 4-4 overall and 2-0 in the WLAA. The Chiefs dropped to 2-6 overall and 1-1 in the league.

North Farmington was led in scoring by senior guard Phil Watha, who poured in 14 points on six-of-seven shooting from the floor. Senior forward Adrian Bridges chipped in with 13 points and nine rebounds for the Raiders.

Senior Jason Waidmann paced Canton with 16 points and five rebounds, despite getting triple-teamed whenever he touched the ball. Junior guard Nick Cabauatan also had a solid game, netting 12 points, nine of which were the result of a trio of three-point bombs.

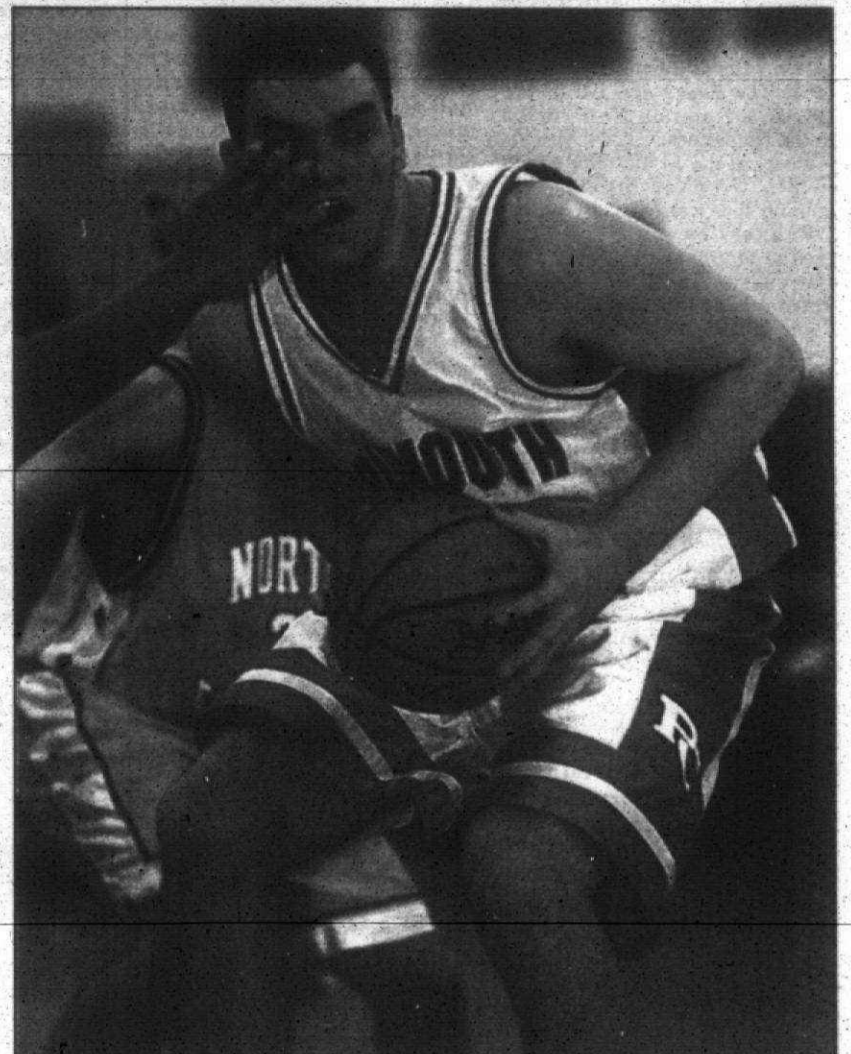
The Raiders' mediocre record has more to do with their brutally tough pre-conference schedule (three of their losses came to highly respected Belleville, Detroit DePorres and Detroit Renaissance) than their level of play. They're experienced (eight seniors), tall (five of their top six players range in height from 6-1 to 6-6) and they can shoot (53 percent from the floor and 72 percent from the line Friday night).

North Farmington jumped out to a 17-7 lead after one quarter and led 35-14 at the half. The Chiefs scored the first 11 points of the third quarter, but couldn't get any closer than 10 the rest of the game.

"I thought we played very well in the first half," said North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian, assessing his team's performance. "But I told our kids at halftime that no Canton team coached by Dan Young is going to quit — and they didn't. I have to give Canton a lot of credit. They came out in the second half and put a nice run together."

"I like the way our kids off the bench played tonight. Overall, we're getting better each game."

Please see CANTON BASKETBALL, B4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREINLER

No room to operate: Canton's Jason Waidmann was often faced with an abundance of defenders as he searched for a shot against North Farmington. Still, Waidmann scored 16 points.

Hot-shooting Chargers edge Salem

BASKETBALL

Plymouth Salem had two chances in the closing seconds to catch a very elusive Livonia Churchill basketball team, but the Rocks couldn't do what the Chargers had done well all night long — make a three-pointer.

The end result was Churchill's first win over Salem since the 1995-96 season, this one by a 70-65 score in a game played at Churchill Friday.

The Chargers improved to 5-2 overall, 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Salem fell to 3-5 overall, 0-2 in the WLAA.

"This was a big win," said Churchill coach Rick

Austin. "Our guys shot fabulously. We're a very good shooting ball club, and we needed it tonight to offset Salem's inside game."

"Our guys are very hard-working. They believe they can win."

What Salem coach Bob Brodie found hard to believe was that his Rocks could be within a basket at the half after the shooting display put on by the Chargers.

"They came out hot," Brodie said. "They had seven threes in the first half. I was surprised we were only down two at halftime."

"We kept waiting for them to trip and fall, and they never did."

Churchill's three-point shooting was certainly one big difference. The Chargers had nine of them; the Rocks made just three. Another was turnovers: Churchill forced 18 by Salem while committing just nine.

Still, the Rocks were within three with 20 seconds

Please see BASKETBALL, B4

Depth leads Rocks to victory

GYMNASTICS

Westland John Glenn had a solid one-two punch in its Western Lakes Activities Association gymnastics dual meet against visiting Plymouth Canton Wednesday.

Problem was, the Rocks had much more. Which is why they got the win, 129.37-126.67.

The victory kept Salem unbeaten in WLAA dual meets at 2-0.

Bethany Bartlett and April Aquinto led the Rocks, Bartlett finishing first in the vault (8.75) and tying for first in the uneven parallel bars (8.5) and Aquinto capturing the balance beam (9.05) and floor exercise (8.85).

Bartlett won the all-around with a 34.325; Aquinto was third with a 34.1.

Bartlett also placed second on beam (8.7) and fourth in floor (8.25), while Aquinto was third in bars (8.05) and

fourth in vault (8.15). Other top finishers among the Rocks were Kelsey Ensor, fourth in beam (8.4) and tied for fifth in floor (8.05); Kara Dendrino, tied for fifth in floor (8.05) and a 7.65 in vault; Ashley Heard, tied for fourth in bars (7.4); and Ann-Marie Zelinsky in vault (7.65).

Glenn got good performances from Nicole Simonian, who was second in all-around (34.30), and Kristen Costantino, who was fourth all-around (32.425). Simonian was second on vault (8.5) and floor (8.8) and third in bars (8.35) and beam (8.65); Costantino tied for first in bars (8.5), took third in vault (8.275) and floor (8.45), and was fourth in beam (7.2).

Salem next travels to Farmington for a 7 p.m. WLAA dual meet Monday, then hosts Troy Athens Saturday.

Canton handles Central

It was better, but Plymouth Canton's performance at Tuesday's Western Lakes Activities Association dual meet against Walled Lake still was short of the standard coach John Cunningham believes is attainable.

The Chiefs won easily, 130.65-106.15, evening its WLAA record at 1-1. Central fell to 0-2.

"It was another one of those meets where we were looking really good, then we fell off the equipment," Cunningham said. "What I'm looking forward to is a meet where we look good and stay on everything, and get a

Please see GYMNASTICS, B4

'Hounds late goal ties up Whalers, 1-1



Twenty-five

seconds. That's all that separated the Plymouth Whalers from a major mid-season victory over the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, leaders in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

But the Whalers had to settle for a 1-1 draw after surrendering a game-tying goal to the Hounds Josef Vasicsek with just 25 seconds left, with Soo goalie Jason Flick off the ice for another attacker.

As good as Whaler goalie Rob Zepp was, making 21 saves, he was overshadowed by Flick. The Whalers pounded the Hounds' netminder with 40 shots, including five in overtime; Zepp did not have to make a save in the OT.

It was a defensive struggle throughout, with Plymouth's Kris Vernarsky breaking the stalemate with a goal at 9:13 of the third period. Stephen Morris and Libor Ustrnul assisted.

Windsor 7, Plymouth 4: The streak was going to end, sometime or another. Still, the Plymouth Whalers must be wondering: Why not another?

Seeing a seven-game win streak snapped is hard enough. When it comes against one of the teams you're locked in a battle with for top honors in your division, the loss is doubly difficult.

But that's what the Whalers were forced to accept. They narrowed a three-goal deficit to one early in the third period Thursday at Windsor, but they couldn't

Please see WHALERS, B4

Salem splashes by Canton

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

It was going to be a difficult task to begin with for Plymouth Canton's swim team. It is whenever the opponent is Plymouth Salem, winner of the last seven Western Lakes Activities Association championships.

Then the Chiefs lost one of their principle advantages — the home team — when some faulty pipes caused their pool to be closed down. Canton was forced to work out at the Rocks' pool, and last Thursday's meet was switched to Salem.

That hurt. But losing one of their top swimmers, Aaron Reeder, to a side injury hurt even more.

The Chiefs' chances at upsetting Salem were slim to start with; Reeder's loss, which affected the outcome of two individual events and two relays, devastated them.

The Rocks splashed past Canton, 123-63, improving their dual-meet record to 4-0 overall and 1-0 in the

Please see SWIMMING, B3



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

Doubling up: Salem's Eric Lynn won a pair of individual events — the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke — and swam on two first-place relays, including the 400 freestyle relay (above).

Full-strength Salem rolls; Canton crushes Churchill

Plymouth Salem got its full team back and it showed Thursday when the Rocks thrashed to take on Western Lakes Activities Association rival North Farmington...

WRESTLING

over Livonia Churchill Thursday at Canton. We knew that (Churchill) was not going to be able to hang with us...

Rocks wreck Hawks

Amanda Suder set up Farmington Harrison a fall, and Jill Dombrowski made sure it was delivered as the duo led their Plymouth Salem volleyball team to a 15-5, 15-13 victory over the Hawks in their Western Lakes Activities Association opener Wednesday at Salem.

VOLLEYBALL

assists to kills. Suder also had seven service aces, three kills and three digs. Dombrowski led the Rocks with seven kills; she added two service aces and four assists to kills.

COLLEGE SPORTS

Brown, Bigby lead SC

Robert Brown got his Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team going in Wednesday's game against Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference rival Alpena CC.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nest beat on the scoring chart for SC was Dwight Windom with 10 points. Nick Evola and Reggie Kirkland got nine points apiece; Kirkland also had eight assists and four steals.

2nd-half rally boosts Madonna

from the floor (35.1 percent) and 3-of-9 threes (33.3 percent). Free throws also played a major role in Madonna's win. The Crusaders were 30-of-41 from the line (73.2 percent), with Fiorenzi going 8-for-8; Tech was 10-of-16 (62.5 percent).

WOMEN'S HOOP

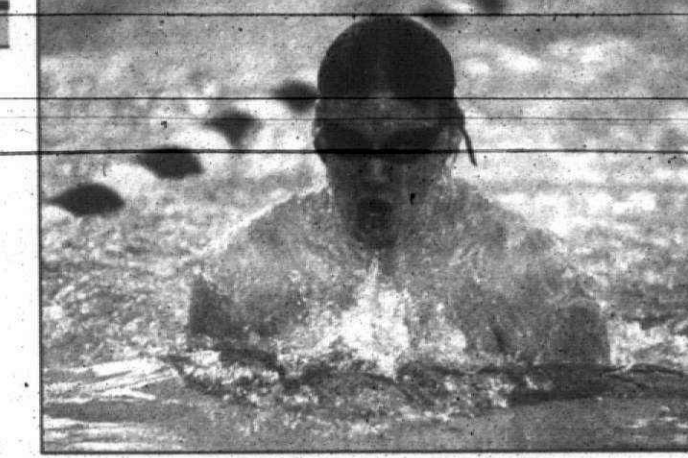
It took a bit of re-focusing in the second half for Madonna University's women's basketball team to come up with a much-needed 81-70 victory over Indiana Tech Wednesday at Madonna.

SC routs Alpena

Strong all-around play from Schoolcraft College's Angelica Blakely, Carla Saxton and JaneMe Olson overwhelmed Alpena CC, 65-46, in a Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference game played at SC.

BEST BOYS SWIM PERFORMANCES

Table with swimmer names, schools, and times for 200-Yard Medley, 100 Butterfly, 200 Freestyle, 100 Breaststroke, 500 Freestyle, and 400 Freestyle.



Top Chief: Canton's Jon Heiss collected the only first-place finish for his team against Salem, winning the 100 breaststroke.

Swimming from page B1

WLA. Canton fell to 1-2 overall, 0-1 in the WLA. "There were some very good races," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "The 200 (freestyle), the 100 fly, the 100 back and the 100 breast were all good wins."

Canton clobbers Central

Midway through the second period, it was anybody's game when Plymouth Canton hosted Walled Lake Central in a Western Lakes Activities Association hockey game Jan. 7 at the Plymouth Central Center.

SWIMMING RESULTS

REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL 114 BRIGHTON 72 Jan. 13 at Brighton. 200-yard medley relay: Redford CC (Nick Markou, Chris LaFond, Brett Mecons, Ed Lesau), 1:57.50; 200 individual medley: Andrew Carlin (CC), 2:22.54; 50 freestyle: Lesau (CC), 2:22.54; 100 butterfly: Mecons (CC), 1:02.16; 500 freestyle: Tim Ryan (CC), 5:54.79; 200 freestyle relay: Redford CC (Carlin, Greg Esper, Kevin Ryan, LaFond), 1:48.72; 100 backstroke: Markou (CC), 1:07.25; 100 breaststroke: LaFond (CC), 1:15.54; 400 freestyle relay: Redford CC (Mecons, Ryan, Carlin, Lesau), 3:54.15; CC's dual meet record: 2-0.

PREP HOCKEY

Brocketanz then assisted on the Chiefs' second two second-period goals, boosting their lead to 4-1, before adding two goals of his own in the third period.

Advertisement for WJR 760 AM featuring 'High School Athlete of the Week' sponsored by Observer & Eccentric. Name: Courtney Bates, Clarkston Clarkston High School. Presented by Flannery Ford in Waterford.

Advertisement for 'absolute CHAOS, total FOOTBALL.' featuring 'THE DETROIT FURY IS COMING THIS SPRING. get tickets.' Ticket prices: season tickets on sale now packages as low as \$49.00. 248.377.0100. palacenet.com

Advertisement for Hockeytown Winter Package. Catch 3 Action Packed Red Wings Games. PACKAGE J: FRI. FEBRUARY 25 vs. NY ISLANDERS • 7:30, THUR. MARCH 16 vs. TORONTO • 7:30, WED. MARCH 22 vs. CALGARY • 7:30. PACKAGE K: SUN. FEBRUARY 27 vs. TAMPA BAY • 7:00, SUN. MARCH 26 vs. NY RANGERS • 1:00, FRI. APRIL 7 vs. WASHINGTON • 7:30. PLUS...4 Days of College Hockey! MICHIGAN STATE vs. LAKE SUPERIOR STATE • FEB. 5, 2000, MICHIGAN STATE vs. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN • FEB. 26, 2000, CCHA CHAMPIONSHIP • MAR. 17 & 18, 2000.

Advertisement for POLARIS RIDE THE BEST. 2000 OVERSTOCKED LIQUIDATION SALE. Up to \$200 In Free Clothing & Accessories With Every Sled Purchased. Various sled models and prices listed.

BOWLING AND RECREATION

3rd-grader sets a pair of fishing world records



BILL PARKER

C.J. Walker is just eight years old, but she's already carved out a near legendary niche among anglers across the country. Walker, of Orchard Lake, established back-to-back junior world records with the International Game and Fish Association. "I love to go fishing," said C.J., a third-grader at Roper School. "Fishing is something I love to do whenever I have some spare time. "It's fun to catch them and sometimes, if they're real big, they're really good to eat. Sometimes we let them go and it's fun to watch them swim away." Walker established world records in the girls small fry division by catching a 3-pound, 15-ounce lake trout and a 3-pound, 10-ounce northern pike.

"She was just having a blast catching fish," explained C.J.'s father, Bruce. "The day she caught the pike, she caught five of them. She was laughing and having a ball. The whole experience was pretty exciting for her." The IGFA for years has recognized anglers who catch world-record class fish, but recently began recognizing the accomplishments of young anglers through its junior program. "The International Game and Fish Association has been around since 1939 and we started a junior records program in 1997," IGFA spokeswoman Kathy Corser said. "The junior program is for children age 16 and under and the small fry program is for ages 10 and under. We recognize 60 freshwater species and 60 saltwater species of fish, and there is no charge." C.J. caught both of her records last summer while on a fly-in fishing trip on northern Lake Superior with her father. Both fish hit a gold/red Cleo fished on a

medium action spinning rod with 8-pound-test monofilament. "It was very fun," C.J. said. "We were trying for a world record and when we got home and my dad looked it up and found out we had two records it was really exciting." There is a catch-and-release division for junior anglers and catch-and-release fishing is encouraged by the IGFA. There is no charge to submit a record and membership is not required. Junior membership in IGFA is available for \$15 and includes a quarterly newsletter, a rule book, periodic record updates, a hat, a patch, a decal and a membership card. For a free list of all IGFA world records or more information, contact Kathy Corser at IGFA, 300 Golf Stream Way, Dania Beach, Fla., 33004 or call (954) 927-2628. "They have to do everything to be eligible for a record," added Bruce. "They

have to cast, reel, fight the fish. All I could do was net it. I couldn't even touch the line. She did a good job." C.J. fishes often with her father and is an accomplished angler. She has caught tuna and dolphin fish in the Caribbean and perch, blue gill, pike and bass at home on Cass Lake. **Ferguson on fire** Rochester bass professional Art Ferguson is in the hunt for a return trip to the prestigious BASS Masters Classic world championships. Ferguson qualified for the 1999 Classic through the Top 150 circuit and finished a very respectable 18th. This year he's in the thick of things in the Eastern Invitational circuit. The top five finishers in the circuit after five tournaments earn an automatic berth to the Classic. After the third tournament — the Alabama Invitational held in December on Lake Martin in Alexander City, Ala.

— Ferguson was in 11th place among better than 300 anglers. His total of 542 points was 22 points behind division leader Mark Menendez of Kentucky and just 15 shy of a qualifying spot. Ferguson helped his cause in the Alabama Invitational by placing 35th with 12 fish that weighed 16 pounds, 15 ounces. He earned \$1,650 for his effort, along with 266 points in the race for the division lead. Ferguson will compete later this month on Florida's Lake Toho and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in the \$409,450 Florida BASSMASTER Top 150. (Bill Parker writes a weekly column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. Send comments and successful hunting and fishing reports to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.)

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

SHOWS

SILVERDOME BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING The 17th annual Silverdome Boat, Sport and Fishing Show will be Feb. 2-6 at the Pontiac Silverdome. The show features over 300 boats from more than 75 manufacturers, fishing tackle, fishing trips, charter captains, virtual fishing, trout ponds, seminars, casting demonstrations and more. Show hours are 3-9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 2 and 3; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4; 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6. Admission is \$7 adult, \$3 for children ages 6-14 and children under five will be admitted free. **DETROIT BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING SHOW** The 42nd annual Detroit Boat, Sport and Fishing Show will be Feb. 12-20 at Cobo Center. The show features the 2000 premiere showing of new model boats, motors, trailers, accessories and more. Some 1,000 boats will be

available for viewing including fishing boats, ski boats, pontoon boats, cruisers, inflatables, personal watercrafts, canoes and kayaks. **SPORTFISHING EXPO** The 12th annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo is set for Thursday through Sunday, March 2-5, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. An all-star lineup of seminar speakers is already scheduled. The show also features exhibitors, merchandise booths, casting and fishing activities and more. Show hours are 4-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 2-3; 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 5. Admission is \$7.75 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 6-12 and children age 5 and under will be admitted free. **SPRING BOATING EXPO** The eighth annual Spring Boating Expo is scheduled for March 16-19 at the Novi Expo Center. The show features some 200 exhibitors with new boats and watercrafts, motors, trailers,

docks, accessories and more. **ARCHERY LIVONIA RANGE** The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information. **JUNIOR OLYMPICS** The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information. **JUNIOR ARCHERS** A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. the first Saturday in November at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110

for more information. **METROPARKS METROPARK REQUIREMENTS** Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191. **1999 PERMITS** The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information. **WINTER BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS** If you've never gone birding before, winter is the perfect time

to start. Bring your binoculars and take a walk through a variety of habitats to discover which birds have the "right stuff" to stick around through a Michigan winter. Pre-registration required for this event, which is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16 at Kensington. To register or for more information, contact Kensington Nature Center at (248) 685-0603 or 1-800-477-3178. **FULL MOON WALK** A 90-minute interpreter-led walk at Stony Creek, scheduled for Friday, Jan. 21, discussing the activities of wildlife under the light of the "Moon of Winter's Sleep." Dress Warmly. For ages eight years and older. Pre-registration required. **STATE PARKS STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS** Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive pro-

grams throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067. **WAYNE COUNTY PARKS COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS** Wayne County Parks offers nature interpretive programs throughout the year. Advanced registration is requested. Call (734) 261-1990 to register and for more information. (To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314.)

Detroit 2000 is off and rolling; Livonia to host Bowl-a-thon



AL HARRISON

Last weekend marked the kick-off of the 97th Annual Michigan State Bowling Tournament. "Detroit 2000." It runs a total of 17 weeks, ending in May with 2,600 teams entered from all over Michigan. The team events were held at Bonanza Lanes in Warren, the singles and doubles running at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights. The first week's results are in and the early team event leaders are: Actual, R & D enterprises of Lansing with 3210; and handicap, Larke Wood Floor Service of Royal Oak with 3477 followed by Cass Techs of Redford with 3440. Doubles actual leaders are Otis Bradley and David Bell of Pontiac with 1380; doubles handicap is led by Tim Lark and Eric Johnson of Royal Oak with 1461. Singles leaders are: Actual, Jason Nieman of Warren with 729; and handicap, Jason Nieman with 815. All-events actual, Don Nyenhuis of Wyoming at 2107 followed by Tim Saunders of Redford at 2099; and handicap, Jason Nieman at 2307 in first and Tim Saunders at fourth with 2180. Alfred Stroud of Southfield had a 290 and Mark Rogers of Lansing 299. "The event being in our area is a boost for the local economy as more than 13,000 partici-

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Table listing bowling scores for various leagues and events. Columns include league names (e.g., Men's Senior House, Livonia Elks, Saturday Youth) and individual bowlers with their scores. The table is organized into multiple columns and rows, covering various age groups and divisions.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Looking back on a decade of portraiture

Toni Stevens admits portraiture is unpopular with people who buy art, but she's fascinated with people and isn't going to quit painting models at the Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Center.

The Plymouth watercolorist stands in the fine arts gallery at Livonia Civic Center Library, proudly surveying portraits she's painted since retiring from teaching in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools in 1989. Her one-woman show, "Looking Back/Facing Forward," showcases paintings of people she's met over the years. She finds each one interesting in his or her own way. "People don't want a painting of a stranger," Stevens says, "unless they're done by someone famous."

Stevens isn't famous yet, but she is an award-winning portrait artist. Nearly every work in the show has placed in competition. Training she received at Cass Tech High School in Detroit and Syracuse University in New York helped Stevens develop her drawing and painting skills. She honed her ability to capture the essence of a person through years of experience.

"I want the portrait to be becoming," said Stevens. "I try to get the spirit of the sitter and a likeness."

Unlikely props

In many of the works, Stevens seeks the viewer's attention by painting in objects that seem out of place. "Amy," one of her three newer works, incorporates a Georgia O'Keefe painting on the wall. The lavender gown and porcelain skin remind the viewer of Manet's "Olympia." Another work, "Nevermore," intrigues viewers with its mourning dove shadowed by an Edgar Allan Poe-like crow.

"A lot of it is just for composition but also so the viewer will ask 'Why is it there?'"

"Leaving Stonehenge" features a man standing in front of Stonehenge. Stevens relays stories of several of the models she's painted in classes and independent studies.

"Andrew makes his own costumes,"

Please see EXPRESSIONS, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Looking Forward: Toni Stevens presents one of her newest watercolors, "Amy."



Nevermore: Viewers think twice about a mourning dove with the shadow of a cawing crow in this painting by Toni Stevens.

Tell me a story...

Tale spinners to enchant festival crowd

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

Debra Christian's voice fluctuates from almost a whisper to high-pitch excitement as she talks about sitting on her grandfather's knee while he told stories about leaving Czechoslovakia for the coal mines of Pennsylvania. She'd pat his very large stomach and ask "What's in here, grandpa?" His reply always made her giggle. "An elephant," he'd tease in the half-Eastern European accent.

It was recalling times such as these that prompted Christian to give up a career as a speech pathologist for Garden City Public Schools to pursue the enchanting art of story telling. Christian loved hearing grandpa tell her about being a teenager at the turn-of-the-century and wanted his stories to remain alive for her children.

Christian knows her two sons will remember the five-acre peacock farm they grew up on in Plymouth. It's the stories about their grandfather that will be lost without a storyteller in the family.

Oral tradition

Christian believes so strongly in

the oral tradition of passing down history from generation to generation, that she's scheduled a workshop on the topic during a festival to be presented by Canton Project Arts on Saturday, Jan. 22. In addition to teaching the necessary skills, Christian and other storytellers will mesmerize audiences with tales about Arabic princesses and mountain men during "Storytelling Through the Ages."

"My grandfather was telling me stories all the time," said Christian. "My father, who was a history teacher for 41 years, did too. Successful family story telling is not just for fun by any means. Family stuff is very important. I've heard time and time again about someone's father dying and they say, 'Why didn't I ever write it down about the old country?' When people understand the importance of these tales, then they understand how important it is to share part of yourself."

Christian's voice becomes very quiet as if she's about to share a secret. It's easy to see why the award-



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HIRSCHMANN

Spellbound: Debra Christian enralls a child with her story at Summit on the Park Community Center in Canton

winning storyteller has been interviewed by *Ladies Home Journal*.

"Telling stories also helps children solve problems they'll encounter later in life," said Christian. "Grandma telling a story about how her puppy was killed will help that child deal with a like situation later on. It shows Grandma survived and went on. That's the beauty of story."

Full day

Just when Christian's enthusiasm for story telling seems about to wane, she sets off on a new path. As coordinator of "Storytelling through the Ages," she's planned a full day and evening of workshops and concerts. Ron Lowe, a Canton storyteller and judge for the 35th district court in Plymouth, will lead an adult workshop on "Building Character," Jennifer Ivinskas, the session on "Adults Telling Tales." Christian will teach children what's involved with "Creating Creepy Tales." The storytellers will then show how it's done.

"Teaching through story telling is all the things we've experienced as a child," said Christian. "It's primordial instinct to share a story. It's ancient, it's innate in us. The cave men would spend his day on the hunt. When he came back, he didn't put in a video. He re-enacted the chase, his cunning moves before the kill."

But what makes a good story? Having characters you can relate to, "heart and sincerity" are key to telling even scary stories. In "Creating Creepy Tales," Christian will begin with a short story.

"I'll talk about how to build intensity," said Christian. "Remember when mom asked you to go down to the cellar for a jar of pickled beets? You really didn't like that place. It had a strange smell and the light didn't always work. I'll ask them to tell us

about a time in your life when you were really scared and help them explore how to create a scary story but with a funny ending so it's non-threatening." >

Second storytelling

Canton Project Arts president Gene Hammonds became so enthralled watching the response of children and adults to the first storytelling festival last year that he's made it an annual event. Hammonds originally fell in love with storytelling at the Plymouth Fall Festival a few years before. The Canton festival evolved from a long-term to reach children. Throughout the year, Canton Project Arts presents a variety of arts programming that includes everything from opera to a fine art exhibit. But Hammonds said he felt the needs of the youngest members of the community weren't being addressed.

"There's very few opportunities where children could see this," said Hammonds. "At last year's festival, the audience got excited. They wanted to talk with the storytellers afterward because they'd basically become larger-than-life."

Canton Project Arts timed the festival to coincide with a Focus:HOPE photography exhibit, "Focus on the Mission," to expose as many people as possible to a variety of arts. The exhibit showcases 70 students from more than 30 high schools in the Detroit area, including Plymouth Canton Schools through Sunday, Jan. 23, in the banquet area of Summit on the Park. The exhibit resulted from a photography project at Focus: HOPE to unite students from diverse backgrounds. Interactive activities, discussions and photo assignments encouraged participants to think about the role of diversity in their lives and to form new friendships.



Ancient art: Who needs TV when you have Debra Christian to keep you entertained with her magical stories.

"Storytelling Through the Ages"

What: Storytelling festival sponsored by Canton Project Arts features workshops and concerts for children and adults.

When: Saturday, Jan. 22. Children's show 1-2:30 p.m., family concert 7 p.m. Workshops - Meet Mother Goose 10 a.m., Creating Creepy Tales 11 a.m., Adults Telling Tales 11 a.m., Meet Madeline 2:30 p.m., Building Character 2:30 p.m., and Magic, Tales & Mountain Men 2:30 p.m.

Where: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

Tickets: \$5, \$15 family, Call (734) 397-6450.

Upcoming Canton Project Arts Events:

Verdi Opera Theatre performance 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27. Tickets are \$15.

Bus trip to see the "Van Gogh: Face to Face" exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 21.



CONCERT

Ensembles join forces for Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'

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

When Ludwig van Beethoven began sketching his ninth symphony, he probably never dreamed it would one day play to sold-out audiences. It would have made all the time he spent composing the complex and lengthy work seem more "joyful." After all, that's what Friedrich von Schiller had in mind when he wrote the ode expressing "the ideal of brotherhood of all mankind."

"When Beethoven decided to incorporate Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' in the Ninth Symphony, he set only about a third of the text and added a 12-word introduction to effect the transition from instrumental to voice so this 'Chorale' Symphony is an instrumental work with a chorale finale," said David Wagner, director of the Madonna University Chorale.

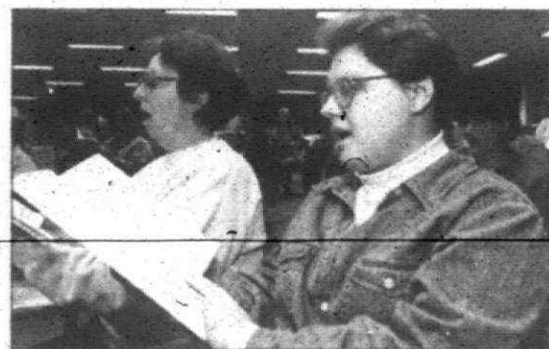
Wagner is rehearsing the choir for a concert with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Jan. 22, in Carli Auditorium.

"Hello New Millennium"

What: The Livonia Symphony Orchestra and Madonna University Chorale perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

When: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 22. Where: Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy Road, Livonia.

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 students. Call (248) 484-2741, (734) 421-1111 or (248) 645-6666.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Ode to Joy: Madonna University Chorale members Nancy Grabarczyk (left) of Farmington Hills and Krista Strang, Waterford, rehearse for a concert with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

at Churchill High School in Livonia. Beethoven's ninth symphony is the highlight of the program, which features guest soloists Maria Cimarelli, a soprano and music director at Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills; Christina Romana Lypeckyj, a

mezzo-soprano born in Ukraine; Karl Schmidt, a tenor featured in Michigan Opera Theatre mainstage productions, and Donald Hartmann, a bass-baritone and professor of music at Eastern Michigan University.

Livonia Symphony conductor Volodymyr Schesiuk wanted to perform the monumental work as way of saying "Hello, New Millennium," the title of the program that also includes Richard Strauss' theme from "2001 A Space Odyssey." He will speak about Beethoven's moving work at the beginning of the concert. Schesiuk said, Beethoven is not an old-fashioned composer but just as viable today.

"The ninth symphony is something we cannot play every year but for very special occasions, a celebration like when the United Nations was organized after World War II. It was performed then," said Schesiuk. "Beethoven's last movement on Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' says 'People, brothers, everybody, enjoy your time.' For me this music is not really music. It's a philosophical mind that concentrates on the history of human beings on earth. About 1812 the ideas started coming after the war was finished between Russia and France's Napoleon."

Cimarelli never forgot singing the work for the first time with the Windsor Symphony. "It's difficult because of the range, besides which you're singing such a large orchestral work," she said.

MUSIC

Yo-Yo Ma sold out, but there's more Bach to come

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
Stafford@home.com
Tickets to hear world renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma perform a contemporary commission of Bach's Goldberg Variations at Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium are long gone.

Pianist Murray Perahia will soon perform the original composition and five other Bach works at Hill. Perahia's performance also is the first of six Bach programs being presented by the University Musical Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the composer's death.

Palettes, from explosive joy to deep contemplation, and illustrates a wide variety of musical styles. "I think with Bach, just like with Mozart, there is something in it for everyone," said Billman.

p.m. Feb. 16. Tickets are \$16-55. The Bach series also includes: Violinist Christian Tetzlaff performing Bach's solo violin work on Feb. 20.

Players performing Bach in a free concert on March 22. A dance performance set to Bach's Musical Offering by the Trisha Brown Dance Company on April 12.

Expressions from page C1

said Stevens as if she's painted the young man dozens of times. He had on a black hooded outfit, but I used a pale blue watercolor wash instead. Several people have commented that it's in keeping with my palette. I was trying to make it interesting, so I found a photo of Stonehenge.

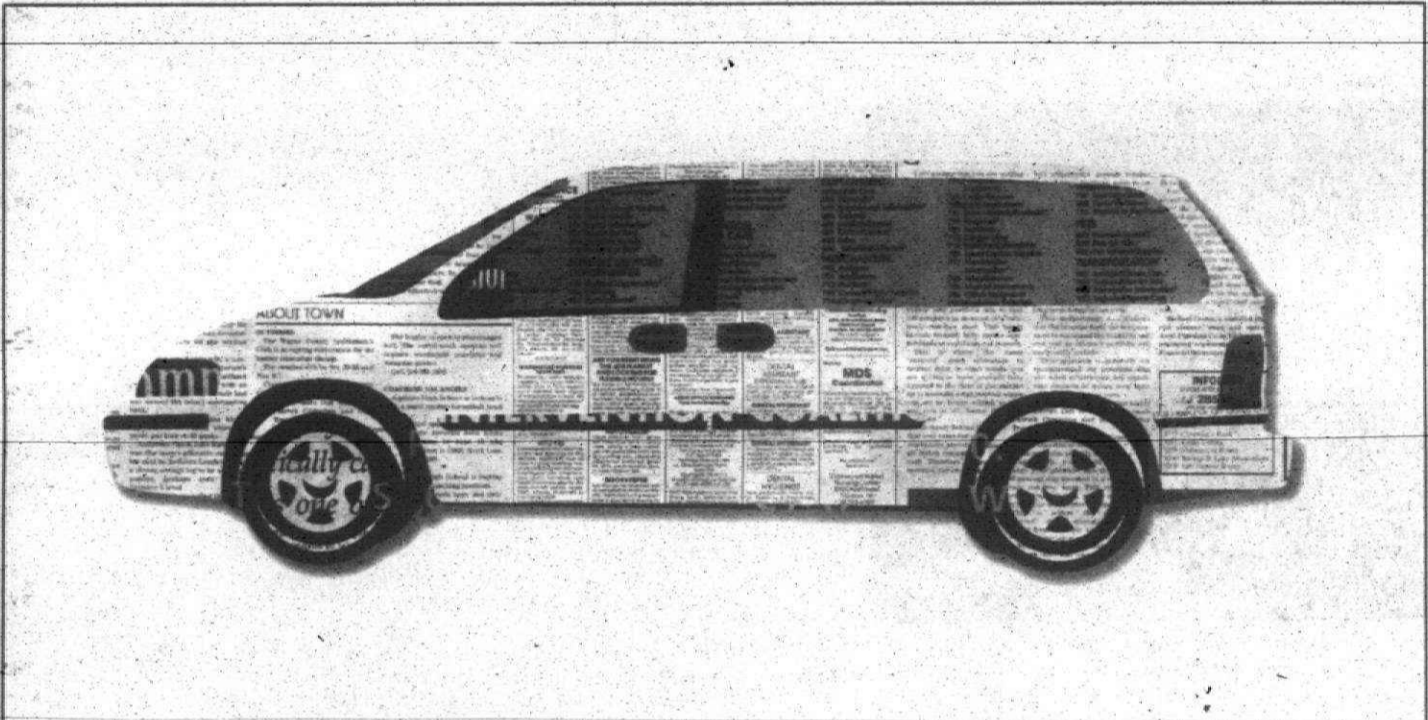
Looking beyond the slippery shine at the auto show

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
provenzano@home.com
It's not wise to lean against any car at this year's North American International Auto Show.

is a fiefdom awaiting its king or queen, prince or princess. Four-wheel aesthetics In the capital where cars are manufactured, promoted and sold, the auto show is set on holy ground. A modern-day Mecca.

What: North American International Auto Show
Where: Cobo Center, downtown Detroit
Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Saturday, Jan. 22; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23
Admission: \$10/general; \$5/seniors; free/12 years old and younger.

Clearly, attitude. "The lines between communication and art is completely blurred," said Albittz. "Our clients expect customers to have a consistent brand experience."



Each display, said Albittz of Lake Orion, is designed with marketing objectives and a "keep it simple" philosophy in mind. A team of designers at Johnson examine how color, lighting and space all work together to focus attention on a car.

Completely blurred George P. Johnson's exhibit of a Jeep Sport suspended perpendicular on a pile of rocks simply makes the point for those leading a rugged, sporty lifestyle.

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Tamburitzans of Drexel University East European Folk Ensemble
Saturday, January 29, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.
Schaublin Auditorium Baker High School, 21100 11 Mile Road, St. Clair Shores, MI
Tickets \$18.00 Ticket Master (248) 645-6666

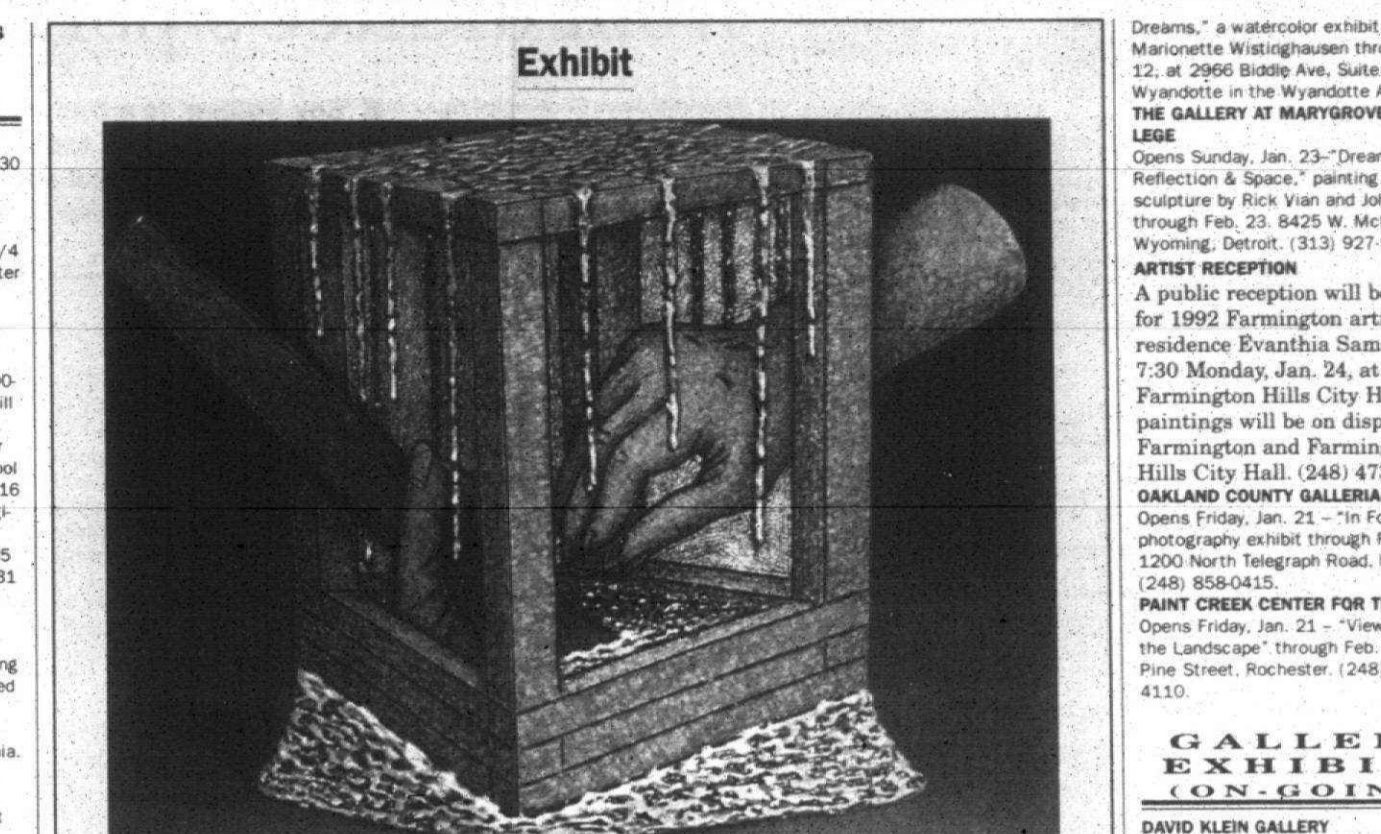
That's important, because 87% of the spending that takes place within the Detroit metro area happens in the suburbs. So, considering the facts, SPRING Newspapers are without a doubt the best vehicle for any advertiser to drive the message home.

CLASSES
ART CLASSES
D & M studios offers fine art classes for preschooler through adult. Classes held at three locations: 8691 N. Lilley Road, Canton, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, 525 Farmer, Plymouth, (734) 453-3130.

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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



Resourceful: Ceramic artists investigate the form of teapots in "International Infusion," which opens Saturday and runs through Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Sybaris Gallery, 202 E. Third Street, Royal Oak. Louis Marak's "Helping Hands" (above) is featured in the show. Call (248) 544-3388 for more information.

- 2741 PETER SOAVE QUINTET
Tango music with ganderon and strings at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23 at the Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. Call (248) 546-2503.
PONTIAC OKLAID SYMPHONY
Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, featuring guest vocalist Betty Lane, at noon, Jan. 17; and "In the Spirit of Martin Luther King Jr." at 3 p.m. on Jan. 22 at Pontiac Central High School, 300 W. Huron St., Pontiac. Call (248) 334-6024.
PRELUDES
Hear the newest member of the DSO's violin section, Greg Staples, at noon, Friday, Jan. 21 at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 Thirteenth Mile, Farmington Hills. (313) 576-5154.
UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY
Take 6 a cappella group performs 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17 and cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20 at Hill Auditorium, 825 North University, Ann Arbor. American String Quartet performs Beethoven at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23 at Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor. Russian National Orchestra performs 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24 at Hill Auditorium, 825 North University, Ann Arbor. 1-800-221-1229.

- FOR KIDS
BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE
Songs and puppets with Rita Kirsch for ten weeks, Mondays, beginning Jan. 24. For ages birth to 4 years with a parent. 3805 S. Bates, Birmingham. (248) 644-5832.
CREATIVE MUSIC CENTER
Various kid-friendly classes for newborn to 7 years now through April 22. Enroll anytime. Classes held at the First Baptist Church of Plymouth, 45000 N. Territorial, Plymouth. (734) 354-9109.
KINDERMUSIK
For children 18 months through 3 years. Weekly classes of singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. Classes are Saturdays 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. for ages 3 1/2 to 5. The Winter term began Saturday, Jan. 15 at Marygrove College, 8425 West McNichols, Detroit. (313) 927-1253.
WEST BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Rita's songs and puppets for ages birth to 4 years. A 10-week class on Wednesday and Thursday beginning Jan. 26 and 27. Classes are at the Sports Club, Bloomfield Road, West Bloomfield. Register at (248) 539-2290.
DETROIT CHAMBER WINDS & STRINGS
3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23. "Fanfares and More" at Christ Church Cranbrook, Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 362-9329.
DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, featuring performances by baritone Simon Estes and several Detroit church choirs, 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Tickets: \$10-\$30. Call (313) 576-5111.
KIRK IN THE HILLS
Organ recital presented by Glenn Miller at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23 at 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 626-2515.
LIVONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Performs "Hello New Millennium" at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 22 at the James P. Clark Auditorium, Church Hill School located at Newburgh and Joy Roads in Livonia. Call (734) 464-

MUSEUMS
CRANBROOK ART MUSEUM
Through March 26 - Joseph Grigely: Publications and Publication Projects, 1994-1999. Deep since age 10. Grigely's work explores social interactions and the nuances of language. 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. 1-800-GO-CRANBROOK.
DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Through Feb. 13 - Alejandro Garcia Nelo: Paper Picasso, a traditional Mexican folk art. Through March 26 - Robert Frank: The Americans. Through May 31 - "Glass, Glass, Glass: From the DIA's Collection." Through Feb. 13 - The Pointed Arch: Isolating the Gothic Age. 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 833-7900.
MEADOW BROOK ART GALLERY
Through April 2 - Personal Favorites: Fine Prints from the Collection of Carl F. Barnes Jr. and Anna M. Barnes, 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester. (248) 370-3005.
TROY MUSEUM
Through March 30 - "Going West: Michigan Cavalry in Indian Wars" - 60 Wattleys, Troy. (248) 524-3570.
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HARLAN HATCHER LIBRARY
Through Jan. 29 - "From Papyrus to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible." 412 Maynard, Ann Arbor. (734) 764-9377.
GALLERY EXHIBITS (OPENING)
A.C.T. GALLERY
Opens Friday, Jan. 21 - Anne Fracassa Gordon Price, Shelly Richmond and Mark Schwing through Feb. 18 at 35 East Grand River, Detroit. (313) 961-4336.
CARIBBEAN COLORS
Opens Friday, Jan. 21 - Hawaiian Dreams," a watercolor exhibit by Julie Marionette Wistinghausen through Feb. 12, at 2966 Biddle Ave., Suite 101, Wyandotte in the Wyandotte Art Lofts.
THE GALLERY AT MARYGROVE COLLEGE
Opens Sunday, Jan. 23 - "Dreams, Reflection & Space," painting and sculpture by Rick Van and John Piet through Feb. 23, 8425 W. McNichols at Wyandotte, Detroit. (313) 927-1336.
ARTIST RECEPTION
A public reception will be held for 1992 Farmington artist-in-residence Ewantha Samra 6:30-7:30 Monday, Jan. 24, at Farmington Hills City Hall. Her paintings will be on display at Farmington and Farmington Hills City Hall. (248) 473-1856.
OAKLAND COUNTY GALLERY
Opens Friday, Jan. 21 - "In Focus," a photography exhibit through Feb. 28. 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac. (248) 858-0415.
PAINTEER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Opens Friday, Jan. 21 - "Views from the Landscape" through Feb. 19, 407 Pine Street, Rochester. (248) 651-4110.
DAVID KLEIN GALLERY
"Minotaur & Models: Important Intaglio Prints from Pablo Picasso's La Suite Vollard" through Feb. 26, 163 Townsend, Birmingham. (248) 433-3702.
ANN ARBOR ART CENTER GALLERY
"Collective Memories," a group of artists Linda Sperman and Jennifer Martin through Feb. 19 at 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 994-8004.
Through Feb. 5 - Mary Silk: The New Millennium, 2800 S. Rochester, Rochester Hills. (248) 544-1203.
ALFRED BERKOWITZ GALLERY
Through Feb. 14 - Diversity: Focus on Indiana University of Dearborn campus, Mardian Library, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn. (313) 593-5058.
BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER
Through Jan. 28 - Exhibition 2000: The Lens of My Soul: The Photography of Equilla Slaughter, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield. (248) 945-0470.
WASHINGTON STREET GALLERY
Through Feb. 5 - Bev Walker: The Light Beyond, 215 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 761-2287.
VOLUNTEERS
ANIMATION NETWORK CLUB
Looking for artists such as animators or composers who would like to be featured on cable. For more information, contact Jane Dabish, president, P.O. Box 251651, West Bloomfield, Mich. 48325-1651. (248) 626-2285.
DOCEET TRAINING BEGINS AT 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24 with a presentation about Cranbrook and its storied history. Training continues through March 27 with lectures by various Cranbrook experts. 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. For information about doceets, call Jeanne Maglio at (248) 645-3314 or Rob Saarnik at (248) 645-3733.
DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Gallery Service volunteers to greet and assist visitors in museum galleries. Training sessions at the DIA, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 833-0247.
FAR CONSERVATORY
Needs volunteers to assist with lecture, exhibit and the public's arts programs for infants through adults with disabilities, weekdays, evenings, Saturdays. (248) 646-3347.
LIVONIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Greenwood Historic Village seeks volunteers to assist in school tours, Sunday tours, special events, special projects and gardening. The village, at East and Newburgh roads in Livonia, is open in October and December. (734) 477-7375.
MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND
Seeks volunteers to help with non-performing activities. Contact MCBB, Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road. (248) 349-0376 or http://www.mcbb.org
THEATER
"Prisoner of Sol and Avenue" show dates: Jan. 19-23, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday in the Aaron Delta Theatre, lower level of Jewish Community Center, 6900 W. Maple Road at Drake, West Bloomfield. \$15-\$25. (248) 788-2900.
MEADOW BROOK THEATRE
"Dangerous Obsession" continues to Sunday, Jan. 30 at the theater on the campus of Oakland University. Rochester. \$24-\$35. (248) 477-3300.
ST. DUNSTON'S THEATRE GUILD OF CRANBROOK
"The Foreigner," a comedy by Larry Shul, Jan. 21-22 at 8 p.m., Jan. 23 at 2 p.m., and Jan. 27-29 at 8 p.m. at 400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. \$10-12. (248) 644-0527.
VILLAGE PLAYERS
Opens Jan. 21-23, 28-30 and Feb. 4-5. Ticket prices \$18-\$25. Performance begins 7:30 and under 15:20 Chestnut, Birmingham. (248) 644-2075.

Table with movie listings including titles like 'National Announcements', 'Showcase Cinema', 'The Green Mile', 'The Talented Mr. Ripley', etc.

'Boy Soldier' offers insight from draftee's perspective

'Boy Soldier: Coming of Age during World War II' by Russell B. McLogan. Terrus Press, 1998, \$29.98.



For most people who have lived through a turbulent era, there is a time to forget and a time to remember. When nightmares have ceased and lives are on the mend...

After spending 89 days in military hospitals, McLogan returned to duty as part of the army of occupation in Korea. When he finally got back to Detroit, the 19-year-old soldier...

BOOK HAPPENINGS section listing various events like 'Book Happenings features events at suburban bookstores', 'BOOK DISCUSSIONS', 'STORYTIMES', etc.

Auto from page C2

The cost is \$60. For more information, call (734) 462-4446. The class presents a comprehensive look at the history and culture of this fascinating and complex country.

Auto from page C2

Volvo for its display. 'Volvo for Life.' That's right. Forget about mpg, safety and cost. Volvo promises to transform your life.

The image of a deliciously happy family driving along abandoned highways apparently captures the meaning of fun, family, caring and excitement.



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TRAVEL

Living well at Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE
SPECIAL WRITER

At Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires, which stands midway between New York City and Boston, it's exotic to be from the Midwest.

"You came all the way from Detroit?" is the standard response of its East Coast, heavily New York clientele. They are incredulous when you tell them that by taking the 7:05 a.m. flight to Albany, you can be at "the Ranch" in time to make an 11 a.m. aerobics class, have lunch, and join an afternoon bike ride.

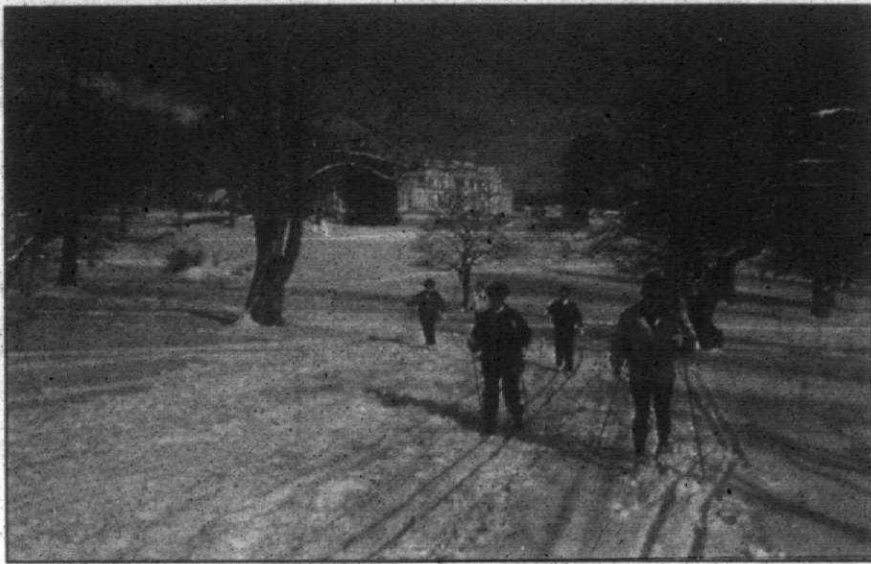
In fact, once Canyon Ranch opened in Lenox, Mass., in 1989, I never returned to the original Canyon Ranch in Tucson, Ariz. I look forward to spending several days each year at its accessible, elegant sister spa, named the best in the world by the readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine.

Part of its allure is the setting — the former Bellefontaine (beautiful fountain) Mansion — built in 1897 as a replica of Louis XVI's Petit Trianon in Versailles, France. As the summer home of New York millionaire Giraud Foster, it was known for its fountains and statuary. Unfortunately, the statuary was reportedly plowed under as pagan symbols by the religious order that bought the property at auction in 1946. And a fire gutted the main building two years later, with just the library surviving.

The mansion and gardens have been painstakingly restored, new fountains installed, and the integrity of the original architecture maintained even as a spa and facilities to house and feed 300 guests were added. It definitely retains a sense of its past grandeur.

I've experienced Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires every season except summer. Winter is my favorite.

Picture relaxing in a hot tub in a luxurious glassed-in marble



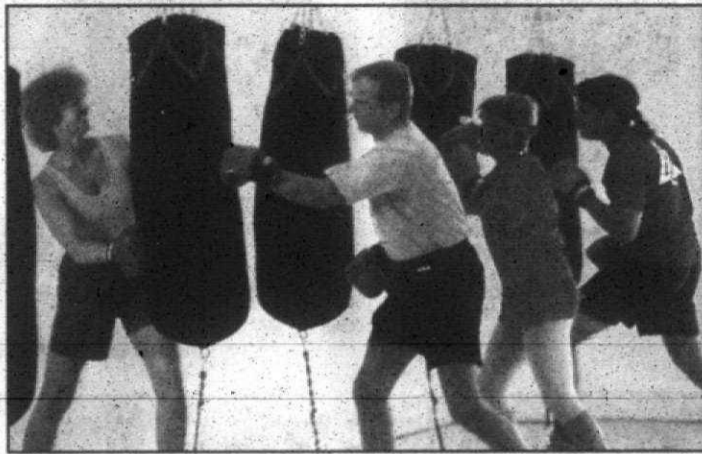
spa looking out at the snow-covered Berkshire Mountains. Picture pole-walking along the snow-crust paths surrounding the storied mansion. Picture evenings before a roaring fire, in the mansion's original library or snuggled up in your own well-appointed room.

The atmosphere is eastern and elegant, but don't get me wrong — people still sweat and wear sweats. Everyone works out at his own level — and workout clothes are suitable, even at dinner, unless you choose to "dress up" in pants or jeans and a sweater.

I found that four days and three nights add up to a perfect ranch stay. It's long enough to make a difference in your attitude and fitness, but not so long that you can't keep up the pace you've set for yourself.

The idea is to nurture your spirit as well as your body. Included in your package are two services such as a shiatsu massage and an herbal body wrap, and a health-and-healing session. This is your opportunity to try acupuncture or bio-feedback, have your bone density tested or consult with a nutrition specialist.

In fact, I've experienced a



Indoor exercise: The action — and sweat — are just as real inside.

number of firsts at Canyon Ranch. I tried spinning, tai boxing and double step there, well ahead of when metro Detroit's gyms and sports clubs offered them.

Each day begins with a dilemma — should you get up to take one of the early morning walks. In winter, it's particularly daunting since it's both cold and dark. These are not ambling, leisurely kinds of walks, these

Outdoor exercise: If you like the snow, Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires offers cross country skiing to firm you, trim you and let your mind relax.

are WALKS — the fastest and longest, 45 minutes at a 10-11 minute per mile pace.

cool down by stretching on the verandah overlooking the surrounding pastures, forests and mountains. Then it's into the elegant dining room, where you can choose from a wide assortment of morning foods. I'm not a breakfast eater, but I can't resist the fresh fruit and warm muffins that you help yourself to — marked with the calories and fat grams contained. Each day also features a breakfast special such as banana bread French toast (385 calories, 7 fat grams), maple walnut crusted oatmeal (365 calories, 8 fat grams) or vegetable and cheese frittata (85 calories, 3 fat grams).

Meals are, as you might guess, a highlight. The food is sophisticated, healthful — and delicious. It's included in your package, so you can have as much or as little as you want. Of course, many people come to drop a couple of pounds. It's not that hard when you can choose a grilled portobello sandwich with peppers and Wasabi mayonnaise (315 calories and 5 fat grams) for lunch or chicken satay with spicy peanut sauce (290 calories and 5 fat grams) for dinner.

When I first began going to the Tucson ranch, alcohol, caffeine and substitute sugar products (including my beloved Diet Coke) were banned. When the Lenox ranch opened, as the story goes, the clientele didn't put up with that. So now you can ask for — and get — caffeinated teas and coffee, and substitutes for sugar. However alcohol is not served — nor Diet Coke! And don't even think about smoking.

In winter, or on rainy days in other seasons, you can spend fully satisfactory days without going outside. Climate-controlled, glass-enclosed walkways connect all facilities. You can take a wide variety of aerobics, weight, conditioning, stretch and yoga classes. A gym to die for, glassed-in swimming pool, indoor tennis and volleyball

courts, and indoor track (although they don't encourage running) are other diversions. And of course the spa offers sauna, steam, whirl pools and an icy dip pool — and as often as not a glimpse of Mary Tyler Moore, Joanne Woodward or Calista Flockhart waiting in their white terry robes for a massage.

For me, the most exciting part of Canyon Ranch is hiking in the Berkshire Mountains. Some hikes take in sections of the Appalachian Trail, so you actually get a sense of that 2,100-mile walk through America's woodlands that runs from Georgia to Maine. Many of the hikes are not for the faint of heart, and it's important not to overrate your ability.

They are ranked from 1 to 6 in order of ascending difficulty. Hikes go on in even in winter, as long as it isn't icy. When there's enough snow, cross country and downhill skiing are also offered.

Night-time activities, if you can stay awake for them, can be a seminar to improve your golf game or your relationship with your mother or daughter. Many are given by visiting experts.

Men make up about a fourth of the guests. My husband, frankly, would not enjoy it. So I go with female friends or with one of my daughters. It helps that they offer a half-price special for any child older than 14. It also is an easy place to go as a single person.

Canyon Ranch is a pricey vacation. Some area travel agents put together a Monday-Thursday package at a discounted rate. It's worth checking out. If you decide to go, be prepared to respond to: "You came all the way from Detroit?"

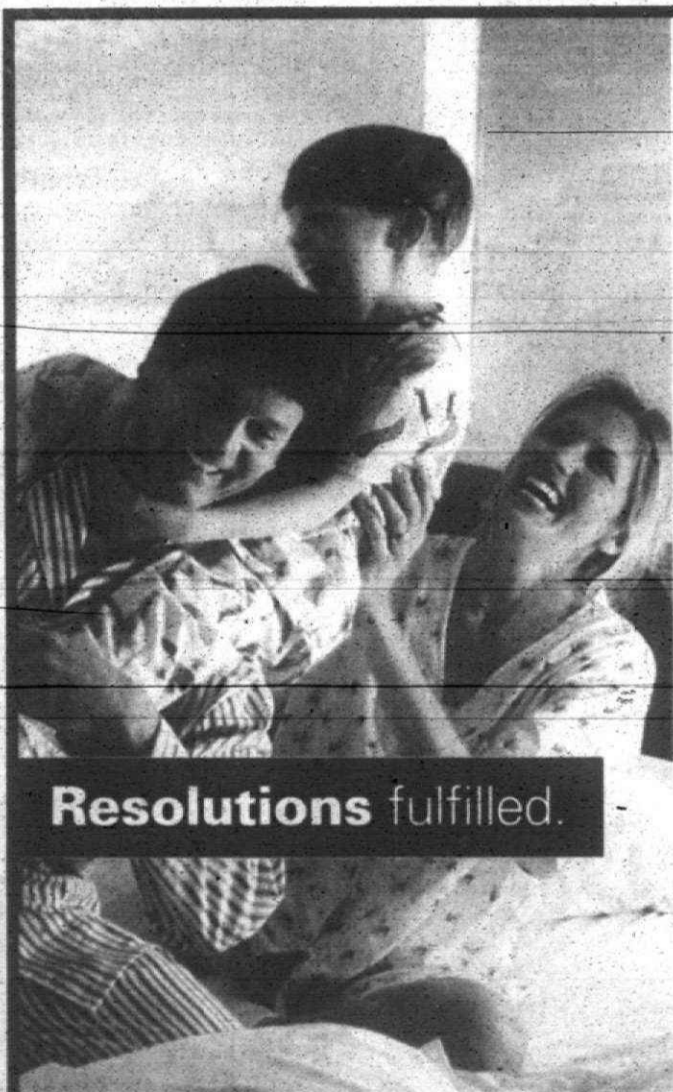
- Destination: Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires
- Location: Lenox, Mass.
- Information: (800) 742-9000

Got a good idea for a travel story?

We are looking for stories and pictures about people who love to travel.

- Have you been to any faraway places?
- Been to places a day's drive from southeastern Michigan?
- Had any funny, unusual or adventurous travel experiences?
- Gone on any notable cruises or group tours?

If so, tell us about it by contacting assistant managing editor/Observer features Keely Wygonik by phone at (734) 953-2105; by fax at (734) 591-7279; by e-mail at kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net



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*Rates are valid now through 12/31/00. Day of week availability and stay requirements vary by hotel. Rates subject to change without notice. Early check-out subject to payment of higher rate or early departure fee. Kids 18 and under stay free in their parents' or grandparents' room. Beverage reception included in suite price, subject to state and local laws. Limited availability; advance booking required. Rates exclusive of tax and gratuities and do not apply to groups or to other offers. Other restrictions apply. ©2000 Hilton Hotels.

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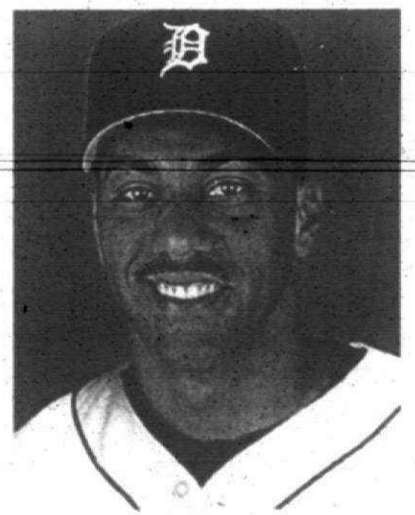
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*Subject to change

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TigerFest 2000



HOME SENSE



LOIS THIELEKE

Baked, mashed, or fried, potatoes are number one

Potatoes are the number one vegetable in the U.S. The average person consumes about 132 pounds of potatoes a year. Fifty pounds of that is fresh potatoes and 82 pounds is in the form of chips, or other products.

A potato has more potassium than a banana, 610 mg, compared to 450 mg. Potassium is a mineral that helps regulate your heart beat and may lower blood pressure. Potatoes are also one of the most economical sources of vitamin C, vitamin B6, magnesium, folacin, copper, iron, and other trace elements. A medium size potato is about 110 calories without butter or sour cream.

Cooking tips

- For creamier mashed potatoes, use all-purpose red potatoes.
- For fluffier mashed potatoes, use russets.
- For flavorful potatoes, substitute chicken broth or milk for half the cooking water.
- Simmer, don't boil potatoes or they may become soggy. Cook until just tender.
- Heat liquid before adding to the mashed potatoes. This helps prevent them from becoming "gluey."
- Leave a few lumps in the mashed potatoes so people will know they are made from scratch.
- Brown the top of mashed potatoes by putting them in a casserole, dotting with butter and broiling for a few minutes.
- To make fluffy mashed potatoes ahead of time, put mashed potatoes into a microwave container to cool. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate up to two days. Microwave to reheat when you are ready to serve them. Keep covered but vented to let steam escape. Stir half way during the heating process.
- Thicken soups with pureed cooked potatoes instead of cream. Leftover mashed potatoes added to soup gives it body and additional nutrients.
- To bake potatoes in a hurry, preboil the potatoes for five minutes before putting them in the oven at 375 degrees F or put an aluminum skewer through them to bake. Either way, it speeds up the baking time by 15-20 minutes.
- The secret to great french fries is to peel and cut and soak the potatoes in cold water for at least an hour before frying. The water removes some of the starch and will make the fries crispier.
- Put peeled potatoes in a bowl of cold water or they will turn brown before you boil them.
- Always cut potatoes into uniform sizes so they cook evenly without getting mushy.
- For a tasty treat, add Parmesan cheese or crumbled bacon to mashed potatoes, or pizza sauce, or top with sesame seeds, horseradish, blue cheese, pickled beets, Italian dressing, or anything else you can think of.
- Don't drown potatoes when cooking, use a heavy saucepan with a tight fitting lid and only about one-inch of water.
- To get the most nutrients from a baked potato, eat the skin too. Ounce for ounce, the skin has more fiber, iron, potassium and B vitamins than the flesh.
- Wet potato skins to keep them crispy. Place potatoes in a hot oven 375 degrees F and bake one hour for twice baked potatoes. Add yogurt or skim milk and fat-free butter spray to the mashed potatoes before putting back into the skin. Top with lots of scallions to reheat.

Please see SENSE, D2

LOOKING AHEAD

- What to watch for in Taste next week:
- Recipe to share
 - Winter warm-ups

COACH YOUR OWN

Super Bowl PARTY

STORY BY KEELY WYGONIK

The Game Plan

One to two weeks ahead:

- Prepare invitations
- Create a trivia game. Ask computer-savvy family members and friends to search for trivia on various NFL and Super Bowl Web sites.
- Consider prizes such as NFL car flags, T-shirts, or bobbing head dolls.

One week ahead:

- Plan menu; make grocery list
- Buy non-perishable items such as snacks, nuts, olives, salsa, canned goods and beverages.
- Purchase paper goods, plastic glasses, utensils and table decor in team colors, or football theme.

Friday/Saturday before the game:

- Buy perishables such as fresh vegetables, salad greens, dips.
- Make chili and other items that can be prepared ahead of time.
- Get out cooler, serving platters and utensils, set buffet table
- Prepare and refrigerate crisp vegetable relishes - carrots, celery, green pepper strips, cauliflower, etc.

Party day:

- An hour before kick-off, chill beverages; begin to set out snacks in TV room.
- Prior to halftime, reheat chili and other main courses, toss salad, bring food to table.
- For halftime or after-the-game, set out desserts, bring to table, make coffee.

Information supplied by Sargento Foods Inc.

Super Bowl XXXIV at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta promises to be a spectacular event.

Super Bowl Sunday, Jan. 30, is a big day for informal entertaining. It's become traditional to round up a group of friends, put out a meal of casual food such as chili, pizza, sandwiches or lasagna, and gather around the TV to cheer for your favorite team.

Super Bowl XXXIV at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta promises to be a spectacular event. An estimated 130 million Americans watched the game last year.

ABC is broadcasting the big game beginning at 6 p.m. For a behind-the-scenes peek at what's scheduled, visit the Super Bowl Web site www.SuperBowl.com

You'll learn all sorts of interesting things such as the Super Bowl is the top at-home party event of the year, surpassing New Year's Eve, according to Hallmark Cards Inc.

The American Institute of Food Distribution reports Super Bowl Sunday is the second largest day of food consumption behind only Thanksgiving. An estimated 14,500 tons of chips and 4,000 tons of popcorn and eight million pounds of guacamole are eaten on Super Bowl Sunday.

It's time to develop a strategy so that you can enjoy the game with

guests and not spend all your time running to the kitchen.

Oh, and here's a couple more things I learned while visiting the Super Bowl Web site that you'll want to keep in mind as you plan your party - 6 percent of Americans will call in sick the day after Super Bowl Sunday. Fifty-four percent of all Americans will drink coffee the morning after, and Super Bowl weekend is the slowest weekend for weddings.

"The Super Bowl becomes like two parties," said Chef Kevin Enright, a culinary arts instructor at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. "People go into different rooms. The women visit in one room while the men watch the game. You almost have to have little buffets."

Enright's game is hockey, but if he were hosting a Super Bowl party he'd serve something hearty such as roast brisket of beef with roasted potatoes, parsnips and carrots.

Another option is a black bean casserole with tomato salsa, or navy bean soup, some smoked chicken or

turkey, and an assortment of cold cuts including some nice salami and salads.

"You might want to consider fajitas, which people can make themselves," said Enright. You supply the fillings and toppings. Barbecue chicken or beef for the fajitas. When it snows Enright shovels a path to his gas grill which he uses year-round.

"Don't try to please everyone," he suggests. "Make foods you like and are familiar with. A party is an opportunity to learn something new, try one new dish. Chefs do that, too."

With three boys and a husband who love football, Ginger Broome of Canton is already thinking about Super Bowl Sunday. "I'm in the kitchen cooking while they're watching TV," she said.

When asked how she would get

Please see PARTY, D2

Alsace produces flavorful yet puzzling whites

Alsace, the eastern French wine region bordering Germany, produces the world's most flavorful white wines. Yet, many people are puzzled by them.

These wines are easy to understand and easy to like if you think of them as a unique combination of French and German.

The tall green German-style bottles and Germanic grape varietal names such as riesling and gewurztraminer are complemented by French winemaking techniques and another set of soft-sounding French grape varieties such as pinot blanc and pinot gris. Make no mistake, they are all French wines.

A long, rich history of wine grapes helps explain the region's splendid cultural mix that has produced wine since the sixth century. By the end of the 16th century, white grapes such as riesling, pinot gris, muscat, pinot blanc and pinot noir, a lone red, were the favored grape varietals. They remain so today.

F.E. Trimbach

The Alsace region's best known wines, those

of F.E. Trimbach, date back to a founding in 1626. Over the years, the Trimbach family secured extensive vineyard holdings in the village of Ribeauvillé. Today, Hubert Trimbach and his older brother Bernard, along with Bernard's sons, Pierre and Jean, are the 11th and 12th generation family members guiding the largest and most-widely-recognized Alsace brand in the U.S.

"While appreciated by people who have discovered them, Alsace wines are largely overlooked in the U.S.," noted Hubert Trimbach during his recent visit to metro Detroit. "In part, it's the confusion about whether Alsace wines are French or German. Add the fact that it was only after the end of World War II that the wines were able to be sold out of the region, and it's easy to understand why."

Alsace style

Trimbach went on to explain the style of his family's wines. "First, they are food friendly. All wines are fermented to dry-

ness. Their natural fruit acidity, without malolactic fermentation, keeps them fresh and long-lived. Without oak aging, they retain vitality and the essence of grape character."

The Trimbach philosophy is to hold the wines at least a year before they are released to market. In the case of single-vineyard cuvées, the wines are not released until four or five years after harvest. This major investment in inventory by the Trimbachs benefits consumers by ensuring that the wines are well-aged before they are enjoyed.

While it is customary to consider red wines with heartier winter dishes, we're suggesting an about face - white wines of Alsace to accompany winter squash soups, smoked ham and lentil soup, well-spiced crusted fish, roast chicken, and every Asian-influenced dish that comes to mind.

Sampling

Just a note: the 1997 vintage may prove to be the greatest in Alsace since 1949. Big wines with huge extract.

■ 1997 Trimbach Pinot Blanc \$14 is a perfect aperitif with fruit, light cheese or phyllo dough stuffed with cheese or veggies.

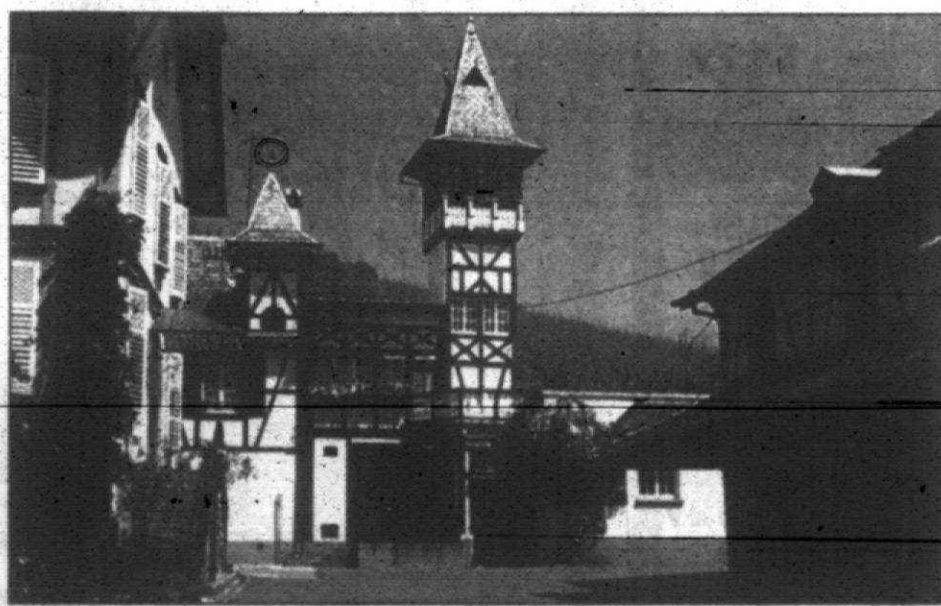
■ 1997 Trimbach Gewurztraminer \$19 with its citrus and grapefruit zest notes could be served as an aperitif, but better with a winter soup brimming with brown spices, such as cinnamon, clove and nutmeg.

■ 1997 Trimbach Pinot Gris Reserve \$19 has not only generous flavors, but great weight and length to accompany paté, salmon, scallops or roast chicken.

■ 1995 Trimbach Riesling \$19 with distinct lime and mineral notes has more balanced acidity than dry German rieslings. Delicate and refined, it's a best bet with any seafood or an onion tart.

■ 1995 Trimbach Riesling Cuvée Frederick Emile \$34 is what Alsace riesling is all about. It showcases not only fabulous complexity, but the uniqueness of its region of origin.

Look for Focus on Wine on the first and third Sunday of the month in Taste. If you organize or belong to a local wine club, we'd like to interview you. Please phone us by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864. Speaking clearly, leave your name, telephone number and best time to phone you.



Winery: The F.E. Trimbach winery in the Alsace village of Ribeauvillé, France was founded in 1626.

Wine Picks

■ **Picks of the pack:** 1997 Joseph Phelps Ovation Chardonnay, a class act at \$40; 1997 Ferrari-Carano Siena, a full-flavored red at \$28; and full-bodied 1997 Pine Ridge Carneros Merlot \$42.

■ **Start a wine cellar with the picks of the pack and add:** 1996 Clos du Bois Marlstone \$30 and 1997 Antinori Peppoli Chianti Classico \$20.

■ **Great whites at \$20 and under:** 1998 Chateau de la Ragotiere Muscadet Sevre et Maine \$13.50 (great with seafood); 1998 Clos du Bois Chardonnay Reserve \$16; and Ferrari-Carano Reserve Fumé \$18.

■ **Great reds at \$20 and under:** 1997 Geyser Peak Zinfandel \$16; 1997 Villa Mt. Eden Pinot Noir \$12; and 1997 Beringer Founder's Estate Merlot \$11.

■ **Real deals:** Carramar Estate Merlot and Shiraz from Australia, both \$10 and 1999 Alexander Valley Vineyards New Gewurz, an off-dry taste treat at \$9.

Datebook from page D4

tors will learn basic academic and practical application of teaching group exercise. No college, science or teaching background required. Workshop registration includes a full day review, written exam, 2-year certificate and membership. Class begins at 8:30 a.m. at Complete Health & Fitness, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. Call 800 AEROBIC to register. Space is limited.

WEIGHT CONTROL
Novi Park: Providence Medical Center, 47601 Grand River (Beck Road entrance) will host the weight control program from 1-3 p.m. To register call (877) 345-5500.

SMOKING CESSATION
A stop smoking program will be held at Providence Medical Center - Providence Park at 47601 Grand River (Beck Road entrance) from 10 a.m. to noon. Call (877) 345-5500 to register.

SUNDAY, JAN. 23

LIFESTYLE/WEIGHT MGT.
Review the basic tenets of good nutritional habits and safe weight loss techniques. Practice the art of communication and group facilitation through education, lecture and role playing. Class begins at 12:30 p.m. at Complete Health & Fitness, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. Call 800 AEROBIC to register. Space is limited.

STEP WORKSHOP
This workshop will concentrate on choreography building techniques and fresh ideas as well as a review of the fundamentals and an update on the latest research. Class begins at 8:30 a.m. at Complete Health & Fitness, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. Call 800-AEROBIC to register. Space is limited.

TUE, JAN. 25

BREASTFEEDING CLASS

A one session class providing information to expectant parents on the many positive benefits of breastfeeding. Class meets at 6 p.m. Call (734) 458-4330.

LIVING WITH DIABETES

"Taking Charge of Living with Diabetes." Jan. 25-Feb. 17, from 7-9 p.m. Call (734) 655-8940.

CPR RECERTIFICATION

This course is designed for healthcare professionals who hold a current Healthcare Provider Card issued by the American Heart Association or Red Cross. \$25. Class runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mission Health Medical Center - Livonia. To register call (877) 345-5500.

WED, JAN. 26

NEWBORN CARE

A two session class meets at 6 p.m. Designed to help expectant parents learn about their baby's needs. The second session

includes Child & Infant CPR conducted by American Heart Association instructors. Registration required. Call 458-4330.

WOMEN AND DEPRESSION

A mental health professional explains how to identify the signs, symptoms and causes of depression and explores treatment options in this free program. To be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Mercy Health System's Education Center Ann Arbor. Call (734) 712-5400 to register.

HELP WITH FOOD

"Food for Thought - Calories, How Much, What Kind, Portion Sizes," from 7-8 p.m. at the Bentley Center in Livonia. Call (734) 655-8940.

SMOKING CESSATION

Providence Medical Center in Livonia will host a stop smoking program from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 37595 Seven Mile Road at Newburgh. Call (877) 345-5500 to register.

THUR, JAN. 27

WEIGHT CONTROL
Providence Medical Center - Livonia: Mission Health Medical Center, 37595 Seven Mile Road at Newburgh will host the weight control program from 3-5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Call (877) 345-5500.

HEARTBURN

Heartburn: Put out the fire. "Treatments for Chronic Heartburn," will be offered from 7-8:30 p.m. This program provides an overview of gastroesophageal reflux, otherwise known as heartburn, including diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment. To register call (877) 345-5500.

FRI, JAN. 28

PSYCHOLOGY COURSE

Madonna University will offer a psychology workshop during the winter term "Psychological

Issues in Child Abuse and Neglect," from 6-10 p.m. and will conclude Feb. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the workshop examines why child abuse and neglect occur, who perpetrates such acts, the short and long term effects of child abuse and neglect and the various treatment strategies employed with abused children. The non-credit fee is \$1000. Call (734) 432-5731 to register.

SAT, JAN 29

TURNING POINTS CONFERENCE
Oakwood's Turning Points Conference will focus on the important of a healthy attitude (Feeling Magnificent: A New Attitude for the New Millennium) at the Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Blvd. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at a cost of \$30 per participant. The conference will feature keynote speaker Liz Curtis Higgs, an Encourager®. Call (800) 543-WELL to register.

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DENTISTRY

For The 21st Century
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.
GOOD TEETH MEAN LONGER LIFE

A study by Italian researchers involving people between ages 70 and 75 years indicates that oral health may be a marker for longevity. The study participants were divided into three groups: those with good natural teeth, those who wore dentures, and those with poor dental health. The subjects were tracked for ten years to study the impact of oral health on survival. It was found that people with good teeth, natural or artificial, were more independent and functioned at a higher level than their peers with poor teeth. They also enjoyed better social relationships and happier moods. Moreover, while only 33% of the people with good teeth died during the study, 48% of the people with poor teeth did.

This study confirms once again that good oral healthcare is important for your overall good health. When is the last time you had a comprehensive dental examination? At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, we make every effort to see your promptly and listen to your concerns and needs. Keeping you healthy and happy is our first concern. We will let you know about new procedures and technologies and what they can do for you. For dental care that will take you into the next millennium, call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road. Smiles are our business.

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P.S. Poor oral health can adversely affect overall health by interfering with chewing and swallowing.

LEGAL SENSE

By Mark Slavens, P.C.
Attorney at Law

IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR ACCIDENT

People who are involved in auto-mobile accidents are advised simply to exchange factual information at the scene of the accident. After that, they should consult with a lawyer about their cases. Under no circumstances should they talk with insurance representatives for other individuals involved in the accident. They should never sign anything. Insurers may try to contact accident victims personally, or through the mail, in an attempt to deal with them before they hire attorneys. The insurers' goal is to lower overall claims costs by cutting attorneys out of the settlement. All this

may be done under the guise of "helping with expenses," but accident victims are urged to resist these appeals until they have talked with their own lawyers.

It is important to talk to an attorney soon after an accident so that all pertinent evidence can be gathered and all parties deposed while the facts are still fresh in the mind of both the victim and any corroborating witnesses. Rushing to accept an immediate settlement may also mean waiving your right to be compensated for injuries or damages that are not immediately evident.

HINT: After you have been involved in an accident, consult with a lawyer with an eye toward understanding the legal aspects of your case and getting the best possible settlement with the help of someone who has experience in doing so.

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