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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 13

IN THE PAPER **TODAY**

CLARKSTON LIFE

In the spirit: Special education students become involved in the Meals on Wheels program to help area seniors. / A7

SPORTS

Best of the rest: Rochester Adams was the runaway winner, but Clarkston earned five individual titles to finish well ahead of third-place Milford in Saturday's Oakland County wrestling meet. / B1

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CLARKSTON

I hope you all enjoyed last week's quiz. Here are the answers. We'll announce the winner next week.

Montgomery Ward was the department store which distributed copies of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer to the children of all its customers.

The Ever-Ready company pioneered the manufacture and marketing of ready-made Christmas lights for decorating.

The poinsettia is native to Mexico.

Mistletoe was used by ancient people as a cure for sickness.

The ancient Romans exchanged gifts on the feast of Saturnalia, in honor of their god Saturn.

Caroling was originally a ring dance that pagan peoples used to celebrate the winter solstice, when days began to grow longer again rather than shorter.

German lugels are Christmas ornaments.

The Puritans were the early American group which banned Christmas in 1659, correctly tracing its pagan roots as a celebration of the winter solstice. Since Christ's birthday was unknown, early Christians chose an existing pagan holiday to replace with a celebration of Christ's birth.

Legend says the name "Father Christmas" was derived from the Norse god Odin.

It was Jo March, in the book Little Women who said "Christmas just won't be Christmas without any presents." In the spirit of giving, though, she and her sisters take their Christmas dinner to the family down the lane, knowing that they needed it more than the March family.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Vintage Clarkston is written by Kim Huttonlocher, vice-president of the Clarkston Community Historical Society.



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Thursday
December 24, 1998

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Seasonal businesses endure lack of snow



The late-arriving cold weather may have been a welcome relief for motorists, but businesses that depend on brisk temperatures and lots of snowfall have been forced to make ends meet without their most important winter time asset.

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

The virtual absence of snow during the past two months may have eased the transition to winter time — not to mention many people's Christmas shopping — but some local businesses depend on chilly conditions for survival.

"All we need is cold, and that's one

thing we haven't had this year," said Mary Dawson of Pine Knob Ski Resort, a local business directly tied to snowfall levels, but able to compensate by making artificial snow, provided that temperatures fall into the 20s.

Pine Knob opened for business Dec. 18 — the latest opening ever for the local ski resort, Dawson said.

As of Dec. 21, the ski resort had a

variable base of 12 inches and was

preparing to make more snow in hopes of attracting skiers and snowboarders during the holiday weekend.

Last year's opening was Dec. 11, and the ski resort has opened as early as Nov. 8.

Pine Knob Ski Resort typically opens for business in late November or early December, Dawson said.

While this year's opening is the latest ever, Dawson and others at Pine Knob are still optimistic about this season's profits.

"If you're not open, you're not making money, but we certainly don't have a negative attitude yet," she said. "We're looking for a good year. One good weekend can make up for one or two weeks

of being closed. "We consider this the calm before the storm," she said, no pun intended.

Also, the ski resort has been able to keep all of its full-time employees busy, and recently called many seasonal, part-time employees to work, Dawson said.

Likewise, other seasonal businesses in the Clarkston area seem to have the matter under control.

For example, Clarkston Asphalt Paving, which has long been plowing snow for such local businesses as Cherry Hill Lanes North bowling alley on Dixie Highway and Clarkston Pharma-

Please see SNOW, A2



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEVE CANTRELL

An en-deer-ing quality: First grade students in Carol Richard's class at Bailey Lake Elementary School sport their reindeer hats at the holiday party. The original glitter-cardboard creations were just one activity at the much-anticipated celebration.

Dressing up the holidays

Festive event lives up to advanced billing for grade schoolers



Treated to holiday cheer: First grader Lexie Kosik enjoyed a cookie with green icing at the Bailey Lake holiday party.

Bailey Lake Elementary students shared a special holiday party Monday. Children enjoyed treats, played games and engaged in holiday activities. First-grade teacher Carol Richard said, "They talked about it all week. They had a great time."



Nice enough to eat: Second grader Patrick McGinnis hangs a string of popcorn and birdseed garland on a tree outside Bailey Lake Elementary.



Noses are red, violets are blue: Jenna Coates, a first grade student at Bailey Lake, shows off her hand-made reindeer cap and red nose during the holiday festivities.

8-car accident snare local traffic for hours

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

Independence Township police were called to scene of more than 10 accidents due to icy conditions last Friday and Saturday.

Vehicles traveling around the Clarkston area slid into trees, mailboxes, road signs and other vehicles. Though most were described as "fender-benders," one Saturday afternoon accident at the intersection of Dixie Highway and

White Lake Road involved eight vehicles, 10 people, and disrupted traffic for more than four hours.

At 3:30 p.m., a white 1991 GMC Safari traveling southbound on Dixie Highway struck a white Buick, propelling it into a third vehicle, a gray Chevrolet. Then, the Buick slid into the northbound lane and hit another vehicle, a green Dodge, which struck the red Oldsmobile to its right.

Meanwhile, the Safari which initially made contact, continued southbound

toward White Lake Road where it collided with a Blue Geo traveling east on White Lake Road. The Geo spun around and hit two other vehicles which were behind it, also traveling eastbound.

The driver of the Safari was a 33-year-old Clarkston man. He had no passengers. The driver suffered a closed-head injury, several lacerations, and a collapsed right lung, according to police reports. He is in the intensive care unit, in critical condition, at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

Police are seeking an arrest warrant from the Oakland County Prosecutor's office. Deputy Thomas Poulin of the Oakland County Crash Reconstruction Unit said alcohol was "definitely" a factor in the accident.

According to police reports, the Safari driver crossed the line on the road before he hit a 1992 white Buick driven by John J. Obrien of Flushing. Obrien, 47, had one passenger, Sean Obrien, age 14. Both men were transported by

Please see ACCIDENT, A2

Snow from page A1

on Main Street, simply took advantage of the warm weather. Rather than worrying about sales, the company continued to schedule and do paving projects through December, said Michelle Detkowsky, office manager at the company.

Since heavy snowfall typically doesn't hit until January, the weather hasn't substantially affected Clarkston Asphalt's plowing business, Detkowsky said. Besides, additional paving jobs easily made up for any losses.

■ 'People have been buying golf equipment up through last week.'

Brian Gerber
Excalibur Golf and Snow

Similarly, Excalibur Golf and Snow on Dixie Highway in Springfield Township has been selling golf balls and other golf equipment, rather than snowboards and related gear, said Brian Gerber, the store's co-owner.

"People have been buying golf equipment up through last week," Gerber said, adding that many customers only put away their golf clubs a few days ago.

"The weather definitely has some effect. We would have liked to have moved more snowboards and other equipment than we have," Gerber said.

The toboggan run at Waterford Oaks Park, which has not yet opened, isn't a business but was conceived as a substitute activity for winter sports fans when snow is in short supply, said Jan Pung, communications officer for Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

With snowfall levels seemingly on the decline over the past several years, parks officials decided a refrigerated toboggan run might make for a popular stand-in, she said.

However, temperatures have been too high to make ice, said Pung. In its fourth season, it's hoped the 1,000-foot run will be open Dec. 26 just in time for the holiday weekend. "Actually, the week after Christmas is one of our busiest weeks," she said.

Charter Township of Springfield

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

December 10, 1998

SYNOPSIS

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 P.M. by Supervisor walls.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved minutes of October 27, 1998, Special Meeting and November 12, 1998 regular Meeting as presented
- Accepted November Treasurer's report
- Accepted November reports: Building Dept., Litigation, Fire Dept. and Ordinance Officer
- Authorized payment of bills
- Established 2nd Thursday/month at 7:30 PM for 1999 Township Board meetings
- Approved appointments to Clarkston Area Youth Assistance Board meetings
- Re-appointed members to Board of Review for 2 year term
- Authorized collection of 1998 Winter taxes and waiver of interest and penalties for qualifying individuals
- Adopted policy regarding computer generated information and records
- Authorized attendance at MTA convention and set budget
- Set 1999 Holiday Schedule
- Authorized Clerk and Supervisor to sign contract extension for transportation services
- Approved 1999 Board of Review Property Tax Exemption Standards
- Received communications and place on file

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consumers Energy Franchise - First Reading: Authorized Clerk to publish for Second Reading
2. Architectural Services Agreement: Authorized Supervisor, Clerk and Attorney to negotiate contract with Yamashiki Associates for subsequent review and approval by Township Board
3. Authorized participation in 1999 Gypsy Moth Program

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Zoning Ordinance Amendments, First Reading: Article II, Section 2.00 definition of building height; Article XXV, Section 25.00, schedule of regulations, height changes; Article XIV Planned Unit Development District: Authorized Clerk to publish for Second Reading
2. Established 1999 Salaries and wage rates; authorized hiring full-time Fire Chief
3. Authorized 1998 Audit Agreement

Dixie Highway

- a) Authorized committing 3 years Tri Party funds to Dixie Highway improvements
- b) Authorized Dixie Highway corridor plan, not to exceed \$20,000
5. Amended budgets for General, Fire, Police, Cable and Parks funds and authorized transfers
6. Authorized purchase of Assessing software upgrade
7. Authorized submission of pre-proposal grant application of US/EPA

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

10:17 p.m.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk

Published December 24, 1998

Editorial Staff

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at its Regular Meeting on Monday, January 18, 1999, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, Michigan, to receive comments related to the following proposed amendment, regarding Bed and Breakfast accommodations, to Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance No. 26:

1. Delete from the Definitions Section Article II, Section 2.00 the following terms: **BOARDING HOUSE, LODGING HOUSE, and ROOMING HOUSE.**

2. Add to the Definitions Section, Article II, Section 2.00:

BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION: means a one-family dwelling that is occupied and used by the owner as a principal residence while also providing overnight lodging for transient visitors for compensation. A transient visitor's stay may not exceed fourteen (14) consecutive days and is limited to thirty (30) days in any one (1) year.

3. Add to Article VI, Section 6.02 Principal Uses Permitted Subject to Special Conditions:

19. Bed and Breakfast Accommodations subject to the following conditions:

- a. The Bed and Breakfast Accommodation must be a one-family dwelling occupied and used by the owner as a principal residence. In the sole discretion of the Township, up to eight (8) guest rooms may be provided. The total number of guest rooms shall be determined by the size of the site, the proximity to neighboring residences, and the capability of the septic system.

- b. The Bed and Breakfast Accommodation must be open to any Township Official upon request.

- c. The owner shall maintain a list of the names and addresses of all persons for whom lodging is provided. The list shall be available to any Township Official upon request.

- d. Each guest room shall have a separate smoke alarm and a graphically displayed fire escape plan.

- e. No separate or additional cooking facilities shall be provided in guest rooms.

- f. Prior to final approval, the Fire Inspector shall review the Bed and Breakfast Accommodation and make recommendations regarding the placement and number of fire extinguishers for each floor, the number and accessibility of exits and a fire escape plan.

- g. A common dining area may be provided to serve food to guests. It cannot be leased for social events or otherwise used to serve the general public.

- h. One (1) parking space per guest room shall be provided on site. This is in addition to the parking required for the dwelling unit. Parking shall be arranged so as not to pose negative impacts on adjacent properties or necessitate on-street parking.

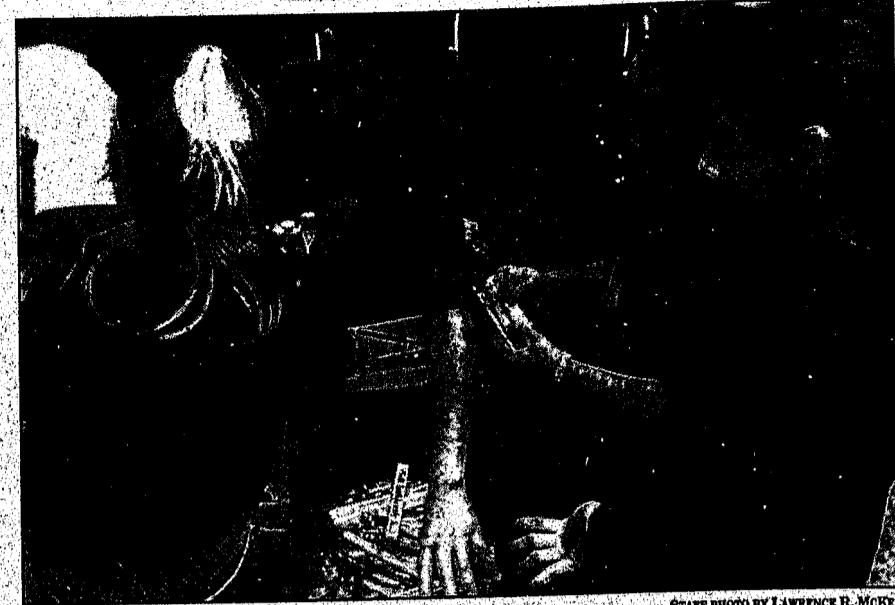
- i. The Township shall, in its sole discretion, approve any sign, except that under no circumstances may the sign exceed six (6) square feet per side for a total of twelve (12) square feet. The sign shall be subject to the lighting limitations and permitting requirements contained in Section 16.07.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the complete text of the Zoning Ordinance and other documents related to the proposed amendment may be examined at the Clerk's Office, Charter Township of Springfield, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, MI during regular office hours Monday through Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the Springfield Township Clerk, P.O. Box 1038, Davisburg, MI 48350 until the time of the Public Hearing, and telephone inquiries regarding the Hearing may be directed to the Public Hearing, and telephone inquiries regarding the Hearing may be directed to the Clerk at 626-4802 or 634-3111. Those persons needing a special accommodation at the Hearing should contact the Clerk at least two business days in advance.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk
Charter Township of Springfield

Published December 24, 1998 & January 14, 1999

Where there's need ...



STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE R. MCKEE

Holiday help: With the Christmas spirit in their hearts, Pine Tree Elementary School students decided to collect toiletries, toilet paper, tissue, detergents and other personal care items for Lighthouse, which benefits the needy in Lake Orion and Clarkston. The helpers were (left to right) students Casey Miller, Joel Baldwin, Sandra Post and Dominique Tomei.

Accident

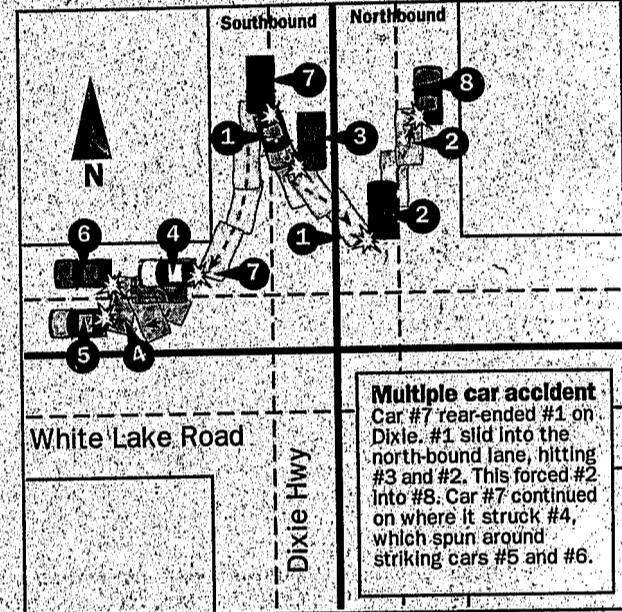
from page A1

ambulance to Genesys Hospital for injuries. Sean O'Brien sustained a laceration to the head, and John Obrien complained of back pain after the accident, police reports said.

Another man, George Hall of Holly, sustained injuries as his vehicle was hit by the Safari and later spun around to hit two others. He too was transported to Genesys Hospital.

The investigation continues. As police worked to clear the area, individuals caught in the traffic spurred by the accident began to lose patience as their cars were re-routed. According to police reports, some drivers were cited for disorderly conduct for using obscene language against police officers and attempting to drive through the accident scene.

Among them were a 43-year-old Clarkston man and a 32-year-old Waterford man.



Multiple car accident
Car #7 rear-ended #1 on Dixie. #1 slid into the north-bound lane, hitting #3 and #2. This forced #2 into #8. Car #7 continued on where it struck #4, which spun around, striking cars #5 and #6.

HELEN FURcean / STAFF ARTIST

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OBITUARY

Genevieve M. Herald

Genevieve M. Herald of Clarkston died Dec. 20, 1998, at age 91.

Mrs. Herald is survived by her daughters, Jeri (Robert) Scott of Oxford, Jenny Creech of Lake Orion and Gwendolyn (Thomas) Reid of Rochester Hills, and by her son, Richard Schroeder of Hazel Park. She is also survived by 23 grandchildren, many great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were made by Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home in Clarkston. A rosary service was held at the funeral home. A funeral mass was held at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Waterford and Rite of Committal was at Lakeview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Independence Township Senior Center, 5980 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48348.

AGENDA

City of the Village of Clarkston

375 Depot Road

Clarkston

625-1559

Regular Meeting

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28

Tentative Agenda

1. Meeting called to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll: Catallo, Clifton, Colombo, Gamble, Kelley, Sanderson, Savage

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

5. Approval of Agenda

6. Committee Reports/Council Comments

7. Mayor's Comments

8. Police Chief Report

Public Comments

Old Business:

1. T.Y. LIN-MDOT Correspondence

2. Investment Policy

- <ol style

Library youth group finishes off new lounge

By NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

Can \$250 in burgundy paint and bean bags tickle a teenager? Apparently, such things – provided that they invoke power of choice and freedom of expression – even inspire teens to head to the local library.

Members of the Independence Township Library's Teen Advisory Board – who number about 40 recently completed the renovation of a teen lounge at the library.

Its components are two bean bags, a couple of chairs and other standard library furniture; the other big change is a splash of trendy sponge paint in heart-warming burgundy.

"The bean bags are their pride and joy," said Youth Adult Librarian Julie Meredith, who formed the library's Teen Advisory Board in May as a way to not only get more input from teenagers about the library but also give teens a mechanism for sharing their opinions and ideas.

"I wanted them to take possession of the room," said Meredith of the lounge renovation, the group's major project for 1998. "And, they did."

Members, which range in age from 12 to 17, meet, socialize and do projects on an informal ad hoc basis.

In addition to redoing the 20-



A place of their own: Julie Meredith, Independence Township Library's youth adult librarian, stands inside the library's newly renovated teen lounge — a project that was designed and executed by area teens.

STAFF PHOTOS BY STEVE CANTRELL

square-foot lounge – a project that entailed giving up weekend free time to paint the room's walls – the group held a summer reading program, has been publishing a newsletter and updated the library's magazine collection for youths.

Several social events, including a movie night, an outdoor

picnic with live music and an inline skating class, were also held by and for the teens.

"So far, every project that they have done has gone very smoothly," said Meredith, admitting that she was a bit surprised by how well the group worked together to update the lounge.

"I was a little amazed," she

said. "Teenagers have so many different ideas and opinions. But, they really sit down and work well together. They seem to really listen and work well together."

One idea – putting bean bags in the room – was an unanimous one, said Meredith.

After choosing a paint color –



Power of choice: In addition to renovating the teen lounge, members of the Teen Advisory Board expanded the Independence Township Library's collection of youth magazines.

quite an interesting process, according to Meredith – the teens selected matching furniture from pieces already located in the library. A purple and a green bean bag were purchased.

One restriction within which the group had to work was carpet color. The library has three-toned carpet of muted green,

peach and plum.

While blue was the teens' unanimous first choice, burgundy later won out in an unforeseen, second vote, Meredith said.

Located on the east end of the library, the teen lounge functions as a quiet area on weekdays and as a place for teens to socialize, hold discussion groups and read after school and on weekends.

Two computer work stations and two audio centers are planned for the lounge.

Given the Teen Advisory Board's success – not only was the lounge updated on a shoestring budget but the library's young adult magazine collection has grown from four to 20 publications – Meredith expects the group to tackle even more challenging projects in 1999.

Starting a compact disc collection for teens is expected to be a top priority in 1999, she said.

Area teens have also expressed an interest in raising money to help meet a challenge pledge for library funding, Meredith commented.

Clarkston-area teens who are interested in becoming involved with the library's Teen Advisory Board can call Julie Meredith at (248) 625-2212. Meeting and activity times for 1999 will be published in the group's young adult newsletter, for which there is a mailing list.

New clinic offers 24-hour emergency service

Providing timely and community-based health care is the purpose of Clarkston Orthopaedics, P.C. The newly opened facility brings medical, surgical, and therapeutic care to a location that is convenient for a growing number of patients from northern Oakland County.

Clarkston Orthopaedics is made up of a group of surgeons and health professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the skeletal-muscular system. These include diseases of and injuries to the bones, joints, muscles, tendons, ligaments, cartilage and related structures.

Patients, including new referrals, will be treated in a timely manner at the facility, usually within 24 hours of their call for an appointment. Surgeons are on call 24 hours a day for emergency services.

Five orthopaedic surgeons are associated with Clarkston Orthopaedics, each certified in general orthopaedics by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons. The members also provide expertise in distinct specialties: Frederick P. Maibauer,

Springfield Township accident claims life of man

A roll-over accident in Springfield Township Friday evening claimed the life of a 19-year-old man.

The accident occurred at 7:40 p.m. on Ormond Road, south of Big Lake Road. The Ford Escort overturned for an unknown reason.

Ryan Nolan Jones was thrown from the vehicle and suffered

injuries that proved fatal. He died after being transported to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

Four other teenagers in the vehicle were injured – including the driver. Two were air-lifted to an Ann Arbor hospital for treatment.

The teenagers were traveling in the Escort, which was driven by a 17-year-old whose name is being withheld. Police are still investigating, said Deputy Thomas Poulin of the Oakland County Crash Reconstruction Unit.

None of the individuals, who ranged in age from 17 to 19, was wearing a seat belt. Poulin said investigators believe alcohol was a possible factor in the accident.

For more information on patient services, contact Site Manager Gloria Blaski at (248) 620-6110.

POLICE NEWS

Independence Police

Forgery and check fraud

On Dec. 17, police reports show that an individual had forged a signature for approximately \$245 in checks to Clarkston-area businesses.

Thefts

On Dec. 20, a handmade Christmas ornament worth approximately \$99 was reported stolen from a residence on Cedar Knoll Court.

On Dec. 20, the lawn in front of a Caribou Trail residence was reportedly damaged by tire tracks in a way police describe as "turfing."

Independence Fire

Between Dec. 17-20, firefighters responded to 23 calls. Among

them were nine medical calls and 11 personal injury accidents.

On Dec. 18, a 69-year-old woman experiencing chest pain was transported from a doctor's office on Ortonville Road to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for evaluation.

Clarkston Police

On Dec. 17, police investigated a single-car accident at White Lake Road near Dixie Highway in which a 26-year-old Clarkston man was traveling too fast for the snowy conditions. He lost control of the vehicle and hit a fence at about 6 p.m. He was not injured.

On Dec. 20, police responded to a residence near Holcomb for a family dispute. The mother and daughter involved were counseled by the officer at about 11:30 p.m. No other action was taken.

Residents told they can keep hoops Spring Lakes sub gets OK for nets

BY BARB PERT TEMPLETON
STAFF WRITER

It was a lengthy battle that pitted neighbor against neighbor, but in the end a court of law has said basketball nets are permissible in Spring Lakes Subdivision off Maybee Road in Independence Township.

"Now you can put up the tallest basketball net you want," Trudy Pegg, a defendant in the case said.

When Ron and Trudy Pegg moved into their new home in 1993, they never dreamed they'd have to fight to have a portable basketball net placed in their

driveway. The Peggs hoped to provide a place for their children, Travis and Kyndale, to practice and play in preparation for their years at Clarkston High School.

The Peggs and one other family, the Wheateleys, were taken to small claims court by the subdivision's Homeowners Association.

The association felt both families' portable nets violated restrictions set down by the board and sought to have the court OK a \$250 expenditure to remove the nets.

The court magistrate denied

the request and amended the restriction.

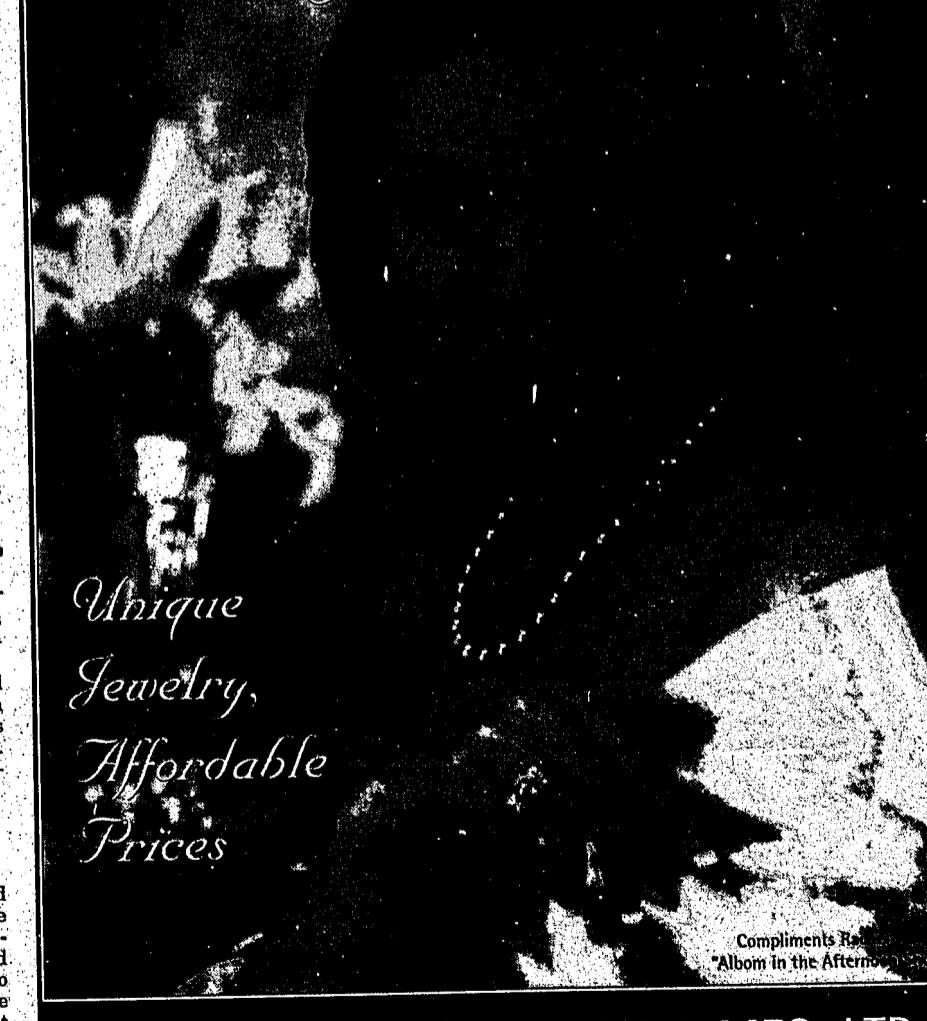
Now residents can have a portable or free standing unit or, if they so choose, tack a net right up to the front of their garage, Pegg said.

"After what happened in court today, I'm going to put up lights and streamers on my net for everyone to see, I mean it," Trudy Pegg said.

The Homeowners Association representative, who appeared in court could not be reached for comment on the issue.

Subdivision bylaws pertaining to land and restrictions, which refer to such things as siding, house colors, chain link fences and sheds, remain in tact.

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Impeachment ...

Yea: President violated oath of office

On Dec. 19, the House of Representatives, by votes of 228-206 and 221-212, approved articles of impeachment filed against President Clinton on the counts of perjury and obstruction of justice. I voted to impeach President Clinton. Here's why:

In his zeal to protect his political livelihood, the president perjured himself before a federal grand jury and obstructed justice. These crimes are felonies and rise to the threshold of impeachable offenses. While I understand and share the desire of the American people to place this matter behind us, I feel strongly that the only constitutionally appropriate punishment for President Clinton's criminal actions is impeachment.

This president has violated his oath of office, betrayed the trust of the American people and brought dishonor to the institution of the presidency. He lied under oath. He lied to the American people. He manipulated his staff and members of his cabinet into perpetuating his lies. And he utilized the powers of his office to obstruct justice in a criminal proceeding. A man who would go to these lengths is not worthy of the trust and honor that is bestowed upon the president of the United States.

Moreover, the president's reckless behavior and utter disregard for the truth indicates that he does not have the character or the judgment to hold the highest office in the land.

Contrary to the opinions of some, the impeachment vote was not driven by partisan hatred of Bill Clinton. I have worked with the president on several issues, most notably to promote free trade and open foreign markets to our exports. From the beginning of this scandal, I gave him the benefit of the doubt and refrained from rushing to judgment on the fate of his presidency. However, after carefully reviewing the evidence submitted to the House of Representatives by the independent counsel and monitoring the Judiciary Committee's hearings on this evidence, it became clear to me that President Clinton's misconduct was impeachable and my conscience required that I vote accordingly.

I am upset by the attempts of the presi-



Joe Knollenberg

dent's defenders to trivialize the impeachment proceedings by arguing that this scandal is only about private sexual indiscretions. Let me be clear on this point. The president wasn't impeached because he had a sexual affair with a White House intern. He was impeached because he broke the law.

Our nation is strong because of the democratic values instilled in the Constitution and the laws that protect them. To weaken these laws by excusing the president's criminal actions or merely slapping him on the wrist with a congressional censure would endanger the rule of law and make a mockery of the guiding principle of our entire justice system that no man, not even the president of the United States, is above the law.

With the House approving articles of impeachment, the Senate now has a constitutional obligation to hold a trial on the evidence of criminal wrongdoing by President Clinton. Some have argued that the Senate should forgo this responsibility and move to censure the president. This would be a grave disservice to the Constitution and the American people.

It would be entirely inappropriate to allow a president who has committed felonies to remain in office. If President Clinton refuses to resign, which he has indicated that he will, the Senate must move forward and conduct the impeachment trial in the most expeditious manner possible. Given the weight of the evidence against the president, the Senate should then vote to convict him of the crimes of perjury and obstruction of justice and remove him from office.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, a Republican, serves the 11th Congressional District, which includes most of Southern Oakland County and a small portion of Wayne County. He lives in Bloomfield Township.

Nay: Censure warranted, not impeachment



Dale Kildee

American people, expressed in this November's elections, and in numerous public opinion polls, points to popular support for a punishment of President Clinton short of impeachment. Even now, after impeachment by the House, President Clinton's job approval rating has risen to an all-time record high.

In difficult times like these, it is helpful to turn to our nation's elder statesmen and women for a way out of this political wilderness. Former Presidents Jerry Ford and Jimmy Carter, former Senate Leaders Bob Dole and George Mitchell; Republicans and Democrats alike have urged Congress to pass a resolution of censure against President Clinton's behavior and actions. Such a censure resolution would have passed with overwhelming, bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate. We could require the president to admit to his wrong-doing and even impose a financial penalty.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in the House refused to let the full House vote on such a resolution of censure and succeeded in blocking Democrat efforts to bring a censure resolution before the House. In the end, a narrow, partisan majority of the House approved two articles of impeachment against Bill Clinton and forwarded them to the Senate for trial.

At this point, it appears unlikely that a two-thirds majority in the Senate (67 of the 100 Senators) would vote to convict President Clinton on either of the two articles of impeachment approved by the House. Many observers believe the Senate will pass a resolution of censure instead of convicting the president.

I believe it would be better for our government, our Constitution, and our country to forego the partisan and divisive debate over impeachment and censure the president this year. Let us bring this issue to closure soon. To continue with impeachment will leave us a poisonously partisan atmosphere in the Congress, a weakened president, a demoralized executive branch, and a disillusioned public.

The American people deserve better.

U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee, a Democrat, represents the 8th Congressional District, which includes several nonurban Oakland County communities and portions of southern Wayne and Genesee counties. He lives in Farmington Hills.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Should President Clinton have been impeached?



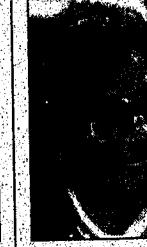
"Personally, I don't think he should have been. I don't think his personal life reflects the job he does in the White House."

Steven Poniatowski
Independence Township



"I think, in the end, that was probably the best way to get the point across—that he's done wrong."

Nate Ayres
Independence Township



"No, he's not a criminal. I don't think the fact that he's lied and performed an immoral act while in office indicates, or impedes, his ability to function."

Danzell Clark
Clarkston



"Yes, I think it's a moral issue. I think the fact that he's lied and performed an immoral act while in office indicates, or impedes, his ability to function."

John Clark
Independence Township

LETTERS

Use tobacco lawsuit dollars for prevention programs

Numerous potential purposes for the \$8.2 billion coming into Michigan as a result of the recent tobacco settlement have been offered. When mulling the options, instead of viewing the money as a windfall like the lottery, it might do us all well to think of it as petty compensation for the devastation the tobacco industry wrought. Consider that an astounding \$50 billion every year goes toward the treatment of smoking-related illnesses. The only way to reduce the cost is to reduce smoking prevalence.

That process starts with preventing our youth from a lifetime of addiction to tobacco. Consequently, we challenge Lansing to fully fund tobacco prevention and thereby reduce the demand for more taxpayer dollars to treat tobacco-related illnesses. Post-election polling shows that nearly three of four voters favor the earmarking of at least 50 percent of state tobacco settlement dollars to tobacco efforts.

Allocating the settlement dollars to non-health issues is tantamount to fixing a factory for polluting the environment without improving the ecology the factory defiled. Citizens should realize the important opportunity the Michigan Legislature and Governor Engler have to put an end to the health crisis that resulted in the unprecedented settlement. Let's think of our children's health, not our pocketbooks. Our elected officials must be urged to use the money the way it was intended—to solve the problem the tobacco firms created in the first place.

Frank J. Borovsky, Chairman
of the Board
American Heart Association,
Midwest Affiliate

Family appreciates article

We cannot adequately thank you for the lovely article you wrote on our son, Colin. It was thoughtful and sensitive and deeply appreciated by our entire family.

Denise and Michael McIntyre
Independence Township

Thanks for web page

I just want to say thanks for the web page the Observer-Eccentric has. We left Clarkston in July and are now living in Sweden. We will be here for three years and will then be returning to Clarkston. We were quite concerned about missing out on the local news. Besides keeping up with our friends through e-mail, we can now read the news on the Internet.

Joe and Carol Mazzoni
Sweden

Newspapers can help people keep an eye on their judges

Occasionally we agree (with your editorials) and this is one of those times.

Clarkston Eccentric®

KAREN HERMÉS SMITH, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR, 248-625-1900

STEVEN K. POPE, PUBLISHER & GENERAL MANAGER, 248-901-2595

JUSTIN WILCOX, ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER, 248-901-2537

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OUR MISSION: "Because we publish community newspapers, we think about community journalism in a fundamentally different way than our bigger competition. They consider themselves to be independent from the stories and communities they cover, swooping in to write the unusual or sensational and then dashing off to cover something else. We regard ourselves as both accurate journalists and as caring citizens of the communities where we work."

— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Resolve to help your child do better in school, life

It is the time of the year when many of us make an extra effort to be the type of people we want to be all year long. The spirit of the holiday season is seen in generous deeds, random acts of kindness and reflective moments.

As we prepare for the New Year, it is normal to do some self-evaluation and to resolve to do better. As an educator, I tend to focus on what school personnel can do to demonstrate good will and to help students do well, as pupils and as people. But the truth is that we can only do so much, even when our motives are pure and our techniques effective.

Today, more than ever before in our history, researchers are providing us with information that will reshape the very face of public education. It is my fervent hope that the following points will provide some food for

thought and an opportunity to make New Year's resolutions that truly create a better world for our kids and their families.

■ Children who have a nutritious breakfast tend to do better academically. They seem more able to be attentive in class, and they are less likely to be involved in behavior requiring discipline.

■ Studies of brain development clearly indicate that children benefit from early experiences. In fact, by the time they get to kindergarten, they can be truly ready, or at a great disadvantage. The fewer experiences during the first years of life, the more the child is at risk.

■ Many students are working hard, but not necessarily on school work. The earning of dollars, regardless of the reason, has become more important than class work for too many stu-



AL ROBERTS

dents. Our own experiences in the classroom also point to choices that can limit student success.

For example:

■ Too many youngsters at the secondary level choose classes that do little to maximize learning. They settle for something less to "take the easy way." Unfortunately, this pattern of

■ Today, more than ever before in our history, researchers are providing us with information that will reshape the very face of public education.

settling for less can set young people up for failure later on when they face the hard work expected in college or in the workforce.

■ Some youngsters and parents accept poor grades, rather than working with the teacher to develop an individualized student improvement plan. Find out what your child's abilities really are, then work with the teacher to set the highest standard of performance. You may be surprised at how well your child will respond.

■ Peers can heavily influence

developing teens if they are "virtually abandoned" by parents. Even in two-parent families, well-meaning adults can be so wrapped up with work and so focused on "success" that teenagers are ignored emotionally at a crucial time in their development. Children will look elsewhere for understanding because physical presence alone is not enough for kids. They need parents who stay connected, ask questions, show support and spend time. The results of such attention can be astounding.

I hope these pointers will provide a little food for thought and create a basis for some great resolutions in the coming year. May it be a happy and healthy one for all of you.

Al Roberts is superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools. His hotline number is 623-5454.

Start bugging your local officials about Y2K problem

Here's a New Year's present countless Michigan communities ought to be giving their residents: Clear and forthright information about what they're doing to anticipate the Year 2000 problem.

Often called the "millennium bug," the Year 2K problem arises from the fact that most computer programs have been written for years so that they record the year by the last two digits, and thus, can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000.

My wife, Kathy, for example, was born in 1944. The computer might tell her she was 44 years old, not 56. Credit card bills might show they had not been paid for 100 years.

Because the computer bug is so pervasive - it can lurk in little chips embedded in toys or cameras as well as in your ordinary desktop PC or big main frame systems - nobody really knows what problems will crop up at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, 1999.

Some experts are very pessimistic;

they imagine the entire electric power grid going down, the banking system in paralysis and the U.S. and Russian ICBM fleets suddenly and unexpectedly going into action. Others are less worried; they expect disruptions, but nothing catastrophic.

A tremendous amount of money is now being spent by the federal government and big businesses to sniff out "non-compliant" computer systems and fix them. This newspaper company, for example, will spend in excess of \$500,000 installing new software and searching out problems.

What is not so certain is how active and focused local communities will be in anticipating problems. Will computer-assisted traffic lights fail to function? Will local court records self-destruct, thus losing track of petty criminals?

A conference held last month at the University of Michigan urged local officials to make public employees aware of the situation, list all possible problems and design and test solu-



PHILIP POWER

tions. One consulting firm found that some 35 percent of all institutions and 29 percent of governments hadn't even started preparations. Less than 10 percent had tested their equipment.

Moreover, most local governments are scared to talk about the problem. If they make promises they can't keep, they might be exposed to taxpayer lawsuits.

I'd suggest folks write letters to mayors and members of city councils and township boards. Turn up at meetings. Ask questions. Bug people.

Push for answers. For example, do they have cellular phones and mobile radio backups for emergency services? Ask them if they've had a look at "The Year 2000 Toolkit for Local Governments and School Districts" just put out by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

And, just in case, clip out this checklist, prepared by the Gartner Group, a firm that has specialized in consulting about the year 2000 problem all over the world.

■ Don't panic. Prepare for localized failures for limited periods of time, like the aftermath of a really bad snowstorm. Don't take all your money out of the bank or liquidate your investments.

■ Have a week's worth of necessities stored in a safe place: medications, non-perishable food, jugs of water, batteries, flashlights and lanterns, household supplies.

■ Obtain hard (paper) copies of essential financial records: Social Security, pension and savings plans,

maybe even a reconciliation of your check records for the past year. Withdraw enough cash from the bank to sustain your family for a couple of weeks.

■ Fuel up your vehicles. Have an adequate supply of home heating fuel delivered. If you have a fireplace, make sure you have some dry wood.

■ Have your medical and dental checkups well in advance.

■ Send mail and packages early. Pick up your e-mail before midnight.

■ Stay away from hospitals, elevators and airplanes at the stroke of midnight.

And don't forget the bottle of champagne. It won't help fix the millennium bug, but it may help you feel better.

Philip Power is chairman of Home-Town Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at: ppower@oeonline.com

Land conservancy holdings increased by 50 percent in 1998

1998 was a very good year for the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy and, thus, for the future of the natural character of this community. Thanks to all who helped!

Most importantly, the land being conserved by the NOHLC in Springfield and Independence townships now exceeds 500 acres. This is a 50 percent increase in acreage in just one year, compared to the previous 25 years.

Thanks go to the donors for their generosity and to the volunteers for their vigilance and energy.

While this is a major improvement, the need for conservation continues to be great. Our scenic views, our water and our wildlife cannot be taken for granted!

■ Our scenic views, our water and our wildlife cannot be taken for granted!

Significant funds were raised to help finance the hiring of an executive director. The search process for the right person continues. But, so does the need to raise funds to sustain the position.

Endowment funds have been established - one each for Independence and Springfield townships - to help acquire land for conservation. These funds, which are expected to grow from additional contributions, will not be used for NOHLC operating expenses.

A

Land Trust Alliance national grant funded an NOHLC strategic planning session, the results of which will guide the conservancy as it grows.

N

ew organizational additions included the founding of a law council to assist NOHLC with legal matters and the appointment of a schools committee and of a nature surveys committee.

T

wo general meetings, in May and October, two Scenic Vista newsletters, monthly newspaper columns, and many press releases were designed to keep the NOHLC membership and the community informed about the work of the conservancy.

N

OHLC has begun to explore ways of assisting with conservation in Groveland, Holly and Brandon townships. These efforts are consistent with the NOHLC mission of protecting the rural character and quality of life in northwestern Oakland County, by conserving the woods,

fields, streams and other natural resources in the headwater areas of the Clinton, Shiawassee, Huron and Flint rivers.

While many neighbors helped to make 1998 a successful year for the NOHLC, some people deserve special recognition.

The conservancy is fortunate to be guided by a hard-working, dedicated, informed volunteer board composed of Tom Bullen, John Dryer, Katie Fries, Marq Harris, Bob Inskip, Doug McInnis, Tom Pytel, Jim Reed, Fred Roeser, Tom Stone, Nancy Strole, Dan Travis, Mel Vaara, Bob Vandermark and Sue Zanotti as directors and Jerry Fisher, Tom Hall, Diana Hopper, Jan Martin and Jim Wenger as auditors. In addition, invaluable assistance was provided by Sue Padgham, who designed the NOHLC logo and most of the related graphic applications. Finally, thanks go to Jim DuFresne as newsletter editor, Jim Keglovitz as liaison from Oakland County Development and Planning, and Missy Zimmerman as a constant and dependable resource.

Special warm wishes for the holiday season and New Year go to the following NOHLC families: Dryer, Fries, Huttonlocher, McInnis and Roeser.

The North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy works with individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, municipalities, developers and planners in a continuing effort to preserve the best of today's natural environment so that future generations can enjoy a better tomorrow in our community.

NOHLC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. It features various types of membership donations, such as \$10 for an individual, \$25 for a family and \$100 for a life-membership donation.

Questions about the conservancy may be directed to North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC), P.O. Box 285, Clarkston, MI 48347. Telephone: 248-620-4700. E-mail: NOHLC@aol.com

This column is shared by local community groups. Up next week: Lighthouse of Clarkston.



CORNER

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Thousands gather in Clarkston to mourn Nichols

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
pmurphy@oe.homecomm.net

Oakland Sheriff John F. Nichols received full military honors this week as he was remembered by friends and admirers who fondly recalled his exemplary career as a professional cop and his commitment to friends and colleagues.

"Sheriff Nichols was one of a kind," said Capt. Damon Shields, one of about 100 command officers who served under Nichols. "Anybody who tries to imitate him is doomed to failure," he said.

Shields was one of thousands of mourners who visited Mt. Zion in Clarkston Monday and Tuesday, where Nichols' body was in state prior to his funeral Wednesday.

Nichols was in full uniform — with dozens of police commendations and medals adorning his chest — as admirers filed by his casket. Some paused briefly in silence, others had tears rolling down their cheeks.

Honor guards in full dress uniform were stationed on each side of the casket. They were from the sheriff's department or either the Detroit or Farmington Hills police Departments — the three police agencies in which Nichols spent more than 55



Nichols

years as a patrolman or command officer.

For the funeral, Army guards from Fort Knox, Kentucky, were scheduled to provide a rifle salute, along with the traditional rendering of "Taps." A formation of military jets was scheduled to fly over the

funeral ceremony, a symbol of Nichols as a World War II veteran and a retired colonel in the Army Reserves.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to say," said the Rev. Loren Covarrubias, senior pastor at Mt. Zion, which only recently dropped the word "Temple" from its name. "It's hard to find the appropriate words to honor somebody like Sheriff Nichols."

Covarrubias is also a member of the chaplain's core established by Nichols about five years ago.

Nichols was the right man — an innovative disciplinarian — for the right place when he was elected sheriff of Oakland County, according to county executive L. Brooks Patterson, another person scheduled to eulogize the late sheriff. At the request of The Eccentric Newspapers, the executive provided an advanced copy of his remarks.

"When John Nichols was appointed undersheriff in 1974, I was starting my career as prosecuting attorney," Patterson said.

of his department a cutting edge advantage in the war on crime."

The

sheriff's funeral was expected to be to draw thousands of admirers, including sheriff's deputies and police officers from dozens of departments.

The funeral procession itself could include hundreds of vehicles — so many that organizers were cautioning motorists along the route from Mt. Zion in Clarkston to Roseland Park Cemetery near Twelve Mile Road and Woodward in Berkley.

Chairs

Leaders have different power bases, but similar goals

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
pmurphy@oe.homecomm.net

Their power bases are vastly different. So are their philosophies.

But as 1999 approaches, the Oakland County chairs for both major parties have some common traits and similar goals.

For starters, the recently elected county chairs for both parties are lawyers — Democrat Gary Kohut lives and practices law in Troy, while Republican David Sebastian has a home and office in Birmingham.

Furthermore, both want to strengthen his respective political party, with an eye on elections in 2000, in addition to any special elections that may be necessary as the county selects a successor to former Sheriff John F. Nichols.

Nichols' successor will be selected by a vacancy committee — County Clerk G. William Caddell, Probate Judge Eugene A. Moore and Prosecutor David Gorcica. But if Nichols' successor happens to be a state senator, there could be a series of special elections.

Any special elections — if, in fact, they are needed — were not a consideration when Kohut and Sebastian were elected as heads of their respective parties.

Kohut was unopposed when he ran for second term as Democratic chair. That doesn't mean, however, that his views of the party, and what it must do to rebuild, are sometimes controversial.

"The party needs to strengthen its grass roots base," Kohut said, at the county level as well as on a state-wide basis.

Sebastian, on the other hand, heads a county party that is both strong and feisty. His election culminated a three-way floor fight, after which Sebastian made a plea for unity. "Yes," he said in response to questions, "pro-choice candidates are welcome in the Republican Party."

"Our Republican clubs and organizations will be placed under one umbrella," Sebastian said in his acceptance speech, "to better work together in our communities to spread the Republican message of better education, less taxation and less government."

Sebastian — former president of the 400 Club, the highly successful fund raising arm of the GOP — said he will also focus on money. "A successful fund-raising operation is a key ingredient to getting out the Republican message," he said.

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CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Clarkston Eccentric publishes calendar items free of charge. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Type or print. Event, date and time, location, telephone number and any additional information and mail to the Clarkston Eccentric, 7151 Ortonville Road, Suite 2, Clarkston, MI 48346 or fax to 625-5712. Deadline for calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. All phone numbers below have 248 area code unless otherwise noted.

FRIDAY, DEC. 27**RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE**

6-8 p.m. Sponsored by Northwest Oakland Community Services. Bowling at Holly Lanes (Grange Hall Road, Holly, 1/2 mile west of light). \$1.50 per game. Shoes included. Refreshments. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For more information, call 634-9570.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30**MARTIN PRESTON AS LIBERACE**

9:15 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sponsored by Independence Township Senior Center. Pre-New Years celebration in Toledo, Ohio. Martin Preston is recognized as the greatest impersonator in the country. He has captured Liberace's flamboyant style both in music and costumes. Singer extraordinaire William Garon will also be performing. \$69 residents, \$74 non-residents. To register call 625-8231.

SATURDAY, JAN. 2**NATURE MOVIE MATINEE**

1-2:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Weekend movie matinees are a wonderful way to spend time with your family. Enjoy popcorn and the photography of some of Michigan's best film makers. Naturalists will provide interesting bio-facts and answer questions. Cost \$1 per person. Registration required. Call 625-6473.

THURSDAY, JAN. 7**WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP**

7 p.m. Informal sharing meeting. Facilitator: Christine Spencer, M.A., L.P.C. Director of Bereavement Services at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home. Walk-in, no registration. Free of charge. For men and women of all ages recently widowed. Refreshments served. All area residents welcome. Any questions or if anyone would like to be on their mailing list, call the funeral home at 625-5231. Meeting is held at Independence Township Senior Center located in Clintonwood Park on Clarkston Road in Clarkston.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8**RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE**

7-9 p.m. Bowling at Holly Lanes (Grange Hall Road, Holly, 1/2 mile west of traffic light). \$1.50 per game-shoes included. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For more information, call 634-9570.

JAN. 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 & 23**DEPOT THEATER**

7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The Importance of Being Earnest. This classic comedy is a seasoned favorite for playgoers of all ages. This most witty comedy revolves around the most ingenuous case of manufactured mistaken identity. To avoid social responsibility, Jack Worthing has invented an irresponsible younger brother named Ernest. When his friend Algernon decides to pose as Ernest, in order to woo Jack's beautiful ward, they both soon learn the importance of being earnest. This scrambled mayhem is peppered with Wilde barbs as fresh today as when he wrote them. \$9 Thursdays, \$10 Fridays and Saturdays. For tickets call 625-8811 or 625-2511.

SUNDAY, JAN. 10**SUNDAY SNOWSHOES**

10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Snowshoes are a quiet way to explore winter wonders. School-age children through adults discover snowshoeing's

easy and fun. Cost \$2 per person. Registration required after 10 a.m. on the previous Friday. Limited number of snowshoes-program is snow dependent. Call 625-6473.

ed). Registration required. Call 625-6473.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15**OWL HUNT**

7:30 - 9 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Owls are easily recognized, yet seldom seen. Their night habits do not allow easy viewing. On the trail we'll try to lure owls into view and learn about their special abilities and habits. Dress for a winter night hike. Warm-up with a snack after the hike. Cost \$1 per person. Registration required. Call 625-6473.

RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

7-9 p.m., Hart Community Center at the Mill Pond in Davisburg. Karaoke-dance to the music of D.J. Matt Wolfe. Refreshments. No charge. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For more information, call 634-9570.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16**SUPERNATURAL SATURDAY-DEER**

1:30 - 4 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Using skins, skulls and antlers, ages 7-11 will investigate deer and take a hike to look for signs of deer. Activities including games, a craft and more will keep budding nature detectives involved in learning. Cost \$7 per child (snack includ-

ed). Registration required. Call 625-6473.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22**RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE**

7-9 p.m., Hart Community Center at the Mill Pond in Davisburg. Bingo. Refreshments. No charge. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For more information, call 634-9570.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23**TRACKS & TEES**

1-2:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Search for animal tracks and other winter wildlife signs on the trail. Afterwards, print your own animal tracks T-shirt. Bring a pre-washed, light colored shirt labeled with your name. Cost \$1 per person plus \$1 for printing of shirt. Registration required. Call 625-6473.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27**MYSTERY TRIP**

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Independence Township Senior Center. No matter what direction we're headed, there will be loads of fun...be prepared to move around, eat some good 'ol ethnic food and enjoy the atmosphere. These trips always fill up fast so register early! Trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, lunch and the mystery of a great trip. \$32 residents, \$36 non-residents. To register call 625-8231. Limited number of snowshoes-program is snow dependent. Call 625-6473.

SUNDAY, JAN. 31**SUNDAY SNOWSHOES**

10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Snowshoes are a quiet way to explore winter wonders. School-age children through adults discover snowshoeing's easy and fun. Cost \$2 per person. Registration required after 10 a.m. on the previous Friday. Limited number of snowshoes-program is snow dependent. Call 625-6473.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29**RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE**

7-9 p.m., Hart Community Center at the Mill Pond in Davisburg. Dance to the music of Disc Jockey Rodney Perry. Refreshments. No charge. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For more information, call 634-9570.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30**WOODCARVING FOR BEGINNERS**

10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Adult mini class. Learn the basics of woodcarving while carving a small songbird figure. Bring your own carving knives and a sack lunch. Nature center will provide beverages and all other supplies. If you need advice about equipment, call us for suggestions. Cost \$10 per person. Registration required. Call 625-6473.

MEN'S SEMI-ANNUAL CLOTHING SALE

begins Saturday, December 26th...9:30 a.m.

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\$0 Down Payment						
Monthly Payment	\$175	\$213	\$257*		\$238	\$287*
Total Amount Due at Signing	\$375	\$463	\$532*		\$513	\$612*
GM Employees & Family (GEMS)						

LEASE DETAILS**Total Amount Due at Signing**

Includes down payment, \$495 administrative fee, and first month's payment includes security deposit. (In the \$0 down column the \$495 is rolled into the cap cost and financed.)

Additional Costs

License, title, registration fees, taxes and insurance are extra.

Lease Term

Monthly payments are based on a 36-month/36,000-mile lease.

Standard Features

Payment examples are based on 1999 Saturs equipped with an automatic transmission and air conditioning, except the SL, which has a 5-speed manual transmission and air conditioning.

Approval

Primary lending source must approve lease.

Excess Miles

Mileage charge of \$.20 per mile over 36,000 miles.

Wear and Use

Lessee is responsible for excessive wear and use.

Delivery

Must take delivery by 12/31/98.

*Approval based on tier through primary lending source.

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Who benefitted ...

Executives from Charity Motors and County Executive L. Brooks Patterson distributed \$5,000 checks to the following organizations:

- Michigan Lyme Disease Association, St. Clair Shores
- Judson Center, Royal Oak
- Give A Christmas, Royal Oak
- Youth Ministry of the New Mt.

- Moriah Baptist Church, Pontiac
- Women's Survival Center, Pontiac
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Pontiac
- Dittrich Foundation, Orion Township
- Rainbow Connection
- Leader Dogs for the Blind, Rochester Hills
- Lighthouse North, Pontiac



BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
pmurphy@ee.homecomm.net

How's this for a success story: A customer buys your product and — in a year or so — gives it back.

That's happened more than once at Charity Motors, the nonprofit organization based in Detroit that gets most of its product — old cars — from Oakland County donors.

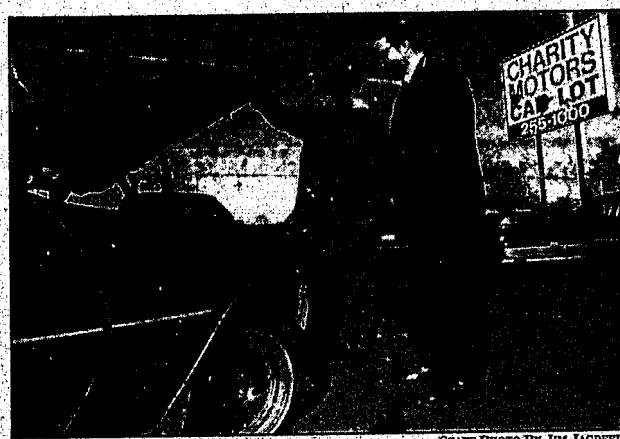
"We wouldn't call those old cars 'clunkers,'" said John Kruse, manager of the organization's lot on the south side of Eight Mile Road near Lahser. "Although that's what they are initially."

"After we work on those cars, they're transportation specials."

Charity Motors recently donated \$5,000 to each of 10 charitable organizations in Oakland County. Before the end of the year, it expects to make similar contributions to organizations in Detroit, Wayne and Macomb counties.

Those contributions bring the total amount donated to charitable organizations to more than \$4 million since 1995, the year Charity Motors was organized, said spokesperson Rick Frazier, a Troy resident who attended Oakland Community College before obtaining a business degree from Wayne State.

Radio commercials tell how Charity Motors works. People with clunkers — running or nonrunning — donate the vehicles and receive a tax deduction in exchange. Benevolence and good will are part of the



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGGFIELD

Clunker check: Mechanic Willie Mines and John Kruse, Charity Motors administrator, look over a 1981 Pontiac Firebird at the lot near Eight Mile and Lahser.

equation, said Frazier, but so is the tax deduction.

In 1998, the organization will accept almost 11,000 vehicles (compared with 7,500 the previous year), Frazier predicted, including 1,000 or more in December as the end of the tax year approaches.

While about 10 percent of those vehicles are sold for scrap, most are refurbished and sold as "transportation specials." The average transportation special sells for under \$400, according to Frazier, or at least 50 percent below blue book value.

Frazier quoted the most recent figures from accountants at Plante & Moran which he said show 75 percent of the proceeds go to charity, 14 percent to fund raising and 11 percent for administration.

Most of the proceeds from each car go to the charity selected by the donor, said Frazier. Some specify a Boy Scout Troop, while others select organizations like the American Cancer Foundation or Catholic Social Services.

Charity Motors functions, in some respect, like the United Way, acknowledged Frazier. Rather than making a donation to a specific organization directly, a donor gives the car and stipulates the beneficiary.

Other organizations still accept vehicles, Frazier said. But Charity Motors — using the economy of scale — is the most efficient, he insisted. "We have the mechanics, we have the dealer licenses and we have the sales organization," he said.

That sales organization is very important, said Frazier. Charity Motors makes a significant contribution by providing inexpensive transportation to people who might not otherwise be able to afford one, he said.

"Some of our buyers (for lack of a reliable alternative) might not be able to get a job otherwise," Frazier said, "some wouldn't be able to take their kids to the zoo or to the park."

Occasionally, a person who bought a transportation special — after establishing the work history and credit needed to buy a newer car — donated it back, Frazier said.

"They realize what having transportation means," he said. "But they also want that tax deduction."

To qualify for a tax deduction, the vehicle owner estimates the value of the vehicle and Charity Motors writes that amount on the letter of donation needed to satisfy the Internal Revenue Service, Frazier said. "We have blue books to help determine the value of the car," he said, "but the owner estimates the value, and we simply write it down."

"Most of the time, it works," Frazier said.

When asked about tax deductions for cars or other items donated to charity, a tax preparation specialist for H&R Block said determining the value of the item is crucial.

Donating a car to charity definitely entitles the donor to a tax deduction, said Carolyn D. Kelley, a tax preparation specialist for the H&R office in the Oakland Mall in Troy. "As long as the value of the item is reasonable, the IRS will allow the deduction," she said.

"But if somebody says their 1978 Chevy is worth a \$10,000 deduction," Kelley said, "he (or she) can expect to do some explaining."

Used cars can be very risky investment

BY PAT MURPHY

STAFF WRITER

pmurphy@ee.homecomm.net

Charity Motors specializes in turning donated clunkers into "transportation specials" according to manager John Kruse, who oversees the nonprofit organization's car lot on Eight Mile near Lahser.

But Kruse is among the first to caution customers that used cars are a risky investment, subject to mechanical failure. "Cars can break down at any time," he said.

He and the mechanics working on the vehicles take pride in the product, Kruse said. "But we get them running, we don't recondition them."

"There are no warranties or guarantees," he said. "As a matter of fact, we advise customers to bring a mechanic with them at the time of purchase — for their protection as well as our own."

Vehicles are sold "as is," Kruse emphasized.

No customer is stuck if the car dies two miles away from the lot or quits the next day, Kruse said. "If that happens, we work with the customer and they're likely to get a different car."

But buying a "transportation special" is fraught with uncertainty, he acknowledged. A buyer is much better off if he or she is mechanical and can do some work on their own, Kruse said, "or if they have an uncle or neighbor who is mechanically inclined."

But the same principals hold true for used cars purchased at more traditional outlets, said Kruse. "A car can be running fine one minute, and blow a gasket the next."

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Lakeside Mall
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810-532-0460

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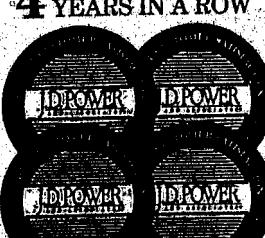
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Sunday, December 27th Publication

New Homes Section All Real Estate Apt. Ads
1 pm-Wed., Dec. 23rd Noon Thurs., Dec. 24th

Automotive Display
Noon Thurs., Dec. 24th

Help Wanted Display
Noon Thurs., Dec. 24th

Liners Class 500-880
Noon Thurs., Dec. 24th

Thursday, December 31st Publication

Real Estate Section Automotive Display
3 pm-Mon., Dec. 28th Noon Tues., Dec. 29th

Help Wanted Display
3 pm-Tues., Dec. 29th

Liners Class 300-880
5 pm-Tues., Dec. 29th

Liners Class 500-880
Noon Thurs., Dec. 31st

Sunday, January 3rd Publication

New Homes Section All Real Estate Apt. Ads
1 pm-Wed., Dec. 30th Noon Thurs., Dec. 31st

Automotive Display
Noon Thurs., Dec. 31st

Help Wanted Display
Noon Thurs., Dec. 31st

Liners Class 500-880
Noon Thurs., Dec. 31st

Please call early to place your ads and avoid the last minute holiday rush.

This Classification
Continued from
Page 8C.

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PARTS DEPARTMENT CROWN LIFT TRUCKS is seeking a Counter person for our Parts Department. Send or fax resume to: Crown Lift Trucks, 43896 Plymouth Oaks Blvd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Attn: Rick Jagoda. (734) 414-4522. E.O.E.

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EOE/AA

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Are you in sales but not earning \$100,000 per year. We have loan officers who earn well over \$100,000 per year. We will train you. You must have intelligence, a positive attitude, the desire to succeed and be willing to work hard. After you are trained, you will have a profession and a career. We offer the opportunity for rapid advancement. Call or fax: 248-932-6513, Cross-Street, Dept. 401K, and a full work environment. Call or fax your resume to Mark Goldman at Washington Mortgage Company. Tel - 248-827-1000 Fax 248-712-3494

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Attention, property, resident, or management managers!

Growing Plymouth condo association management company adding to management team. Competitive wage plus health & retirement plan.

Herriman & Associates, Inc., 875 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI. Fax resume to 734-459-0690

RE: E.O.E.

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needed for a large apartment management company. Excellent individual with experience. Join a winning team. Great benefits with medical and 401(k) plan. Send resume in confidence with salary requirements to:

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Needed for fast paced residential property management company. Ideal candidate should be well organized, self motivated and able to work independently. Duties include: maintaining receivable resident accounts interacting with residents and managers, preparing daily bank deposits and other clerical duties. Computer experience required. Excellent resume and salary requirements imminent to:

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Please send Resume to: HomeTown Newspapers 3235 Green River P.O. Box 220 Howell, MI 48843 Attn: Human Resources/PA EEO/ADA No phone calls please

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RECEPTIONIST

Experienced individual needed to join our Secretarial Team. Microsoft Word, Word Processor required. Professional manner, computer skills a must. Send resume and salary requirements to: HR/Secretary, 29299 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI 48034

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SECRETARY

Part-time. Start immediately. (248) 889-7788

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Dynamically fast-paced endodontic office seeks full time individual with excellent phone interpersonal & clerical skills to join our team. Computer experience necessary! using Windows, Word Perfect, Windows 95 experience a plus. We offer a competitive wage & an excellent benefits package. Please send resume in confidence to: Peter Bass & Associates, 5600 Crooks Rd., Ste. 201, Troy, MI 48098 Attn: Office Manager. An Equal Opportunity Employer

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A growing international plastic fuel tank supplier is seeking a highly motivated professional to compliment our local engineering staff. Knowledge of automotive fuel systems required. Car allowance and incentive with benefit program offered. Fax resumes to: Altin: HRM: 248-352-7464

SECRETARY

Experienced individual needed to join our Secretarial Team. Microsoft Word, Word Processor required. Professional manner, computer skills a must. Send resume and salary requirements to: HR/Secretary, 29299 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI 48034

SECRETARY

Full-time, Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm. General office duties. Novi area. Experience preferred. (248) 449-4944

SECRETARY

Part-time. Start immediately. (248) 889-7788

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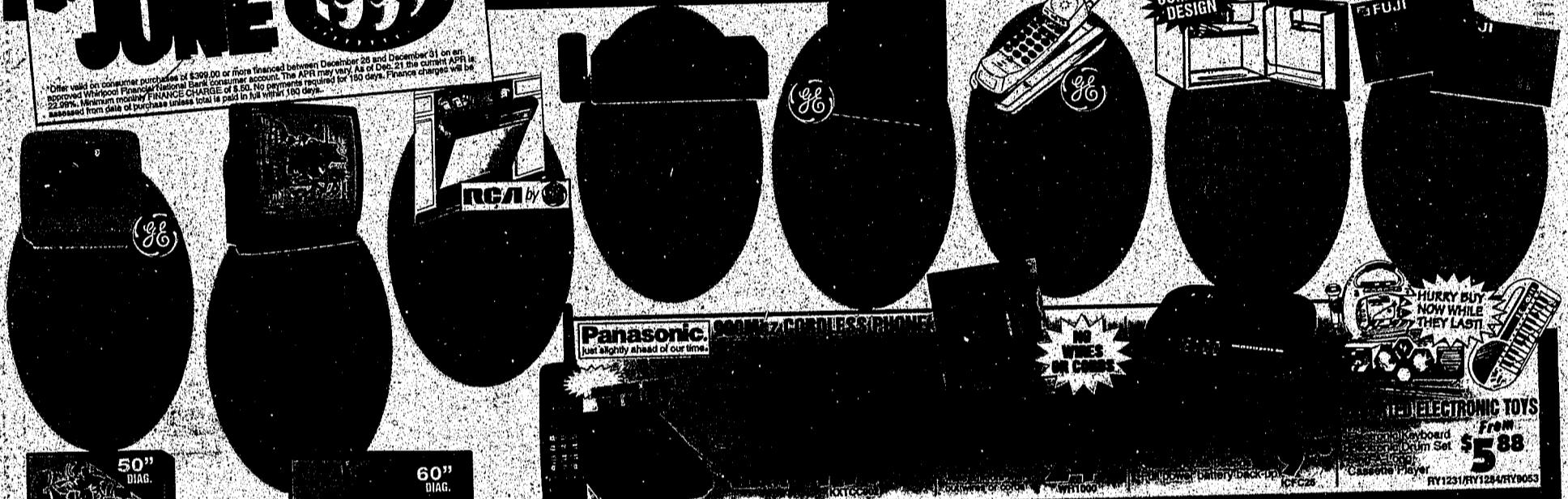
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Page 1, Section B

Thursday, December 24, 1998



DAN STICKRADT

Holiday gifts come from the heart

Oh, the Holiday spirit is just bubbling inside all of us. We want to buy this for somebody, and we want to buy that for somebody else.

Everybody has big plans, but after they check the calendar, watch, checkbook and wallet, and get a dose of realism, they realize the heart is much too big and our capabilities can't quite match.

I'm the same way.

There is so much I wish I could give to everybody as gifts; so much that I wish I could miraculously accomplish. But some of those things are much too difficult to control.

It is, however, fun to dream and fantasize just a little bit. Here then, is a fantasy gift list to some of the athletic directors and coaches in our neck of the woods. As you can see, my heart is a little too big.

■ To all of the area's boys basketball coaches: I present to you a 6-foot-9 transfer who is capable of averaging a triple-double in points, rebounds and blocks. Beside Clarkston's Pete Ritzema, who stands 7-1, there is a lack of height in North Oakland County as no other players stand over 6-5 — and there is not one dominating player in the post.

■ To Lake Orion boys soccer coach Paul Elder, a pure goal scorer, someone who has the knack of finding the back of the net 25-30 times a season even with a tough schedule. That's what the Dragons have been missing throughout the years, isn't it?

■ To Oxford Christian athletic director Jeff Alexander, who also coaches the boys and girls basketball team at OCA: a gymnasium the Warriors can call their own. Hey, it has to be a drag to rent from another church in the area.

■ To Clarkston boys track coach Walt Wymienko, an all-state thrower who hurls the shot put 66-10 and the discus 169-7. Hey, if more football players threw the shot and discus in the spring instead of playing Nintendo, every track coach in the area would benefit.

■ To Clarkston girls basketball coach Ann Lowney, a standout who transfers in just before the start of next season. Losing Lori Wild last August to Utica was a blow the Wolves never compensated for this past autumn.

■ To Shalom Baptist Athletic Director Judy Heatherly: the Hawks' enrollment — times three. Shalom only has 22 high school students this year and all nine of the Hawks' males in grades 9-12 play basketball — the only sport available.

■ To Springfield Christian Athletic Director Phil Sheffeld: a complete schedule for all the Eagles' junior varsity and junior high athletic teams. Unfortunately, many of Springfield's league opponents don't have both JV and junior high sports because of low enrollment.

■ To Lake Orion girls competitive cheer coach Kelli Mathis: a victory over Rochester sometime this season. Has anybody in Oakland County beaten the Falcons in the 1990s? You know, a team like that is just asking to become an upset victim.

■ To all of the cheerleading, gymnastics and skiing coaches in the area: an Oakland County meet. It really surprises me that there are county meets for track, cross-country, swimming and wrestling, but not the above-mentioned three sports. I think it would be really neat to have county meets for as many sports as possible.

■ To Oxford girls basketball coach Ian Smith: nothing but good health in the year to come.

■ To Lake Orion girls cross-country coach Stan Ford and Clarkston girls cross-country coach Deb Zonca: a season without injuries. Hey, both the Dragons and Wolves had decent seasons this past fall even though it seemed that there was always someone missing from the lineup.

■ To Oxford football coach Bud Rosevear: a team that like the '98 squad never will let you saw a team with so many expectations do so well.

■ To Clarkston girls track coach Geraldine Johnson: the continuance of

Please see GIFT'S, B2

Streaking icers pelt Andover in 11-2 win

BY MIKE SCOTT
SPECIAL WRITER

There may not be a better hockey team in Oakland County right now than Clarkston as high schools head towards Christmas break.

The Wolves (7-1-1, 3-1-1) pummeled Bloomfield Hills Andover 11-2 Saturday night at The Detroit Skate Club, outshooting their hosts by a 52-18 advantage.

Once again Clarkston was able to utilize its bench in the third period as they have outscored two quality oppo-

nents 16-3 in its last two games, both on the road. Andover (5-2) had just come off an 8-2 thrashing of crosstown rival Lakewood earlier last week but was unable to come up with any offense against the Wolves.

Clarkston led 2-0 after the first period and extended that to a 6-1 cushion after 30 minutes. Steve Badger played the first two periods in goal and backup Jordan Connolly finished out the final period between the pipes.

Seven players scored for the Wolves, led by Adam Leech with three goals

and an assist. Jon Bemis and Tom Newman each had a pair of goals. Jeremy Gabriel, Anthony Facione, Brett Postal and Ryan McKinnon also scored.

Head coach Brian Krygier was surprised his squad had such an easy time with Andover, saying they weren't as deep as he expected. He continues to be pleased with how Clarkston is playing especially early in the game.

"We've been jumping out pretty well to start things lately," said Krygier. "It's been a pretty balanced offensive

attack. Everyone on our team is contributing and that's a good sign."

While playing mainly third and fourth-line wingers, Clarkston was still able to put up five goals in the third period, further exemplifying the depth of its team.

The schedule will only get more difficult beginning in January. Non-league games will come against traditional powers Trenton, Port Huron Northern and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, one of the top teams in Class B-C-D.

Please see HOCKEY, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACFIELD

Under control: Clarkston's Chris Labrie gains the advantage in his match with Scott Kortlandt of Novi in their 171-pound consolation match during Saturday's Oakland County wrestling tournament. Labrie finished third, beating Norm Wroblewski of Walled Lake Western in the consolation final.

Best of the rest

Adams top dog, but Wolves next best on county mats



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

In what had widely been expected to be one of the day's best matches at Saturday's Oakland County wrestling tournament finals, JP Reese of Rochester Adams pounded Troy Athens' Mario Basitani 9-2 to win the 135-pound title.

It was an easy match, and why not? That's how the whole day went for the Highlanders.

Adams, the state's top-ranked team, had six indi-

vidual champions and 10 overall medalists to dominate the field, sweeping to a 321-5-269.5 point win over runner-up Clarkston. It was the second straight county championship for the Highlanders, who are also the defending state champions.

Milford was a distant third with 187 points, Novi was fourth with 183.5 and Holly finished fifth with 169. Other Eccentric-area teams who fared well included Birmingham Seaholm (157.5 points), which was eighth; Auburn Hills Avondale (135.5), which finished 11th; Rochester (13th at 120 points); Troy Athens (15th at 112.5); Birmingham Groves (18th with 82); and West Bloomfield, which finished 20th with 70 points.

Clarkston, the Highlanders' chief competition in the Oakland Activities Association Division I race, did nearly as well, bringing home five individual championships and nine medals all-told. They were led by defending champions AJ Grant, who took the

125-pound title, and DeGain, who moved up to 215 and swept through to the title.

Grant toyed with Angelo Vettese of Avondale before beating him 14-6 in the championship match. DeGain took just 44 seconds to pin Rick Tyzo of West Bloomfield in the 215-pound title match.

Other Clarkston champions included heavyweight Jon Robinson, who beat Brett Faulkner of Novi 4-2 in the finals; Ryan L'Amoreaux, who stopped Dan Jilg of Novi 3-1 at 119 pounds; and Kevin Turnbill, a runner-up last year, who pinned Holly's Eric Kerr in 1:11 in the 145-pound final.

"It feels great," Turnbill said. "I finished second last year, so it felt like it was my turn to be the champion."

Auten took Clarkston's only silver medal. The Wolves' other medals came from Brian Chism

Please see WRESTLING, B2

Late rally not enough as Eagles nip Wolves

BY DAN STICKRADT
STAFF WRITER
dstickradt@oe.homecomm.net

Clarkston has had a fun time beating up on most of its Oakland Activities Association Division I opponents during the league's first four years. Now it seems everybody is trying to give the Wolves a taste of their own medicine.

Ferndale became the latest to exact its revenge on the Wolves as the Eagles posted a 62-58 triumph Friday over Clarkston, which returns no starters and just four players with varsity experience from a year ago.

Ferndale (5-0, 2-0) used a dominating second quarter, where they outscored the Wolves 23-7 before and forced 10 turnovers — including turnovers on eight consecutive possessions that helped the Eagles go on a 16-0 run and build a 41-19 halftime lead.

After a runner-in-the-lane by junior

guard Ryan Marino cut Ferndale's lead to 20-18 with 6:06 left in the second quarter, Clarkston went ice cold and scored just one point during the remainder of the period to fall behind by 22 points.

It was a deficit that was too insurmountable for the Wolves to overcome.

"We're young and I think we're going to go through periods that we make some mistakes," said Clarkston coach Dan Fife, whose squad reached the state quarterfinals a year ago. "We are still learning what intensity level it takes to win at the varsity level. We have spent all of our time trying to get the guys to learn that intensity. It's just going to take some time, but they are learning fast."

Although it appears the Wolves (2-2) are getting a heavy dose of baptism under fire — this is the first time since the mid-1970s since they started a league season 0-2 — Clarkston is

starting to improve at a faster rate than expected.

After trailing by as many as 24 points in the third quarter, the Wolves slowly gnawed at Ferndale's lead, outscoring the Eagles 23-6 in the fourth quarter and 30-10 over the final 10:42 of the game, but ran out of time.

A pair of free throws by junior forward Ryan Thomas with 1.4 seconds left the game at the final four-point margin.

"Sure, I'm disappointed that we lost. It does hurt to lose," said Fife. "But I did see some things that I liked out there. I know that (Ferndale coach) Don (McLean) pulled off the horses late in the game, but we did put together a nice comeback. I think we learned how to break their press and traps and how to attack their basket better."

Ferndale led 18-12 after the first quarter and the Wolves were able to keep the game close until the Eagles went on their 16-0 second-quarter run.

"I think what hurt us just as much as the turnovers was our poor shooting," added Fife. "We missed seven or eight layups that weren't blocked or challenged — we just missed them. But overall I'm pleased with our effort. I think the mistakes we made tonight are things that we can improve."

Randy Royal, a 6-foot-4 senior forward, led a balanced Ferndale attack with 19 points on 9-of-13 shooting to go along with nine rebounds, five assists and four steals.

Marino paced Clarkston with 13 points. Sophomore guard Ryan Brice-land had 10 points, junior forward Ryan Thomas scored nine, junior guard Rocky Lund contributed seven points, and senior forward Mark Whiteman contributed four points and five rebounds for the Wolves, who are idle until Dec. 30, when they take on Detroit Cody in the Detroit Superintendent's Tournament.

Please see EAGLES, B2

Wrestling from page B1

(fourth at 130), Dave Welanko (sixth at 135) and Chris Labrie (third at 171).

"I'm very happy," Clarkston coach Mike DeGain said. "We took nine medals, and we've never done better than that. When everyone comes and gives it everything they've got, you have to be happy with that."

Lake Orion finished with four medals, but dropped to sixth overall when Adams' Kevin Boyd beat Chris Bettridge for the day's most controversial title. Boyd was awarded a takedown at the edge of the mat with 30 seconds left, then was hit with a pair of stalling calls that knotted the score 7-7 with six seconds left in regulation. Boyd then got the winning takedown with 44 seconds gone in the overtime.

Other medal winners for the Dragons included Andy Dewey, who beat Clarkston's Brian Chism in the consolation final to take third; and freshman Ricky Kallis, who finished fifth at 126 pounds in his first Oakland County meet.

Bettridge, who nearly upset DeGain in a dual meet a couple of weeks ago, gave Boyd all he could handle in their 189-pound title tilt. Dragon coach Doug Kline thought Bettridge should have won the match.

"The way (refs) were not giving takedowns out there, that shouldn't have been takedown," Kline said of the deciding call. "Bettridge has two losses now, and they're to the first- and second-place wrestlers in the state, and both of them in overtime. He's done a great job."

Oxford also finished with four medalists, including a third-place medal from senior captain Alan Wilfong at 125 pounds. Wilfong, who won the county title at 119 pounds last year, lost to Angelo Vettese of Avondale, who was second in the state last year, then beat Kallis and Joel Gaynor



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGFIELD
In control: Lake Orion's Steve Walter (top) tries to turn Pat LeMay of Troy during their 145-pound match at Saturday's Oakland County wrestling tournament.

of Troy Athens, 14-5, in the consolation final.

Heavyweight Eric Ghiauciuc, seventh at the Division II state meet last year, lost to Adams' James Pack, 9-3, in the consolation final and finished fourth. Sophomore Willie Breyer (189) and junior Andy Boone (215) both finished fifth.

"It's kind of bittersweet," Wildcat coach Paul McDevitt said. "We took four medals, which is good. But you always want to do better. Some of the kids I wasn't sure would step up did, and some I thought could medal didn't. But I'm happy with the way we wrestled."

But the story of the weekend was the performance of the Highlanders. Adams, wrestling in opening-day action at Lake Orion, advanced all 14 of its wrestlers to the tournament's second day at Oxford High School.

"We did a little better than I thought we'd do," said Adams' coach Pat Milkovich, apparently

a master of understatement. "I'm overwhelmed with our mat management and technical skills. This is a rare group of kids to work with."

Reese, who pinned state runner-up Dave Goetz of Auburn Hills Avondale and then out-worked Bastianelli on his way to the championship, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Wrestler for the lower weights (140 and below). Clarkston's Pat DeGain, who pinned his way to the 215-pound title, was the upper-weight MVW.

Kevin Boyd, runner-up to DeGain at last year's state meet, won the day's most controversial individual title, stopping Lake Orion's Chris Bettridge 9-7 in overtime in the 189-pound title match.

Other individual championships came from Adam Cross; Pat Diaz; Mark Lazzo, who beat Justin Lambert; and Luke Lazzo, who pounded Clarkston's Andy Auten 17-7 for the 160-pound championship.

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OAKLAND COUNTY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

TEAM SCORES — 1. Rochester Adams, 321.5; 2. Clarkston, 269.5; 3. Milford, 187; 4. Novi, 183.5; 5. Holly, 169; 6. Lake Orion, 167.5; 7. South Lyon, 163.5; 8. Birmingham Seaholm, 167.5; 9. Oxford, 151; 10. Walled Lake Western, 142; 11. Avondale, 135.5; 12. Berkley, 128; 13. Rochester, 120; 14. Walled Lake Central, 118; 15. Troy Athens, 112.5; 16. Ferndale, 105.5; 17. Troy, 90; 18. Birmingham Groves, 82; 19. Royal Oak Kimball, 75; 20. West Bloomfield, 71; 21. Waterford Kettering, 68.5; 22. Waterford Mott, 66; 23. Oak Park, 63; 24. Hazel Park, 58; 24. Milford Lakeland, 58; 26. Ortonville Brandon, 27. Farmington, 50; 28. Southfield, 49; 29. Southfield Lathrup, 48; 30. North Farmington, 45; 31. Bishop Foley, 43.5; 32. Madison, 42; 33. Royal Oak Dondero, 41.5; 34. Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 32.5; 35.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

275 — 1. Jon Robinson, Clarkston, beat Brett Faulkner, Novi, 4-2; 3. James Pack, Rochester Adams, beat Eric Ghiauciuc, Oxford, 9-3.

103 — 1. Chad Rashid, Milford, beat

Mike Chamberlain, Rochester Adams, 14-4; 3. Barb Rohatgi, Novi, beat

Jonathan Morgan, Ferndale, 5-2.

112 — 1. Adam Cross, Rochester Adams, beat Brian Vaneman, Rochester, 8-3; 3. Ryan Churella, Novi, beat Antonio McBride, Oak Park, 14-0.

119 — 1. Ryan L'Amoreaux, Clarkston, beat Dan Jilg, Novi, 3-1; 3. Jim Gotshall, Birmingham Seaholm, beat

Ezai Goldenberg, Berkley, 8-4.

125 — 1. AJ Grant, Clarkston, beat

Angelo Vettese, Auburn Hills Avondale, 14-6; 3. Alan Wilfong, Oxford, beat Joel Gaynor, Troy Athens, 14-5.

130 — 1. Pat Diaz, Rochester Adams, beat Jason Amell, Milford, 3-1; 3. Andy Dewey, Lake Orion, beat Brian Chism, Clarkston, 7-2.

135 — 1. JP Reese, Rochester Adams, beat Mario Bastianelli, Troy Athens, 9-4; 3. Dave Goetz, Auburn Hills Avondale, beat Kevin Newendorf, Lakeland, 6-4.

140 — 1. Mike Chandler, South Lyon, pinned Brad Reichert, Rochester Adams, 4-5; 3. Don Aldred, Rochester, beat Derek Smith, Walled Lake West

ern, 4-3.

145 — 1. Kevin Turnbull, Clarkston, pinned Eric Kerr, Holly, 1-1; 3. Tim Grimes, Birmingham Seaholm, pinned

Chris Chalmers, Rochester Adams, 2-28.

152 — 1. Mark Lazzo, Rochester Adams, beat Justin Lambert, Milford, 6-2; 3. Steve Yurkunas, South Lyon, beat Andy Emmitt, Holly, 12-2.

160 — 1. Luke Lazzo, Rochester Adams, beat Andy Auten, Clarkston, 17-7; 3. Reuben Goodman, Berkley, beat Robert Aikens, Holly, 10-7.

171 — 1. Justin Torres, Holly, beat

Dan Tierman, Auburn Hills Avondale, 14-3; 3. Chris Labrie, Clarkston, beat

Norm Wróblewski, Walled Lake West

ern, 6-5.

189 — 1. Kevin Boyd, Rochester

Adams, beat Chris Bettridge, Lake

Orion, 9-7 (OT); 3. Jake Slater, Holly, beat Ryan Lewin, Birmingham Groves, 5-3.

215 — 1. Pat DeGain, Clarkston, pinned Rick Tyzo, West Bloomfield, 4-4; 3. Mike Lowther, Royal Oak Dondero, beat Jack Gitter, Berkley, 3-1.

Hockey from page B1

Of his team's winning streak, Krygier said he is happy with the number of victories, but added that the second half of the season will show how good the Wolves actually are.

"It's a double-edged sword," said Krygier. "We have been playing some weaker teams right now, but this has been a good streak for us. It's good because it has given our guys some confidence and they haven't been discouraged."

"The second half is definitely the hardest part of the schedule but that's the way it should be," he continued.

"They're picking through about 4,000 students so I'm sure they

have seen pretty good players," Krygier said.

The one thing the Wolves will be focusing on in upcoming practices is special teams play. Krygier feels his team can compete with anyone at an even-strength level. He continues to stress the fact his team can't afford to be in the penalty box against some of the area's better teams.

"Special teams make a difference - we can't afford to be in the penalty box," said Krygier.

Clarkston will hold some optional practices over the holidays and will return to practice full-time after New Year's Day.

Gifts from page B1

their million-year dual meet winning streak. Hey, I know Southfield, Rochester, Rochester Adams and Pontiac Northern are loaded with talent in the OAA Division I — your new home — but you always seem to find a way to win.

■ To Oxford boys and girls soccer coach Dave Summers: a \$25

check to pay for membership into the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association.

■ To every athletic director in the area (and athletic secretaries): one-half of the amount of paperwork to file. I know, I know — this would be a dream come true.

■ And to everyone in the Observer & Eccentric coverage area, we wish you the best of Holidays and a successful new year.

Daniel Stickradt is a sports reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 693-4900.



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DECEMBER 26 & 27

34th Annual Great Lakes Invitational

FEBRUARY 6

Michigan State vs. Lake Superior State

FEBRUARY 20

Michigan vs. Michigan State

MARCH 19 & 20

CCHA Championship

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North American College Hockey

Championship



ORDER NOW, call: (313)396-7575

Enter to win Detroit Red Wings Tickets!

Check out today's classified section to find out how you can register to win standing room only tickets!

Observer & Eccentric

Outdoor Calendar

(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 or send E-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net)

CAMPER, TRAVEL & RV

The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show will be held Jan. 27-31 at the Silverdome.

BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING

The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at the Silverdome.

SHOWS

Throughout the month of December!

FREE CAR BONANZA!

This Saturday, December 26

7:30PM

vs. Manitoba Moose

10 used cars will be given away throughout the game!



As Low As \$10

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY HOME GAME

INCLUDES: 1 TICKET, 1 HOT DOG, 1 T-SHIRT & 1 SODA



This Sunday, December 27

6PM

vs. Manitoba Moose

To first 4,000 fans 14 and under.

Courtesy of MEIJER

Call Now! (248) 377-0100

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT



Present this ad at The Palace Box Office or at any Meijer outlet and receive one FREE ticket for each ticket you purchase at that price. Subject to availability. Coupon not redeemable for cash. Good for \$15 and \$10 tickets. Good for the following games: 12/26, 12/27 & 12/29.

visit our website at www.palacenet.com

ACTIVITIES
GANATCHIO TRAIL

Come and explore the Ganatchio Trail, which runs from Windsor to Tecumseh parallel to the Lake St. Clair shore, during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27. The event is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Group Sierra Club. Participants should meet at the tourist information center on Route 3, south of the bridge in Windsor. Call (313) 581-7579 for more information.

SEASON/DATES

BASS Largemouth and smallmouth bass season closes Dec. 31.

DEER The second archery season runs through Jan. 3. A special firearms antlerless-only deer season runs through Jan. 3 on private land only in much of the Lower Peninsula. Check the DNR's Hunting and Trapping Guide for exact locations of the

late hunt.

GOOSE

There will be a special late Canada goose season Jan. 9-Feb. 7 in the southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for specific boundaries.

GROUSE

A special late season runs through Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

RABBIT/HARE

Rabbit/hare season run through March 31 statewide.

SQUIRREL

Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

CLUBS**SOLAR**

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield.

MICHIGAN SPORTS MONTHLY

Michigan
SPORTS
Monthly

December 1998

Michigan State
Building a contender thru 2002

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- How Michigan State is building a long-term Final Four contender.

- Features on the Lions, Red Wings, NBA, U of M, prep and more.

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808... Motorcycles/Parts &
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809... Off Road Vehicles
811... Recreational Vehicles
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812... Campers/Motor Homes/
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814... Construction, Heavy
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816... Auto/Truck-Parts & Service
817... Auto Rentals/Leasing
818... Auto Financing
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820... Trucks For Sale
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826... Vans
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832... Antique/Classic Collector
Cars
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836... Buick
838... Cadillac
840... Chevrolet
842... Chrysler
844... Dodge
846... Eagle
848... Ford
850... Geo
852... Honda
854... Lexus
856... Lincoln
858... Mazda
860... Mercury
861... Mitsubishi
862... Nissan
864... Oldsmobile
866... Plymouth
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870... Saturn
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FORD 1997 F-150, 4x4, LWB & extended cab, \$10,000/best.

FORD 1997 F-150, 4x4, LWB & extended cab, \$10,000/best.

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What Canada means by 'need to reside'

REAL ESTATE QUERIES



ROBERT M.
MEISNER

Q: I understand there is a law in Banff, Alberta, Canada, regarding the "need to reside" in order for someone to permanently live there. Can you give me any explanation of what that means?

A: Banff was created by a document entitled the "Town of Banff Incorporation Agreement." This federal-provincial agreement set out the terms of incorporation of the town and transferred specific limited municipal government powers from federal hands to the town council by the Municipal Government Act of Alberta. The town is administered by an elected council and the federal government retains final authority on planning, land use, development and environmental issues. The town of Banff's municipal development plan and related bylaws govern administration, management and land use within the town boundaries.

The concept of an "eligible resident" was introduced in the 1960s with the objective of ensuring that residential lands and the national parks were occupied by people who needed to live in the parks for reasons of employment.

There are eligible residency provisions of the national parks regulations of Canada that require certain criteria before someone can live in a national park area, be it in Banff, Lake Louise or Jasper. If you want to live in a national park in this area, you either have to have a job or other occupation that falls within the government requirements.

The Canadian government is obviously attempting to limit commercial development and to maintain the ecological integrity of the park area.

Robert M. Meisner is an Oakland County area attorney concentrating his practice in the areas of condominiums, real estate, corporate law and litigation. You are invited to submit topics that you would like to see discussed in this column, including questions about condominiums, by writing Robert M. Meisner, 30200 Telegraph, Suite 407, Birmingham Farms MI 48025. His e-mail address is meisner@mich.com, and his Web site is <http://www.meisner-law.com>. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.



BY DOUG FUNKEK, STAFF WRITER

It's the most wonderful time of the year...

Parents are coding up their walls under the tree when he makes his annual visit.

It goes without saying that most Realtors are more than a jolly Good girls and boys. So it's really a question of what rather than if when it comes to that end-of-the-year reward for good behavior.

What are Realtors hoping for?

Take a peek.

"I want Santa to have the public understand and appreciate the effort and hard work and long hours involved in selling real estate." — Tom Gross, Realtor, Century 21 Chalet, Livonia.

"You've got me stumped. I'd guess I'd really, really want maybe more buyers than sellers. Buyers are easier to work with. I don't have to babysit them as much and I hate to babysit." — Fred Rivera, Realtor, Help-U-Sell of NW Wayne County, Canton.

"Well, one thing I'm looking for from a real estate standpoint is a really nice scanner for my computer. It would be helpful for my business. You can input pictures into the computer. I'm sort of building a home office." — Helen McAllister,

Realtor, Coldwell Banker, Southwest Michigan, Kalamazoo Hills.

"I want a computer. A laptop computer would be good. There would be my wish list." — Dan Dubensky, Realtor, RE/MAX in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills.

"Thomasville offers, from a national point of view, what Santa could bring me, gosh, a windfall lottery win so I could buy a lot of real estate because it's going to go up in value."

"Another thing I would absolutely love is a bunch of people to call me to sell their property. That would be as good as the lottery." — Dave Cox, Realtor, Century 21 Town & Country, Rochester.

"I'm thinking of a kind, reasonable-kind of customer. A new car would be nice. Actually, I wouldn't mind a computer literate assistant." — Wendy Sherrill, Realtor, RE/MAX Classic, Canton.

"A nice, healthy economy. It just makes everything easier when everyone is working and happy. And a personal assistant who can work with me well. And I would like a laptop." — Pamela Vines, Realtor, Riverpoint Realty, Southfield.

"More business, more listings. That's about it. I'm a happy per-

son." Jim Tracy, Coldwell Banker, Realtor, Residential Studio, Livonia.

"He could give me more computer skills, the ability to use the computer to an extreme advantage. All the look-up work I know is in the computer but I don't know how to access."

"I'd like a new car to take clients around. Mine is five years old with 115,000 miles. Ninety-five percent of that is used for the job. I like to show houses." — Arlene Prey, Realtor, Prudential Chamberlain-Stiehl, Farmington Hills.

"Well, probably if I were to give a true answer, six weeks in St. Thomas or the Virgin Islands. I'd ask Santa that 1999 would be as good as 1998 has been." — Dick Gibb, Realtor, Weir, Manuel, Snyder & Ranke, Birmingham.

"Santa Claus could bring me health and prosperity. Clients, lots of 'em." — Elizabeth Butler, Realtor, Hannett, Wilson & Whitehouse, Bloomfield Hills.

"This year for Christmas Santa asked me for a gift. He asked if I could find for first-time buyers the home of their dreams that's on their wish list." — Peggy Finnigan, Realtor, Real Estate One, Westland.

HOMETOWN CLASSIFIED

NO Page 1, Section C

Thursday, December 24, 1998

Highest and lowest

Average 1997 new manufactured house prices for the most and least costly states:

Highest	Lowest
Connecticut	\$64,700
Massachusetts	64,400
Washington	57,800
New Jersey	57,500
California	56,500
Lowest	
Kentucky	\$34,400
Tennessee	34,900
Mississippi	35,000
West Virginia	35,500
Louisiana	35,800
U.S. Average	\$41,100
Michigan	42,400

Source: U.S. Housing Markets

HELEN FURCAIN/STAFF ARTIST

Frequently asked questions

MORTGAGE SEARCH



DAVID C.
MULLY

Part 1
We've been in a period of low mortgage rates for a few years now. This often opens up new opportunities for homeownership for people who may not have thought it was possible for them to own their own home. In this column, I'll try to answer some commonly asked questions of people who are just starting out in the housing market.

Q: I really want to own my own home, but I'm not sure I can afford it. Where do I start?

A: Lots of people don't even consider buying a home because they can't afford it. But, for most people, home ownership is within reach—especially with some of the special programs for first-time home buyers. In fact, for many, home ownership is as affordable as renting—in some cases even more affordable.

The best place to start is with a mortgage lender affiliated with the Mortgage Bankers Association of America. A lender can help you explore all the options of home ownership.

Q: How do I know how much house I can afford?

A: Before you start looking at homes, you need to have some idea of what you can afford. As a general guide, you can purchase a home with a value of two to three times your annual household income, depending on your savings and debts. However, you may be able to take advantage of special loan programs for first-time buyers to purchase a home with a higher value.

If you like to know exactly how much you can afford, talk to a mortgage lender. If you're working with a Realtor, he or she can help you with this, too.

Q: When should I talk to a mortgage lender?

A: The short answer: when you start thinking about buying a home. It's true you can't actually apply for a mortgage until you've chosen your home and signed a contract to buy it. But you shouldn't wait until then to start talking with a mortgage lender.

Any reputable mortgage lender will be happy to help you as you look for a home. The lender will work with you to determine how much house you can afford, help steer you to special mortgages for first-time home buyers, and perhaps make suggestions that could make it easier to get the best mortgage for you.

Another advantage: you'll already have a good relationship with a lender when it comes time to apply for your mortgage.

David Mully's company, Mortgage Search Services, helps consumers save money when shopping for a new mortgage. He is not a mortgage broker and is not affiliated with any mortgage lenders. To contact him, call (248) 305-7337 or e-mail him at dmully@mtgsearch.com. You can access Mully's Mortgage Search column and current mortgage rates on-line at www.mtgsearch.com.

Radon at home: Do you know the facts?

(NUI) A recent Harvard University report ranked radon, an invisible and odorless gas, No. 1 on a list of potentially fatal home hazards.

Radon comes from deposits of uranium in soil, rock and water. When trapped in buildings, it can be harmful when breathed into the lungs, especially at elevated levels. It sounds scary, but it can be eradicated.

The Consumer Research Council answers the most commonly asked questions about radon:

Q. Where is radon found?

A. The primary source of radon in homes is the underground soil. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that as many as one in 15 homes across the country have elevated radon levels.

Q. How does radon get into my house?

A. The same way air does—through cracks in the foundation floor or walls, hollow-block walls, and openings around floor drains, pipes and sump

pumps. Some air is sucked in through openings (cracks, doors, windows) on the lower levels.

Q. What are the health effects of radon?

A. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon can be inhaled into the lungs where it undergoes radioactive decay and can damage DNA. This damaged DNA can lead to lung cancer.

Q. How do I find out if my house has elevated levels of radon?

A. There are two basic testing options: Do it yourself or hire a professional tester. Radon test kits that meet EPA requirements are available at local hardware stores, home improvement stores and other retail outlets. Most test kits cost less than \$25. You can also call (800) SOS-RADON (800-767-7236) for a reduced-cost test kit.

Q. Is it difficult to perform a radon test?

A. Testing your home for radon is as simple as opening a package, placing a

radon detector in a designated area, and mailing it to a lab after the prescribed number of days.

Q. If I don't have a basement, can I assume that I don't have a radon problem?

A. No. Radon can seep in from soil anywhere around or under a home, regardless of whether it has a basement, a crawl space or is built slab-on-grade. The EPA and the U.S. surgeon general recommend radon testing for all types of homes, at or below the third floor.

Q. Two of my neighbors have tested their homes for radon and they don't have high levels. Why do I need to test?

A. Radon levels can vary considerably from house to house, even on the same street. The only way to know whether radon exists in harmful levels in your home is to test.

For information on fixing a home with radon, call the Consumer Research Council Fix-It Line at (800) 644-6999.

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303 Open Houses

ADAMS/S. BLVD. - Sat. & Sun., 1-4, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1,100 sq. ft., finished walk-out fireplace, 1st floor master suite, country kitchen, hearthroom, family room w/fireplace, 3 car garage, wooded 1.6 acre lot in Brighton. Twp. Sub. \$399,000 (810)227-4042

**305 Birmingham/
Bloomfield**

BIRMINGHAM For Sale By Owner. 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, custom molding throughout, marble master bath, \$524,800 (248)540-5453

306 Brighton

Lovely, New 4 bedroom, Cape Cod w/3, 800 sq. ft., 1000 sq. ft. finished walk-out fireplace, 1st floor master suite, country kitchen, hearthroom, family room w/fireplace, 3 car garage, wooded 1.6 acre lot in Brighton. Twp. Sub. \$399,000 (810)227-4042

308 Canton

CANTON - Open House. Great opportunity on this Canton Colonial located in Windsor Park Sub. This home needs TLC. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, large master bedroom w/walk-in closet & bath and more. Only \$151,000. (734) 464-7111

311 Dearborn-Dearborn Heights

N. DEARBORN HEIGHTS - 3 bed, 1 bath, 1160 sq. ft., Many updates, immediate occupancy. Open Sun. 1-4, 313-724-8108

315 Fenton

City of Fenton waterfront, 1600 sq. ft. ranch. Built in 1994, 16x24 finished bonus room in full basement. Way, two much to list. Custom evening, \$167,000. (610)750-9847

317 Garden City

HAPPY HOLIDAYS Thank You for a wonderful 1998. We look forward to assisting you with all your real estate needs in 1999! (734) 464-7111

325 Livonia

OUTSTANDING UPDATES GALORE! Impressive 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath Colonial. Fabulous kitchen overlooking patio and professional landscaped, wooded lot. Enviable finished basement w/sof storage. \$308,000 #FB884

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WEST BLOOMFIELD. This smashing 3 bedroom, 2½ bath condo is gorgeous. Features include den with hot tub & wet bar. Finished basement, outstanding decor, 2 car attached garage. Incentives offered by seller. Call for details. \$164,900 (52WRI) 248-626-8800



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Meticulously maintained brick ranch 1/2 block from Union Lake. Beautifully updated. 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths. Neutral decor throughout! French doors lead to family room. Walkout lower level is a complete in-law suite. 3+ car garage. \$164,900 (16PLA) 248-626-8800



OXFORD. PRIVACY & WATER. Great home with privileges on all sports lake located on dead end street plus wooded back yard. Walkout, large deck with screened area, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, some appliances, credit on closing costs, immediate occupancy. \$221,900 (28EST) 248-652-8000



LAKE SHERWOOD LAKEFRONT. Traditional style colonial, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths on secluded lot. Backs to nature area, unfinished walkout, almost 1 acre secluded quiet serene lot. A must house. \$479,900 (09DEE) 363-1200



FARMINGTON HILLS. Updated 3 bedrooms Cape Cod in prime "Wood Creek" subdivision. Newer white kitchen, freshly painted, stained glass and oak entry door. Patio. Landscaped. Dynamite. Must see! \$339,900 (30VAL) 248-626-8800



CANTON. New construction. Canton's premier golf course community, Fairway Pines at Pleasant Run. Soaring ceiling, 1st floor master suite, large island kitchen, bright breakfast nook, 3 car side entry garage. Come and see what everyone's talking about! \$293,900 (45FOU) 248-626-8800



CLARKSTON. Lakefront ranch. Well maintained, remodeled, updated 3 or 4 bedroom, 2½ bath ranch. Neutral decor, hardwood floors, walkout finished lower level. Deck overlooks treed lot & lake. 2 car garage. 4 ½ miles N. of I-75. Possible 4th bedroom in lower level. \$192,000 (36SAS) 248-652-8000



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Updated Herman Frankel home with Bloomfield Hills schools. Updates include: new kitchen, ceramic tile in foyer, kitchen & bath. All baths completely remodeled. Re-finished hardwood floors in all bedrooms, library & hallway. Freshly painted. \$309,900 (45VAL) 248-626-8800



ROCHESTER HILLS. RELAX IN ELEGANCE. Oak & ceramic floors, crown moldings, white kitchen with Jenn-Air Corian counters. Florida room with hot tub, family room with fireplace. Fabulous master, extensive landscaping, 4 bedrooms. \$362,500 (96CHA) 248-652-8000



ROYAL OAK. Lovely home with original woodwork, remodeled kitchen, Jenn-Air range, hardwood floors, oak mantle with natural fireplace, 2 balconies, 2 car garage, newer carpet. Just move in. \$164,900 (10GAR) 248-652-8000



CANTON MOVE RIGHT IN! 1 YEAR NEW HOME! Bright & airy, open floor plan, cathedral ceiling, spacious kitchen. Huge family room, 2½ car garage, extra insulation, professional landscaping. Transfer owner must sell this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Hurry! \$189,900 (41WES) 248-626-8800



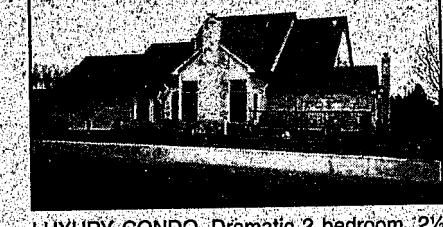
SOUTHFIELD. Fabulous five bedroom Cape Cod located in Washington Heights. Bring your fussiest buyers. Perfect for entertaining. 4 full baths, in-law quarters, two 2-way fireplaces, music room with acoustical walls, large family room. \$276,900 (25NOR) 248-652-8000



ENJOY country atmosphere close to city of Lapeer. 1990 colonial, move in condition. 3 bedrooms, central air, finished basement with 4th bedroom, master bedroom with bay window, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, open floor plan, paved streets. Hurry, won't last long. \$159,900 (24PEP) 248-652-8000



WATERFORD. NOT A DRIVE-BY. 3 bedroom, 2 bath quad in country-like area. Office/den, family room with natural fireplace, neutral decor, 2 car attached garage with workshop. Lake access nearby. \$167,900 (13WIL) 248-626-8800



LUXURY CONDO. Dramatic 2 bedroom, 2½ bath with exciting blend of sunlight, glass & oak cabinets. Overlooks wooded area for privacy. Open floor plan. Great room with loft & fireplace. Finished basement with full bath. \$264,900 (80CCE) 248-652-8000



HOME WITH A WARM HEARTH. Gorgeous is the best way to describe this open floor plan ranch with finished walkout lower level and attached 3-car garage, bedrooms, 3 ceramic baths, and 2 fireplaces, along with 1 acre of rolling land. Better than new. 1996 built. \$269,000 (80DUB) 363-1200



BRANDON TWP. New construction; 2 ½ acres w/pond. Open foyer. Hardwood floors & marble throughout, custom trim fireplace, 2 ½ baths, plus 600 sq. ft. walkout lower level. Cathedral ceiling in master suite w/jet tub. Bay window in breakfast area. Beautiful scenery. \$219,900 (410ak) 248-626-8800



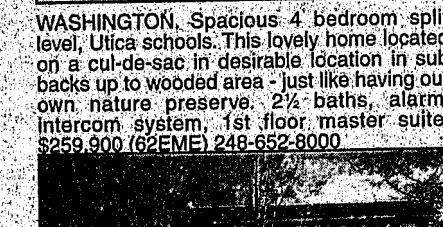
WASHINGTON. Spacious 4 bedroom split level, Utica schools. This lovely home located on a cul-de-sac in desirable location in sub backs up to wooded area - just like having our own nature preserve. 2½ baths, alarm, intercom system, 1st floor master suite. \$259,900 (62EMF) 248-652-8000



BRAND NEW RANCH HOME ON premium one acre lot in developed subdivision. Soft contemporary with sensational qualities and 3 car garage. \$244,900 (09NAN) 363-1200



TROY. Spacious 4 bedroom colonial in this desirable Mt. Vernon Estates. Large family room with fireplace. Nice location. Troy schools nearby. Brand new central air & furnace. Home warranty included. Available for lease. \$179,900 (23CUM) 248-626-8800



LAKE ORION. HILLS, TREES AND LAKES. Some of the many features of this charming sub. Growing community, new schools, close to shopping. Traditional floor plan, hardwood floors, ceramic kitchen. Part finished basement, central air. Home warranty. \$239,000 (30LAK) 248-652-8000



BEAUTIFUL HOME. Beautiful almost new home on 15th green of Brantwood. Open floor plan, neutral decor and daylight basement. \$235,850 (97HAV) 363-1200



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OXFORD. 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, contemporary home built on 10 acres. Lots of wildlife. Great room, 2 fireplaces. Lots of windows. 3 car attached garage plus extra workshop. \$489,900 (75FAR) 248-524-1600

OAKLAND. 4 bedroom, 2½ bath colonial with great curb appeal. Library. Dining room. Loads of updates throughout. Basement. Rochester schools. Call today! \$239,900 (12DAR) 248-524-1600

BEVERLY HILLS. Don't miss this home! 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, colonial with nice floor plan. Formal dining room, family room, brick patio, hardwood floors. Birmingham schools. Near park, quiet street. Many improvements! \$254,900 (56ALL) 248-642-8100

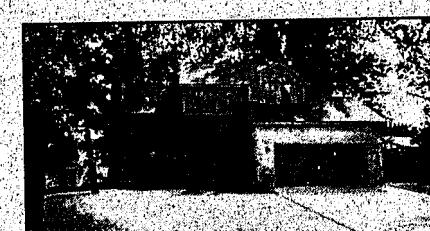


TROY. Well-maintained 4 bedroom colonial with lots of updatings throughout. Huge family room, 2 skylights. Fireplace. Newer windows, roof. A must see! \$209,900 (58WAS) 248-524-1600

TROY. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, quad-level offers all neutral colors. Updated kitchen cabinets. French doors to Florida room. Treed lot. Vinyl windows. Home warranty! \$244,900 (35HEA) 248-524-1600

ALMOST NEW. Gorgepus 3 bedroom, 2½ bath home in newer sub. Located on premium lot with great landscaping. This house is better than new and ready to move into. \$214,900 (24SYC) 363-1200

TROY. Ranch home in Long Lake Village Sub. Remodeled large bathroom with oversized jet tub and shower stall. Finished basement. \$179,900 (83CAL) 248-524-1600



GORGEOUS CONTEMPORARY. Newer 3 bedroom, 2½ bath on corner lot, open plan with hardwood floors & lots of ceramics, large deck with lake views, full basement, natural fireplace in great room, central air, sprinkler system, private, on both Elizabeth & Cass Lakes. Sharp! \$197,599 (11DUR) 363-1200



BLOOMFIELD HILLS. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, colonial on large, treed lot. Living room, family room, and 4th bedroom with fireplace. Large kitchen. All Jenn-Air appliances. Pool, 3 car attached garage and more! \$729,000 (26QUA) 642-8100



BEVERLY HILLS. A real find! Super sharp ranch, 3 bedrooms, large living room with fireplace. Formal dining room, oak kitchen, rec room, 2 car garage. Birmingham schools! \$199,900 (54BEV) 248-642-8100



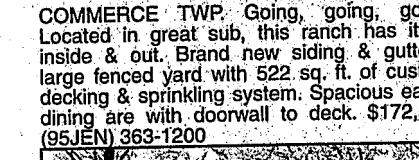
HISTORIC UPDATED GEM. If you're searching for old world quality with 90's updating, here it is! Tall new windows, floor coverings, makes this house ready for you! Add 2-car garage, new driveway & sidewalks and it shouts value! See. \$179,000 (24OAK) 363-1200



BLOOMFIELD TWP. This home has it all!! Tudor built in 1990 with extras such as 3 car garage, Corian counters, cul-de-sac setting, beautiful finished basement. Sound system, 4 bedrooms. Meticulously maintained. \$414,900 (37CLE) 248-642-8100



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Gorgeous large lot offering loads of privacy! 3 bedrooms, 1½ bath ranch. Updated kitchen with all appliances. Cozy family room with fireplace leads to deck. Central air, 2 car attached garage, newer roof. \$189,900 (60BRO) 248-642-8100



BLOOMFIELD HILLS. Colonial in Bennington Green! 2,730 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 2½ baths. Living room has built-ins. Family room w/ fireplace, dining room. Hardwood floors, patio with hot tub, huge lot is almost ½ acre. Bloomfield schools. Warranty included. \$364,500 (03ANT) 248-642-8100



TROY. Northfield Hills Townhouse! 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, St. Moritz model. Updated kitchen, newer furnace, central air, newer windows. All appliances. Value priced to reflect need for decorating. \$132,000 (62BRE) 248-642-8100



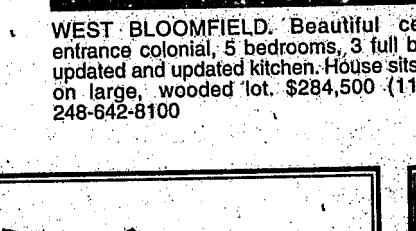
BLOOMFIELD. Lovely colonial on large lot. 4 nice-sized bedrooms, 3½ updated baths, updated kitchen with parquet floor and frosted oak cabinets. Spacious master bedroom suite with walk-in closet. Finished lower level with 2nd kitchen, 2 tier deck, 1 year home warranty. \$334,900 (40COL) 248-642-8100



FARMINGTON HILLS. 4 bedroom, brick colonial, family room, fireplace, 2 car attached garage, great court location, remodeled kitchen & bath. \$214,500 (75CER) 248-642-8100



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Beautiful center entrance colonial, 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, updated and updated kitchen. House sits high on large, wooded lot. \$284,500 (11STJ) 248-642-8100



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Gorgeous ranch condo! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, attached garage, finished basement, private entry with front porch. 1400+ sq. ft. of living space. Clean and decorated in neutrals, looks like a model. Great value! \$129,900 (66WOO) 248-642-8100



STERLING HEIGHTS. 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, colonial offers master suite with Jacuzzi tub.

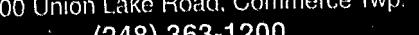
Family room with recessed lighting. Living room. Formal dining room and more!

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CANAL/RIVERFRONT TO COMMERCE LAKE. Completely remodeled 3 bedroom ranch with open floor plan, fireplace in living room, new white kitchen, vaulted ceiling in dining & bedroom, skylight & hardwood floor in living room. \$164,000 (71BLU) 363-1200



COMMERCE LAKEFRONT. 2 bedroom cottage with 70' of frontage. Updated ranch has living room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen with doorwall and room to expand. Move in or tear down! \$148,500 (03VOL) 363-1200



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53 Snarl
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58 Elector
60 Mr. Fleming
61 Lone Star St.
62 —
cologne
63 Mr. Caesar

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42 Alice (abbr.)
43 Chemical
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

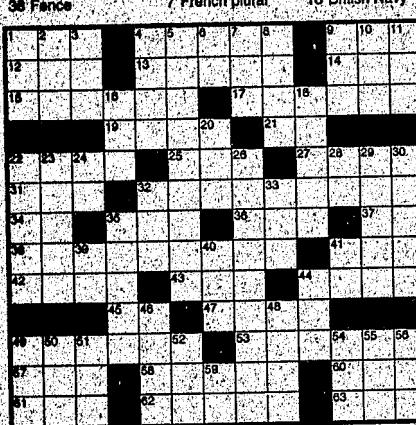
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3 Outfit
4 Actor Danny
5 Stubborn
6 Edits
7 French plural

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AT HOME

COVER STORY: Blank walls invite creativity Page 4



Inside: Appliance Doctor, Page 2 • Inviting Ideas, Page 6 • Garden Spot, Page 7

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appliance doctor

Hot water mystery proves very baffling



JOE GAGNON

I don't know about you, but it seems that in the course of my lifetime, every time I've tackled a plumbing project I end up calling a plumber.

This could very well be the reason why there is an apprenticeship program in the plumbing industry. There certainly is more to it than meets the eye. My current problem has to do with the four-year-old hot water tank in my house; it's putting out more than water.

It all started some four months ago when I was using the bathroom sink and water stopped coming out with any force. I removed the aerator, and it was filled with little chips of a white chalky substance. After I cleaned out this debris, the water poured out the way it was supposed to until the next day when it happened again.

Same procedure again, only this time it was happening to all the sinks. And it wasn't just the sinks this time, but also the fancy gizmo that serves as a shower head. I discovered the little chips only built up in the aerators when we used the hot water and as any smart plumber would say, "It's coming from the hot water tank."

Now I'm not any kind of hot water specialist, but I do know how they function and a little about the internal components. I figured it has to be the anode tube which is inside the tank and is used to attract and hold the bad things in the water, such as magnesium, lime or whatever else.

This prevents these bad things from attacking the inner liner of the tank and destroying the product.

It is also a fact that in a water heater what has a 10-year warranty, it will also have two anode tubes instead of the standard one.

I also know that hot water tanks which last for 20 years plus are almost a thing of the past. The industry tells me that you can expect a five to 10 year lifespan on the tank of today. With my tank being four years old, I figure my luck has run out and I might just as well

■ I also know that hot water tanks which last for 20 years plus are almost a thing of the past.

replace it.

I stopped by my favorite plumber the other day, A Burton & Sons in Garden City, to select a new hot water tank and to schedule the installation. I walked out without spending a cent and armed with more consumer information to talk and write about.

I learned it's not the anode tube causing the problem, it is the dip tube. The dip tube is used to let water come into the top of the tank and guide that water so it is submerged. If you didn't have a dip tube, the cold water coming in would just drop on top of the already hot water and create noises etc.

Just a minute now, before I tell you what is wrong with the dip tube, I've had several calls on the radio show in which the homeowner has described the same conditions I've had and I couldn't answer the question.

Not once did anyone call and tell me they had a solution to the problem or what was causing it. I think some people get a kick out of stumping the Appliance Doctor, but I don't think it's funny.

I never said I was the smartest guy in the world and I need all the help I can get. So — I will not tell you in this column what is wrong and how to correct it, you'll have to wait until next week.

Until that time I want you to go to your filing cabinet and pull out the bill of sale. If you purchased a new hot water tank between the years 1993 and 1997 and had had or will have slow water coming out of the faucet, you need to read next week's column in this newspaper.

If you ever wonder why I get on my high horse and condemn people in business who create problems to create sales, you need to stay tuned!

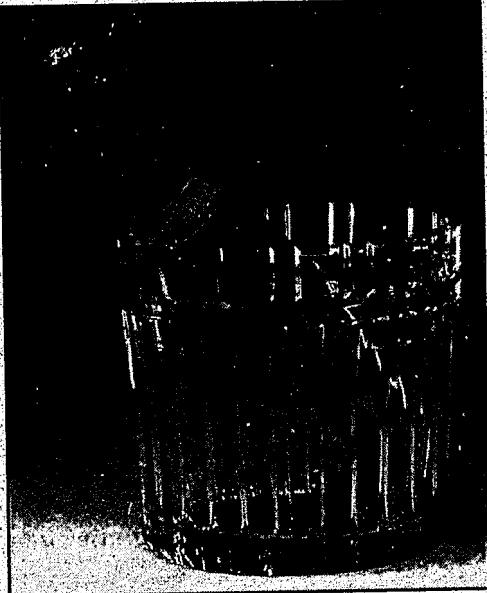
Joe Gagnon was the president of Carmack Appliances for 20 years and is today a weekend talk show host on 760 WJR. He can be reached at (313) 873-9789. His book "First Aid on Appliances" is available in book stores and Damman Hardware.



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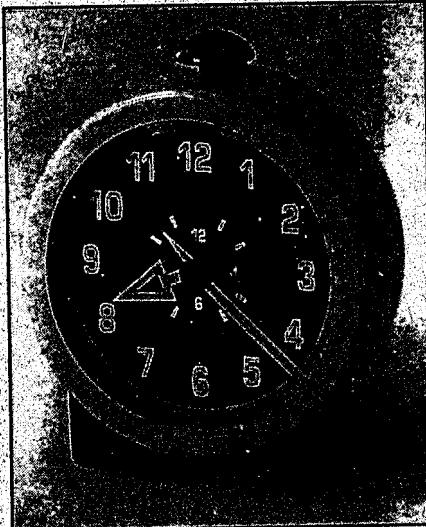
Bubbly brew

On ice: Celebrate the New Year in style with the Tiffany Atlas champagne ice bucket. Made of full lead crystal, the item sells for \$100 at Tiffany's Somerset Collection store.



Colorful ticks

Super bell: This "School Bell" clock from Howard Miller features a bright red "Super Bell" alarm button on top that turns the ringing bell alarm on or off. The clock is in school bus yellow with large white numerals on a black base. The clock retails for \$59.95. For information on where to find Howard Miller clocks, call (616) 772-7277.



Trumpet the season

Leather jackets: These leather elephants might make just the right unusual last-minute gift this Christmas. The elephants, and giraffes, are for sale at Gorman's Novi and Troy stores starting at \$20 and make great stocking stuffers.

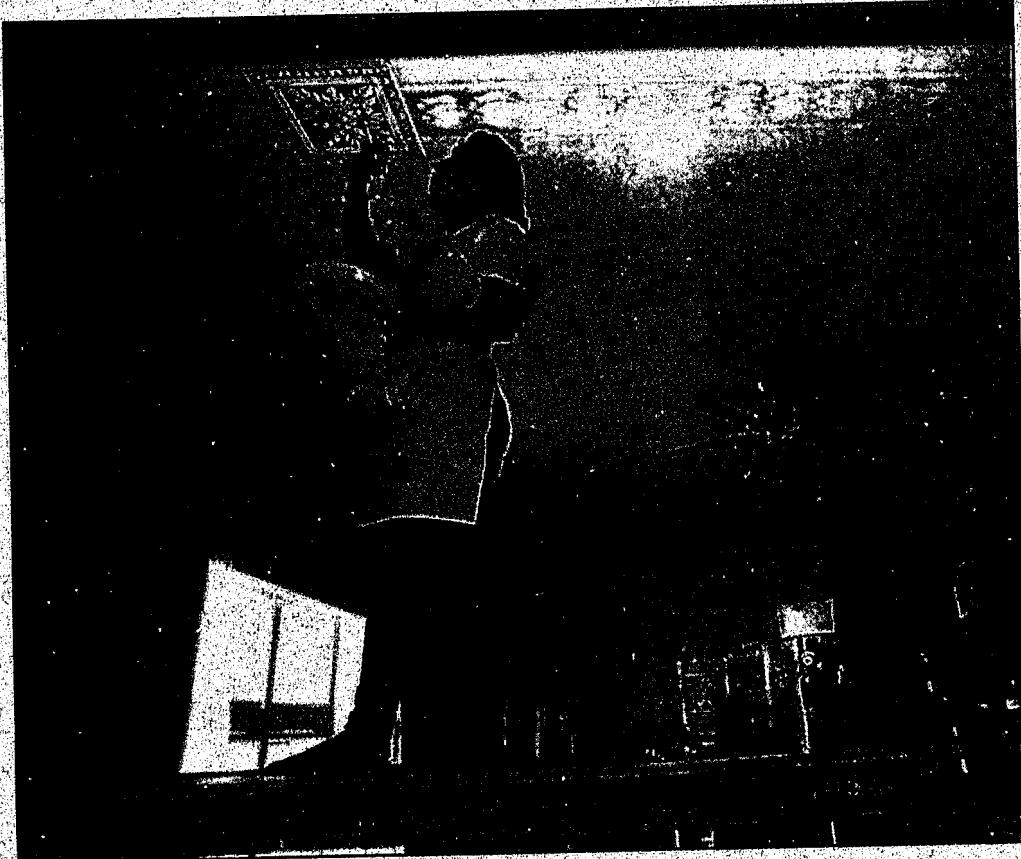
Go Wings graphic

Winning jersey: The Sports Gallery in downtown Birmingham is offering this limited edition Steve Yzerman lithograph. The 30 inch by 36 inch original lithograph showing the Red Wing captain's locker is personally autographed by "The Captain" and sports artist Bill Williams. Limited to only 600 copies, each print is signed, numbered and comes with a Certificate of Authenticity and photo of Steve Yzerman and Bill Williams signing each print. The lithographs sell for \$295 at the Sports Gallery, 269 S. Old Woodward Ave. Framed lithographs are also available.



AT HOME, Mary Klemic, editor (248) 901-2569
We are looking for your ideas for At Home and for the Marketplace roundup of new ideas. Send your comments to: **Mary Klemic,**

At Home,
805 E. Maple,
Birmingham, MI 48009



Detailed: Westland muralist Jennifer Gushen is perched on a scaffolding as she works on an intricate architectural molding design that frames the ceiling of Mr. and Mrs. K. Smith of Plymouth's living room.

Side-by-side: Gushen and her sister, Dianna Moses, pose for a picture. Moses helps her sister prepare the working surfaces that await a variety of treatments including stuccoing, limestone, marbleizing, sponging and painting.



Blank W

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
Staff Writer

kmortson@oc.homecomm.net

A blank white wall to Westland muralist Jennifer Gushen compares to an open palette with "endless possibilities."

Gushen, 35, has painted, sponged, stenciled and created a niche for herself as an artist in demand ... recognizing the colorful and expressive murals she has designed since starting her business, Faux Unique, in 1988.

With a distinguished mentor like Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1836-1912) an English painter, whose work is known for fine detail, smooth finish, and realistic representation of textures, Gushen says she strives to match an individual's personal style with the colors and patterns she creates on the walls and ceilings of clients' homes.

Putting it together

"It's like setting a stage," said Gushen. "We start by looking around the existing fabric, artwork, lighting, furniture and what kind of style these reflect. I like to mix modern, traditional, eclectic, Mediterranean, European and Asian styles."

With a bachelors degree in fine arts from the University of Michigan and studies in interior design and history of art, Gushen marries her education and experience with natural talent she possesses for free-hand work.

From a seaside balcony overlooking the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean sea to the infamous black and white photograph of Ty Cobb stealing third base from the St. Louis Browns — Gushen's work is so detailed that you can almost smell the salty sea air or taste the dust kicked up by Cobb's successful slide.

"Once people open themselves up to an idea, they realize the possibilities are endless and that they're not limited by a specific mold," said Gushen.

A 1981 graduate of John Glenn High School, Gushen says she has always had a love for art and a desire for expression whether it was being the "class clown" or display designer at Hudson's or Ann Arbor's. "I've always had a desire for challenge of a job ... big or small," said Gushen. "I'm self-driven and had the need to draw and paint inside me."

An artist exhibited in the magazine Better Homes and Gardens in 1997, Gushen's featured work was that of a square ceiling in a Grosse Pointe home purchased by the Junior League of Detroit as a Designers Showhouse. The square ceiling was a globe of the world surrounded by a band of stars, giving the observer the impression the ceiling was the sky.

"It gives you the sense you're inside a glass sphere and looking outward," said Gushen of the nine-day project.

The Junior League of Detroit annually purchases a home and offers individuals and organizations the chance to paint rooms. Each room in the home is then themed after a local artist and the residence is sold with the proceeds going to charity.

This past summer Gushen again participated in the Junior League of Detroit Showhouse event and painted the ceiling of a Grosse Pointe home to look as if you were floating in a hot air balloon gazing out over Paris.

Taking care of business

The majority of her work however, is done in smaller rooms, bedrooms, dining rooms and kitchens throughout metropolitan Detroit. Working alongside Dianna Moses, who helps Gushen prepare



r story

walls invite artist's creativity

she begins a design, jobs average between 1, 3 and 9 days depending on the existing condition of the wall surface and the detail of the project.

Gushen's work isn't limited to painting either — clients often ask her to coordinate the fabric, bedding, window treatments and furniture to her designs and she accommodates their wishes. She often livens up furniture, pillows and drapery with subtle brush strokes offset by bold hues and colors.

"I hand mix my colors on the spot because every home has a different lighting source," said Gushen. "It's very customized."

The Westland artist says she has seen people free themselves from traditional wallpaper and paint accents and have more fun with their living space.

Grapevines winding around window frames; bees buzzing from bursting blooms; an aggressive quarterback charging the defensive line; Minnesota Fats lining up a corner pocket shot; and James Dean perched on a stool in a soda shop circa 1950s are just a few of the requests clients have made and Gushen has obliged.

Home sweet home

Gushen and her husband, Jon, make their home in Westland with their two children Danny and Amanda. The muralist says she's proud of the interest her children take in her work and she has tried to encourage their creativity by providing them with the tools and the opportunities to express themselves as they choose.

"They've been playing with scissors, paints and papers since they were young ... I have pretty creative kids," said Gushen.

A demanding schedule has Gushen balancing her personal and professional life with bookings up to four months in advance. She says initially she meets with a client to get an impression of what they are looking for then schedules a time to come back and narrow down the ideas before a confirmed date has been established to start painting.

"Sometimes people have things in mind and other times they want me to suggest what would be best for their space," said Gushen. "I like to have their input so they're pleased with the work when it's done and it's something that's a lasting compliment to their home."

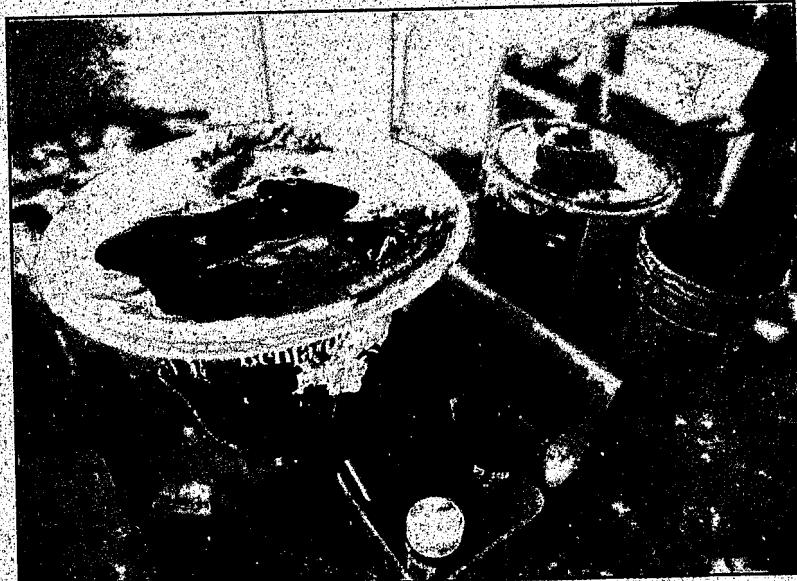
Most recently Gushen turned a young boys bedroom into an underwater adventure by surrounding his bed with life-size dolphins, whales and sea creatures.

"That was a lot of fun," said Gushen. "I enjoy it when people want to have fun with their space."

If you are interested in viewing Gushen's portfolio or speaking with her, please leave a message at (734) 467-9577.

On the Cover:

Celestial slumber: The Plymouth homeowners' son falls asleep each night under Gushen's astrological masterpiece of stars, planets and the moon.



Preferred: The Westland muralist says she uses Benjamin Moore paints, that she hand-mixes on the spot, because she's found the brand to last long and be durable. Specialty glazes, however, are ordered from New York.



Pretty in pink: Gushen painted a delicate pastel colored motif throughout the Smith daughter's bedroom. Gushen stands in front of a handpainted trellis that marks the beginning of a pathway. Climbing the trellis are dainty blooms and meandering vines.

inviting ideas

Holiday leftovers make fine meals



RUTH MOSSOK
JOHNSTON

"using up the goods" on your family or you find this the perfect time to fulfill those reciprocation lunches, let your pragmatic side kick in and make holiday entertaining not only fun and creative, but cost effective.

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What to do with.....

Holiday meals take a lot of planning, work and expense. I believe in approaching food not only creatively but pragmatically - the art then becomes the transformation of the leftovers into spectacular reruns.

Leftover Ham - ■ Pea soup laden with loads of leftover meat (if this sounds like it will hit the spot and you didn't make a ham - you can buy just the bone from any of the Honey Baked Ham shops)

- A Julienne Salad
- Quiche Lorraine
- Lavash sandwiches rolled with fresh romaine lettuce and sliced cheese

Leftover Prime Rib

■ Mixed greens topped with julienne strips of beef and dressed with a fruitied vinaigrette

■ Thinly sliced rare roast beef sandwiches on pumpernickel bread with coleslaw and spicy horseradish sauce

■ Beef and potato pie (use up those leftover baked potatoes and vegetables)

■ Hot roast beef sandwich piled high with mashed potatoes and gravy

Leftover Turkey

■ A Cobb' salad (loaded with cheese left from the cheese tray)

■ Turkey pie with warm parshied gravy

■ Turkey soup peppered with vegetables (a good way to use up the remaining crudite)

■ Shredded turkey tortillas

Leftover Leg of Lamb

■ Gourmet gyros sandwiches with homemade yogurt

■ Layered mousaka (typically ground lamb) - use thin slices of lamb between layers of vegetables

■ Lamb, pine nut, and tomato tart

■ Mixed green' salad topped with julienened lamb and a mint dressing

Leftover Pheasant or Goose

■ Wild game pizza

■ Mixed greens with dried fruits and nuts tossed with julienne pheasant or goose and dressed with a fruitied vinaigrette

■ Make into a pate-like dip - spread on crackers or water biscuits

■ Serve pheasant or goose sliced on

an antipasto platter - add cheese slices, hot peppers, anchovies, and capers

Leftover Potatoes

(Baked)

■ Double stuffed baked potatoes - use leftover cheese (shredded) and nuts (chopped)

■ Potato cakes - make like crab cakes - add your favorite herbs, spices and raw egg - sauté until golden brown

■ Peeled and diced - add to soups, stews and casseroles

■ Mash without butter or milk and add to soups for thickening

■ Potato salad - add leftover celery from the crudite platter and Dijon-flavored mayonnaise

Ruth Mossok Johnston is an author and food columnist who lives in Franklin. To leave her a voice mail message, dial (313) 963-2047, mailbox 1902.

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Feed the birds on Christmas tree



MARTY FIGLEY

The evergreen has been a most-loved symbol of the Christmas season since the Middle Ages. After the holiday we can enjoy the tree in other ways when it needs to be taken down. You may wish to consider the following ideas.

First, if the tree is alive and is to be planted outdoors, do it as quickly after Christmas Day as possible. One more step is to tag the tree in some manner with the year date, because all too often, although we know we'll remember, that date slips away. Mark the occasion on your garden calendar so you can watch its progress.

The most fun, especially for the kids, is to make a tree for the birds, filled with all sorts of goodies they will enjoy during the cold months. Many of these ornaments can be made while school is

in recess and will keep their hands and minds busy for at least several hours.

Plan to set the tree where it can readily be seen — perhaps outside the breakfast table window — and place it near some shrubs to which the birds can fly if they need protective cover. They will also appreciate a water source, a bird-bath or non-metal pan will do. Keep it free from ice with a heater or pour hot water into it to melt the ice.

Now to the "goodies." Unbuttered, unsalted popcorn strung on dark, heavy-duty thread is perfect. Intersperse cranberries and grapes among the corn, or make separate strings of them. Small pieces of apple and dried fruit are also good. String whole peanuts or large, shelled nutmeats into a garland or string them on a short length of wire and hang on the tree.

Orange and/or grapefruit slices with rind attached can be tied to the branches. Hang them fruit side up and they'll look like little dishes.

Small ears of corn (dried or fresh, uncooked) can be tied to the sturdier

branches.

Small pinecones, and there are a lot this year, rolled in the following mixture will give the birds the extra fat and protein they need in cold weather. Mix 1/2 cup unsalted peanut butter with 2-1/2 cups cornmeal or uncooked oatmeal until well blended. Dried fruit or nutmeats can also be added. Spread the pinecones with the mixture and hang from branches.

Use the same recipe to make cookies. Add a few raisins for a festive touch. Press the mixture firmly into molds — holiday shapes are fun and the people cookie baking has been done by now. Harden the cookies in the refrigerator. Don't forget to punch a small hole for the string as you make them.

Instead of the peanut butter, buy suet from the market or cut from meat before cooking and melt in the microwave or in a heavy pan over low heat. Other things you can add to this mixture are 1 or 2 well-crushed eggshells for grit and calcium or birdseed. If you use suet, pour the recipe into paper-lined muffin cups

and refrigerate until they harden; unmold and tie them in a mesh bag and hang in the tree.

Another mixture for pine cones is corn pudding. In a deep bowl, mix together 4 c. water and 2 c. sugar. In a heavy pan melt 2 c. suet or lard; allow to cool and mix with the sugar/water mixture, alternating it with 4 c. yellow cornmeal until it forms a soft dough. Gradually stir in 4 c. white flower to make a stiff dough. Stuff this concoction into the crevices of large pinecones then hang them on the tree.

The object is to feed our feathered friends and enjoy the show as they visit your special treat.

A most unusual idea for a used Christmas tree is a bottle tree. Simply cut the branches from the tree leaving stems (which may need to be shaved down to hold the bottles). Set the tree in a hole and brace it so it won't fall. Wiggle colored bottles over the branches — use smaller ones on the top — you don't want the stems to bend. Watch the colors reflect the light.

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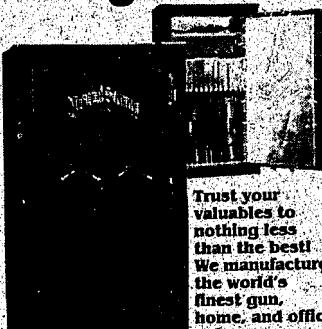
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Entertainment

Observer & Eccentric

Page 1, Section E

Thursday, December 24, 1998

Keely Wygonik, Editor 734-953-2105

on the web: <http://observereccentric.com>

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



To most people, Joe (left) is a myth and a legend. To his only friend, Jill (Charlize Theron, center) he is a protector and companion. Zoologist Gregg O'Hara (Bill Paxton, right) thinks he's the most amazing creature on the planet in "Mighty Joe Young," opening today at metro-Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY

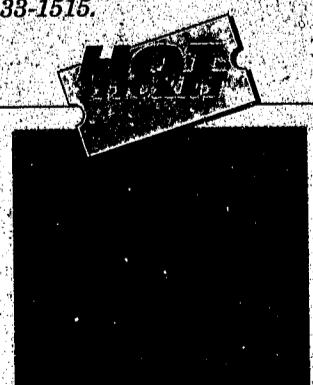


Booth Colman leads a cast of 35 in Meadow Brook Theatre's annual holiday spectacular, "A Christmas Carol," at the theater on the campus of Oakland University. Tickets \$25 for 2 p.m. show, \$36 for 6:30 p.m. call (248) 377-3300.

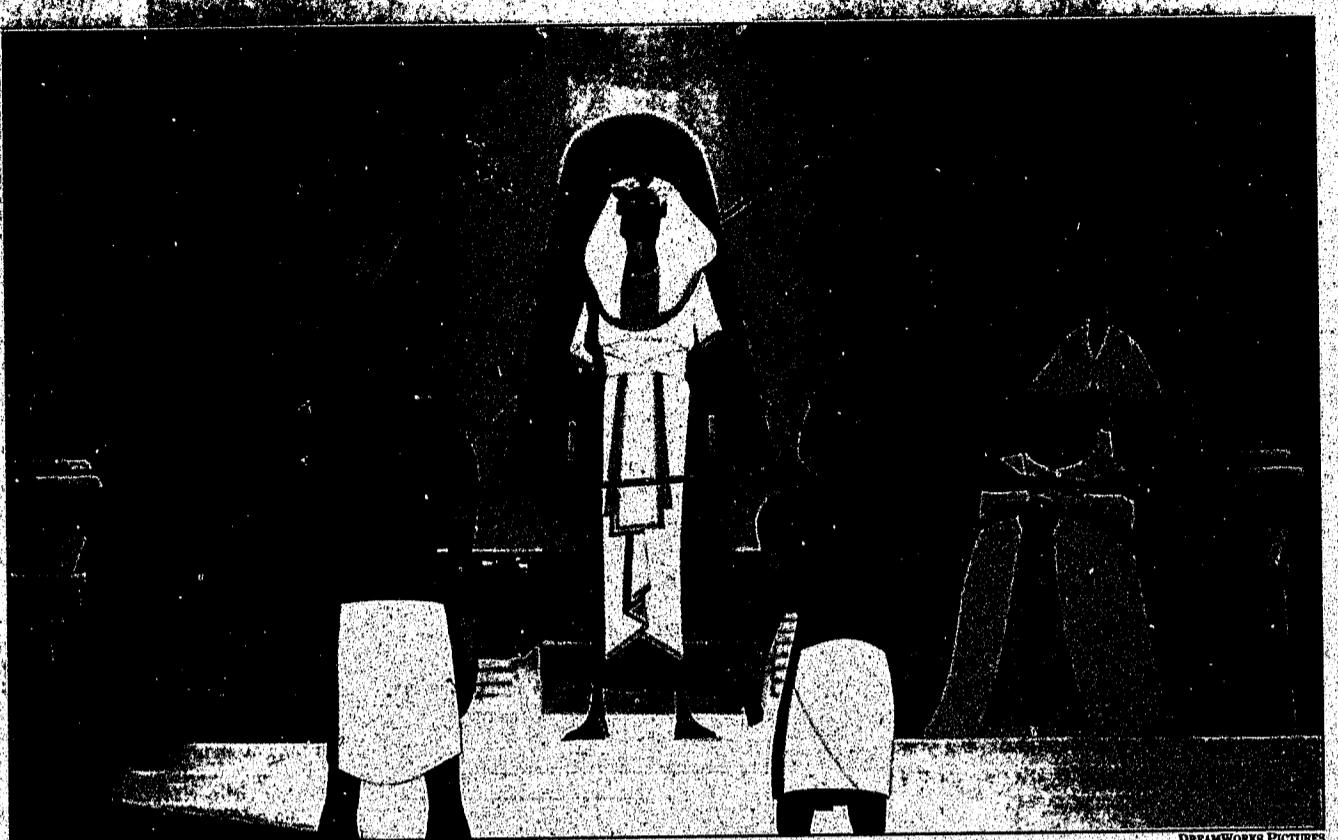
SUNDAY



See Santa Claus before he leaves town at the "Radio City Christmas Spectacular" starring the Rockettes, at the Fox Theatre, 2111 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Performances 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 to \$52.50, call (248) 433-1515.



You'll find collectible dolls, bears, and toy trains at Toy & Hobby Expo '98, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 26-27 at the Novi Expo Center, I-96 at Novi Road. Call (248) 548-5600 for more information.



DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Duty first: Pharaoh Seti (Patrick Stewart, center) lectures Rameses (Ralph Fiennes, left) and Moses (Val Kilmer) for their irresponsible behavior as the Queen (Helen Mirren, far left) and the court magicians Hotep (Steve Martin) and Huy (Martin Short) look on in "The Prince of Egypt."

'The Prince of Egypt'

Animator enjoys developing characters

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

Animators draw characters, but to be really good, they have to know something about acting too.

"An animator is an actor with a pencil," said Kurt Culotta, one of 350 animators who worked on "The Prince of Egypt," the story of Moses, now playing at metro-Detroit movie theaters. "It helps to feel the characters when you're drawing them."

Culotta worked on the character Pharaoh Seti for whom Patrick Stewart of Star Trek fame gives voice, but he is proudest of two minor characters he designed himself—a young Hebrew girl and her grandmother.

"They first appear in the Exodus scene," said Culotta. "The grandmother slips, and the little girl

takes her by the hand and says, 'come on, let's go.' You see them crossing the Red Sea. The little girl is afraid, and the grandmother takes her by the hand. When they cross the sea, you see them hugging each other."

A 1978 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, Culotta grew up in Plymouth and dreamed of one day becoming an animator. "I can't remember not drawing," he said. "My earliest memories are of drawing. I've wanted to be an animator since I was 9. I always watched Disney cartoons and the Disney show every Sunday night."

He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Michigan State University and worked for an adver-

tising agency before deciding to move to California to follow his dream.

Culotta enrolled in the UCLA graduate film program and majored in animation. Before finishing the program he got a job, and one job led to another. In September of 1995 he began working at DreamWorks Pictures in Glendale, Calif., which produced "The Prince of Egypt."

"For a long time I worked as a clean-up artist," he said. "That's the person who cleans up the drawing, puts in buttons and other details. An animator figures out the motions."

Before beginning work on "The Prince of Egypt," he attended an

extensive training program at DreamWorks that included acting and drawing classes. "I didn't quite have the tools an actor has," said Culotta. "It helps to try and understand motivations of actors. The class helped me understand how to look for more subtle ways of expressing emotion. Sometimes in trying to figure out the acting we will act out the scene and watch it on videotape. Sometimes real actors do it, it helps, it might add some natural elements. You find yourself saying 'I didn't realize I breathe that way or had that expression on my face.'

Because he didn't know any little girls, Culotta watched the movie "Annie" to see how little girls ran. This attention to detail is what makes "The Prince of

Please see ANIMATOR, E3

POPULAR MUSIC

ROCK 'N' ROLL ALL NIGHT

Loyalty brings Kiss to The Palace New Year's Eve

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cufoco@ee.homecomm.net

For the rock band Kiss, playing The Palace of Auburn Hills on New Year's Eve is all about loyalty.

"Detroit really took us to heart earlier than any other city, even before New York. And we're very serious about stuff like loyalty, and not forgetting our friends," said bassist Gene Simmons, who affectionately calls himself "Uncle Gene."

"We never turn our backs on people and places that were there for us. We will be there for them. Things like loyalty are very important words for us. We have a song called 'Detroit Rock City.' We don't have one called 'New York Rock City.'

New York, he said, turned its back on rock 'n' roll, instead opting to support "disco bands," he said.

"Name a major rock band that came out of New York. There's the New York Dolls, they never made it. The Ramones, they never made it. Nobody.

But there's a lot of disco bands, a lot of R&B and this and that," he said.

"Out of Detroit there was Grand Funk Railroad, Ted Nugent, Bob Seger, some very important stuff; real meat and potatoes kind of music. Detroit's a city that was more about content than style. Style, it's OK to have, but style is like a dog chasing its own tail. It moves, but it goes nowhere fast."

Simmons said when Kiss plays live, the band makes it feel like the first time for everyone. Kiss's 1998-1999 jaunt, "The Psycho Circus 3-D Tour" is the first 3-D concert. Simmons swims over the audience, Peter Criss taunts fans with drumsticks, guitarist Ace Frehley pokes his instrument at the audience, and rhythm guitarist Paul Stanley spits guitar picks from between his red-painted lips. It's true, in-your-face rock 'n' roll.

And what would a Kiss show be without Stanley's trademark screeching.

"We don't (care) about the Rock 'n'



Ringing In
New Year:
Kiss—Ace
Frehley,
Peter Criss,
Gene Sim-
mons, and
Paul Stanley
—brings its
"Psycho Cir-
cus 3-D
Tour" to The
Palace of
Auburn
Hills.

Please see KISS, E3

Ark concert showcases Irish music, song, dance

Crossroads Ceilidh, an evening of Celtic music and dance, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30 at the Ark, 316 Main St., downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets \$10, call (734) 761-1451.

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

Growing up in County Clare, Ireland, Mick Gavin liked hanging around the old-timers who showed him how to play the fiddle. Sometimes they'd take him with them on trips to perform in other parts of the country.

"I guess I'm doing that now," said Gavin of Redford who is presenting Crossroads Ceilidh, an evening of Celtic music and dance Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the Ark in downtown Ann Arbor. "I love to see the kids playing. The funny thing about the music is you can't create good students — if they want to play, they'll find you."

The concert will feature a variety of Irish musicians and dancers including U.S. National Scottish Junior Fiddle Champion Jeremy Kittle, champion Irish dancers, Paul Cusak of Plymouth, who will soon be joining the cast of Riverdance, Mike Belvitch and Pat Quinn.

Glengary Road will perform the music of Cape Breton Island, and Charlie Wilkie, Dawn Hudek, Gavin, Terence McKinney and others will perform traditional Irish music and songs.

"The Ark is a well-known folk

venue," said Gavin explaining why he chose the site. "There are quite a few talented young people around, unfortunately, the clubs around Detroit are not into promoting the kids and their music, they have lost the art these kids are finding."

Kittle, 14, has been playing classical violin since he was 5. "He called me, he got my name from the Ark and was looking for someone to teach him the fiddle," said Gavin. "He had a lot of background and also plays with the Saline Fiddler's Philharmonic."

With Gavin's help, Kittle learned how to play the fiddle, and has been the Great Lakes Scottish Fiddle Junior Champion

for the past two years. At the Ceilidh he will be performing alongside Gavin's son, Sean, who plays flute, and Tyler Duncan on uilleann pipes.

Tyler went to see Riverdance' and wanted to play pipes. He told his parents, and they found a set of pipes for him. He's really good on them. He's going to Ireland this summer with his parents and to study pipes for a year."

Sean Gavin, 12, has been playing the flute for about nine months. "I've been listening to Irish music ever since I was a little kid, I just like everything about it," he said. "I think the concert's gonna be great. A lot of people have CDs of Celtic music, and enjoy listening to it."

Cusak, 18, a senior at Catholic Central High School is also looking forward to the concert. This has been a great year. In April he won the All-World Dancing Championships in Ireland. In July he tried out for, and was asked to join the Riverdance tour, a dream come true.

"I'll be attending a workshop on Feb. 28, and joining the tour this summer after I graduate. I'll tour for a year and see what happens," said Cusak. "Riverdance has put Irish dancing on the map. It's probably the most popular dance show in the world."

Cusak said he would like to attend college and major in political science. He hopes to get a law degree and may even run for

political office some day. "I haven't planned out my whole life yet," he said. "As far as Riverdance goes, Cusak says, "I will be getting paid for something I really like to do." He has been dancing since he was five years old. To get ready for "Riverdance" he's practicing as if he were preparing for a dance competition.

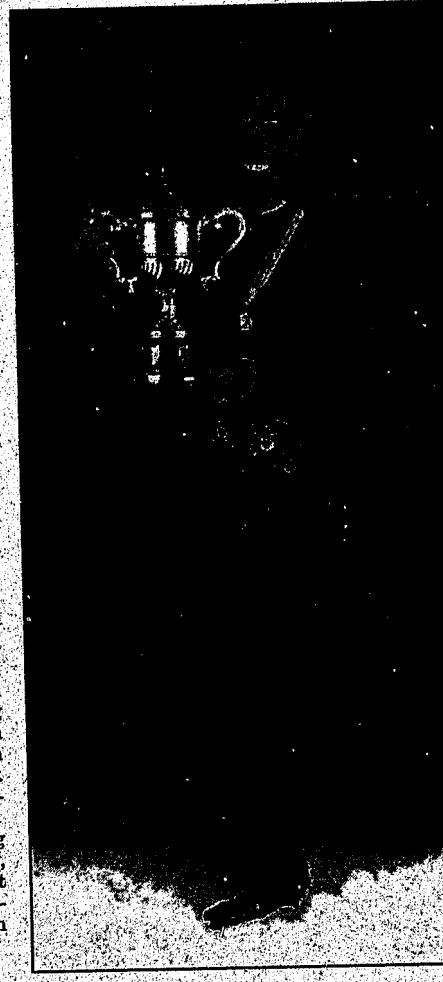
In March he performed at the St. Patrick's Day Fest at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland, which Gavin also organized.

"He gives us an opportunity to put forth our talent," said Cusak. "I enjoy dancing to his music and band. It's a lot of fun."

The concert will be very laid-back. "It won't be organized," said Gavin. "If anyone in the audience wants to come up and sing or dance, they're welcome to."

Gavin describes a Ceilidh as just a gathering of musicians, dancers and singers. About 16 people will be performing including Gavin's other son, Michael, 22, who plays fiddle, guitar, and bouzouki, a long-necked string instrument that originated in Greece. "It's a cross between a banjo and a guitar," said Gavin. "It's been in Ireland the last 40-50 years."

He was thinking about doing something for New Year's Eve, but decided it would be a bit wild, and wanted something parents could bring their children to.



Award-winning dancer: Paul Cusak, the first American male ever to win the All-Ireland senior Dance competition in 1997, and 1998 All-World Championship winner, will be participating in the Crossroads Ceilidh.

Youth theater tracks vanishing amphibians

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

Amphibians rarely come up in conversations, but the Detroit Zoo plans to change that with three new plays it's commissioned the Mosaic Youth Theatre to present Dec. 28-30 in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery.

The productions run in conjunction with the Smithsonian's traveling exhibition, "Vanishing Amphibians," on display in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the zoo.

Where's Kermit? is just one of the subjects the youth theater addresses in the trilogy of short plays. A search for the Budweiser frogs further enlightens audiences about the decline of amphibian populations over the last 50 years. For some species, however, it's too late. An increase in UV-B rays resulting from ozone layer depletion, the effects of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides, and the introduction of predators and competitors has led to their demise. Zoo director Ron Kagan said, that's why a National Amphibian Conservation Center, one of two large-scale exhibits, is scheduled to open in the next two years at the zoo.

"We talked about funny ideas and came up with an Amphibian TV network," said Annette Madias, a Farmington Hills resident and managing director of Mosaic Youth Theatre. "What a fun place to work. The kids

would come back to say 'I got to feed the animals or I went behind the scenes.'

Gerry Craig, Wildlife Interpretive Gallery curator, was looking for creative ways to relay scientific facts when she commissioned the youth theater to write the plays about the disappearing amphibians. "It was great," said Craig. "There's a news reporter who tries to do an interview with Kermit the Frog and he's vanished, as have the Budweiser frogs. When they first brought back a draft, we decided what points were important to understand metamorphosis and what is an amphibian. Amphibians always live near water, not necessarily in it. They have soft moist skins that need water and lay their eggs in water. What we didn't realize was how much Kermit was going to get their attention."

Madias, youth theater founder Rick Sperling, and members of the youth theater's Next Stage Company eventually came up with scripts to teach metamorphosis in "Leave It to Tadpole," a take off on the 1950s TV show "Leave It to Beaver." The Case of the Vanishing Amphibians is a whodunit which uncovers the reasons for disappearing amphibians, and the "Jerry Hopper Show" features an amphibian and reptile couple as bickering talk-show guests.

"After we studied the materials Gerry gave us and saw the Smithsonian exhibit, I got on the Internet," said Madias. "There's a lot of work being done that I wasn't aware of, people all over the world counting amphibians."

Founded in 1992, the Mosaic Youth Theatre is housed in the historic Fort Wayne in southwest Detroit. Comprised of youth from Detroit, Southfield, Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Dearborn, and Windsor, the theater

received the 1998 Governor's Award for Arts and Culture in November and will perform at one of the inaugural events in Lansing. Sperling created Mosaic as a multi-cultural arts organization whose mission is "to develop young theater artists through comprehensive theatrical training and to provide high quality performances for audiences of all ages."

"We try to work that mosaic of racial and economic diversity by bringing in kids who in their everyday life might not come into contact with each other," said Madias. "We've seen what happens when the city and the suburbs come together — black and white and Latino."

The Youth Ensemble consists of 105 students who auditioned in September for the 10 months of free theatrical training offered by Mosaic. There is also a 16-member National Touring Company, and the eight member Next Stage Company, comprised of youth ages 17 to 23 who are paid so they're able to go to college and have Next Stage as a



On the trail: Brian McIntosh, an actor with the Mosaic Youth Theatre, is a detective on the case of the "Vanishing Amphibians," at the Detroit Zoo.

part-time job."

Craig originally approached the multi-cultural youth theater to collaborate on a production to celebrate the International Year of the Coral Reef in 1997. The youth theater had held a benefit at the Detroit Artists Market where Craig was then executive director.

"We were looking for someone to collaborate with, to bring these issues to the forefront, the plight of amphibians vanishing worldwide," said Craig. "I see a lot of groups perform. We were

looking for the right flavor and style to appeal to zoo audiences. The Mosaic Youth Theatre has a high energy, hip, engaging style that appeals to teens as well as kids."

Craig plans to expand the performing arts at the theater in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. Craig already has booked a variety of entertainment from chamber music concerts to puppet shows since the gallery opened in the renovated old bird house in 1996.

It takes more than a few million watts to brighten someone's face.

WILD LIGHTS

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A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATRE

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE

"Ad Altare Dei (Unto the Altar of God)," John Shea's play about faith, beauty and a priest who uses a hockey stick to straighten out sinners, through Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m., Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$15. (313) 868-1347 or DetRepTh@aol.com

FISHER THEATRE

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, at the theater, 3011 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit. \$26.50-\$49. (248) 645-6666/(313) 871-1132

GEM THEATRE

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," through Jan. 3, at the theater's new location, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays (\$27.50), 8 p.m. Thursdays (\$27.50), 8 p.m. Fridays (\$32.50), 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays (\$32.50), 2 p.m. Sundays (\$27.50) and 6 p.m. Sundays (\$19.50). (313) 963-9800

JET

"Resident Alien," an intergalactic comedy of love and acceptance by Stuart Spencer, through Sunday, Jan. 3, at the theater, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 788-2900 or <http://comnet.org/jet>

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol," continues to Sunday, Dec. 27, Wilson Hall, Oakland University campus, Rochester, \$25-\$36. (248) 377-3300

COLLEGE

WSU HILBERRY THEATRE

"Scapin," in rotating repertory to Feb. 3; Charles Dickens' classic "A Tale of Two Cities," runs in rotating repertory to March 4, at the theater, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$17. (313) 577-2972

DINNER THEATER

BACI ABBRACCI ITALIAN CHOPHOUSE

"Tony n' Tina's Wedding," an interactive theatre show with patrons having an Italian dinner, and dancing to a live band performing traditional Italian wedding songs, has an open-ended run, at the restaurant, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays; \$50 Thursdays and Sundays, \$55 Fridays and Saturdays, in advance at 8 W. Lawrence St., Pontiac. Special New Year's Eve performances, 6 p.m. (\$75) and 10 p.m. (\$100). Later show includes full-course dinner, party favors, and dancing. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

GENITTI'S HOLE-IN-THE-WALL

Live interactive children's theater program, "Santa's Workshop," through Wednesday, Dec. 23, at the restaurant, 108 E. Main St., Northville, \$9.65 for children, \$11.65 adults. Includes lunch, show, tax, and gratuity. (248) 349-0522

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

MARQUIS THEATRE

"Cinderella," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, 9 and 16; 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 10 and 17; and 2:30 p.m. Monday, Thursday, Dec. 28-31, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville, \$6.50. (248) 349-8110

PUPPET THEATRE

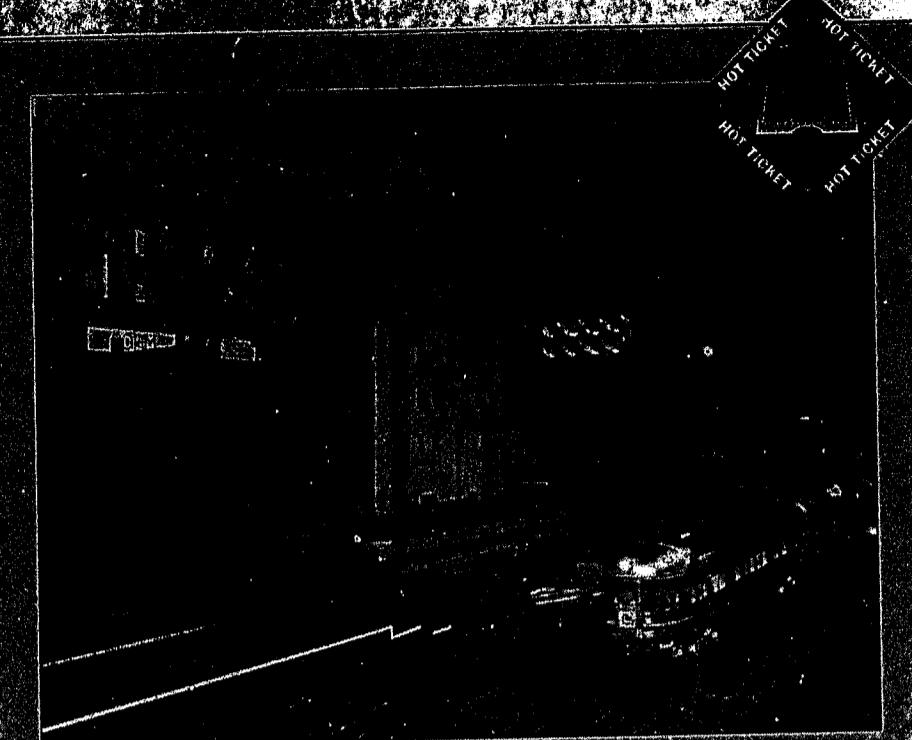
"Cinderella," 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, and 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Dec. 28-29, at the Detroit Puppet Theater, 28 E. Grand River, between Woodward Avenue and Farmer Street, Detroit. (313) 934-7777

VILLAGE PLAYERS

"Grease," 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., 8 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 752 Chestnut, south of Maple, east of Huron, Birmingham, \$9. Wednesday and Saturday, from Thursday to early evening with a \$7. First Night, Birmingham. (248) 644-2013

WIND CROWN THEATER

"The Crucible" in Times Square, through Saturday, Jan. 2, Arkansas Theatre at Henry Ford



Toys and Trains: The Wonderful World of Toy Trains, the world's largest mobile model railroad display, will be featured at the Toy & Hobby Expo, Nov. 28-30, at the Novi Expo Center, 11961 Novi Road (Exit 162). In addition to model trains, you'll find collectible toy models, bears, and dolls, including Barbies and Beanie Babies. Paul Adams, who is known for his automobile and train art, and the recently completed Holiday Memories J.L. Hudson's Christmas 1960, will be showing and selling his works. Show hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27. Admission is adults \$6, children ages 4-12, \$3. Parking \$4. Call (248) 348-5600 for information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

HELLFIRE WRESTLING

Professional wrestling from Psychopathic Productions, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10. All ages. (313) 833-9700

BENEFIT

CONCEPT: CURE FASHION JAM

Featuring cars designed by fashion designers such as a Chevrolet Cavalier Convertible by BCBG's Max Azria, an Oldsmobile Alero by Vivienne Tam, a Chevy Venture by Nicholas Graham, a GMC Sierra by Joseph Abboud, and a Pontiac Grand Am by Dana Buchman, music performances and visual displays to showcase the unveiling of five one-of-a-kind vehicles from GM, Sunday, Jan. 4, Detroit Opera House, Detroit. Benefits the Alexander J. Walt Comprehensive Breast Center at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. \$125; a limited number of 12-seat boxes are \$1,500. (248) 443-5800 before Dec. 29, or (313) 961-3500 afterward.

FAMILY EVENTS

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Featuring daily rituals and performances, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26 to Friday, Jan. 1, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, 151 E. Warren St., Detroit. Free with museum admission. (313) 961-5800

POOL FUN

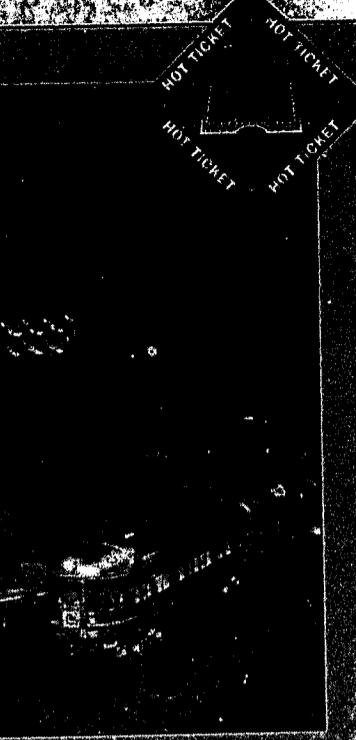
Jewish Community Center is hosting a pool party, 12:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 25 (free); and noon to 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 25 (\$3), at the Jimmy Prentis Morris Building, 15140 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. (248) 937-4030

AUDITIONS/OPPORTUNITIES

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

Rehearsals begin 7:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Tues. in G by Ed Hubert, and "Chichester Psalms" by Bernstein will be performed. Scores may be purchased for \$7 and \$9, respectively. No audition required. (734) 455-5963

JAZZ



TERRY CALLIER

With Straight Ahead, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, in the main auditorium at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue. \$25, \$20, \$15. (313) 833-4005

JUDIE COCHILL QUARTET

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., at Mack Avenue, Detroit. (313) 831-3838

HEIDI HEPLER AND MICHELE RAMO

7:10 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays at Encore in the Quality Inn, 1801 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 335-3790; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, at Vic's Market, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi. (248) 305-7333 (vocal/piano/bass)

KATHY KOSINS TRIO

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (vocals/piano/bass)

SHEILA LANDIS AND RICK MATLE

5-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, The Coffee Beanery, 152 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (248) 646-6022

ROBERT PIPHO

8 p.m. Mondays in December, Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue at Mack, Detroit. (313) 831-3838

TAMMY RAFFERTY

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$5, 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

WALLACE RONEY QUINTET

8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 1-2, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$15 in advance, 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BEUDSON

With Dan Kolton, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300

POETRY IN MOTION

Featuring Detroit Black Writers Guild and their senior poetry editor Karen Williams, 7:40 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, at the Grand Opera, 30918 Grand River, east of Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. (248) 616-9151/(248) 821-1019/(313) 299-9909

DANCE

CONTRA DANCE English Country dancing with live music by David Vassar and Dennis Bond, all done in the folk style. Contra Dance Hall, 103 N. Huron, 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday.

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work 1701-1901," formerly known as "Furs to Factories," with a new Land Office, a "Wheel of Fortune" style land acquisition interactive, three new video screen interactives, a documentary video, a new Heavy Industry section and a display explaining Detroit's move from "Stove Capital of the World" to the Motor City, automobile capital of the world; "The Fantasy World of Doll Houses," through Jan. 31; "Remembering Downtown Hudson's" exhibit, a nostalgic look at what made the Hudson's downtown Detroit store an icon of the city's prosperous era, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby),

Dec. 26, Hamlin Pub, 1988 S. Rochester Road, Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 656-7700 (rock)

BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS

9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$15, 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (jump blues)

BLIND PIG SHOWCASE

With Bridget McCarty, Harbingers Mile, The Zoom and Big Budget Flaco, 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge, 21 and older. (734) 332-9900 (blues)

BLUE ROSE

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, The Cavern Club, 210 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge, 21 and older. (734) 833-1805 or <http://www.detroithistorical.org>

BLUES LIFE

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Duggan's Irish Pub, 6722 Dixie Highway, Clarkston. Free. 21 and older. (248) 625-3900 (blues)

DAVE BOUTETTE

8:10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Espresso Royale Cafe, 214 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 668-1838 (singer/songwriter)

BRANDED

10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 533-4477 (rock)

CONNITION

With Bowlscraper, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge, 21 and older. (248) 334-9292; 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge, 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

EVOLUTION DANCE

With Kevin Saunderson, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 25, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$25 in advance, \$35. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (techno)

AL HILL

8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

ELVIS HITLER

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Lill's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. \$7 and older. (313) 876-5555 or <http://www.lills21.com> (rock)

LISA HUNTER

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Lone Star Coffee, 207 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (248) 642-2233 (acoustic rock)

STONEY MAAZAR AND THE WESTSIDERS

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

MUDPUPPY

9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-0917 (R&B/blues)

MURDER CITY WRECKS

With Easy Action and the Gore Girls, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco,
all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (734) 591-7279

Continued from previous page

\$4. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or

<http://www.961melt.com> (ska)

TRALE

Celebrates release of new CD with party and performance, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5.18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvinsxt.com> (rock).

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERTS

SAM BARNETT AND HIS ORCHESTRA

1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Jimmy Prentis Morris Building, Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Free tickets issued at JPM reception desk. (248) 967-4030.

BENNY AND THE JETS

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road (at Coolidge Highway), Berkley. Special menu ranging from \$16.95-\$36.95. Party favors and complimentary champagne toast at midnight. 21 and older. (313) 730-1627/(248) 399-6750 (rock).

BLUE ROSE

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Red Dog Saloon, 250 W. Summit, Milford. Free. 21 and older. (248) 685-2174 (blues).

"BLUE YEAR'S EVE PARTY"

With Bugs Beddo Band, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31, Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. \$199 per couple includes appetizers, cocktails, dinner and dancing, 12 drink tickets, party favors, toast at midnight and breakfast; \$289 per couple includes same plus overnight guest room. (248) 644-1400 or <http://www.bugsbeddow.com> (blues).

THE BLUESBURNERS

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, McCarthy's, 1600 W. Fort St., at 10th Street, Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 496-0626 (rock/blues).

RON BROOKS TRIO

With Stephanie from the Flint band Oasis, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$50, \$90 couples. (734) 662-8310 (jazz).

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"New Year's Eve Gala," with conductor Neeme Jarvi, violinist Alexander Markov, and the Keith

Saxton Orchestra, 9 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 31, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dinner catered by Matt

Prentice and dancing on the stage with music by the Keith

Saxton Orchestra follow the concert. \$50-\$75, \$100 box seats.

(313) 576-5111 or

<http://www.detroitsymphony.com>

JIMMY DILLON

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Amer's

First Street Grill, 102 S. First St.,

Ann Arbor. \$50 for dinner and

show. \$20 show only, benefits

Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz

Festival. 21 and older. (734) 213-6000

RACHELLE FERRELL

With Storming Norman Brown, 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. \$26,

\$36, and \$50. Party favors and

champagne for 11 p.m. (313) 730-3490/(248) 645-6666 (jazz).

HEIDI HEPLER/MICHELE RAMO/TODD CURTIS

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Il Posto Ristorante, 29110 Franklin Road, Southfield. (248) 827-8070

HOWLING DIABLOS

With 60 Second Crush and Face, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$25 includes show, hors d'oeuvres and party favors. 21 and older. (248) 544-3030 or

<http://www.themagicbag.com>

(R&B/rock).

IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA

9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31,

Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St.,

Ann Arbor. \$12 in advance, only

at the Blind Pig. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (swing).

JIMMIE JACKSON AND THE BLUES CONNECTION

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Fox

and Hounds, 1560 Woodward

Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All

ages. (248) 644-4800

KISS

"The Psycho Circus 3D Tour,"

with special guest Caroline's

Spine, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31,

The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2

Championship Dr., Auburn Hills.

\$100 and \$75 reserved. All ages.

(248) 377-0100 or

<http://www.palaceonet.com>

(rock).

P.W. LONG'S REELFOOT

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Magic

Stick in the Majestic, 4140

Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$12. 18

and older. (313) 833-POOL (rock).

STEVE NARDELLA

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Duggan's Irish Pub, 6722 Dixie Highway, Clarkston. Free. 21 and older. (248) 625-3900 (rockabilly).

NASHVILLE PUSSY

With The Wild Bunch, Five Horse Johnson, Soul Clique, and Thee Lucky Stiffs, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, St. Andrew's Hall, 131 E. Congress, Detroit. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. 18 and older. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (rock).

"NEW YEAR JUBILEE"

With performances by Josh White Jr., O.J. Anderson, Macdad Ruth and Kane, Paul Voornhagen, Wild Swan Theatre, Al Hill and the Love Butlers, and Boychoir of Ann Arbor, 6 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Dec. 31, throughout Ypsilanti. \$12.50 adults, \$5 children ages 6-12, and free for children ages 5 and younger, in advance; \$15 adults and \$5 children at the door. (734) 483-4444/(734) 995-7281 or <http://www.ypsilanti.org> (variety).

SHAHIDA NURULLAH TRIO

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (jazz vocals/plano/bass).

B.B. QUEEN ROADSHOW

10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Cover charge. Includes champagne toast, party favors, 21 and older. (248) 543-4300

DAVID SANBORN

With Marilyn Scott, 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$25, \$35 and \$50. 18 and older. Party favors and champagne provided for 11:30 show. (313) 961-5451 (jazz).

KIM SIMMONDS AND SAVOY BROWN

With Mudpuddy, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$20 in advance, 18 and older. (313) 833-9700 or <http://www.99music.com> (rock).

STUN GUN

With Queenbee, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvinsxt.com> (rock).

SWING SYNDICATE

Performs as part of "Al Capone's New Year's Eve Party," 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 24 Karat Club, 28949 Joy Road, Westland. \$10-\$15. Includes buffet and champagne toast. 21 and older. (734) 513-5030

TWISTIN' TARANTULAS

With Wallin' Inc., and the Reefermen, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Fifth Avenue, 245 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. \$40. \$70 couples. Includes champagne toast, buffet dinner and party favors. 21 and older. (248) 542-9922

WITCH DOCTORS

10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Karl's Cabin, 9779 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth. \$10. Includes party favors, champagne toast. Cover waived with dinner. Holiday menu includes lobster tail, prime rib, 1 1/2-pound t-bone, vegetarian dishes, and fish. 21 and older. Reservations preferred. (734) 455-8450

ALEXANDER ZONJIC

9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Bac's, 10 W. Pike St., Pontiac. \$15. Includes music. 21 and older. (248) 253-1300 (jazz).

NEW YEAR'S EVENTS

ARBOR BREWING COMPANY

New Year's Eve Titanic-themed party, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the restaurant/bar, 114 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Costumes are encouraged; prizes for best costume. \$45, includes four-course dinner, live music with Ghettabillies and Original Brothers and Sisters of Love.



Family affair: Todd Curtis (left) joins sister Heidi Hepler and brother-in-law Michele Ramo for their rare mix of music. They'll be performing 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Il Posto Ristorante, 29110 Franklin Road in Southfield.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

The Sugar Shack, ladies only dance night, 10 p.m. Sundays; The Hush Party with resident DJs Melvin Hill and DJ Cent, 10 p.m. Mondays; and Club Color, featuring funk and disco, 8 p.m. Wednesdays (free before 10 p.m.), at the club, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvinsxt.com>

CITY CLUB

Goth club hosts New Year's Eve party with local DJs, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club in the Ramada Hotel, 400 Bagley St. (at Cass Avenue), Detroit. (313) 962-2300

JD'S MACOMB THEATRE

"Swing, Jazz and Rock 'n' Roll" party with live music from an eight-piece swing orchestra, a jazz act, and rockers Tommy C. and the Burnouts, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. \$15, or \$25 per couple. 21 and older. (810) 913-1921

JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE

Resident Allen, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. \$35. Includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and "gizmos" for 6:30 p.m. show. \$50 includes the same plus breakfast for 10 p.m. show. (734) 996-8555

CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET

"Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons from 7-8 p.m. and a performance by The Penthouse Playboys follows at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, with DJ Del Villarreal, at the club, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$6 in advance, \$8 day of show; "Solar" night, 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the club. \$6. 19 and older. (313) 964-7040

BLIND PIG

"Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons from 7-8 p.m. and a performance by The Penthouse Playboys follows at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, with DJ Del Villarreal, at the club, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$6 in advance, \$8 day of show; "Solar" night, 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the club. \$6. 19 and older. (313) 964-7040

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CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET

"Sw

COMING ATTRACTIONS



Adventure drama: "Mighty Joe Young," an awesome 15-foot gorilla from Africa, is brought to a California animal preserve for his own safety, but threatened and confused in his new confines, the gorilla escapes, leaving a trail of destruction along Hollywood Boulevard.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Dec. 23

"MIGHTY JOE YOUNG"

An update of the classic 1949 RKO adventure film in which a zoologist stumbles upon a 15-foot gorilla while exploring in Central Africa. Stars Bill Paxton, Charlize Theron.

"PATCH ADAMS"

True story of a misfit physician whose unconventional approach to healing causes headaches for the medical establishment. Stars Robin Williams.

"DANCING AT LUGHNASA"

Exclusively at the Landmark Maple Art Theatre. The film adaptation of Brian Friel's 1991 Tony Award-winning play about five lonely sisters living a hard-scrabble life in rural Ireland whose world is shaken when their brother, a priest, returns from Africa a broken man. Stars Meryl Streep.

"DOWN THE DELTA"

An emotional and riveting story where big city meets small town, young meet old, parents reconnect with children, and life for everyone becomes something unexpected.

"THE FACULTY"

Science fiction thriller that blends teenage angst, cutting-edge comedy and out-of-this-world special effects as the students of Herrington High School struggle to save the world from alien

"A BLOCKBUSTER ADVENTURE!"

NEWSWEEK

"THE RUGRATS MOVIE IS A DELIGHT!"
Anita Gates,
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NOW PLAYING
AMC EASTLAND 5
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
GENERAL CANTON
SHOWCASE CANTON
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR SOUTHFIELD
UNIVERSITY COMMERCE TWP. 14

AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC STERLING CTR.
BIRMINGHAM 8
GENERAL CANTON
SHOWCASE HEIGHTS
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
STAR TAYLOR
UNIVERSITY 12 OAKS

AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC STERLING CTR.
BIRMINGHAM 8
GENERAL CANTON
SHOWCASE HEIGHTS
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR WINCHESTER 8
UNIVERSITY WEST RIVER

**don't miss
all new
bug bloopers**

**"and at the end,
the movie tops itself
with comic outtakes.
undoubtedly the
funniest finale of any
animated feature."**
—time magazine - richard cortes



If you've only seen it once, you haven't seen it all.

COMING SOON! Hosted by Michael J. Fox's PICTURE THIS!

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WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS

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A BUG'S LIFE

WALT DISNEY WORLD

Welcome the new year at Boulders

BY KELLY ANN GUNN
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Live music, thick deli sandwiches, ribs, pizza, burgers, South of the "Boulder" specialties including grilled fajitas, burrito and Chicken Quesadilla, salads, homemade soups, and specials such as prime rib, meatloaf and coconut shrimp are some of the items you'll find on the menu at Boulders Restaurant & Lounge in Plymouth. All entrees are served with soup or salad and fresh vegetable, choice of potato and hearty baked French rolls from Breadsmith Bakery in Plymouth.

Sandwiches are prepared with fresh hearth baked bread from Breadsmith Bakery, and served with a pickle and steak fries.

"It's a nice place for people to come listen to music, and we have good food," said Dave Daugherty of Canton who owns the restaurant with his wife, Michelle.

Chris Pounds, a graduate of the award-winning culinary arts program at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, is in charge of the

Boulders Restaurant & Lounge

Where: 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (734) 453-4190
Open: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to midnight, Sunday
Open Dec. 24 until 9 p.m. Closed Dec. 25
Menu: Deli sandwiches, burgers, ribs, Mexican dishes, soups, salads, pizza, and weekly specials such as prime rib, coconut shrimp, and meatloaf.
Reservations: Recommended for parties of 8 or more
Cost: Reasonable, lunches \$5.95 to \$11.95, dinner \$7.95 to \$15.95
Credit cards: All majors accepted
Carry-out: Available
Entertainment: Karaoke beginning 9:30 p.m. Wednesday; Easy Listening Favorites 6-10 p.m. Thursday; 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday, variety of live music including R&B, Swing and Reggae.
New Year's Eve: Live music beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dinner service 5-11 p.m. Appetizer menu, sandwiches and pizza 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. Party favors, champagne toast at midnight. Call for information.

kitchen. "We will be upgrading our menu with more entrees," he said. Pounds makes fresh soups every day. He even cuts the steaks. The new menu will feature chicken fettuccine, prime rib, and a couple of seafood dishes. "We're changing our specials to see what people want," said Dave.

He and Michelle met at a restaurant in Ann Arbor. They both managed restaurants and

dreamed of some day owning their own. On Sept. 2 they purchased the former Mr. B's.

"We cleaned it up a lot," said Dave. He made the new tabletops, and pictures he took in Boulder, Colo., decorate the walls. The chairs, ceiling tiles and ventilation system are also new.

The parents of four children, Dave and Michelle wanted to create a homey atmosphere for

their customers. "They make a point to greet customers and make them feel welcome. I just like people," said Michelle.

If you're not in the mood for a big dinner or lunch, there are lots of appetizers to choose from, including the Rocky Mountain Hot Spot, Blatter's chicken strips, Buffalo wings, potato skins and Mozzarella cheese sticks; Spinach Artichoke Dip, and Nacho Supreme. If you're in a hurry for lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, order the Soup & Half Sandwich Express - Soup of the Day with Chef's choice half sandwich.

Watch the game on one of the two big screen TVs. There's also an area near the bar with dart boards and video games.

Boulders is serving dinner on New Year's Eve from 5 to 11 p.m. The special menu includes Prime Rib, \$12.95; lobster tail, \$17.95; Prime Rib and lobster tail, \$25.95; Top Sirloin and lobster tail, \$23.95; Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, \$10.95; Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo, \$12.95; full slab ribs, \$15.95; Cajun Catfish, \$13.95, served with salad, choice of potato, vegetable and roll.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBERMANN

New restaurant: Michelle (left), Sabrina and Dave Daugherty in the dining room at Boulders, which is known for its Boulder Back Ribs and deli sandwiches.

There will also be a variety of desserts and appetizers to choose from.

Since opening in September, Dave and Michelle have been

trying to get the word out. "A lot of people don't even know we're here," said Michele. They're planning a grand opening in January.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

■ **Water Club Grill** - 39500 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (734) 454-0666.

New Year's Eve Gala Celebration, Prime Rib and Seafood Buffet, 6 p.m. (first seating, \$26.95 per person). Second seating 9 p.m., includes buffet, DJ, dancing until 1 a.m., party favors, and a champagne toast at midnight. The cost is \$35.95 per person. Cash bar, tax and tip not included. Water Club Grill will also be serving dinner in the main dining room 4 p.m. to midnight from the regular menu. Call for reservations/information.

■ **Andiamo West** - 6676 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 865-9300.

Gala New Year's Eve party in lower-level banquet facility beginning 8 p.m. at \$125 per person including tax and gratuity featuring open bar, six-course dinner, champagne at midnight, favors, band, special snack at 12:30 a.m. and breakfast at 2:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance for round tables seating 10, minimum of four guests.

■ **Big Rock Chop & Brew House** - 245 S. Eton, Birmingham (248) 647-7774.

A la carte menu including appetizers, soup, salad, main courses (ranging \$19.90), vegetable accompaniments and dessert. With any entree, one-half pound Alaskan King Crab Legs or lobster tail can be added for an additional charge. For reservations 10 p.m. or later, enjoy the music of Reggae Brax.

ton on the Stone Terrace and ring in the New Year with champagne toast and party favors at no additional charge. Big Rock's fabulous upper level Got Rocks lounge is first come, first served but be advised, it was packed last year at midnight.

■ **Cafe Bon Homme** - 844 Peninsular, Plymouth (734) 453-6260. From 5 p.m. to midnight an all a la carte menu has eight entree selections ranging \$29.95 and includes seafood, duck, lamb, veal, steak and Wellington of beef.

■ **Cafe Cortina** - 30715 W. 10 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 474-3033. Early diners can choose from the open menu beginning at 4:30 p.m. Starting at 9:30 p.m.

there's a special package, \$85 per person including antipasto, pappardelle with pomodoro and basil, winter salad, choice of entree from among salmon, veal medallions, filet mignon or French-cut veal chop, and completed with Napoleon dessert.

Also included are DJ dancing to top 40s, party hats and champagne at midnight.

Cafe Cortina is also offering a Christmas Eve Dinner with live holiday music, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24. The cost is \$65 per person. Entree choices include Rack of Lamb with roasted peppers and garlic, Filet au Sole "Meuniere" or Veal Medallions "Limoncino" Imported Artichokes. Call for information/reservations.

■ **Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro** - 26053 Town Center, Novi (248) 380-8460.

Want dinner with quiet jazz music? That's on tap at Diamond Jim's between 4 p.m. and midnight. Five special entrees accompanied by a salad range \$15-19. Start with an appetizer at \$8 and add dessert for \$7.

■ **Excalibur** - 28875 Franklin Road, (corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway), Southfield (248) 358-3355. New Year's Eve party (reserved seating by prepaid tickets only) with dancing and entertainment by The Warren Commission. begins 9:30 p.m. at \$100 per person (not including liquor, tax or gratuity). Menu

includes appetizer medley, mixed salad and choice of an entree from 2-pound lobster, veal porterhouse, sauteed chicken breast, swordfish or filet mignon, completing with dessert medley.

At the banquet center between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. at \$125 per person, same as restaurant menu but dancing and entertainment by The Jerry Rose Band.

■ **Fox & Hounds** - 1560 North Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, (248) 644-4800.

Regular menu selections with entrees ranging \$18-25 will be offered. Reservations 10 p.m.

and later will have party favors and midnight champagne toast. Pub entertainment throughout the evening.

■ **Opus One** - 565 East Larned Street, Detroit (313) 961-7766. Two seating periods 5 or 5:30 and 7:30 or 8 include offerings from the regular menu. A 9:30 or 10 p.m. seating at \$75 per person includes a four-course dinner from a special expanded menu.

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Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE 537-5600
 27331 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Inkster)
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!

\$30.00

PER PERSON

(Glasses and sales tax not included)

DINNER SEATING TIME AT 9:00 P.M.

Roast Prime Rib w/ au jus

New York Strip Steak w/ sauteed mushrooms

Filet Mignon w/ au jus

Chicken Cordon Bleu/Boned Breast Filled w/Ham & Swiss Cheese

Grilled Shrimp Kabobs

Stuffed Haddock (Spinach, Shrimp & Crab)

Sautéed Lake Perch

Chicken Neptune (Bones Chicken Breasts w/Crabmeat Stuffing)

Broiled Lake Superior Whiterfish

...CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT...

Pizza Served After 1:00 a.m.

DANCING TO SECOND LOOK

OPEN NEW YEARS DAY

11 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Dancing To Second Look

CALL NOW! (248) 745-8668

Opens December 3rd

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