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THE WEEK AHEAD

Memorial service: *The Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, Livonia, will host a Memorial Candle Lighting service at 6 p.m. today to honor those who have died in 1997. The service will include a presentation by Wes Baldwin, an area grief counselor. The free event is open to the public. Call 525-9020 by 3 p.m. to reserve a seat.*

MONDAY

Needed: *Make a donation of a new or used toy in good condition at Mel's Golden Razor barbershop in Plymouth. The collection continues through Friday. Call 455-9057.*

WEDNESDAY

Spikers in action: *The Canton Chiefs girls' volleyball team hosts Ann Arbor Huron 7 p.m. at the high school.*

THURSDAY

Luncheon: *David A. Brandon of Valassis Communications Inc. will speak at the Canton Economic Luncheon beginning at noon at Summit on the Park.*

FRIDAY

Giving back: *Canton dentist Thomas W. Kolderman and his staff will offer free teeth cleaning during business hours Friday to area families in need. Children up to age 16 are eligible. Call 981-1228 for details.*

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Developer solicits DDA funds



Burton-Share and Katzman Co. wants \$3.2 million from Canton's DDA for a road and other on-site improvements to its mega-development planned for I-275 and Ford Road.

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER

Canton Township's Downtown Development Authority got its first look Thursday night at plans for the proposed multi-million-dollar mega-development at Interstate 275 and Ford Road.

But while the plan impressed DDA members, they found they had more

questions than answers — particularly in light of the developer's request for \$3.2 million in on-site improvements by the DDA.

"We're going to get a lot more answers before a spade ever hits the dirt," vowed Ralph Shufeldt, DDA chairman, after the meeting.

The DDA told the developer, Burton-Share and Katzman Co., that members would gather their questions about the

project "and see how to proceed at the next meeting."

Peter Burton, a principal in the firm, welcomed the questions, adding, "We don't embarrass communities and we would expect no less" than that the DDA would seek to protect Canton citizens.

According to the plans, the 124-acre development on the southeast corner of Ford Road and Interstate 275 could include up to 275,000 square feet of retail stores, five restaurants, two to three hotels, a 14-to-20-screen theater complex and either condominiums, apartments or 400-450,000 square feet of office and research space.

The plan calls for major storm water management improvements and also states the stores would include "retailers not presently represented in Canton."

The developer also projected an increase in Canton's tax revenues from \$95,000 per year now to \$3.2-\$3.7 million when the project is completed.

The Burton-Share representatives said the \$3.2 million in DDA improvements would cover:

■ buying the land for, and constructing, the development's main road through the project;

Please see DDA, A4



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BREHLER

Criminal chapter ends in duct tape murder

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Canton microbiologist Charles Fisher was led off for the final time Thursday after being sentenced to 12 years and eight months behind bars for the 1984 duct tape murder of his 31-year-old wife, Ella Maria Mercado Fisher.

Fisher, 57, will be eligible for parole in four years and eight months after receiving credit for time already served.

"No matter how you cut it there's been four trials and not one valid conviction ... It's time for the criminal chapter of this case to be closed," said Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey Collins.

Collins rejected an emotional plea for a stiffer penalty from Maria's parents, Manuel and Evelyn Mercado. They objected to a plea agreement between Fisher and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in which Fisher plead no contest to open murder charge on Nov. 14. Fisher does not have to admit guilt by pleading no contest.

"Fifty-nine people already decided he was guilty how can he then plead nolo contendere and then the court accepts that?" Manuel Mercado asked the judge.

Evelyn Mercado also made a fiery statement: "I think Charlie Fisher, Charlie Ray Fisher is a liar, a manipulator and premeditated murderer ...

He didn't use a weapon, a gun or a knife, to kill his wife. He used his 10 fingers, his hands ... and I hope every time he unzips his pants, wraps his fingers around a glass to take a drink, he looks at those hands, I hope he remembers how he slowly wound that duct tape around her head and then sat there drinking a beer as she gasped for her last breath. I hope he never forgets it."

The case has made Michigan legal history after 13 years and four trials (two jury convictions were overturned and two others ended in hung juries). It has been estimated to cost the county \$1 million.

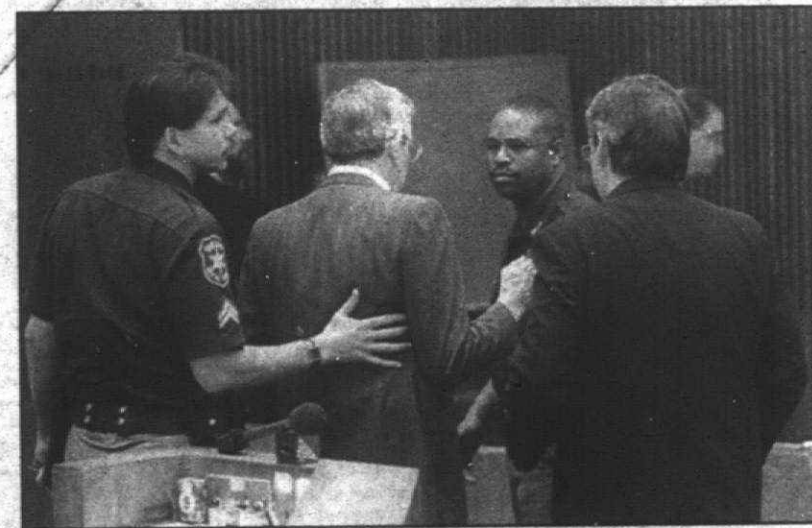
Fisher served four years while one conviction was overturned by a higher court and another four years after being found guilty of attempting to bribe prison inmates to confess to the murder.

The criminal end of the duct tape murder saga may have come to an end Thursday, however, other chapters remain unwritten for the Mercados and their grandson, Sean Paul Polette, 24, son of Maria and her first husband.

They are considering filing a wrongful death suit against Fisher in civil court.

The book also isn't closed for the daughter of the accused killer, Leigh Ann Greco, 26, of Atlanta, Ga., who

Please see FISHER, A2



The hands of time: *At the sentencing of accused murderer Charles Fisher, Evelyn Mercado (above) tells the court that she hopes he remembers what he did to her daughter every time he looks at his hands, the same hands that were used to suffocate her by wrapping duct tape around her face. At left, Fisher's daughter Leigh Ann Greco, sits by his side before he is sentenced to nearly five years behind bars. Lower right, Fisher is led away by sheriff deputies after 13 years and four trials.*

Santa's helpers



PHOTO BY JERRY MINGHINE

Santa's elves: *Sisters Brooke (left) and Nicole Staffeld show their hands at Canton's holiday craft workshop last Saturday. "Santa's Elves Workshop" featured six hours of craft making, games and swimming at Summit on the Park. For more photos see page A6.*

Directors get 2nd pay hike

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Three of Canton's four department directors will receive 6-percent raises this year.

All non-union employees received an across-the-board 3-percent hike in January, including the four directors.

But on Tuesday, the township board gave an additional 3-percent raise, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1997, to Municipal Services Director Aaron Machnik, Administrative Services Director Dan Durack, and Finance and Budget Director Tony Minghine.

The exception will be Public Safety Director John Santomauro who will receive an additional \$200 above the original 3-percent raise. The \$200 puts Santomauro at the new midpoint salary grade level of \$76,200. He is Canton's highest paid director.

With the final salary hikes for 1997, Machnik will earn \$75,911, Durack \$73,645 and Minghine

Please see RAISES, A2

**Charter Township of Canton
Department Director's
Salary Survey**

Community	Finance and Budget Dir.	Pub. Safety Dir./ Police Chief	Municipal Services Director	Admin. & Comm. Supt. Dir.
Canton Township	\$72,071	\$70,000	N/A	N/A
Durack	75,545	73,222	73,222	N/A
Northampton Hills	76,988	81,476	N/A	N/A
Livingston	78,747	78,747	N/A	N/A
North	74,273	72,459	72,459	N/A
Westland	74,822	74,822	N/A	N/A
Dearborn	83,089	79,893	N/A	N/A
Dearborn Heights	77,770	78,750	77,770	N/A
Westland Twp.	75,48	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average	\$77,247	\$75,782	\$74,494	N/A
Canton Township	\$73,096	\$76,200	\$76,923	\$73,048

Raises from page A1

\$71,096. The additional increase for the directors were awarded after a survey of comparable positions in other communities in order to get a midpoint salary range, a project that has been under way for most of the year, said Supervisor Tom Yack.

The directors salary range has been set at \$66,000 to \$87,600. "All directors should make the same amount of money since they all have an equal voice in the executive cabinet," he said.

The best system had no technology and hasn't been fair to hired employees, such as a machine who was hired in 1990 at a salary of \$67,000. "I don't see a guy ever going to be paid as having sufficient experience to be around other comparable salaries," said Yack.

Yack said once the directors reach the midpoint level of \$72,290, they will only receive the across-the-board increase that all non-union employees get.

Since Santomauro is currently at the midpoint and Machnik will be at the midpoint during 1998, annual step increases of 1.5 percent will be given to Durack and Minghine until they also reach the midpoint level.

"You have to look at two things: Does the job command that type of money (a 6-percent annual raise)? and look at the marketplace for comparable jobs, and in both cases it does," said Yack.

For Machnik and Durack, few comparable salaries were available since they oversee various departments that would be headed by directors in other communities. For example, Machnik's position oversees Canton's building director, public works director, engineering director and planning director.

A subcommittee of the Merit Commission comprised of Yack, Durack and trustee Phil Lajoy made the recommendation to the Merit Commission, which in turn made the recommendation to the township board.

Next month, the Merit Commission will likely make another recommendation for 1998 pay increases for all non-union employees, which includes the directors.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREWER

A chance to speak: Manuel Mercado told his side of the story in the 13-year-old murder of his daughter, Ella Maria Mercado Fisher. He described Fisher as a man he once thought of as his own son, who jealously planned her murder months before, and then cold-heartedly collected her paycheck at Chelsea Community Hospital and refunded a plane ticket during the five days she lay in a coma before dying.

Fisher from page A1

claims that "one day the truth will come out."

"I'm certain of his innocence. If I thought my father did it, I wouldn't be here," a teary-eyed Greco told reporters.

Fisher didn't say a word regarding his guilt or innocence although he spoke to the judge regarding paperwork issues on his incarceration at Saginaw Correctional Facility. "I worked with them before," he told the judge.

Fisher objected to a pre-sentence condition requiring that he receive counseling while in jail as a condition of his parole. He also wanted 107 days credit for time he was out on bond and living in Dearborn on a tether awaiting the sentencing.

Collins rejected both requests and also ordered that Fisher relinquish his rights to two cemetery lots located in Lexington, Ky., where Ella Maria is buried and remove a tombstone bearing both their names.

His attorney, Jim Kincaid, said Fisher wanted to be buried there, but later Fisher said he wanted to resolve the issue with the Mercados voluntarily on a "humanitarian and personal basis."

Fisher has 21 days to appeal the judge's rulings.

School's bond lawsuit goes on and on ...

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

Remember the \$79.6 million bond issue? It's still around and heading for a second line of defense...or offense, depending on which side you're on.

A Plymouth-Canton school district spokesman told an inquiring citizen at the district's Dec. 9 board meeting that the suit will resurface in the Michigan Court of Appeals in Detroit sometime in late January.

Remember Jerry Vorva? The former state representative and Plymouth resident who brought the bond sale to a halt when he filed a suit against the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools shortly after the March 22 special bond election. The bond request passed by 96 votes.

Vorva claimed that 716 voters were denied their fundamental right to vote because the district's new touch-screen voting machines failed to register their ballots.

Close to 12,000 ballots were cast.

Vorva remains passionate about the suit even though Wayne County Circuit Judge James J. Rashid ruled in favor of the district Aug. 22. Vorva and Plymouth attorney Stephen Book appealed shortly afterward.

"I think we're right. Even if for some reason the Appeals Court rules against us, I'm going to the Michigan Supreme Court. If they rule against me, I'll go to the U.S. Supreme Court," said Vorva.

Vorva said he and Book received the suit's transcripts at the beginning of December and have 28 days to respond.

"There's a possibility we'll submit it before Christmas." The district then has three weeks to reply to the brief. "We will reply in a short number of days, very quickly," said Superintendent Chuck Little. "The needs are not diminished. The one part of our enrollment projection that was correct was the high school. I'm fully confident that the appeals court will reach the same decision as four other entities."

Little was referring to the administrative and judicial route pursued by the district: local canvassers, Wayne County canvassers, Secretary of State, and Wayne County Circuit Court.

In response to Vorva's intention to take the suit all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Little said: "If he has confidence in his case, why is he talking about the Supreme Court?"

Vorva's hopes remain high. "The (U.S. Supreme Court) are big on taking on election things because it's a fundamental right." He added that he "has seen them take several years" to process such cases.

Vorva also has more on his agenda than winning the appeal. He intends to begin a drive to recall the board of education after the first of the year. "There's a lot of support for that," he said.

He also plans to take the state bar exam in February with the hope of becoming a practicing attorney by early summer. "If I'm sworn in by June, I'll take the case over so it costs less money. He said Book is a good lawyer, "but expensive."

When asked about the status of his legal fund, for which Book is handling donations, Vorva said: "It's great. We're still paying our bills. But now that we're in the appeals process, we need more money."

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Police to crack down on holiday drunken drivers

Canton police will be working along with other law enforcement agencies across the state, to ensure motorists are "Safe & Sober" this holiday by taking part in the national Safe & Sober campaign.

Drunken Driving will be the focus of intensified Canton police patrols on Michigan Avenue and Ford Road on Dec. 22 to emphasize the number of increased fatalities this violation is often responsible for during the holiday season.

Motorists driving through Canton are advised that checkpoints, saturation patrols and other enforcement tactics will be utilized to pursue and arrest alcohol-impaired drivers and their passengers.

Celebrate the holidays... Buy a book and support our new library!

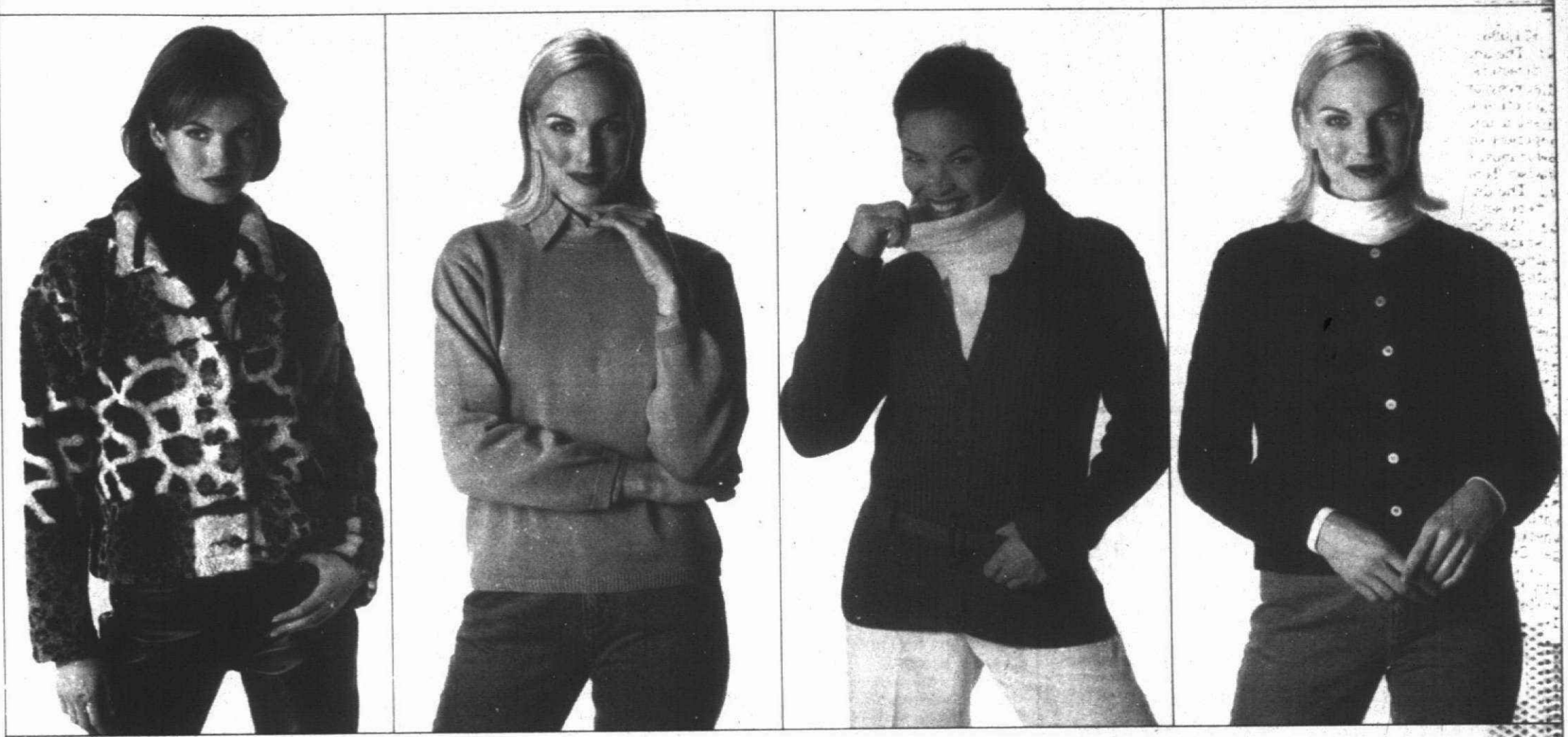
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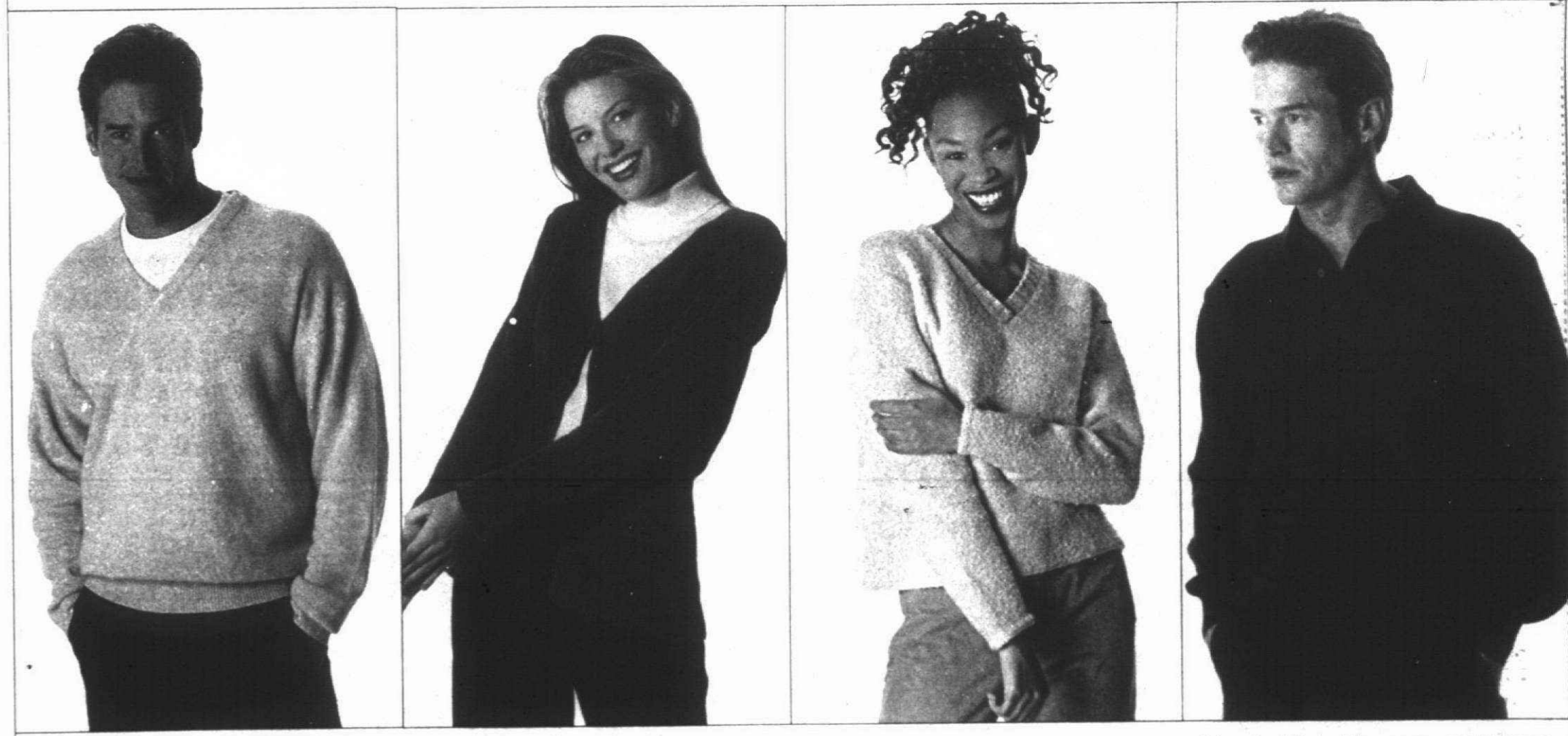


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DDA from page A1

■ paving part of Lots Road on the site's east boundary, and
 ■ purchasing the development's storm water management area.

Funding would be accomplished through a bond sale, the developer said.

However, while DDA members praised the plan as a "very attractive and very ambitious project," they questioned, among other things, increased traffic congestion along Ford Road and just why the developer was seeking township assistance.

"This is like getting one of those official-looking notifications in the mail that says 'You have just won \$250,000!' but adds at the bottom, 'Please send in \$10 to be eligible for the drawing,'" DDA member Greg Greene told the developers.

"How do we answer people in the township who say 'Traffic is already horrendous along Ford Road and you're going to add more?'" asked DDA member Melissa McLaughlin, who is also a member of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, to which the DDA makes its recommendations.

Furthermore, she said, "It's possible some other developer would come in and say they could do this without our financial aid."

The DDA also noted the township already is planning to spend \$5 million to improve Ford Road.

Burton and project leader Chuck DiMaggio — while acknowledging more work needs to be done on traffic flow — emphasized to the DDA that "the costs of the project are enormous, much larger than the economics of the project can handle."

They attributed much of the expense to "the very high land costs" of the 14 separate parcels of land that must be purchased to assemble the project and also to the costs of mitigating the wetlands which run through the acreage.

And they said if the project isn't assembled, the various owners could go their separate ways and create strip malls along Ford.

They noted that other developers had looked at the land and its variety of problems and

"This is like getting one of those official-looking notifications in the mail that says 'You have just won \$250,000!' but adds at the bottom, 'Please send in \$10 to be eligible for the drawing,'"

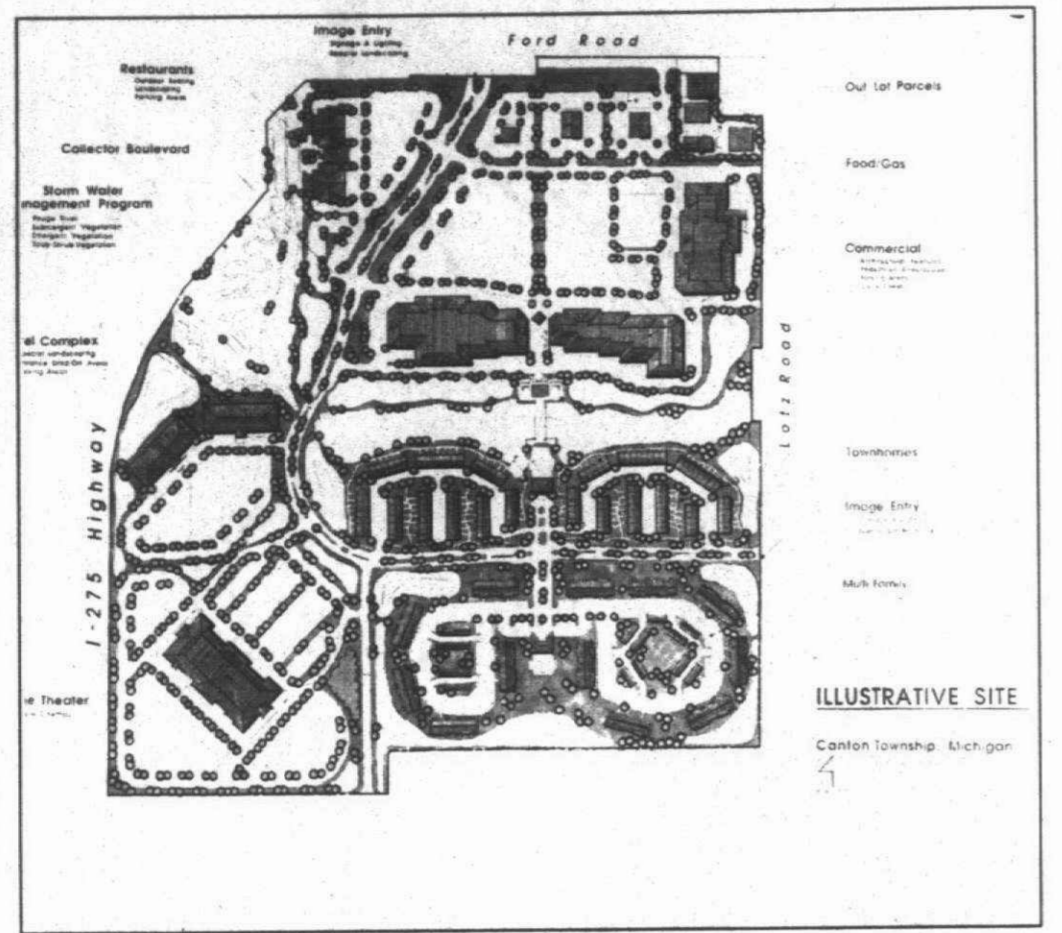
Greg Greene
—DDA member

quit the project.

"We've put seven years into the project," they said, telling the DDA to think about "who can pull it off and who can't pull it off."

"This project might be a flop. We don't think so. We think we've got it licked," Burton said.

The presentation and the question-and-answer period afterward stretched the meeting to nearly four hours, which Shufeldt said was the longest DDA meeting he could recall.



Roadwork

Local officials want more talks, information about jurisdiction

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Local officials are ready to negotiate rather than do battle with Gov. John Engler's administration over a state plan to take over 9,600 miles of county and municipal roads.

They asked the Southeast Michigan Council of Government to be the focal point in a regionwide discussion of which

roads should be controlled by the state and which should continue to be local.

"There are some good ideas and some not so good," said Andrew Wardach, Brighton Township supervisor and chairman of SEMCOG's Transportation Advisory Council. "But there's just not enough information" from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

in Lansing.

"I haven't had one community say they're for this," said SEMCOG's transportation manager Carmine Palombo.

"We've proposed that roads handling 85 percent of commercial travel be transferred to the state," said MDOT planner Theresa Petko, who attended the SEMCOG Executive Commit-

Please see SEMCOG, A7

Funding still remains a question

By TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) owns 9,600 miles of roads in Michigan, and wants control of another 9,100 miles of roadway now controlled by local jurisdictions.

they want to know more about how funding, maintenance and liability will be affected before they sign on the dotted line and give up local control of any roads.

Redford Township Supervisor Kevin Kelley believes there are still too many questions to be answered before he can agree to anything.

to jurisdiction, but funding," said Kelley. "A lot of the funding questions are wrapped into the sunset of Act 51 road funding legislation, which will be a big issue next year. Our concern as a township is that we get a place at the table to voice our concerns."

Redford's roads are owned by Wayne County. While cities get

Please see CW, A7

Cars for commissioners? Ordinance may be revised

By KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County commissioners may give themselves an early Christmas present Thursday if they decide to repeal or revise a four-year-old ordinance prohibiting them from using county-financed cars.

an addendum introduced Thursday on a committee agenda was approved, 6-1, allowing for commission use of cars. The full commission's 15 members are expected to act on the item Thursday.

Commissioner Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, was the sole opponent on the Committee on Airports, Roads and Public Services of allowing for the car usage. Committee Chairman

Robert Blackwell and Commissioners Edna Bell, Ed Boike, Chris Cavanagh, Bernard Parker and Jewel Ware, all Democrats, supported the addendum.

The item is expected to be debated, but the Republican members aren't optimistic the addendum will be defeated.

"There's really no reason for a commissioner to have a car," Patterson said. Patterson's dis-

trict covers 188 square miles, the largest of any commissioner. Patterson estimated lease costs could range from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

McCotter said: "Right now, I'm stunned that the commissioners would supply themselves with a Christmas present. This matter was — and should remain — settled."

OBITUARIES

JOYCE E. CHUMBLEY
Services were held for Joyce E. Chumbley, 55, of Plymouth, on Dec. 13 at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton, with the Rev. Douglas Carson from Arbor Hospice officiating.

She was born Aug. 13, 1942, in Delmar, Colo. She died Dec. 10 at her home. She worked as an administrator in education. She is survived by her husband, Donald R.; a daughter, Elaine Flood; a son, Steven Willis; her mother, Ada Coates; brother Loren; and one granddaughter, Lindsay.

Memorials may be made to the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, March of Dimes, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw Chapters Children's Leukemia Foundation, Arbor Hospice or the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Michigan.

HARVEY COOPER
A memorial reception will be held for Harvey Cooper, 79, formerly of Plymouth, 2-4 p.m. on Jan. 11 at the home of Kelly Warkoczki.

He was born March 5, 1918, in Windsor, Ontario. He died Dec. 2, in Dayton Beach, Fla., where he was currently living. He was a retired sales manager from Evans Products in Plymouth. He coached Plymouth Little League basketball and was a founding member of the Plymouth Colony Swim Club. He is survived by a son, Tim of White Lake, Mich.; a daughter Kelly Warkoczki of Plymouth; a brother, Jack of Livonia; and three grandsons.

BETTY JANE DIEHL
Services were held for Betty Jane Diehl, 70, of Northville Township, on Dec. 13 at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton, with the Rev. Roy Forsyth officiating. The burial was in Glen

Eden Cemetery.

She was born May 19, 1927, in Howell, Mich. She died Dec. 9 in Garden City. She was a homemaker. Her survivors include: her husband, Angus; three sons, George Martin, Michael and Mark; a daughter, Lori Glaza; two sisters, Marie Haight and Loreta Latson; six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

ALYSSA S. HOMBURG
Services were held today for Alyssa S. Homburg, 16, of St. Charles, Ill., formerly of Canton, in St. Charles. There was a private burial. Arrangements were made by the Norris Funeral Home in St. Charles.

She was born May 13, 1981, in Elk Grove Village, Ill. She died Dec. 11, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She attended Allen Grade School and East Middle School in Plymouth, before moving in

1995. She was an honor student and had outstanding skills as a pianist. She was invited to participate in the Interlochen Music Academy. She is survived by her mother Barbara Aghababian-Homburg of St. Charles; her father, Gerald Homburg of Indianapolis, Ind.; a sister, Amy Aghababian of St. Charles; her maternal grandfather, John Alic of River Grove, Ill.; her paternal grandmother, Julia Wallace of Atlanta, Ga.; and her paternal grandparents, Sam and Marge Aghababian of Whitmore Lake, Mich.

Memorials may be made to the family for the purchase of a portable sound system for Burlington Central High School, P.O. Box 68, Burlington, Ill., 60101, or to the Lazarus House, a homeless shelter, P.O. Box 1100, St. Charles, Ill. 60174.

DENNIS J. MCKELVEY
Services for Dennis J. McKelvey, 41, of Plymouth Township, were held Dec. 13 at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton, with the Rev. Mike Molnar from St. Theodore Church officiating. The burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

He was born Jan. 11, 1956, in Detroit. He died Dec. 9 in Southfield. He worked as a sexton for cemeteries. He is survived by his wife Judy; a son Nevan; four sisters: Mary McKelvey, Kathleen Lehane, Carol Culliton and Catherine Happner; and one brother, Michael.

Memorials may be made to the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan.

PATRICIA J. WERTANEN
A funeral Mass was held for Patricia J. Wertanen, 56, of Northville, formerly of Plymouth, on Dec. 1 at Our Lady of

Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. John Sullivan officiating. The burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia.

She was born Dec. 5, 1940, in Detroit. She died Nov. 25, in Ann Arbor. She was a homemaker and moved to the Northville community from Plymouth in 1993. She attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Northville. She is survived by a daughter, Theresa Horka of Plymouth; three sons, Carl of Plymouth, Eric of Redford, and Kirk of Westland; one grandson, Charles John; two sisters, Geraldine Tinneman of East Pointe, Mich. and Veronica Jazynowski of St. Clair Shores; and one brother, George Zielinski of East Pointe.

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Busy little elves
Holiday fun: Kids, ages 6-11 were busy as elves Saturday during the "Santa's Elves Workshop" at Canton's Summit on the Park.

Photos by Jerry Mendoza



Canton Observer
(USPS 663-870)
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a BID for the purchase of computer workstations and printers.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Pursuant to Senate Bill No. 1171 Section 17K, the Plymouth City Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Conference room at the Plymouth City Hall.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools cordially invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the purchase of three copy machines.

Thanks!
Families to benefit from donations

Cheer Club
Thanks so much for donating to the Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club! Our deadline for accepting donations was 3 p.m. Friday.

family of Plymouth, Kayla Patterson of Plymouth, Krista and Sarah Slawski of Plymouth, Andrew and Mark Vance of Plymouth, Shirley A. Keil, Emily, Alison and Alex Arble of Plymouth, Mary Jo Hewitt of Plymouth, Diana, Kathryn, Joanna and Jessica McLean of Plymouth, Joe and Fran Murawa of Plymouth, Eunice and Warren Terch of Plymouth and plenty of anonymous donors.

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Road improvements scheduled for western Wayne County

Gov. John Engler last week said MDOT "would put our tax dollars to work" with \$26 million in road and bridge improvements as soon as the winter weather breaks.
Among projects scheduled for southeastern Michigan:
■ Garden City and Westland - Warren Road traffic signal modernization at seven intersections: Henry Ruff, Middlebelt, Helen Floral, Fairwood, Berwyn Gulley and Fen-

SEMCOG from page A5

tee's Dec. 12 meeting in Detroit. Petko added MDOT has had "some positive response" to what MDOT director James DeSana called a "rationalization plan" for state jurisdiction. But she declined to name communities.
They're asking questions about how many times will you snowplow, and how many times will you mow? Petko said.
There's a real desire to get into a dialog," said SEMCOG executive director John Amberg, summing up the reaction from local meetings. SEMCOG had sponsored meetings in every county - Wayne, Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe and St. Clair - to hear responses to the Engler-DeSana plan.
SEMCOG's Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution asking MDOT to join it in "a comprehensive needs study as a necessary precondition to any discussion of road jurisdiction transfers."
Rochester Hills Mayor Kenneth Snell won approval of an amendment to make SEMCOG

rebuilt and reopened in October. The Davison is fabulous. It was a county road all these years (about 50). We took it three years ago and fixed it," Engler said.
Engler first floated the idea in May when he unveiled his gasoline tax hike plan to improve roads and bridges. Legislators passed the tax but balked at the administration's effort to take over more local roads.
Local officials had been miffed that MDOT showed them only the takeover plans for their cities and villages; that they weren't shown maps for neighboring communities; and that townships were left out entirely.

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by Stuart M. Feldheim
Attorney at Law
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CWW from page A5

Act 51 money directly from the state, the township's share goes into county coffers.
We passed a resolution at our last board meeting that we would like to be considered when Act 51 legislation comes up, that townships be considered in the process," Kelley said.
We are looking at legislation proposed by (state Sen.) Loren Bennett (R-Canton) that would turn funding back to the township and we could decide what to do with it ... continue with the county or hire a private contractor.
I'm open to anything that's going to improve roads for our citizens."
Act 51 legislation is set to expire next September, although at least one local leader doesn't expect the issue to become a political football, at least right away.

Yack has an ongoing battle with county officials over road maintenance and construction funding for Canton.
Yack also knows there could be a downside to the state taking over any roads.
The biggest thing for any community is being involved in the decision making when it comes to roads," said Yack.
There's always a suspicion that the further away government is from you, the more difficult and less likely it is to respond to your needs. Besides, the history of MDOT is not very responsive."
Garden City Councilman Mike Wiacek says his biggest concern is money.
I want to know what effect it's going to have on our local revenue," said Wiacek.
We want to make sure, for our taxpayers, that we get as much funding as we can.
In reality, Garden City is an older community with lots of neighborhood roads, and I don't think the state would want to take over many, if any, of them.
Currently, the state gets 39 percent of the roads budget. Michigan's 83 counties share another 39 percent of monies available for roads, while cities split 22 percent. Local governments are concerned about how much less they will get if the state takes control of some of their roads. Many CWW members voiced some doubt, saying their current allocations aren't anywhere near enough.

Dear Customers
In our most recent circular, three prices for Aquarium Starter Kits were transposed.
We featured the Top Fin 10-Gallon Aquarium Starter Kit. The price should be \$49.99 and not \$119.99.
We also listed the Top Fin 20-Gallon Starter Kit and the Top Fin 29-Gallon Starter Kit. The prices for these items should read \$74.99 and \$119.99 respectively.
We apologize for any confusion this may have caused, and thank you for your understanding.

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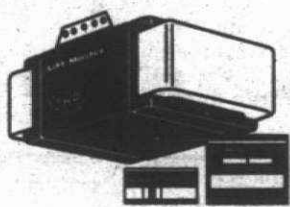
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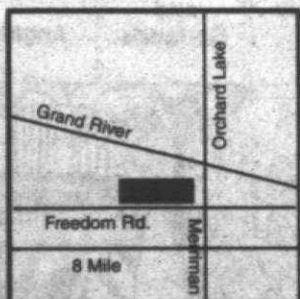
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Bill OK'd to permit lawsuits against corporations for punitive damages

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

A key Republican crossover gave House Democrats a bare-bones victory in their effort to allow plaintiffs to sue corporations for punitive damages.

"Sometimes you have a crook who has a lot of money," said Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, who gave Democrats the 56th vote they needed Dec. 3 to pass the punitive damages.

House Bill 5373 is probably dead on arrival in the Republican-controlled Senate, which has made a 13-year effort to reduce the costs of doing business in Michigan.

Product liability is one of the Democrats' key 1997 legislative initiatives; the other is restoring unemployment benefits to 1995 levels.

"A political outcome took precedence over a policy outcome," said Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, summing up the case for the GOP. "This will have a chilling effect on the business climate without doing people any good."

The House passed the bill 56-51 with three absent. All area lawmakers but Cropsey voted with their parties. Voting yes were 54 Democrats and two Republicans. Voting no were 49 Republicans and two Democrats.

The Democratic leadership had to hold the voting board open 10 minutes to round up the necessary votes. Leaders worked hard on Kirk Profit, D-Ypsilanti, and Ed LaForge, D-Kalamazoo, to get their green (yes) lights.

Corporate felons

The sponsor, Rep. Ted Wallace, D-Detroit, likened punitive damages against corporations to a prison term for violent felons. "If you injure someone, you go to prison," he said, "and it costs the state \$25,000 to \$40,000 a year. Here the wrongdoer would pay the cost."

"Thirty-five other states have punitive damages. You hear of large awards of \$270 million. Those awards are usually reversed by the appellate courts," said Wallace, adding that only 5 percent of plaintiffs ever win any damages at all.

But Wallace said a punitive award against a corporation, even if reversed on appeal, would result in greater safety for consumers.

Fitzgerald noted Wallace introduced his bill Nov. 13, reported it out of his committee on the first day of session (Dec. 1) after the hunting season break, and was seeking to push it through second and third readings in a single day.

"What's the rush?" Fitzgerald asked. "It's not an issue that needs to be taken all the way in one day. I for one heard no compelling testimony in committee."

Backing him up, Rep. Mike Nye, R-Litchfield, said consumers can sue for economic, non-economic (pain and suffering) and exemplary damages. Adding punitive damages to the list, he said, would make Michigan "one of the few states with all four types of damages."

Rep. Andrew Richner, R-Grosse Pointe, got hoots from the Democratic side when he said, "These punitive damages will not go only to our friends (consumers) but to the trial lawyers." The Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, the plaintiffs' bar, is a major contributor to Democrats.

Three more bills are in the Democrats' package. HB 4048 would cover pharmaceuticals; HB 5371 would cover defective products; and a third bill is still in committee.

Much comment

Interest groups flooded the House press room with news releases.

■ "Threatens to wreck Michigan's positive small business climate... an anti-business agenda" - Small Business Association of Michigan.

■ "Whether it's hiding research about defects, cutting corners on the assembly line, or lying about product safety, it should be punishable under the law for companies to sell products they know could injure or kill" - Rep. Laura Baird, D-Okemos.

■ "Most of these bills are an obvious effort by plaintiff's attorneys to repeal or roll back products liability reform legislation that was approved last session (controlled by Republicans). The Michigan Chamber will fight to retain the current law" - Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

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2 UNIQUE



KELLI LEWTON

Countdown the 12 Days to Christmas

It was the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring not even a mouse. Wrong! Usually, with onset of the most wonderful day of the year, we are frantically dashing about, polishing silver, counting plates, and uncovering the dusty card table from years past. Then you start the long food journey and by Christmas day you're missing out on all the holiday cheer in the next room because you're too busy dicing, chopping and slicing. May I suggest this year be different; a little planning can make a world of difference.

The Twelve Days of Christmas - Don't forget to start today

Day 12 - Master Checklist
Every great event has great beginnings. A master plan and checklist is the key to success. Your list may include rentals, inventory of china, linen, serving pieces, time line for tasks to insure no last minute running.

Day 11 - Menu Planning
The most crucial part of a holiday feast is, of course, the food! In addition to family favorites this would be the time to gather recipes you've wanted to try, and if necessary, experiment. When menu planning, it is essential to have a good mix of items to fit everyone's needs including a few selections, which are on the lighter side. Try to make some things in advance. Many items, including baked goods and chutneys, can be made well in advance. Don't forget to place any special meat or bakery item orders well in advance so you're not disappointed on your last minute shopping trip to your favorite market.

Day 10
Purchase all your beverages. Remember to buy beer and wine at room temperature and then just ice down an hour prior to guest arrival in coolers or party tubs. It is hard enough fitting all the extra food items in the fridge without having to work around cases of pop, beer and wine.

Day 9
It is close enough now to the date of your event to make any reminder calls to family and friends about times and such. It's also a great time to assign tasks for family members to help with the preparation.

Day 8
It's a great day for holiday baking. Cookies and breads freeze great. Bring out your special holiday tins. Sweet filled tins make great gifts.

Day 7
Beat the last minute grocery store frenzy and pick up all your dry goods such as paper products, coffee, tea, canned and frozen items also. Make any last minute purchases you may need for your table.

Day 6
Plan your holiday table top. You can use phone books, boxes turned upside down placed on top of a base line tablecloth. Arrange risers on table and cover with additional pieces of festive holiday linen thus creating different levels as a stage for your platters, bowls, etc. Give some thought to your centerpiece, how about some fresh pine branches placed in between risers? Holiday ribbon cascaded about? Candles are always a nice touch. Colors and textures will lend to your festive holiday tables. Think of your table as the stage and the food as the actors.

Day 5
Gather your china, serving pieces and linen. Double check for cleanliness and don't forget to polish the silver. This is also a good day for starting some cleaning, and to find your favorite Christmas CDs, cassettes, and records.

Day 4
The last place you want to be stuck on Christmas Eve is the grocery store.

Please see UNIQUE, B2

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:
 ■ Focus on Wine
 ■ For the Love of Food

LEAVE BEHIND THE HIGH FAT GINGERBREAD MAN



HAVE WILLPOWER AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER



ON YOUR MARK GET SET FOR HOLIDAY EATING

BY PEGGY MARTINELLI EVERTS
SPECIAL WRITER

The holiday season brings challenges and opportunities. Many of us look forward to spending time with family and friends, dressing up our homes and offices, and eating wonderfully prepared meals.

We need not look at holiday meals as a chance to "pig out" or worry that we'll lose control with all of the additional pressures that we face during this time of year.

I prepare for holiday eating the way a long distance runner prepares for a race.

Before the race, a runner needs to practice, practice, practice. The same is true before the holidays; practice eating sensibly. Build up your arm muscles so you have enough strength to push yourself away from the table. Practice eat-

Good Holiday Snacks

- Raw vegetables (very light on the dip)
- Shrimp cocktail (in moderation)
- Baked tortilla chips and salsa
- Pretzels
- Jordan almonds (in moderation)
- Nuts in the shell that you have to crack to eat
- Raw fruit slices with low-fat yogurt dip
- Grapes

ing wonderfully seasoned vegetables and new combinations of fruits, beans or grains.

The runner must prepare mentally for the race. She will think about how she will feel running during the competition. Before a holiday party, imagine yourself eating with restraint, enjoying each delicious mouthful and having lots of wonderful conversation.

The runner will choose clothing that is comfortable and makes her feel like a winner. For the holidays choose clothes that fit you well rather than the biggest, baggiest ones. If you wear clothes that are too loose, you won't notice your belly expanding from over eating.

The day of the race, the runner chooses her food carefully. Before you go to a party, eat a good meal so that you're less likely to graze uncontrollably all evening.

During the race, the runner will drink plenty of water to keep well hydrated. The same is true for the holidays; never underestimate the power of water. Enjoy plenty of cool, clear water before, during and after the party. Water keeps your skin clear and helps flush impurities from your body. Drink water liberally throughout the party, especially when you're

indoors in dry, heated places. Find the biggest, tallest glass you can, fill it with ice water, and sip and crunch your way through any holiday get together.

The runner puts her whole heart and soul into the race; always aware of her body and what it's doing. During a party, think about what you've been eating and how much. Listen to your body's internal signals. Breathe deeply and maintain control. Move yourself away from the food source, help with dishes, play with the children or take the dog for a walk.

After the race, the runner evaluates what she did right and where she may need to intensify her efforts. After the party think about what you ate that was especially satisfying and whether you feel you successfully "managed" your food intake. Congratulate yourself for eating vegetables, fruits, grains and for drinking water.

Relax, and then, prepare yourself for the next "holiday" run.

Peggy Martinelli-Everts of Clarkston, is a registered dietitian and director of clinical operations for HDS Services, a Farmington Hills-based food service and hospitality management company. Look for her story on the second

Sunday of the month in Taste. See recipes inside.

Company's Coming

Here are some holiday entertaining tips from the American Dietetic Association/National Center for Nutrition and Dietetics.

Appetizers

- Serve hummus with pita wedges
- Make fruit kebabs with pineapple chunks, melon balls, and ripe strawberries
- Create a cheese board with some newer low-fat varieties and an assortment of crackers and bread sticks
- Spread reduced-fat or nonfat cream cheese on reduced-fat or nonfat crackers. Garnish with: sun-dried tomatoes; cucumber slices and pimento; or smoked salmon and dill
- Rely on low-fat or nonfat varieties of plain yogurt, ricotta cheese, or sour cream for dips. Flavor them with dry onion soup mix, salsa, chopped cooked spinach, chutney, or other flavorings
- Bake miniature vegetable quiches using lower-fat cheese and egg alternative

Side Dishes

- Marinate red and yellow pepper pieces, onion slices, baby carrots, and whole mushrooms in reduced-sodium soy sauce, ginger and a little olive oil. Gently cook.
- Sauté onions, mushrooms, and red pepper in a moderate amount of margarine. Add this mixture to prepared wild rice, barley, couscous, or buckwheat (kasha).

Fat-reducing Tips

- Use reduced-fat or nonfat dressings or spreads for vegetables instead of butter, cheese, and cream-based sauces
- Skim fat from meat drippings before using for gravies or to flavor grain and vegetable dishes
- Cook stuffing and roast vegetables away from the bird to avoid contact with dripping fat
- Baste with fruit juice rather than meat drippings
- Choose lean cuts of meat, remove visible fat
- Broil, boil, poach, or steam instead of frying

Hurry-up entrees are faster than take-out

MURIEL G. WAGNER



REGISTERED DIETITIAN

If your holiday schedule of shopping, entertaining and party going has turned the season from "ho-ho" to "oh, oh," I've got an early Christmas gift for you. I'm going to share three of my secret recipes for main dishes that will keep your energy up and satisfy your taste buds. These dishes are faster to prepare (5 to 10 minutes) than "ordering in," lower in fat and saturated fat, and higher in fiber than anything you could have delivered, or pick up at the deli.

The first recipe is made from ingredients that you can keep on your pantry shelf. There's absolutely no chopping or extraordinary ingredients. On days when you get home too tired to even think of cooking, reach for this recipe instead of the phone. Use a prepared low sodium salsa to reduce the sodium content by 75 mg. Pritkin makes a good-tasting one.

ABSOLUTELY 5-MINUTE CHILI WONDERFUL

- 1 can (14.5 oz.) Brook's Just for Chili Diced Tomatoes
- 1 can (15.5 oz.) Brook's Mild Chili Beans
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 1 can (8.75 oz.) whole kernel corn, no salt added
- 3 ounces shredded fat-free Cheddar cheese

Mix beans, tomatoes, salsa and corn in a 2-quart microwave-safe dish. Cook on high for 4 minutes. Portion into four microwave-safe bowls. Divide cheese among bowls and return to microwave to melt cheese (about 1 minute). Serves 4.

Nutrition Facts Per Serving: Calories: 209; Total Fat 0g; Saturated Fat 0g; Cholesterol 0 mg; Sodium 860 mg.

Food Exchanges: 1 Lean Meat; 2 Breads

The next two recipes are for fish - "regular" fish and everyone's favorite - tuna fish (but with a flavor twist). It's no secret that substituting fish and shellfish for meat helps to lower cholesterol. If you make your fish choice a fat fish like salmon, whitefish, sardines, lake trout or albacore tuna, your triglycerides will be lowered as well.

The problem is a lot of my patients think cooking fish is a big smelly chore. But if the fish is fresh, it has no fishy odor. Frozen fish can be freshened by soaking it in milk before cooking.

Here are two fish dishes that I use to convince my patients that fish is one of the simplest and best-tasting dishes to prepare. Remember, even if it is fish, it does have cholesterol, fat and calories. Use discretion in the portion size.

My patients usually approach the oven fried fish recipe with strong doubts - until they taste it. It's really crispy and crunchy. Apple and red pepper add a sweet tart accent to the tuna, revitalizing an old favorite.

OVEN FRIED FISH

- 1 pound fish fillet (catfish, cod, sole)
- 1/2 cup reduced fat buttermilk
- 1/2 cup cornmeal, white or yellow

Preheat oven to 400°F. Coat baking sheet with non-stick spray. Cut fish into four pieces.

Dip in buttermilk and then in cornmeal. Bake for 10 minutes per inch thickness, turning fish as fish browns.

Serves 4.

Nutrition Facts Per Serving: Calories 127; Total Fat 1.3 g; Saturated Fat 0.4 g; Cholesterol 51 mg; Sodium 284 mg.

Food Exchanges: 3 Lean Meat; 1/2 Bread

TUNA, RED PEPPER, RED APPLE AND RED ONION SALAD

- 2 cans (6 oz.) white albacore tuna, water-packed, rinsed, drained and chunked
- 1 red pepper, cut into strips
- 1 unpeeled Red Delicious apple, cubed
- 1/4 cup red onion, coarsely diced
- 1/3 cup nonfat mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Combine nonfat mayonnaise and Dijon mustard. (Increase or decrease the Dijon mustard according to taste). Add tuna, red apples, red peppers and red onions. Serve on lettuce leaves or use as a sandwich filling.

Serves 4.

Nutrition Facts Per Serving: Calories 169; Total Fat 2.8 g; Saturated Fat 0.4 g; Cholesterol 32 mg; Sodium 399 mg.

Food Exchanges: 3 Lean Meat; 2 Vegetables

Muriel G. Wagner is a registered dietitian and nutrition therapist with an office in Southfield. She publishes "Eating Younger," a quarterly newsletter filled with recipes and nutrition tips. To subscribe, send a check or money order for \$13.50 to Eating Younger, P.O. Box 69021, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069. Look for Muriel's column in Taste on the second Sunday of the month.

Homemade treats simply spectacular

See related 2 Unique column on Taste front.

SIMPLY SPECTACULAR ALMOND POPPY SEED BREAD
3 cups flour
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons poppy seeds
1 1/2 cups milk
3/4 cup vegetable oil
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 1/2 teaspoons almond extract
1 1/2 teaspoons butter extract

SUGARED PECANS
3 cups water
1 tablespoon cold water
1 pound whole pecan halves
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt

WHITE CHOCOLATE VERY BERRY NUT BARK
1/4 pound dried cranberries or cherries
1/4 pound dried blueberries
1/4 pound dried apricots, chopped
1/3 pound pecans, chopped
2 1/2 pounds white chocolate, chopped

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Unique from page B1

Go today and buy your fresh produce and dairy products. Don't forget the eggnog and cinnamon.

Day 3
Pick up your fresh meats and any special orders for cakes you may have placed. Start processing vegetables, pick your green beans, cut your carrots, parsnips, etc. If you peel apples or potatoes in advance make sure you store them in water with a little lemon juice.

Day 2
OK - let's get cooking! go ahead and blanch your vegetables and place them in reheating pans with a little salt, pepper and butter so that on Christmas Day all you need to do is reheat in oven or microwave and serve. You could also put a little water in the bottom of the pan and steam it on the stove top for a few seconds. Boil, mash, stir and bake! Get all your side dishes ready to go. If you can make sauces ahead of time - go for it!

Day 1 - Merry Christmas!
Because you were a planner, you can leisurely roll out of bed to enjoy the spirit of Christmas. It's really not about food - it's about enjoying your family and close ones. Since your table is set, your silver clean, plates out, beverages to be iced one hour before. The only thing left to chance is to meet with family, and coordinate your meat preparation with meal time so that all

Clean lettuce and greens and store with a wet towel covering them. Clean meat and season so it will be oven ready. Set the table.

Chef Kelli L. Lewton is owner of 2 Unique Caterers and Event Planners in Bloomfield Hills. A graduate of Schoolcraft College's Culinary Arts program, Kelli is a part-time instructor at the college. Look for her column in Taste on the second Sunday of the month.

Celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by Jewish families for eight days to commemorate the rededication of the ancient temple in Jerusalem, when the last remaining container of undefiled oil miraculously lasted for eight days. This year Hanukkah begins at sundown on Tuesday, Dec. 23.

The Menorah, a candle holder used during Hanukkah, is lit each night by different family members. After the candles are lit, it is traditional for families to sing and celebrate with a light meal. The most popular meal during Hanukkah is latkes (potato pancakes) served with sour cream or apple sauce.

While tea is not a traditional part of a Hanukkah celebration, it certainly complements this special day.

APPLE-CRANBERRY SPARKLER
2 cups water
4 cup size tea bags
1 cup chilled cranberry juice cocktail
1 cup apple juice
2 teaspoons sugar

In medium sauce pan, bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and add tea bags; cover and brew 5 minutes. Remove tea bags. In pitcher, combine tea, juices and sugar; chill. Makes about 4 (8 ounce) servings.

Recipe from The Lipton Kitchens.

Here are some traditional potato latke recipes for Hanukkah from "Everyday Cooking for the Jewish Home: More Than 350 Delectable Recipes," by Ethel G. Hofman (HarperCollins Publishers, 1997, \$25).

CLASSIC POTATO LATKES
Makes 24
2 eggs
1/4 small onion, cut into 3 pieces
4 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
3 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
Vegetable oil for frying
Applesauce or sour cream

Break eggs into a food processor. Add onion and potatoes. Process until potatoes are coarsely chopped. Add baking powder, flour, salt, and pepper. Pulse 3 or 4 times to mix.

Heat 1/8 inch of oil in a large

skillet over medium heat. Drop rounded tablespoons of potato mixture into skillet; press lightly with back of a spoon to flatten slightly. Cook on both sides until brown, about 3 minutes per side. Continue frying, adding more oil as needed, until all of batter is used up.

Drain on paper towels. Serve hot with applesauce for a meat meal or sour cream for a dairy meal.

ginger and salt. Mix well.

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a 7-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat. Pour in 1 1/2 cups mixture. Cook until underside is browned and latke is firm enough to be flipped over, 5 to 7 minutes.

Reduce heat to medium-low and cook 5 to 7 minutes longer, until underside is browned. Keep warm.

Repeat with remaining mixture, stirring well before transferring to skillet and adding more oil as needed. Serve hot. Makes 4 servings.

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APPLE-CRANBERRY SPARKLER
2 cups water
4 cup size tea bags
1 cup chilled cranberry juice cocktail
1 cup apple juice
2 teaspoons sugar

In medium sauce pan, bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and add tea bags; cover and brew 5 minutes. Remove tea bags. In pitcher, combine tea, juices and sugar; chill. Makes about 4 (8 ounce) servings.

GLICK'S COLOSSAL BUTTERNUT LATKES
1 pound butternut squash, peeled and shredded
2 medium baking potatoes (about 3/4 pound), coarsely grated
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup matzoh meal
2 teaspoons lemon pepper seasoning
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon salt
3 to 4 tablespoons peanut oil

In a large bowl, combine squash, potatoes and cilantro. Add beaten eggs, matzoh meal, lemon pepper,

Festive appetizer sure to please

See related story on Taste front. Recipe from HDS Services.

PRUNE PORT CANAPE SANDWICH
8 very thinly sliced pieces of Canadian bacon (1/2 ounce slices)
2 cups port wine
1/2 cup dried prunes
1 boneless, skinless chicken breast
16 slices party rye bread
1/2 teaspoon salt
Pepper to taste
1 tablespoon olive oil

Bake the Canadian bacon on a baking sheet at 350°F. until crisp. When finished, drain on a clean towel.

Combine the port wine and prunes in a sauce pan and cook about 15 minutes until the prunes have softened. Remove the prunes and mash to a paste with one tablespoon of the port the prunes were cooked in.

In a sauce pot, simmer the remaining port until thickened and reduced to approximately 1/4 cup, set aside.

Season the chicken breast with the salt and pepper and then grill until done. Slice the chicken breast on the bias into eight pieces. Brush the bread with olive oil and place under broiler until lightly toasted. Spread the prune mixture on half the bread slices on the oiled side. Place a slice of chicken on top. Add a slice of Canadian bacon. Drizzle the port wine sauce over top. Finish with another slice of rye to make a sandwich. Secure with a toothpick. Serves 8.

Nutrition information per serving: Calories 200; protein 7.52g; Fat 4g.

Waldorf gelatin salad low fat

AP - The following recipe for Waldorf Gelatin Salad is low in calories and fat-free, made with sugar-free raspberry gelatin, chopped apples, bananas and celery.

Recipe Newsletter - To subscribe to "Healthy Weigh Newsletter," which is published six times a year, send a check for \$15 made payable to Healthy Weigh Nutrition Services and send to "Healthy Weigh Newsletter," 2625-F Coffee Road, Suite 101, Modesto, CA 95355.

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Susan DeMaggio, Editor 248-901-2567

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Sunday, December 14, 1997

Exploration Station Mall exhibits teach computer innovations



Twelve Oaks and Lakeside malls are a classroom of sorts this holiday, introducing kids to the wonders of new computer technology based on themes from the shopping centers' holiday decor packages.

By **BARB PERT TEMPLETON**
SPECIAL WRITER

Shopping for computer gadgets to please all the techno fans on your Christmas list may seem overwhelming, but a stop at the Holiday Exploration Station at Twelve Oaks Mall, or The Peanuts and Popcorn Place at Lakeside Mall, should ease most concerns.

The exhibits boast computers and other hi-tech equipment that can introduce shoppers to the latest technology packages, tied into Lakeside's Charlie Brown Christmas theme and Twelve Oaks' Crystal Forest.

Instructors from TechnoMasters, a Birmingham-based technology organization, double as station masters providing guidance and assistance to shoppers of all ages. Offering tips on the newest technology to holiday shoppers free of charge was part of mall management's desire to offer something extra to its patrons, said TechnoMasters Vice President Tom Cleavinger.

"We have a contract with the malls to give shoppers some real computer experience using just 15 or 20 minutes of their time," Cleavinger said. "And we don't sell anything, we just help with the educational experience."

The exhibits are open to the public on weekends during regular mall hours. During the week the station is available to school groups, from preschool through eighth grade, for a nominal charge per child.

A recent Sunday afternoon found a steady flow of interested shoppers dropping into the Twelve Oaks exhibit. Assistants from TechnoMasters greet visitors at the door offering a mini-tour or welcoming families to browse on their own. A brief explanation of each station and simple instructions for operating the computer are available at every terminal.

One of the most popular areas among the younger set is the Robotics Zone. That's where simple clicks of the keyboard give the users information so that they can dictate the moves of Lego blocks placed in the center of the station table.

"The kids really like getting that information off the screen and then being able to control something outside the computer with it," said Cleavinger. The Internet Zone is a station that allows visitors to journey around the world to learn all about holidays in different countries. The user can select the country and the holiday such as Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

The Gadget Zone gives the latest look at video and digital camera technology. Visitors can stand at opposite ends of the room and conduct a video conference while typing messages to one another.

The fun part of this is that all of the stations are at a pretty basic level but it's still the coolest technology using the newest equipment," Cleavinger said.

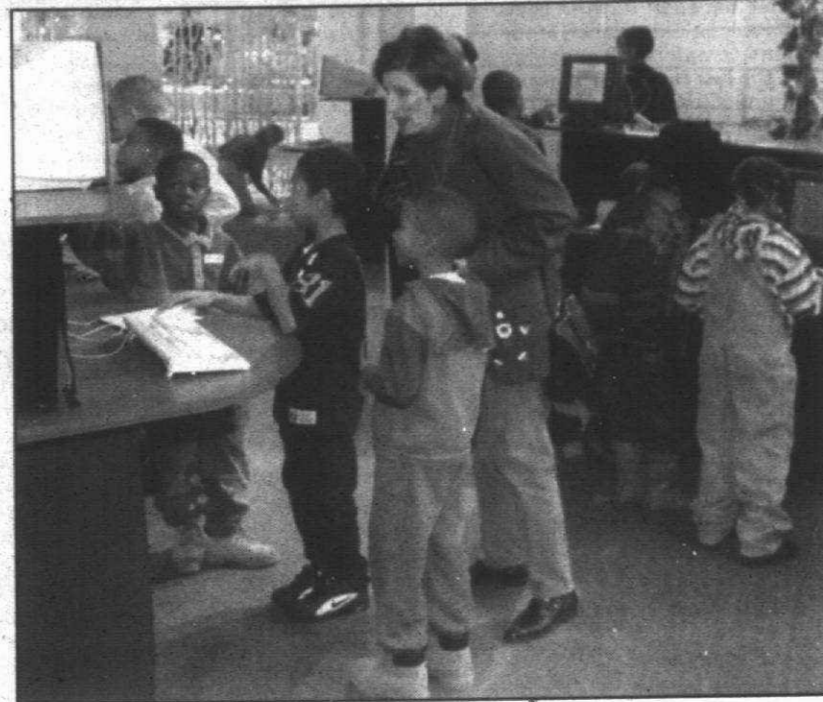
Laughing and giggling were most prominent at the "Goings" station whose software set-up allowed visitors to select a picture of someone and then manipulate their faces to hilarious poses with a simple click of the mouse. Users could also take their own picture and have it appear for re-design on the terminal.

The face morphing is the same technology utilized in movies like Roger Rabbit and Mask," said Cleavinger.

A pair of teen shoppers from Farmington Hills were enjoying a nice break from the mall crowds inside the station. Elizabeth Jackson, 13, and Jessica Levers, 13, really enjoyed the "Goings" station.

"Is this the coolest or what?" Jackson asked Levers as she twisted the face of the Mona Lisa into a rubberized mess. Other faces on hand to re-mold included that of President Bill Clinton, Senator Ted Kennedy and England's Prince Charles.

Seeing visitors enjoying the station and not shying away from utilizing the computers pleased Cleavinger and his instructors. Shawn Maxwell, of Farmington Hills, has worked for TechnoMasters for several years and enjoys the chance to bring the computer technology closer to the community via mall settings and school programs.



Computer fun: Students from Baylor Woodson School in Inkster enjoy the afternoon playing with holiday computer programs at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.



Click on: (Left to right) Nikia Allen and Martin Jones, each 7, listen as Cindy Cheaves of Techno Masters explains some computer fundamentals.

"This has really been a good experience and the kids have a great time," said Maxwell. "I'd say the Goings and Lego stations are most popular."

"Hands on displays are a big plus because you can walk in and quickly see the programs and grab some information," added Cleavinger.

The Holiday Exploration Station and the Peanuts and Popcorn Interactive Kids Place will be at the malls through December 28. The next technology exhibit by TechnoMasters will begin on January 24 at the Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor in conjunction with the University of Michigan Museum of Art's Monet exhibit. To contact TechnoMasters regarding visits or school technology education programs call Cleavinger at (248) 258-9075.

Where can I find?

This feature is dedicated to helping readers locate sources for hard-to-find merchandise in the marketplace. If you've seen any of the items in your retail travels (or basement) please call Where Can I Find? (248) 901-2555. Slowly and clearly, leave your name, number and message, and you should see your input in the following Sunday's column.

What we found:

- The game **Cathedral** can be ordered from World Wide Games for \$59.95 at 800-888-0987.
- The **Rand McNally** store at Somerset Collection South in Troy, has a few **Wizards** games in stock.
- We found readers who were willing to offer their **Beanbag Hallmark Santas**, **Elvis** on velvet, some **Apple II** paraphernalia, electric and Tony hair rollers and Corelle dishes to other callers.
- Unicare hair and skin conditioner** can be ordered by mail through the company's Atlanta, GA, headquarters, 1-888-UNICURE, \$3 per bottle, according to company owner Richard Tucker.

We're still looking for:

- Dishes from A&P bought in 1979 called "Diane."
- A video transfer box that transfers old 8mm film onto video movies, to rent or buy for Douglas of Farmington Hills.
- Word-of-Mouth spaghetti sauce for Rose.
- An old Arthur Godfrey Christmas album for Sue.
- Clairol haircolor in light ash blonde for Cathy.
- Ji Sanders cologne for men for Darryl.
- The games **Hotel** and **Pinch** for Barb.
- A store that sells foods suitable for diabetics in the Plymouth/Canton area for a reader who was just diagnosed with the condition.
- The publication **Two Cute Sock Dolls** for Kathy.
- John Wayne memorabilia for Jackie's son in Garden City.
- An Apple II C monitor for Richard.
- Revlon's Xia-Xiang and Diane Von Furstenberg's Tatiana for four women in the Canton area.
- A recording by Bing Crosby and David Bowie of Little Drummer Boy for Steven.
- The Royal Doulton Coronet pattern in white for Fay.
- The Sesame Street by Vetex cartridge in green for Kim. She has the yellow and blue.
- A 6-cup Corningware teapot for Carol of Livonia.
- Spoolie rubber curlers and a loose-leaf that opens on the top, not sides for Lafern.
- Ruth needs a distributor who sells the "miracle cleaner" **Swipe**.
- The **rustproof remover** **Magica** for Michelle.
- Jean is desperately trying to come across a Cary Grant recording of Red Roses for a Blue Lady from many years ago.
- The **Lone Ranger board game** for Linda of Garden City.
- Two more callers said they want to locate a "Drowsy Doll" with pull string, too.
- A Bell and Howell #850 slide projector with vertical carousel for Beverly Gillette.
- Replacement **cutting blades** for the Hair Wiz for Ron Petrella.
- The old board game **Call My Bluff**, for Joe of Livonia.
- A **filter** for a Norelco clean water machine for Gertrude of Troy.
- A yellow, **Answer Finder**, to use with the **Scribbles Learn With Me Club** by Western Publishing for Sue of Canton.
- A 1941 copy of **Jolly Jingle Picture Book** by Rand McNally for Sharon Gage.
- A **TV tuner adapter** for Game Gear and a hockey game for Game Gear for Colleen of Redford.
- Dick Clark cologne** for Gloria of West Bloomfield.
- A **basket** for the crystal Frymaster, about 10 1/2-inches across for Shirley.
- Sega Genesis Shining Force One game** for Norma.
- Toni permanent rollers, 4-inches long, for Mary Callahan.

Snowman with a heart



Charitable gift: Sears stores are selling several unique products to benefit Gilda's Club of MetroDetroit, now putting the finishing touches on its headquarters at 3517 Rochester Road in Troy. An exclusive line of ties and scarves designed by club co-founder comedian Gene Wilder as well as other celebrities, are \$20 each. Sears is also selling Ho-Ho-Bean and other 7-inch plush toys for \$3.99 or \$1.99 with a same-day purchase of \$20 or more. Gilda's Clubhouses across the country offer emotional and social support for men, women and children with all types of cancer. To become a volunteer, or hear more about the program, call 247-577-0800. Gilda's Club was named in memory of comedienne and former Detroit Gilda Radner.

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features news briefs from the Malls & Mainstreets beat compiled by Susan DeMaggio. For inclusion, send information to: Retail Details, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 805, E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or fax to (248) 644-1314.

Spa in the city updates

Mira Linder introduced three beauty treatments for the holidays: Relaxation Day Special, \$280; Two-Hour Beauty Transformation, \$180; and Body Beautiful, \$150. She also is debuting face and body treatments from the French skin care line Biologique Recherche. For more information call the spa at Applegate Square in Southfield, (248) 356-5810.

Shop has Native American ornaments

Native West Gallery, 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth, has hand-crafted ornaments by Native Americans for sale to benefit "Futures for Children," a Native American charity. The ornaments are \$25 from which, \$17, goes toward the educational outreach program. For more details call Native West at (313) 455-8838.

Nordstrom sells art glass ornament

The Gift Gallery at Nordstrom has the third in a series of limited, keepsake holiday bulbs designed by Seattle glass artists. This year's design is a white orb with brightly colored dots a red or green hanging loop completes each ornament. \$38 in a miniature hatbox case.

Nordstrom is also debuting a Sweet Shop featuring baskets of edibles for \$25-\$150. Custom orders available, too. There is a special hotline for the sweet shop (248) 816-7333.

Sisters open Pagetec Store

Patty and Michelle Gillis of Canton opened a Pagetec franchise in downtown Walled Lake offering cellular phones, pagers and accessories at 103 E. Walled Lake Drive. Patty has had a similar shop in Canton for the past five years. They welcome inquiries at (248) 455-5100.

Gift idea warms the heart

Teddy WarmHeart generates "warmth" for four hours. After a short nap in the microwave he non-toxic clay heart (a thermal ceramic patented by NASA engineer) gives off gentle heat. Developed for hospital use, he is hypo-allergenic, non-toxic and will not exceed a pre-determined temperature according to marketers. It's \$39.95 by special order only 1-800-728-0294.

Personalized books for children

Hard cover books with your favorite little one's name starring in the plot, are available from Periwinkle Ink at (248) 828-3881. The books are \$10.95 plus tax and shipping, in 5-10 business days. Topics include: your child solving a mystery at his/her own birthday party; Your child becoming a hero at the circus by saving Chuckles The Clown; Your child saving the ballet with her performance when the star can't appear - to name a few.

Three easy pieces make dressing up a snap

Nobody wants to spend dollars on outfits that can only be worn once, so Kevin Quinn, fashion coordinator for Nordstrom Somerset Collection, suggests key pieces that may be the best gifts your closet receives all year.

An embellished top. The beautiful, feminine layering pieces that many designers showed under menswear-inspired suits in tweeds and pin-

stripes for the workplace also look great as stand-alone special occasion tops. Choose sheer or luxury fabrics such as burnout velvet or cashmere and look for details such as beading or touches of embroidery and lace.

One great 'luxe' wrap. Wraps are a dramatic and versatile cover-up that can make a fashion statement in their own right. One of the newest options

is an oversized scarf that can be wrapped or draped like a shawl — try cashmere, faux fur or wool for day and something more ornate (such as a beautiful embellished velvet scarf) to set off evening ensembles.

A faux-fur chubby is ideal for those seeking more substantial coverage; and a boa is a whimsical choice for the more fashion-forward.

One ethnic-inspired piece. An Asian-print slim pant or skirt in a beautiful brocade is festive and not overpowering when paired with a simple top.

A cheongsam-inspired brocade dress or separates such as a tunic/pant combination are at once casual and elegant. Both are great options for home entertaining during the holidays and year round.

winkelman's

Running out of time and money? Here's a bright idea...head into Winkelman's where you'll find fabulous last-minute savings of **25% - 50% off throughout the store!**

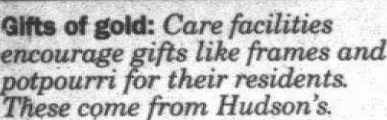
From sweaters, turtlenecks and career separates to dresses, shoes and accessories, Winkelman's has the perfect gift for every woman on your list. And to help you turn on the savings, Winkelman's invites you to save an extra 50% off their already reduced prices.

Hurry! Offer ends Wednesday, December 17

Present this coupon and save **50%** off any one item! Even on sale items!

winkelman's

38 metro Detroit locations including Fairlane, Laurel Park, Livonia, Pointe Plaza, Southland, Westland and Wonderland Malls.



Gifts of gold: Care facilities encourage gifts like frames and potpourri for their residents. These come from Hudson's.

Older folks need very special gifts

If your holiday gift list includes someone in a nursing home or long-term care facility, here are some ideas.

Mike Connors, program director of the Southeast Michigan Office of Citizens for Better Care, said the best gift is simply your presence.

"But don't just visit during the holidays," he urged. "Make a commitment to visit that person regularly throughout the year and stick to it. If it's not an ongoing thing, it's not as meaningful."

Founded in 1959, Citizens for Better Care is a private, non-profit citizen advocacy organization that strives to improve the quality of care and life for people in long-term care facilities. 1-800-833-9548.

Connors also suggested giving things to help personalize the resident's living space — things like calendars, pictures, and albums of family photographs.

Don't let the fear of theft deter you from giving gifts you know your loved one will enjoy, he said. "If you stop bringing in everything for fear of it getting stolen,

the person has no life," he said.

Nursing homes and long-term care facilities are required by law to keep an inventory of each resident's belongings and if something on the list gets lost or stolen, they must try to find it, Connors said.

Before giving anything edible as a gift, make sure that it doesn't violate any dietary restrictions that the resident may have. Also, audio recordings of books make great gifts for people who have failing eyesight.

Talking Book World, which has locations in Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Livonia, Dearborn, Waterford and Roseville, is an excellent source for books on tape, with more than 5,000 titles in each store. For more information, call (248) 945-9699.

Lisa Gigliotti said listening to cassette tapes of soothing and uplifting music helped her when she was a nursing home resident.

As a young woman, she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and became bed-ridden. Her mother and grandmother lovingly cared for her at home, but after they were killed in a car crash, she went to live in a nursing home.

She made a remarkable recovery. Now in her mid-30s, she is a policy advisor for the Senate Majority Policy Office on issues of mental health, assisted suicide (which she's against), families, and human services.

Besides cassette tapes, she told me that she recommends giving the following gifts to nursing home residents: **non-slip slippers**, which are invaluable because the floors are usually cold; robes, lap robes and bed jackets for warmth and privacy; and **potpourri** and scented soaps and creams, to help mask the unpleasant odors that are often in nursing homes.

Magazine and book-of-the-month club subscriptions are also great, because they give the recipient something to look forward to, she said.

Other items she suggested can be found at stores that sell medical supplies. **Beyers Friendly Drugs**, 1100 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, carries a lot of them, including: **2-foot-long shoe horns**, about \$9; **grabber extender poles** for picking up items without bending or reaching; \$9; **sock pulls** to help put on socks; \$9; and **full-page sheet magnifiers** for reading, \$3.99.

For more ideas, contact Visually Impaired Information Center Inc. in Livonia, a non-profit organization that has put together a directory of merchandise catalogs and services designed to help visually impaired people, (313) 421-6599.

Also, you can pick up a free copy of JC Penney's "For Your Special Needs" catalog, which includes Velcro clothing and other helpful things, in the catalog department of JC Penney stores.

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o The Observer & Eccentric 805 East Maple, 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

Week-long silent auction
Livonia Mall hosts silent auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation through Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. Bids begin at \$500 for a highest bidder to receive a cornucopia of gifts valued over \$1,000 — including a basket of beanie babies, diamond ring, bracelets, pocket watch, pearl necklace, CD's, Gucci watch, sweatshirts, plush toys and \$100 mall gift certificate. Bid at the Information Booth.

Seven Mile/Middlebelt.
(248) 476-1160.

Holiday exhibit open

Through Dec. 31, stroll through Victorian England recreated in 23 animated vignettes portraying the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. The 8th annual holiday exhibit is presented by Hudson's during regular store hours. Group tours are available to classes, clubs. There is no charge for admission.

Summit Place Mall.
Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph. Waterford.
(248) 683-5299.

Holiday Puppet Event

Children's Theatre of Michigan presents *Whose Ear-muffs are these anyway?* at the Pageant Wagon Theater in the Somerset Collection South rotunda, through Dec. 24 at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays 1, 3, and 5 p.m. Free.

Santa Claus photos in his three-story castle in Somerset North's Grand Court. Photo operation runs through Dec. 24 with option of Polaroid shot \$10, or roll of 35mm film for \$15, processed at parent's convenience. Appointments with Santa optional. A copy of the book "The Giving Season," available for \$19 at Ritz Camera with \$2 from each sale to Toys For Tots.

The Somerset Collection.

Big Beaver/Coolidge. Troy.
(248) 816-5484.

Village Santa

The local skating rink features children at play and forest animals with Santa Photos under a snow-covered pavilion through Dec. 24.

Meadowbrook Village Mall.
Walton/Adams. Rochester Hills.
(248) 378-9451.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Dept. 56 Village

Kids can send Santa E-mail messages from a computer station on the upper level, near JC Penney's. Santa visits and photos through Dec. 24. Snow Village by Dept. 56.

Oakland Mall. 14 Mile/John R. Troy.
(248) 585-6000.

Carousel Santa

A 36-foot tall holiday carousel imported from Germany in mall's center court amuses visitors waiting for Santa. Laser light shows in the food court Thursdays/Fridays 6 and 7 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays 1 and 3 p.m. through Dec. 22. The 15-minute show features a car drive for the Michigan Humane Society.

Wonderland Mall. Plymouth/Middlebelt. Livonia.
(313) 522-4100.

Santa photos

"Wishes Can Come True," theme with giant reindeer and Santa sleigh, photos (\$5.95) through Dec. 24. *Annabelle's Wish* video and plush toy, \$16.98, to benefit Make A Wish Foundation at information desk.

Livonia Mall. Seven Mile/Middlebelt.
(248) 476-1160.

Polar Bear Christmas

Digital image Santa photos through Dec. 24, giant polar bear decor.

Westland Center. Wayne/Warren.
(313) 425-5001.

Crystal Forest Set

Santa will be in The Crystal Forest along with 136 life-like animals designed and created by Ann Arbor artist, Ira Imbras-Jensen through Dec. 24. Exploration Station offers computer-activities for classrooms and groups.

Twelve Oaks. 12 Mile/Novi.
(248) 348-9411.

Snowflake Express

Santa Claus photos plus an exhibit highlighting the December holiday traditions around the world.

Tot-Totville Mall. 12 Mile/Telegraph. Southfield.
(248) 353-4111.

Charlie Brown Christmas

See the Peanuts Gang in various holiday settings with an 18-foot high Snoopy doghouse featuring a 36-foot tree through the roof. Santa photos through Dec. 24. Special computer-animation/lesson field trips available for classrooms.

Lakeside Hall Road. Sterling Heights.

(810) 247-4131.

Northstar Journey

Santa Claus gives kids a free coloring/story book based on the Boy and the Bear's search for the Northstar throughout the mall. Letters to Santa at "Poetical Station" in Montgomery Wards Court. Trolleys on duty through Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with free boxed lunches between office buildings and shopping center.

Northland Center.
Nine Mile/Greenfield. Southfield.
(248) 569-6272.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Holiday music series

Carolers and music groups perform Fridays through Dec. 20 from 2-4 p.m. in Lord & Taylor Court. Santa photos in Fountain Court.

Fairlane Town Center.
Michigan/Southfield. Dearborn.
(313) 593-1370.

Santa photos in the park

Santa Claus, poses for children photos Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. in Kellogg Park.

Main Street. Plymouth.
(313) 453-1540.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Summit Place Holiday

"Is it Christmas Yet?" stories and sing-a-longs with Children's Theatre of Michigan, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 21 from 4-8 p.m. "Wrens and Roosters" are the strolling carolers.

Summit Place. Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph.
(248) 682-0123.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

Doll Show

Dealers, collectors and artists show and sell new, used, antique and collectible doll, supplies and furniture, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$4 adults, \$1 children.

Plymouth Cultural Center.
525 Farmer.
(313) 455-2110.

Men's morning

Tapper's Jewelry displays the BMW R 1200 cruiser motorcycle from the movie *007 Tomorrow Never Dies* and will raffie an Omega Seamaster watch (\$1,350) during a shopping event for men only 10 a.m. to noon. Free gift wrapping. Continental breakfast served.

Orchard Mall.
Maple/Orchard Lake. West Bloomfield.
(248) 932-7700.

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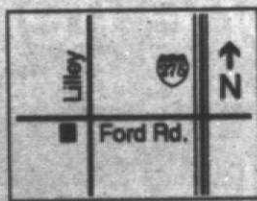
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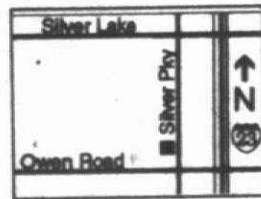
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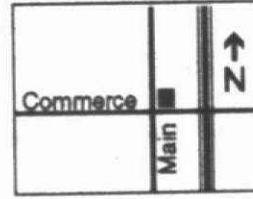
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MEDICAL BRIEFS

Pearle Vision hosts holiday food bank

The annual food drive launched five years ago by nuVision Optical Stores will continue to aid local needy families this year under the new name of Pearle Vision. Customers who bring in a can of food to participating stores from now until Dec. 24 will receive a certificate for \$15 off an eye exam and those who donate a case of non-perishable food items will be given a free exam. To underscore its commitment to supporting the communities in which it does business, Pearle Vision will match its customers' donations pound per pound. And to encourage employees to go the extra mile, Pearle Vision will offer a day off to one employee at each store who personally donates the most food.

Customers are urged to bring non-perishable food items to any of the sixteen local nuVision/Pearle Vision stores including: Laurel Park Place Mall - 37690 West Six Mile Road, (313) 464-7010; Livonia Mall Shopping Center - 29642 Seven Mile Road (313) 473-0806; Westland Shopping Center - 35000 West Warren (313) 525-5907; and Wonderland Shopping Center - 29661 Plymouth Road (313) 261-3220.

Stop smoking clinic

The city of Livonia is sponsoring the Stop Smoking Clinic conducted by Dr. Arthur Weaver. The seven night program will be held at Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, just east of Farmington Road. No set fee is charged, although donations are accepted. Dates will include: Thursday, Jan. 8; Monday, Jan. 12 through Friday, Jan. 16; and Tuesday, Jan. 20. All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. For more information, call Livonia City Hall at (313) 466-2535 weekdays.

Breakfast with Santa

Get into the holiday spirit at a holly jolly breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Attend a "Breakfast with Santa" from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13 in Henry Ford Health System's corporate headquarters at 1 Ford Place in Detroit's New Center area. All monies raised with benefit the Hospices of Henry Ford Health System.

This year's event will include a pancake breakfast, treats for the kids, a special pee-wee boutique where kids can shop for mom and dad and a holiday bake sale. Photos with Santa also are available for a nominal fee. The cost for a jolly good time is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 10.

For more information or to order tickets, call (313) 876-9259.

Institute names director

Kathryn St. Onge has been named director of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute's west region outreach efforts. St. Onge will oversee the Institute's community outreach programs in western Wayne and Monroe counties, including patient services and health education activities. The West Region includes offices in Plymouth, Dearborn, Monroe and Wyandotte.

Correction:

An article titled: *Curative or Quackery - Magnets attract attention of sports, medical communities*, that appeared in the Sunday Dec. 7 edition of the Observer did not appear in its entire form. The final sentence of the story is as follows:

"But look, if you're trying to get well, it doesn't really matter whether it's science or art" as long as you feel better.

Items for Medical Briefs are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer-area medical community. Items should be typed or legibly written and sent to:

Medical Briefs
c/o The Observer Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Or faxed to (313) 591-7275

MASSAGE THERAPY HAS POSITIVE BENEFITS

THE POWER OF TOUCH



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRONSLER

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

As Barbara Klipa emerges from the massage room, her cheeks are pink, there's a peaceful look on her face; her eyes are moist and twinkle in an obvious state of deep relaxation. A few minutes earlier, Celeste A. Hamilton, owner of Healing Arts Clinic Massage Therapy Relaxation Center in Plymouth massages the Westland woman's neck, rotating her jaw to one shoulder, then the other.

"Tell me, Barbara, if this hurts," Hamilton said, explaining that Klipa had neck surgery and she wanted to make sure she wasn't causing pain. A few minutes later, with Klipa on her stomach and draped in sheets and towels, Hamilton looks as if she is kneading bread dough as her hands move up and down Klipa's back. Occasionally, Klipa releases a sigh, as if she finally found a repose after a long journey.

Klipa first tried massage to counter on-the-job stress from working as a psychiatric nurse. She was also injured by a patient once and wanted an alternative medical solution that didn't involve medication or surgery to relieve the pain. Klipa not only gets massages, but over the years took courses and became a massage therapist herself.

Benefits are numerous

Klipa's not alone in her discovery of the power of touch. Researchers at the Touch Research Institute

Stiff neck: Barbara Klipa of Westland finds repose in the results of a neck massage she receives from Plymouth massage therapist Celeste A. Hamilton, owner of Healing Arts Clinic Massage Therapy Relaxation Center of Plymouth. Klipa finds the massage beneficial to the muscles of her neck that were operated on in recent months.

in Miami, a scientific center devoted to studying the effects of touch on physical and mental health, have found that massage has helped people with a number of conditions from diabetes to hyperactivity and boosting the immune function in HIV-positive patients.

But massage isn't a new idea or a trendy new fad. The first known use of massage was 3,000 years ago in China. And Hippocrates, the father of all doctors, talked about the need for physicians to know what he referred to as "rubbing." Over the years, researchers have documented physical changes resulting from massage; like lowering heart rates and blood pressure; improving circulation; raising skin temperature; heightening the client's sense of well-being and causing anxiety levels to drop.

Today, however, massage therapy is sometimes confused with massage parlors or as a front for prostitution. While the state of Michigan doesn't require massage therapists to have licenses, most therapists support licensing as extra documentation to add validity to their profession. "People are starting to become aware that there is therapeutic massage and that it's not a massage parlor," Hamilton said.

When she started working as a massage therapist 18 years ago that wasn't the case. In fact, it was common for people to misunderstand what she was offering. People looking for massages often wonder how to find a reputable therapist. If you use the Yellow Pages, look under massage therapists; or get a referral from a health store, chiropractor or doctor, Hamilton advised. Oftentimes, townships and cities use strict ordinances to weed out disreputable massage shops.

In Plymouth, Hamilton found that the city ordinance was 20 pages long. On the last page, however, the guidelines say that if the therapist is a member of The American Massage Therapy Association or a graduate of a state license school, the business would be approved. Hamilton is a member of the AMTA and also is a graduate of a state-licensed school. The AMTA was founded in 1943 and is the largest and oldest national organization representing the massage therapy profession. Membership is limited to therapists who

Studies show that massage has a tremendous affect on our minds and bodies: The Touch Research Institute has found that massage:

- Affects weight gain and temperament in infants of depressed mothers or who were born prematurely
- Enhances immune function in AIDS and cancer patients
- Helps women with bulimia
- Reduces job stress and improves performance
- Provides pain reduction during invasive medical procedures.

Other research shows evidence that massage therapy helps infants with colic and sleep disorders; and reduces pain among arthritic patients. In another study, senior citizens acting as surrogate grandparents gave massages to abused children. The babies responded by sleeping better and were more sociable when awake. The seniors benefited, too. They had less anxiety and depression and were more sociable.

Other studies are looking at the effects of teaching parents to massage their diabetic children; pain in arthritic patients and the role of touch in modifying body image and alleviating eating disorders in adolescents.

have demonstrated a level of skill and expertise through testing and/or education.

Injury, stress reliever

About 80 percent of Hamilton's clients are looking for some kind of stress release; others want help dealing with pain; for instance, with their lower backs; rotator cuffs or stiff necks. Some clients have stress and physical problems.

"With therapeutic massage, we blend therapeutic techniques of acupressure and trigger point therapy along with the relaxation techniques," Hamilton said.

One of the most commonly asked questions for novice clients, Hamilton said, is whether or not they have to take their clothes off. The clothing is removed, but clients are covered with sheets during the massage. The only part of the body that is exposed is the area the therapist is working on. Sessions last anywhere from 10 to 90 minutes. After a session, clients usually feel great, but the next day they might feel some muscle aches if they had a therapeutic massage. But Hamilton refers to this as working out the problem area. The next time, the client will be less tight and may ask for a deeper massage.

Please see TOUCH, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRONSLER

Hands-on method: Hamilton firmly massages the back muscles of Klipa who is also a trained massage therapist.

Low Vision re-opens world for the near-blind

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER

There's life after blindness, says Nancy Simmons, owner of Low Vision Solutions of Livonia. Simmons, legally blind, was diagnosed at the age of 10 with retinitis pigmentosa - a disease that progressively deteriorates the retina.

Her vision problems, however, haven't stopped her from functioning as any normal sighted person would, but in fact, have had a dramatic effect on her career as a new business owner. "I think I offer an inspiration to persons who are having a hard time coping with their vision loss."

The Redford resident runs a company that sells equipment such as video magnifiers and daily living aids to people with extremely low vision, "like myself," says Simmons. For the past 11 years, she's been running the business out of her home but recently made the leap to purchase a storefront business on West Seven Mile near Middlebelt Road.

"My clients were asking me if I had a place they could come and view the equipment instead of me coming to them because I could only bring two or three machines with me at a time."

The new, 800 square foot store enables her to display approximately eight to 10 machines including hand-held magnifiers, daily living aids, large print software and devices that read

print to a blind person. Despite the fact that Simmons recently opened the new Livonia store, she said she will continue to provide at-home viewing services for persons who are unable to travel because of vision or other mobility impairments.

The black and white and color video magnifiers (brand names include Xerox, Magnisight, Optelec) aid persons who have lost their ability to read or write due to limited range of vision and focus. Simmons currently sells new equipment ranging in price from \$1,800-\$3,500 that magnifies written words and photographs up to 70 times their normal size.

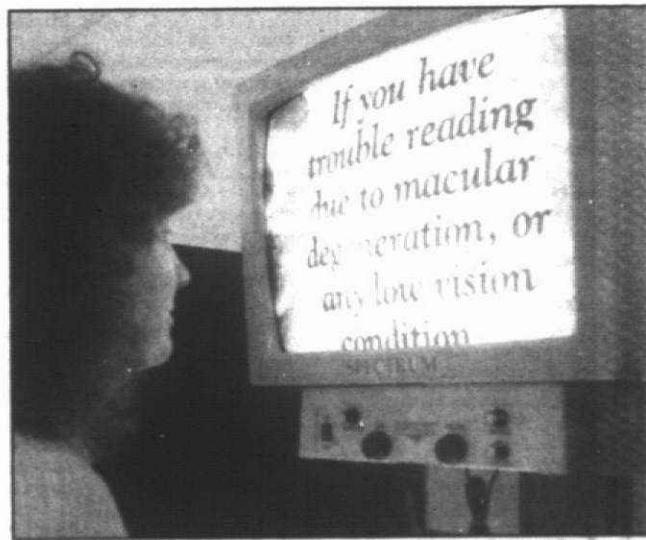
Users have the ability to enlarge and focus material in the positive and negative such as black letters on a white background and white letters on a black background.

She said there's a large population of people who are unaware of products such as video magnifiers and settle for a life that is limited due to their vision impairment. "You can't imagine the satisfaction I get from being able to provide a product that restores a person's ability to read a book, write a letter or look at pictures of their grandchildren," said Simmons.

Low Vision Solutions will also sell used equipment from \$500-\$1,500.

Other visual aids and daily living devices include talking watches and calculators, large

Please see VISION C2



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGFIELD

Power of magnification: Nancy Simmons, owner of Low Vision Solutions of Livonia, demonstrates one of several video magnifiers she sells at her new Seven Mile Road store. Other inventory she retails for persons with extremely low vision includes handheld magnifiers, talking watches and calculators and large print computer software.

Beanie Bear auction benefits diabetes research

The Susan B. Ashlee Company in Livonia, known for its gourmet gift baskets, has planned a silent auction to raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the cardiac unit of Childrens Hospital.

LOCAL FUND-RAISER

The bear, named "Princess" is described as sitting bear, dark purple in color with a purple ribbon and black eyes. Stitched on the front of the bear is a single white rose with a green stem.

Touch from page C1

"If you have an old injury, the therapist is trying to rehabilitate the area," she said. "The client may hurt in the short run, but their health is improved in the long run. People who want stress release will get a relaxing pain free massage."

Vision from page C1

print playing cards and clocks, speech synthesizers for computers and handheld magnifiers that cost approximately \$20-\$30. Mobile devices such as the magnifiers offer a convenient alternative for persons on the go to read menus or price labels in

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Table with columns for categories like ACCOUNTING, ADVERTISING, ART GALLERIES, etc., and corresponding website URLs.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Items for Medical Datebook are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer-area medical community.

TUE, DEC. 16 LOSS OF A LOVED ONE Anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and desires support will find this group invaluable.

DEC. 16 - FEB. 3 CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASS Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery can make the entire experience more rewarding.

FRI, DEC. 19 PREMARITAL COUNSELING Michigan law requires those applying for a marriage license to undergo education for sexually transmitted diseases.

TUE, JAN. 6 'MOMS ON THE GO' FITNESS An alternating land and water exercise program designed for the special needs of the pregnant and postpartum women.

JAN. 6 & 8 EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT A new support group for persons recovering from an eating disorder or for persons who are in need of peer group support.

JAN. 6, 13, 20 & 27 THUR, JAN. 7 DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

MON, DEC. 22 PREMARRIAGE STD/HIV CLASS State law requires individuals to receive counseling regarding STDs and HIV infections prior to applying for a marriage license.

JAN. 8 & 10 WEEKEND CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION A weekend course for expecting parents with busy schedules.

MON, JAN. 12 ADULT CPR COURSE St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will offer a Basic Life Support Adult HeartSaver Course from 1-3 p.m. on Monday Jan. 12 in the Marian Pavilion Conference Room B near the South Entrance on Levan Road.

WED, JAN. 14 OSTEOPOROSIS SCREENING Receive bone density x-ray and results within minutes from 1-5 p.m. at the Oakwood Healthcare Center North Westland.

WED, JAN. 14 ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP A support group for family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders.

THUR, JAN. 15 DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP Join other adults with diabetes and family members to ask questions and share problems at the St. Mary Hospital Diabetes Support Group meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. in the local auditorium near the Five Mile entrance.

SAT, JAN. 17 SIBLING CHILDBIRTH CLASS This sibling birth class prepares children to be present at a birth. The 10 p.m. family program is 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please call the Family Birthing Center of Providence Hospital for further information, (248) 424-3919.

Datebook from page C2

MON, JAN. 5 HEART PALS - CARDIAC SUPPORT Support offered for cardiac patients and/or their significant other which will meet at 7 p.m. Discussion, education and camaraderie are the focus.

THUR, DEC. 18 CPR REVIEW Individuals with current CPR certificates can be recertified in Adult, Infant/Child, Community CPR or CPR for the professional rescuer.

JAN. 5 & 15 CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION This six week course provides information on pregnancy, labor and delivery, newborn care and postpartum care.

JAN. 2 THRU FEB. 11 PRE-POSTNATAL EXERCISE The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will offer a six-week Pre-natal Exercise class that meets for 90 minutes one day a week and is designed to promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle prior to and following delivery.

TUE, JAN. 6 BREASTFEEDING CLASS A one session class providing information to expectant parents on the many positive benefits of breastfeeding.

JAN. 6 & 8 'MOMS ON THE GO' FITNESS An alternating land and water exercise program designed for the special needs of the pregnant and postpartum women.

THUR, JAN. 8 FOCUS ON LIVING CANCER SUPPORT A self-help group designed to bring together persons living with cancer. A nurse facilitator provides opportunities for all to share their mutual concerns.

JAN. 8 & 10 WEEKEND CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION A weekend course for expecting parents with busy schedules.

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1998 MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JAN. 8 & 15 INFANT CARE CLASS Learn about caring for newborns at St. Mary Hospital's new Infant Care Class from 7-9 p.m. Participants can attend one or both classes.

JAN. 12 THRU 21 SMOKE FREE LIVING CLASS If you're reading to kick the tobacco habit, St. Mary Hospital has a two-week four session Smoke Free Living Class. The program runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays in the First Floor Conference Room.

JAN. 14 & 21 CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION REFRESHER A two session class for couples who have already had a birth experience. The course provides a review of the stages of birth process along with exercises, breathing and relaxation techniques.

THUR, JAN. 15 DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP Join other adults with diabetes and family members to ask questions and share problems at the St. Mary Hospital Diabetes Support Group meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. in the local auditorium near the Five Mile entrance.

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JAN. 8, 12-16, 20 BREATH-FREE STOP SMOKING This seven day stop smoking program has helped more people in the Detroit metro area kick the cigarette smoking habit. Join the Livonia Breath-Free Stop Smoking Program (join the non-smoking majority) Jan. 8, 12-16 and 20th of 1998 at the Livonia City Hall Complex, 1988 Auditorium, 5 Mile and Farmington Roads.

TUE, JAN. 13 BABYSITTING AND CHILD CARE Class offered for pre-teens and teens who care for children. Emergency action, first aid, playing safe, home security and child care are discussed and demonstrated.

HEARTSAVER/BASIC LIFE SUPPORT This course is intended for those 12 years and older interested in learning basic knowledge or the heart and lungs, signs and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke, adult CPR and choking rescue skills.

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Garden City Hospital screening newborns' hearing

Garden City Hospital recently began to screen the hearing of all babies born in its newly renovated Labor, Delivery, Recovery and Post-Partum suites. This program is being implemented in order to identify hearing problems at an early age with allows for early intervention and a richer and fuller opportunity for development through the amelioration of the effects of hearing impairment.

Nationally, one in one thousand children is born deaf and five in one thousand children are born with significant hearing impairment. Approximately 24,000 babies born in the United States, including 840 in Michigan, are born with hearing impairment each year.

Wayne County Commission NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Wayne County Commission will hold a public hearing on the following: 1. An amendment to Enrolled Ordinance No. 93-587 regarding purchase, leasing and operation of County owned vehicles.

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Sharon's Heating & Air Conditioning

Advertisement for Sharon's Heating & Air Conditioning featuring a 'TREMENDOUS End-of-the-Year SALE' with prices for furnaces and humidifiers.

How do you do the DRUGSTORE DASH? A cartoon illustration of a car driving through a pharmacy aisle.

DRIVE-THRU! Our drive-thru service makes it easy for you to pick up your prescription without even having to get out of your warm, dry car!

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Dr. Vincent C. Yu is pleased to announce the opening of his new practice, Quality Eye Care, P.C.

Dr. Yu is a board-certified ophthalmologist trained in the medical and surgical treatment of eye disease.

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Eyelid Surgery

Dr. Yu will continue to perform surgery at Oakwood Hospital as well as other facilities.

4020 Venoy, Suite 606 You may call for an appointment at (313) 728-5250 Saturday hours available

Dr. Yu is a board-certified ophthalmologist trained in the medical and surgical treatment of eye disease.

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Wool and wool-blend sweaters for juniors, misses and petites. Reg. 29.99-49.99, sale 14.99-24.99



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Sonoma, Palmetto's® & Transport sherpa fleece tops, sale \$13-\$25 Corduroy jeans and shirts. 26.00-46.99, sale 13.00-23.49



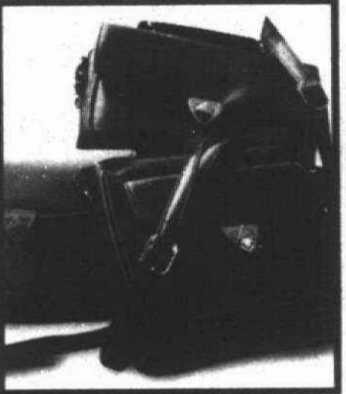
50% Off Entire Stock
Fleece and sweaters for infants—girls 4-16 and boys 4-20. Reg. 9.99-32.99, sale 4.99-16.49



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Includes rings, bracelets, pendants and earrings. Reg. \$40-\$1,750, sale \$20-\$700, less 10% FINAL PRICE \$18-\$630



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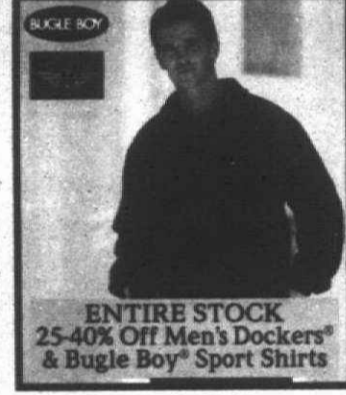
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Warner's® bras. A fantastic price on average and full figure styles. Reg. 15.00-26.50



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All Bay Area Traders® winter stadiums. Reg. 129.99-169.99 40% off wool coats for her. 109.99-199.99, sale 65.99-119.99



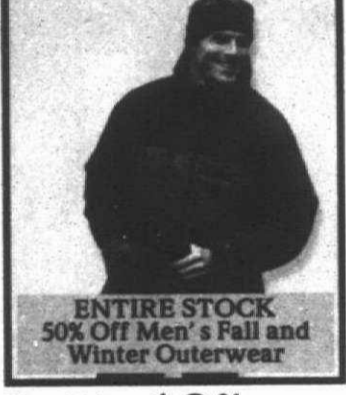
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Reg. \$26-\$96, sale 16.80-57.60, less 10% FINAL PRICE 15.12-51.84



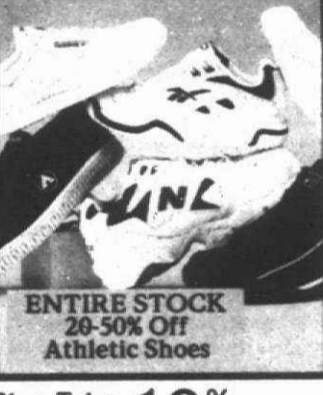
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Men's Levi's® 550® Relaxed Fit denim jeans. In New Age Bleach, Black, Stonewash and Lite Stonewash.



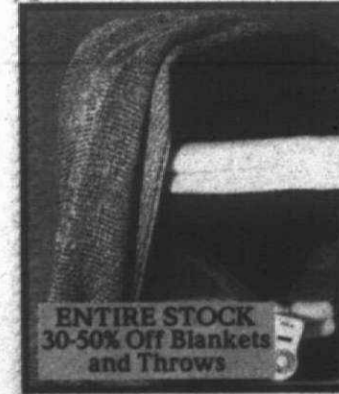
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ENTIRE STOCK 25-40% Off Athletic Apparel
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ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Author puzzles over pumpkins

Marian Nelson, a former special education teacher for Redford Union Schools, is a little worried about storing 5,000 copies of "Priscilla's Patch" when they arrive on her doorstep on Dec. 22. The early Christmas present is a children's book Nelson wrote and self-published through Proctor Publications in Ann Arbor. Plymouth artist Jennifer Riopelle created the brightly colored pictures of pumpkins in the center of the cutting dilemma.

"Priscilla's Patch" will be available at Santa's Holiday Gift Show 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at Novi Expo Center. Riopelle is exhibiting her contemporary Ukrainian eggs, hand-painted furniture and home accessories, along with the books, in a booth located in the Santa's Workshop and Crafts section.

"I don't have a clue as to where I'm going to put them," said Nelson. "I hadn't really thought about it with the excitement of getting the book published."

True-to-life

"Priscilla's Patch" is a story about a



Pumpkin

Tale: Plymouth artist Jennifer Riopelle designed the cover for "Priscilla's Patch," a children's book written by Marian Nelson.

young girl and her dilemma in a pumpkin patch. According to Nelson, the scenario is reminiscent of an incident in her own life. After carving jack-o-lanterns from all of the pumpkins, Priscilla realizes she must dispose of them quickly after mom cries "what have you done?" Usually, the 7-year-old's family sells the pumpkins and other produce at a roadside stand. Nelson ties the story together with a vine and caterpillar, who's more of a stand-up comic than a garden pest.

"I designed the book so it would be something that people can identify with," said Nelson. "It was really important to me that I wasn't block writing; it's a panorama. That's the purpose of the vine; it grows from page to page. The vine is continuous so the story is continuous."

"There's a flow going on. The caterpillar is on every page and you can see his reaction to what's going on. For instance, the caterpillar is having his dream of becoming a butterfly when she is dreaming about dressing up for Halloween and collecting candy. The kids think it's fun to find the caterpillar every time they turn the page. I think this book is marketable to just about everybody. It's about gardening and children, the life cycle of a butterfly."

Nelson also made sure to limit distractions.

"Too many words on a page will turn children off, too small of print," said Nelson. "If a scene's too busy, it will turn people off."

Long and winding road

Nelson wrote four stories, one of which was "Priscilla's Patch," 12 years ago, then stuck them in a filing cabinet. She became serious about publishing after deciding, "writing is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Please see EXPRESSIONS, D5

The Message is in the Art

Mallory in Wonderland: Nancy Pitel created this watercolor and colored pencil fantasy scene of fairies from a slide taken at the Renaissance Festival. Look for the large scale rabbit and tortoises hidden in the landscape.



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

"Change is inevitable - open the heart to let it occur gently, sweetly."

Those are words of wisdom from Nancy Pitel who placed the text next to one of her mixed media paintings on display in the Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery. Visitors to the one-woman show will find 29 more of Pitel's philosophies about life, love and children along with the art. The words lead viewers to pursue their imagination as they view the scenes before them.

In her work as in her personal life, Pitel welcomes new ideas and always seems to be searching for a better way. Maybe that's why, nearly all of the works question and comment.

"Dream Maker" asks "who really creates your reality?" as a man blows bubbles underneath an eerie purple moon. The faces in the bubbles are a reflection of Pitel's introspective nature.

"Mallory in Wonderland," is a fantasy scene of fairies and tortoises hiding in the landscape. Look for the larger-than-life rabbit perched behind the girl then read Pitel's words - "children live in the true reality."

Pitel instills a sense of wonder in each of the works by including objects out of context. What does the rabbit lurking behind the little girl mean? What does a Viking ship, reflected in a man's eyeglasses, symbolize? Each makes you wonder.

"The exhibit is fun; it's relaxing," said Pitel. "Everything here has a lot of images in them. It's kind of fun discovering them. It's like a game to relax; you unwind."

But the exhibit is deeper than that. Is Pitel using the characters in her watercolor and colored pencil paint-

ings to invoke thought in the viewer? The fact, that nearly all of the works were rendered from slides taken at the Renaissance Festival sets a perfect ground for Pitel to pose questions in the viewer's mind. Pitel has taken more than 300 photographs of these Renaissance players in costume.

"People are in costumes and everybody's playing a role," said Pitel. "They let down their hair."

Later in the interview Pitel added, "people are in costume all the time. Every time you get dressed you're in costume."

Every aspect of Pitel's life relates to art from her position as a layout artist for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers to maintaining membership in the Garden City Fine Arts Association and the Scarab Club in Detroit, and serving as a juror for the Wyandotte Street Fair.

"I always look at things in terms of art," said Pitel. "It's always been that way. As a child when things were kind of tough I could create my own world by drawing and painting."

"I see the colors and shapes and

images that are all around, if you just take time to look," Pitel said. "The colors, the sunsets: people look, but they don't see. I like to have things in the painting so people will really look."

Gazing into a crystal ball, "Cosmic Clown" in a bright red wig and white face illustrates "life is too important to take so seriously - Some days you just know it's all a joke."

"Sorrow" takes earthlings to task for the destruction of the environment. A white dove with a bloody wound attracts the eye to this dramatic black and white portrait. "Whose responsibility is it to end it?" asks Pitel.

"I don't think people realize what they're doing to the planet," she said in an interview at the gallery. "I made the planet bright because there's still hope."

Pitel's show came about when Livonia Arts Commissioner Robert Sheridan saw her work in the "Art in the Village" exhibit at Greenmead Historical Village. The mother of four adult children, Pitel only began exhibiting her work earlier this year but already has a one-person show at Urban Park-Detroit Art Center in Greektown's Trappers Alley to her credit. She's also shown work at the Ann Arbor Art Association and the Rivers Edge Gallery in Canton.

Even though she taught art at the YWCA and privately in her home for 18 years, Pitel did not consider herself a serious painter until a year ago when she realized its importance in her life. It wasn't that Pitel didn't have the talent before, after all she sold her first painting at age 12. Fear of rejection held her back.

"I could have done my work while raising my family, and I could have used them as models," said Pitel.



Troubadour: Nancy Pitel portrays Gibbon, an entertainer at the Renaissance Festival in this mixed media work. Gibbon is really Garold Amador, father of the harp player in "Mallory in Wonderland."

"But my vision was too limited and my fear of rejection too great for me to see that, so I used the kids as an excuse not to try. I think that is what a lot of us do, especially women, to keep us from taking the chance at being successful. It's too bad I didn't realize this earlier in life."

Fine Art and Illustration Exhibit

What: The Livonia Arts Commission present mixed media works by Nancy Pitel. For more information, call (313) 942-3543.

When: Through Monday, Dec. 29. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, until 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Where: Livonia Civic Center Library, (second floor Fine Arts Gallery), 32777 Five Mile east of Farmington.

YOUTH THEATER

Kids act up for a 'Holiday to Remember'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The clown, the doll and the orphan waited for Clarenceville Youth Theatre director Nancy Florkowski to begin rehearsal. From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. about 50 kids would gather to perfect their singing and acting skills in sessions aimed at producing a mini-musical and two one-acts.

Just in time for the holidays, the Clarenceville Youth Theatre, formerly the Redford Youth Theatre, will present "A Christmas Wish," a scene between little Cosette and Father Christmas from "Les Miserables," and the Hanukkah scene from the "Diary of Anne Frank" in a "Holiday to Remember" Saturday, Dec. 20, at Clarenceville High School Auditorium.

A Holiday to Remember

What: The Clarenceville Youth Theatre presents "A Christmas Wish" and two one-acts for the family.

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20.

Where: Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, (between Seven and Eight Mile Roads), in Livonia.

Cost: Tickets \$5 and available by calling (313) 535-8962.

Family entertainment

"It's a great family show because there's something for everyone," said Florkowski, who began teaching drama at Pierce Middle School in South Redford Public Schools in 1987. "It's in the afternoon, it's close to Christmas and it adds a nice touch for Christmas."

Florkowski wrote the script and music for "A Christmas Wish," a children's story about an orphan

(Ivy played by Becky Roberts, Livonia) looking for a grandmother who doesn't exist. In a toy shop scene, Holly (Carolyn Lusch, Redford) is the doll not sold for Christmas and eventually ends up in the arms of Ivy, who is adopted by a policeman and his wife, Erin Felix, a 12-year-old student at B. Beck Elementary in the Redford Union Schools, plays one of the unsold clowns in the toy shop.

"I play Abra (as in Abracadabra), a mean clown who's mad because the clown next to him was sold," said Felix.

Members of the Youth Theatre began rehearsing their parts the first week in November. On a Saturday, when other kids enjoy their free time playing in the snow, Felix works on her lines inside the Tinderbox Theatre at Clarenceville High School.

"I'm here because I like to act and sing," said Felix. "I get to express myself. You get to go different places when you act and it's especially good when you don't want to go to school and can act sick."

In the next few days Fred Florkowski will begin designing and crafting the toy shop, policeman's home and village. Florkowski is an old hand at designing scenery. A second-year student in scenic design at Wayne State University, Fred created the sets for "The Lady's Not for Burning" at the Hilberry Theatre and is currently working on "Of Mice and Men" scheduled to



Holiday to Remember: Clarenceville Youth Theatre students rehearse for a mini-musical and two one-acts they will perform on Dec. 20.

Please see THEATER, D2

FINE ARTS

Changes at the DIA stabilize the road ahead

BY FRANK PROVENZANO STAFF WRITER

Seven years after the Detroit Institute of Arts faced reduced hours, trimmed its staff and held fewer exhibits because of state funding cuts, the road to the next century seems much clearer and smoother than just six months ago. At the end of 1997 - the year when its executive director resigned, when the "Splendors of Egypt" exhibit experienced unprecedented success, and when day-to-day operations were transferred from the City of Detroit - the Detroit Institute of Arts stands at a watershed moment in its nearly 80-year history, according to Maurice Parrish, interim director. With the Detroit City Council's decision late last month to transfer the management of the museum to the Founders Society, the initial step has been taken to reinvent the perception and stabilize the financial condition of the museum, said Parrish, who assumed the post after former director Samuel Sachs II resigned in September. For the past year, the council vacillated over transferring control of the museum. The majority of the nine members were concerned about honoring the city's contract with the union employees and maintaining a residency requirement for museum employees. Behind the scenes, however, the issue seemed to be the perception that by yielding control of the museum, the council would be giving away the city's cultural treasure to "outsiders." Apparently, financial and political realities have prevailed. "We're now in alignment with the most typical way art museums operate," said Parrish. Before the council's move, the DIA was jointly operated by the city and the Founders Society. The new agreement calls for the Founders Society to handle the daily operations. The city's arts commission, a mayoral appointed board, retains its oversight duties. "We now have a single organization with the ability to get public funds, but not necessarily dependent on them."

Short-term/long-term In the short term, visitors to the DIA will not notice any changes in hours, admission, exhibits or facilities. The actual transition of management responsibilities from the city to exclusively the Founders Society - a private nonprofit organization founded in 1920 to support and raise funds for the museum - will take about six months. Approximately 70 percent of the DIA's \$30 million budget is raised by the Founders Society. Most recently, the St. Louis Art Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art made similar management changes. Like the DIA, these museums are publicly owned, but rely heavily on corporate and individual donations for funding. In the near future, the most pressing concern for the DIA is to make up the \$10 million deficit for the current fiscal year. Once that shortage is covered, said Parrish, the museum will establish a long-term plan to identify private funding sources. "There's a perception that when a museum is 'public' that it doesn't need as much philanthropy. While the DIA is still publicly owned, the public fund-

ing just isn't there," said Parrish. "The private sector has accepted a strong responsibility for providing operating support for the museum." Besides the Founders Society, the Friends of Modern Art also raises money for exhibits and programs at the museum. Some donors grew reluctant because of what they perceived as the inefficient and highly politicized management of the museum. Parrish believes that with the Founders Society controlling museum operations, donors will not only be encouraged, but even more philanthropists will be attracted to the DIA. In the long term, an economically healthier and more autonomous DIA will mean all the galleries will be reopened and much-needed improvements will be made to the physical museum. But perhaps the most striking improvement will be to the DIA's reputation. No longer will other museums wonder about the DIA's future, said Parrish. The result could be high-profile international

departments at the museum. By late spring, she expects the modern art galleries will be reinstated. Currently, those galleries are home to the "Splendors of Egypt" exhibit. For years, some have criticized the DIA for a lack of contemporary art exhibits. With a healthier financial condition that may change, said Wilkinson. But the DIA's mission, she said, is to serve as an encyclopedic arts museum. "Without the groundwork of modern art, you can't understand contemporary work," she said. "We've been limited by funding." "Changing Spaces," a current contemporary art exhibit at the DIA, reflects Wilkinson's curatorial vision. The free-standing sculptures and installations offer an innovative look at a group of artists who do not typically work with fabric. "My goal is to try to balance art from the early part of the century along with decorative art, contemporary art and new mediums."

During the last two years as acting curator, Wilkinson has overseen the highest output of exhibits, lectures and programs of any of the eight curatorial departments in a number of ways. "Almost everyone here is my friend," said Felix. "Acting in the Youth Theatre has taught me to be more responsible. It helps my memorization." Tim Amrhein teaches acting and character development and will direct the scene from "Les Misérables." He and other Clarenceville Youth Theatre teachers will play the adult roles. "It gives them a lot of skills not just acting but articulation, the skills to get up before an audience and speak," said Amrhein, who received a bachelor's degree from Washington State University and is pursuing a master's degree in scenic design at Wayne State University. "I wanted to offer children something they couldn't get in school. The Youth Theatre is more of a turning ground. The kids stay. I don't think people realize how important this art is."

Fred does. "Our kids are regulars," he said. "They consistently come back and that's the point because we can build on their knowledge and talent." Felix continues to benefit from "Priscilla's Patch" developed into a dream come true. Nelson's 11-year-old daughter Laura was the model for Priscilla in several of the scenes because "she thought it would be a good example" if Laura could watch the progression of the project first hand. "I've shown my daughter that when you want something it can happen," said Nelson. "My daughter's been with me on this from the first day. The message for her is, it's good to dream and dream, but you can make dreams come true." "Priscilla's Patch" is available at Little Professor in Plymouth; Barnes & Noble, Six Mile and Haggerty, Northville; Ultimate Toys & Gifts, Northville; The Friends Store at the Northville Public Library, or by calling Nelson at (248) 347-2271. Linda Ann Chomins is an arts reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, (313) 953-2145.

Expressions from page D1

Nelson was working in a bookstore in Northville, when Riopelle walked in the door. The two began work on the book last February. After experimenting with different mediums, they decided colored pencil provided the bright and happy setting in which to tell the story. Riopelle rendered the scenes in a 16-by-24-inch format so as not to lose detail when the art was downsized. "It's so colorful," said Nelson. "I loved working with Jennifer. We'd talk and talk and Jennifer just knew what I wanted and how to put it on paper." At one point however, Riopelle found Nelson's incessant phone calls distracting; could she do her laundry or anything else to hurry the process along? That's

I've shown my daughter that if you want something it can happen.

Marian Nelson Author

WOODLANDS of Van Buren Presents NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION Cocktails & Appetizers--7:30-8:30 Buffet Dinner--8:30-9:30 DANCING 9:30-1:30 am Champagne Toast--12:00 am Bar & D.J. Conclude--1:30 am Singles--\$69.00 *Couples--\$129 10% Discount !! Reserved Before December 21st, 1997 (313) 729-4477 Ask for Carolyn 39976 Ecorse Rd. • Wayne MI (Just 1/4 Mile East of 1475)

BIG SCREEN TV'S DAMON'S MONDAY NIGHT QB 1 RIBS AND MORE RIBS... \$14.99 16 OZ. PORK RIB... \$14.99 CHICKEN MONTEREY... \$8.49 WEDNESDAY IS KIDS NITE BLOOPER THE CLOWN KIDS MENU 6-8 PM... 99¢ THURSDAY COUPLES NITE OUT PRIME RIB DINNER FOR TWO... \$21.99 (313) 807-7427 43750 Ford Road • Canton

Alexander THE GREAT BBQ RIB DINNER For Two \$13.95 Reg. \$16.95 THE PERFECT GIFT Showcase Cinema & Alexander the Great Movie & Dinner Package for two only... \$26.95

YANNI LIVE TRIBUTE WORLD TOUR 1998 WEDNESDAY DINNER SPECIALS One Pound Alaskan King Crab Legs \$12.95 CANTATA ACADEMY 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. St. Hugo of the Hill, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 476-0420. CHRISTMAS CONCERT 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. featuring nine choirs of the church along with brass and percussion. Proceeds benefit Farmington Families in Action. Nardin Park Methodist Church, 29887 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills. (248) 476-8860. VANGUARD VOICES 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. "Christmas Concert," featuring Regipri's sequence of carols, "Lead to the Nativity of the Lord." St. Clement Roman Catholic Church, 5275 Kenilworth, south of Ford Road, Dearborn. (313) 317-6566. HOLIDAY REVEAL 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. The Farmington Community Church presents its 18th annual winter concert. Traditional holiday favorites and contemporary seasonal selections performed by 80-voice choir, Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee, west of Orchard Lake Road. Tickets: \$8. adults, \$5. seniors/students. (248) 788-5322.

WARREN VALLEY GOLF COURSE AND BANQUET CENTER HAPPY NEW YEAR WARREN VALLEY GOLF COURSE AND BANQUET CENTER PRESENTS A New Year's Eve Celebration FULL PRIME RIB BUFFET • PRIMAUM BBR PACKAGE • PARTY FAVORITES • LATE NIGHT PIZZA • DJ ENTERTAINMENT • CONTINUOUS MUSIC AND DRINKING FROM 9 PM TO 3 AM CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 313-730-0100 26116 WEST WARREN DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI 48127

Noteworthy Gallery exhibits, art shows, classical concerts

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

AUDITIONS / CALL FOR ENTRIES PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD Holding auditions for ensemble only for "Sweet Charity," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Water Tower Theatre, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road, Northville, on the campus of Northville Psychiatric Hospital. Male singers especially needed, women also welcome to audition. Please prepare 16 bars of an up-tempo song. Not from the show. (248) 349-7110. MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE Auditions Wednesday, Dec. 17 for chorus and secondary roles in the company's upcoming mainstage production of "Porgy & Bess." Positions available for male singers. Call (313) 874-7873. MICHIGAN DRAWING BIENNIAL '98 Hand deliver entries to Room 106 Ford Hall, Eastern Michigan University by 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. Opening reception Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m. Feb. 20, for information, contact Eastern Michigan University Department. VERY SPECIAL ARTS MICHIGAN Call for arts people with disabilities for a juried exhibition. Deadline: Jan. 15. Contact VSAMI office, 21700 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48075; (248) 423-1080. MUSIC COMPETITION The Bohemians Club, a.k.a. The Musicians Club of Greater Detroit, will hold its first annual Solo Concert Competition for orchestral instruments. Prizes money will be awarded. Contestants, between ages of 16-22, must submit performance tape by March 1, 1998. Send to: Herbert Couf, c/o The Bohemians, 37685 Russett Drive, Farmington Hills MI 48331. DOCUMENTA USA Slides, videotape (no longer than 15 minutes) for a three-month spring 1998 exhibit. Every submission will be presented. Artists of any media, age free to participate. The Museum of Contemporary Art, 23 W. Lawrence St., Ste. 101, Pontiac, MI 48342. SCHOLARSHIP COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHORUS 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 & 20. Fifty voice choir includes both students and experienced singers of all ages. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, west of Orchard Lake Road, Livonia; (248) 349-8175 or (313) 462-4435. HARBOR BELLS English secular hand bell choir has opening for singers 18 years or older. Must read music. Rehearsals once a week. Sept.-June. (248) 681-6453. NAT'L JURIED EXHIBIT AT PCCA Paint Creek Center hosts its annual juried entries for national juried all media exhibition. March 5-27 April 24, 1998. Deadline for slide entries: Jan. 15, 1998. For prospectus send a SASE to PCCA/Exhibitions, 407 Pine Street, Rochester, MI 48307; (248) 651-4110. 17TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN FINE ARTS COMPETITION Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association seeks entries for its statewide all media competition, March 5-27. For information and a prospectus, call (248) 644-0866.



Going home soon: The popular and critically acclaimed "Splendors of Ancient Egypt" exhibit will be on display through Jan. 4. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-7900.

Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham; (248) 644-0866. PCCA WINTER CLASSES Registration open for classes from 4 years old and up. Classes run, Jan. 19-March 4, 407 Pine Street, Rochester. To register, (248) 651-4110. DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS Through March 5 - 10 a.m. 12:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m. 2705 Orchard Lake Road, just south of 1696. Farmington Hills; (248) 540-1540. DSO'S JOY 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for an in-store performance from the DSO's recent CD "Joy! A Celebration of Holiday Music." Borders Books & Music, 3099 737-0110. OCC'S COMMUNITY CHORUS 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. Viavidi's "Gloria," for chorus and orchestra, conducted by Thomas Sheets of the University Musical Society Chorus. Also, a holiday sing-along. Tickets: \$5. adults; \$3 students. 2705 Orchard Lake Road, just south of 1696. Farmington Hills; (248) 540-1540. COLORS OF CHRISTMAS 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, Dec. 19-20, a special Christmas festival featuring Roberta Flack, Al Jarreau, Melissa Manchester, Jeffrey Osborne, and the Perfected Phrase Choir of Perfecting Church conducted by Marvin Winans. Tickets: \$24.95. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit; (313) 962-3610.

Lake, featuring holiday favorites and jazz flutist Alexander Zovic and a Detroit gospel choir. Tickets: \$12 & \$20. 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake; (248) 683-1750. CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Beaux Arts Trio, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Tickets: \$5-\$40. (313) 833-3700. DSO'S JOY 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for an in-store performance from the DSO's recent CD "Joy! A Celebration of Holiday Music." Borders Books & Music, 3099 737-0110. OCC'S COMMUNITY CHORUS 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. Viavidi's "Gloria," for chorus and orchestra, conducted by Thomas Sheets of the University Musical Society Chorus. Also, a holiday sing-along. Tickets: \$5. adults; \$3 students. 2705 Orchard Lake Road, just south of 1696. Farmington Hills; (248) 540-1540. COLORS OF CHRISTMAS 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, Dec. 19-20, a special Christmas festival featuring Roberta Flack, Al Jarreau, Melissa Manchester, Jeffrey Osborne, and the Perfected Phrase Choir of Perfecting Church conducted by Marvin Winans. Tickets: \$24.95. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit; (313) 962-3610.

BENEFITS FRIENDS OF POLISH ART 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. the annual Christmas Wigilia celebration, a tradition at Polish Christmas Eve meal. Proceeds benefit the fine arts. 5181 E. Outer Drive, Detroit; (313) 455-6207. MS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD A calendar of 12 images selected from the 87-piece international exhibit and holiday cards and note cards. Write/contact the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 733 Third Avenue, New York, NY, 10017; (800) FIGHT MS.

CHOIR/CHORUS SCHOOLCRAFT CHOR 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. "Alleluia, Rejoice!" featuring Christina Cantata by Daniel Pinkham, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road, Livonia; (313) 462-4435. CANTATA ACADEMY 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. "Holiday Favorites" - 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms; 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. St. Hugo of the Hill, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills; (248) 476-0420.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. featuring nine choirs of the church along with brass and percussion. Proceeds benefit Farmington Families in Action. Nardin Park Methodist Church, 29887 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills; (248) 476-8860. VANGUARD VOICES 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. "Christmas Concert," featuring Regipri's sequence of carols, "Lead to the Nativity of the Lord." St. Clement Roman Catholic Church, 5275 Kenilworth, south of Ford Road, Dearborn; (313) 317-6566. HOLIDAY REVEAL 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. The Farmington Community Church presents its 18th annual winter concert. Traditional holiday favorites and contemporary seasonal selections performed by 80-voice choir, Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee, west of Orchard Lake Road. Tickets: \$8. adults, \$5. seniors/students. (248) 788-5322.

CLASSICAL SOUTHFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. featuring harpist Allegra Lily in a concert of Debussy, Holcaine and Liszt. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$8 seniors/children. Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen, between 10 Mile & (248) 851-7408. workshops require preregistration. To register call (313) 833-4249.

CLASSICAL SOUTHFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. "A String Orchestra Program," featuring Viavidi's "The Seasons," and works by Britten and Tchaikovsky. Temple Beth El, 7700 Telegraph, Birmingham. Tickets: \$20. (248) 601-8271. MICHIGAN BALLET THEATRE The company (under Corneille Sampson) joins the Warren Symphony for "The Nutcracker," 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with guest artists Michele Wiles, 1996 Gold Medal winner of the International Ballet competition in Varna, Bulgaria, and currently with American Ballet Theatre II, Sergio Brounosa, a Romanian dancer who freelances and trains at the prestigious Kirov Academy in Washington, Sean Stewart of the American Ballet Theatre, and Casey Herd, American Ballet Theatre II, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Hall Road (M-59) and Garfield, Clinton Township, \$22, \$20 seniors and children under age 12; \$18 for groups of 20 or more for main floor seating, \$17 for balcony. Call (810) 286-2222/(248) 645-6966. PLYMOUTH CANTON BALLET COMPANY Through the direction of Dawn Greene, featuring principal dancers Dawnell Dryja and Mark Nash of the Cincinnati Ballet, and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road (at Canton Center Road), Canton. \$15 adults and senior citizens, \$8 for children under 12. Tickets: \$15. A special after the concert, 5 p.m. in advance, \$6 at the door. (313) 451-2112. THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Through Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit, \$10-\$50. (313) 983-6611/(248) 645-6666.

EXHIBITS (ON-GOING) HILL GALLERY Through Dec. 15 - 6:30-8 p.m., "Carl Toth: Recent Works," 407 W. Brown Street, Birmingham; (248) 540-9288. EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Through Dec. 19 - "Fiber, Clay, Metal," alumni invitational exhibition, Ford Gallery Art Dept., 114 Ford Hall, EMU, Ypsilanti; (313) 487-0465. WEARLEY STUDIO GALLERY Through Dec. 19 - "Functional Things. Objects by Lisa Norton," associate professor of metals at the School of Art, Institute in Chicago, 1719 W. Fourteen Mile Road, Royal Oak; (248) 549-3016. WETSMAN COLLECTION Through Dec. 19 - Exhibition of four met- asmists from metro Detroit: Wendell Heers, Thomas Madden, Hiroko Pijawonski, Karen Miller Thomas. 132 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham; (248) 645-6212. ARNOLD KLEIN GALLERY Through Dec. 20 - Watercolors of Karin Kue, 32782 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak; (248) 647-7709. LAWRENCE STREET GALLERY Through Dec. 20 - "From Nature's Moulds," featuring eight artists from Michigan's Thumb area, 6 N. Saginaw, Pontiac; (248) 334-6716. PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS Through Dec. 20 - Black and white photography by Howard Steenberg, first floor gallery, 407 Pine Street, Rochester; (248) 651-4757. ROOM WITH A VIEW Through Dec. 20 - "Photography of Russ Marshall," 803 N. Main, Royal Oak; (248) 548-1446. IMAN Through Dec. 21 - 5:30 p.m., "Muslim Women Artists: An exhibit of contemporary and traditional artwork," Oak Park Public Library, 13600 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park; (248) 377-2266. MATRIX GALLERY Through Dec. 21 - "Near and Far: Recent Landscapes Paintings by 212 Miller Kingsley," thru Dec. 21, 212 Miller Avenue, Ann Arbor; (313) 663-7775. U OF M - DEARBORN

EXHIBITS (ON-GOING) PLYMOUTH CANTON BALLET COMPANY Through the direction of Dawn Greene, featuring principal dancers Dawnell Dryja and Mark Nash of the Cincinnati Ballet, and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road (at Canton Center Road), Canton. \$15 adults and senior citizens, \$8 for children under 12. Tickets: \$15. A special after the concert, 5 p.m. in advance, \$6 at the door. (313) 451-2112. THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Through Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit, \$10-\$50. (313) 983-6611/(248) 645-6666.

EXHIBITS (ON-GOING) SUSANNE HILBERY GALLERY Through Jan. 15 - "African Gift Items," including baskets, batiks, dolls, masks and jewelry, 304 Hamilton Row, Birmingham; (248) 646-SHONA. PARK WEST Through Dec. 31 - "Annual Holiday Show," featuring Linda Le Krief, 29469 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield; (248) 354-2343. PEWABIC POTTERY Through Dec. 31 - Annual holiday show. "Earthy Treasures" 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit; (313) 822-0954.

LECTURES VIRTUAL REALITY 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. the combine effect of technologies in science and industry by Dr. Frank Biocca of Michigan State University, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills; (248) 645-3259. ART DECOR FASHION: Noon Thursday, Dec. 18. the final Brown Bag Lecture of the 1997 season by Susanah Worth, an expert in historic costume and textiles. Information: Technology Building auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac; (248) 858-0415. CHANGING SPACES 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. a slide presentation on the current exhibit, "Changing Spaces," in the Detroit Institute of Art's modern gallery. DIA, Lecture Hall, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit; (313) 833-7899.

RECIPE STUDENT PIANO CONCERT 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. The Art of Music under the direction of Diane Clemets presents a student concert, "A Christmas Gathering," Birmingham Unitarian Church, 851 N. Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills; (248) 879-9456. EXHIBIT OPENINGS Dec. 18 - 6:30-8:30 p.m., "Art and Direction," a student exhibit under the direction of fiber artist/sculptor Susan Aaron-Taylor. Through Jan. 4, Gallene

FESTIVAL WASSALL FEAST 6:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 18-20, travel back 400 years to celebrate the holiday season in a recreation of the legendary Winter Court of England's Queen Elizabeth I. Reception in the Kresge Court, and presentation in the Great Hall. Tickets: \$135-\$150 per person. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit; (313) 833-4005. GIFT MAKING CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP 1:45-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, gift-making workshop for children ages 6-12, including hand-painted scarves, clay jewelry, hand-printed cards. Fee: \$18 members; \$21 nonmembers. To preregister, (248) 644-0866. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham.

HOLIDAY ART GIFTS POTTERY SALE 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 18-20, 14th Annual Pottery Sale. Student and professional potters featuring functional ceramic pieces. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham; (248) 644-0866. A.C.T. GALLERY Through Dec. 20 - "RED," two and three-dimensional work inspired by the color. The gallery is an artists' co-operative, 29 E. Grand River, Detroit; (313) 833-2862. PAINT CREEK ART CENTER Through Dec. 20 - 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, "Holiday Gift Gallery Party." Proceeds go to nonprofit art center, 407 Pine Street, Rochester; (248) 651-4110. TOUCH OF LIGHT Through Dec. 24 - Hand-blown glass show, featuring work of John Fitzpatrick, including ornaments, 23426 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale; (248) 543-1868. ANN ARBOR ART CENTER Through Dec. 26 - Holiday Gifts show, featuring 28 artists. 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor; (313) 994-8004. SILK PHOTOGRAPHY Through Dec. 28 - "Annual Holiday Photo Show," 14261 N. Dixie, Oak Park; (248) 544-1203. GALLERY BIRMINGHAM Through Dec. 29 - Holiday exhibit, featuring Marel Anoro, John Asaro, Sohoh Hohn and Rick Layne, 390 E. Maple, Birmingham; (248) 540-8505. CHRISTIE'S GALLERY Through Dec. 30 - "Art, Wed & Gifts," featuring jewelry, hand-drawn ceramic ornaments, 34649 S. Woodward, Birmingham. CREATIVE ARTS CENTER HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE Through Dec. 31 - Annual gift shop includes all media. Proceeds benefit the arts center, 47 Williams Street, Pontiac; (248) 333-7849. MILLERS ARTISTS SUPPLIES Through Dec. 31 - "Holiday Gift Bazaar," featuring work by local artists, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale; (248) 414-7070. MOORE'S GALLERY Through Dec. 31 - "African Gift Items," including baskets, batiks, dolls, masks and jewelry, 304 Hamilton Row, Birmingham; (248) 646-SHONA. PARK WEST Through Dec. 31 - "Annual Holiday Show," featuring Linda Le Krief, 29469 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield; (248) 354-2343. PEWABIC POTTERY Through Dec. 31 - Annual holiday show. "Earthy Treasures" 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit; (313) 822-0954.

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GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinema 3:30, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30
Cinema 6 11:15, 1:15, 3:10, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30
Cinema 7 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:40
Cinema 8 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Cinema 9 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Cinema 10 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Cinema 11 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Cinema 12 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Cinema 13 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
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Cinema 29 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Cinema 30 1:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
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BOOKS 4 new children's books will delight young readers

Here are some of the new treasures available this holiday season in children's books, any one of which might delight the smaller bibliophiles on your list.
'One of Each,' by Mary Ann Hoberman...
'Claws for Dinner,' by Lynne Rae Perkins...
'Gardener,' by Sarah Stewart...
'Wings of the Dove,' by Victoria Diaz...

When Janet is invited to spend the weekend with her Aunt Peppy (whose name suits her perfectly)...
'Claws for Dinner,' by Lynne Rae Perkins...
'Gardener,' by Sarah Stewart...
'Wings of the Dove,' by Victoria Diaz...

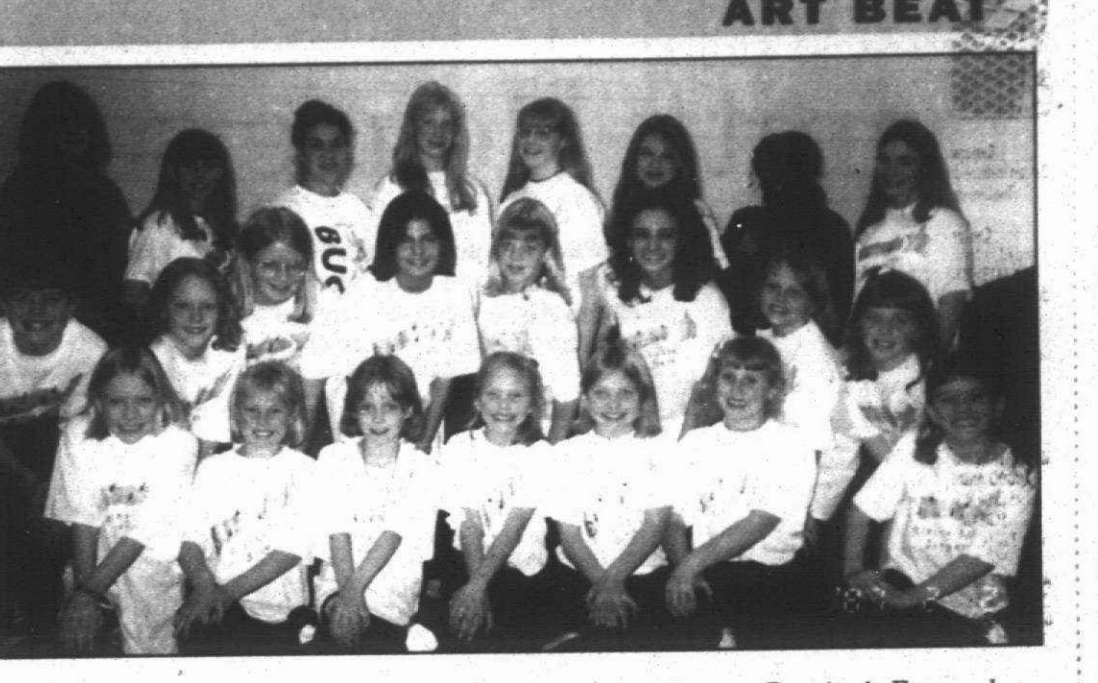
'Michigan Seasons' captures state's rich outdoor heritage

My uncles were hunters and deer. They hunted duck and fish and fished for bass. They wear mackinaws and plaid hats with ear flaps...
'Michigan Seasons' captures the state's rich outdoor heritage through a series of stories...

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send news leads to Linda Ann Chomin, Arts & Leisure reporter, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150...
Livonia Civic Chorus comes to the rescue with a musical pick-me-up 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Clarenceville High School Auditorium...



Making Spirits Bright: Livonia Civic Chorus members Linda Rainford (seated left, clockwise), Ken Rainford, accompanist Chris Gach, and director Jim Whitten perform in the spirit to perform with the rest of the choir 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Clarenceville High School.



Holiday cheer: Members of the Rising Star Singers perform at Domino's Farms during the Spirit of Christmas Light Display. The chorus is under the direction of Norma Atwood, a voice teacher at Arnold Williams Music in Canton.

Its home state with a special treat before beginning its 1998 tour of the western states...
'Art in Celebration' is an exhibition featuring The Smithsonian Associates' collections of commissioned art works...
The light display is a 12-15 minute drive through featuring more than 900,000 lights...

Oldies 104.3 WOMC 21st Annual 'CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS' campaign to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan. On Monday, Oldies 104.3 WOMC kicks off our annual 'Christmas Is For Kids' campaign. Listen each afternoon all week to the Ridin' Home with Ryan Show and bid on Fabulous Fantasy Packages featuring great gift ideas that "money can't buy." On Friday, during our 16-hour radio marathon, you can call-in with your pledge. Call 1-248-543-KIDS to pledge. 100% of all money raised goes to Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Give a Gift That Goes with Everything! Official Licensed Woodward Dream Cruise Merchandise. Don Sommer - Porcelain License Plate, Don Sommer Fine Arts, 105 Kinross, Clawson, MI 48017, (248) 435-6115. Greg Goga - Full logo car flags, L. I. Corp, 1737 Pearson, Ferndale, MI 48220, (248) 414-5154. Jim Tocco - Classic Poster, Tocco Design/Vinsetta Garage, 1985 Fleetwood, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, (810) 646-4862. Richard Weiss - '96 WDC Postcards, C. T. Publishing, P. O. Box 2304, Birmingham, MI 48012, (248) 646-5372. SOS Transcripts - Woodward Dream Cruise Souvenir Video, Produced by WXYZ-TV/Channel 7, (800) 553-7717. Happy Holidays from Woodward Dream Cruise, Inc.™

THEATER

Trinity House serves up holiday fare

Trinity House Theatre presents an evening of holiday one-acts including "The Long Christmas Dinner" and "The Sheep Thief" through Sunday, Dec. 21, at the playhouse, 38840 W. Six Mile (at I-75) Livonia. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays. Tickets \$8, not including bread bowl with soup and cider. Bread bowl and hot soup \$3, apple cider hot or cold, \$1.50. Group rates available. Seating limited to 50, call (313) 464-6302 for reservations. BY SUE SUCHYTA SPECIAL WRITER

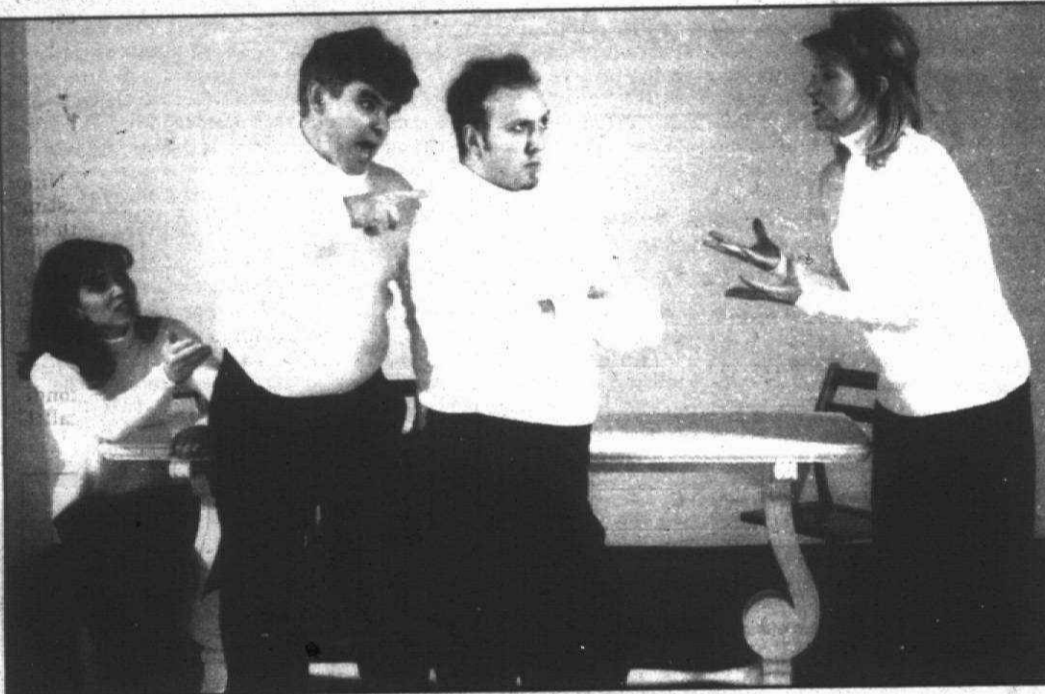
Trinity House Theatre serves up a double bill of holiday one-acts with their performance of Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner," and "The Sheep Thief," a comic adaptation of Ford Ainsworth's "The Second Shepherds Play." Between plays the cast and crew served up bread bowls of delicious soup and mugs of refreshing cider. The plays are presented through the support of the City of Detroit Cultural Affairs Department, and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. One note of warning: as part of the ambiance, some of the audience is seated on bales of hay - so if you suffer from allergies, be advised!

Guest director Thomas Malcolm Olson of St. Paul, Minn., has one hit and a miss on his hands. As beloved as Thornton Wilder's plays are, they don't always click. In "The Long Christmas Dinner," the actors cover 90 years and five generations of a family through a series of Christmas dinners that flow non-stop into each other. It was difficult for the audience to determine when one year's dinner ended and another began unless a character exited through "death's door" on stage right. The pacing suffered, and the conversation among the players was painfully slow in a misguided attempt for realism. Done in Thornton Wilder fashion with minimal props and extensive pantomime, the play dragged. There were some outstanding individual characterizations in the first show - Anessa Thompson as Genevieve, Colleen Hayes as Leonora, and Laura Gumina as Ermengarde. Unfortunately, Trinity House interjected some disturbing sym-

bolism into the peaceful Christmas manger by revealing to audience members invited up to the manager a startling scene: a cradle with a dismembered baby doll juxtaposed against a rough-hewn cross. The foreshadowing of Easter is not the disturbing component; it is the violence embodied in the innocent visage of an infant. While thought-provoking, the symbolism is an unwelcome intruder forced against the joyful vision of Jesus' birth.

Once the sheep rescue was effected and the beleaguered shepherds finally get to sleep, the Angel of the Lord appears in a burst of light, and the disoriented shepherds look like deer caught in the headlights. They do, however, symbolize the reverence and awe of ordinary men when they stumble upon the miracle of the Christ child's birth.

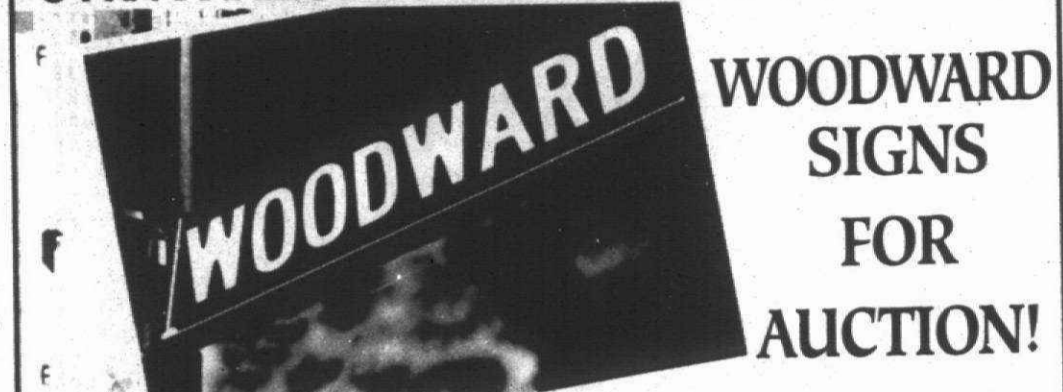
Once fortified with soup and



Drama: Tempers flair between generations in the Trinity House Theatre production of "The Long Christmas Dinner" featuring (left to right) Colleen Hayes, P.W. Henry, Scot Martin, and Anessa Thompson.

colm Olson of St. Paul, Minn., has one hit and a miss on his hands. As beloved as Thornton Wilder's plays are, they don't always click. In "The Long Christmas Dinner," the actors cover 90 years and five generations of a family through a series of Christmas dinners that flow non-stop into each other. It was difficult for the audience to determine when one year's dinner ended and another began unless a character exited through "death's door" on stage right. The pacing suffered, and the conversation among the players was painfully slow in a misguided attempt for realism. Done in Thornton Wilder fashion with minimal props and extensive pantomime, the play dragged. There were some outstanding individual characterizations in the first show - Anessa Thompson as Genevieve, Colleen Hayes as Leonora, and Laura Gumina as Ermengarde. Unfortunately, Trinity House interjected some disturbing sym-

OWN A PIECE OF WOODWARD HISTORY...



- Item A S. Woodward residential-size signs (opening bid price is \$40: 15 available)
Item B N. Woodward residential-size signs (opening bid price is \$40: 10 available)
Item C Woodward residential-size signs (opening bid price is \$40: 9 available)
Item D Hunter residential-size signs (opening bid price is \$40: 18 available)
Item E Tree sign (three signs on sign-post top) showing Ring Rd./E. Brown/S. Woodward, opening bid is \$60; only one available
Item F Large median signs: miscellaneous N. Woodward, S. Woodward and Hunter (opening bid is \$60; total 11 available)

Note: Signs are actual street signs and are weathered. How to Bid: 1. Telephone bids accepted beginning Thursday, December 4, 1997. Auction closes at 5 p.m. Monday, December 15.

- 2. Auction by voice mail: Call the Woodward Avenue Action Association at (248) 399-3933. You may call 24 hours a day until 5 p.m. December 15, 1997.
3. Leave your name, day time telephone, type of sign desired and bid amount.
4. Top bidders in each category will be contacted to arrange for pick up in Birmingham. All calls will be logged by date and order received. In the event of a tie, earlier call wins. Sign payments are tax deductible with proceeds going toward beautification efforts on Woodward in south Oakland County. All winning bidders will be published in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers January 8, 1998.

Members of the Woodward Avenue Action Association Board of Directors and association employees are excluded from participation.

Presented By: WOODWARD AVENUE ACTION ASSOCIATION THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

GREAT ESCAPES

Great Escapes features various travel news items. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, assistant managing editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

WEST BLOOMFIELD VACATION The West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating a trip to Belize in Central America. The 8-day trip will include visits to Mayan ruins, the 1,000-foot Hidden Falls, a jaguar preserve and a bird sanctuary. The trip departs Detroit Metro Friday, March 27, and returns Friday, April 3. It costs \$1,991 for a resident of West Bloomfield and \$2,056 for a non-resident. The fee includes round-trip air, eight days and seven nights deluxe accommodations, most meals, transfers, baggage handling and an English-speaking escort. To register, call (248)738-2500. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due Jan. 15.

WINTER ACTIVITIES The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a number of winter time activities planned from bird hikes at Maybury State Park, cross country skiing at Mitchell State Park, ice fishing workshops, luge races, a snow shoe romp and much more. Activities this coming week include a 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, bird hike at Maybury State Park in Northville (248-349-8390); cross country skiing by a full moon 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Mitchell State Park in Cadillac (616-779-1321). Rustic cabins, mini-cabins and campgrounds are available for overnight stays. To reserve a place, call 1-80044PARKS.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

- Book Happenings features various happenings at suburban bookstores. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.
BORDERS (BIRMINGHAM, WOODWARD) Classical kids: The Making of a Violin, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14; Mike Karoub's cello jazz, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17; Sean Blackman and John Arnold on guitars, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; Meet Arthur, the popular PBS aardvark, 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; Jim Perkins and the Wren Band, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 at the store 34300 Woodward, Birmingham (248)203-0005.
BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSELLERS (WEST BLOOMFIELD) Storytime features "Seven Days of Kwanzaa," by Ella Greir 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the store 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248)626-6804.
BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS) Members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra perform holiday music from their just-released CD "Joy! A Celebration of Holiday Music."

Holiday travel to go through the roof

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 /PRNewswire/ - Santa and his reindeer may have trouble navigating the highways and skyways this holiday as a record 44.5 million people expect to travel 100 miles or more from home during the Christmas-New Year period, according to AAA. "In the last five years, Christmas-New Year's travel has increased 26 percent, telling us that the holiday period has become more than just a time to get together with family and friends - it's a time to vacation, as well," said Graeme Clarke, senior vice president, AAA Travel Related Services. This year's travel volume is up

a healthy 5 percent compared to 1996's 42.3 million holiday travelers. Last year's holiday period had the second-highest increase in AAA's 13 years of holiday forecasts - up 10 percent. For the 1997 holiday, an estimated 34.9 million people will travel by automobile, light truck or recreational vehicle, up 4 percent compared to 33.6 million the year before. Holiday travel by airplane, bus, rail or ship is expected to jump 10 percent, to 9.6 million, compared to 8.7 million in 1996. The greatest number of auto travelers will originate in the West, with 9.1 million people, followed by the Southeast, 9 mil-

10 tips for a hassle-free winter getaway

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 11 /PRNewswire/ - If a long car trip this winter to visit Grandma sounds overwhelming, think again. By following AAA's 10 tips for auto travel, your winter getaway can become a vacation to remember. Make your hotel reservations well in advance. AAA travel agents can help you find the best deal for your budget and itinerary. Don't leave home without your hotel confirmation number. You may be asked to present it when checking-in. This proof of reservation will come in handy if the property is over-booked. Plan your route ahead of time. AAA members can visit their local AAA office to receive a Triptick routing, which includes customized directions, related maps and valuable tourism information. Contact your local police or sheriff's office to inquire about a house watch. Many agencies provide a perimeter check of your home - such as doors, windows and fences while you are away. Remember to put a temporary hold on your mail and newspaper delivery, or ask a neighbor to pick them up.

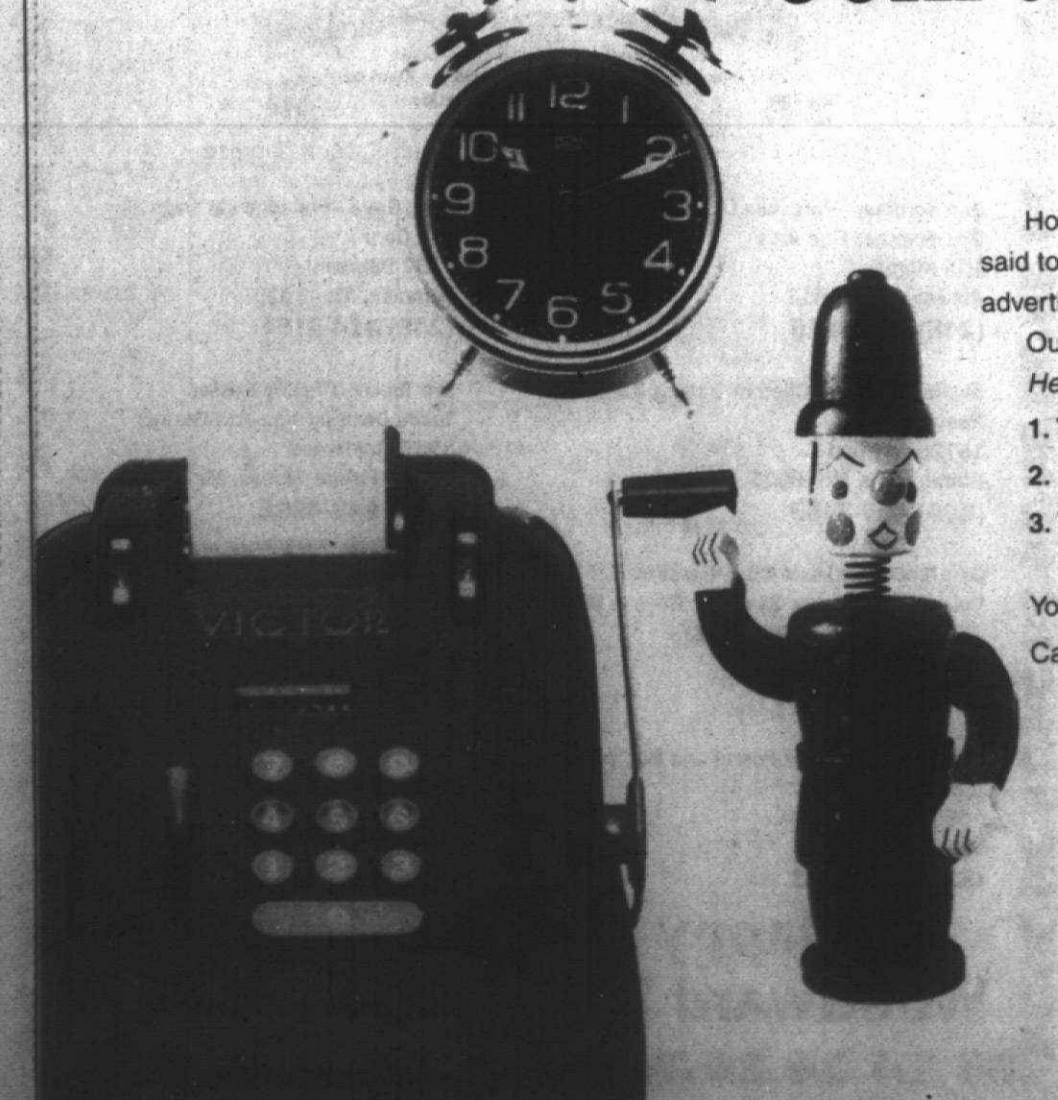
Make sure you are well-rested before you leave. Stop every few hours to re-energize - especially if you are traveling with kids. Dress in comfortable, loose clothing. Consider dressing in layers to accommodate changes in temperature. Verify that all passengers are buckled up. Children 12 and under should travel in the back seat and be properly secured in a child safety seat or with lap and shoulder belts. Pack an emergency kit in your car. The kit should include jumper cables, a flashlight with fresh batteries, blankets, flares or a reflective triangle, an ice scraper and a small shovel. If you are traveling with your children, pack books or small toys to occupy them during the trip. Let them choose the radio station, or bring along a tape or CD player with headphones. Travel with a cellular phone - especially if you are traveling off the beaten track. The AAA affiliate for Northern California, Nevada, and Utah serves nearly 4 million members with an array of automotive, travel and insurance services.

Ski resorts ready for record-breaking snow

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 /PRNewswire/ - Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow will likely be the refrain this year as ski resorts in the Rocky Mountains and along the East Coast prepare for record-breaking snowfalls and attendance. Travel Weekly reports. Thanks to the weather phenomenon El Nino, forecasters and ski resort officials are predicting that winter sports enthusiasts will have a superb season - especially as early spring approaches. In a survey of ski resorts, Travel Weekly has learned that: Colorado Ski Country, a non-profit trade association for 24 Colorado ski resorts, is anticipating a "record-breaking ski season." Taos Ski Valley in New Mexico has been the happy recipient of more than 77 inches of snow since mid-October.

While admitting that El Nino is a bit of a wild card, forecasting services generally agree with the ski resorts' predictions. A meteorologist says, "Trends in the West indicate warmer and snowier winters in the Sierra Nevada." For information on ski conditions in the Traverse area, call 1-800-SKI-TC.

Join the 3-2-1-SOLD! club.

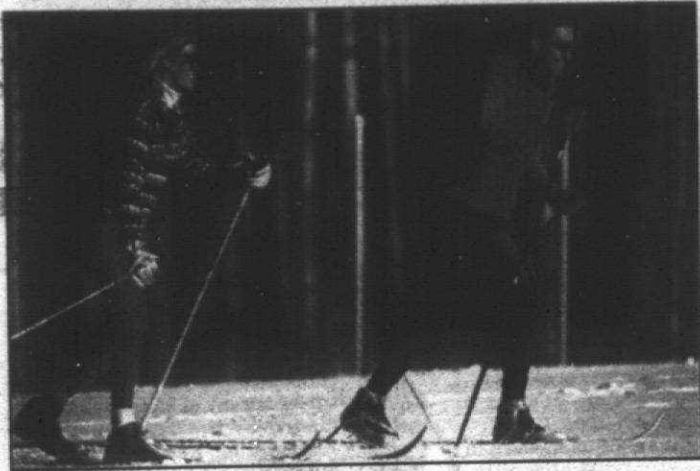


How often have you been out in the garage, down in the basement or up in the attic and said to yourself, "Gosh, I'd love to get rid of some of this stuff, but it would cost too much to advertise it?" Our 3-2-1-SOLD! offer is just what you need when you have things to sell for under \$200. Here's how it works: 1. You get 3 lines to describe your item (remember, you have to be asking less than \$200) 2. You get to run your ad for 2 days (one week) 3. You get 1 low price—just \$19.26. That's only \$3.21 per line! You could say our 3-2-1 plan is as easy as 1-2-3! Call us today.

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Cross-country: The snow-covered fields and trails around Traverse City are popular with cross-country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts.

Michigan ready for wintertime fun

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Michigan is the water-winter-wonderland. Michiganders don't get frozen in place when the weather outside turns frightful. They find a growing number of activities based on ice and snow to keep them amused and physically fit.

Up North, the Traverse City area and the Boyne resorts are open for ski enthusiasts - downhill and cross-country, snowmobilers, ice fishermen, snowshoe hikers, snow boarders and dog sled mushers.

And, oh yes, warm fire lovers. Wendy Dvoskin of Farmington Hills admits she doesn't ski, preferring needlepoint and knitting to moguls, but she loves going to Shanty Creek in Bellevue.

It's the happiest place to be. I've been going since I was 18 years old," she said. "The first time I was there I said to my girlfriend, someday I'll come back and I'll bring my husband."

Wendy and her husband, Mark, a Farmington Hills dentist, make it up to Shanty Creek, winter and summer, seven times a year.

"But I won't buy a condo," she said, "because I have to be in the lodge, that's home. We have a suite named after us."

Though Wendy doesn't ski, her husband and her three adult children, Jeffrey, Jonathan and Jacki, enjoy skiing there, even though they've been to the more demanding slopes out West.

This year the Dvoskins will be celebrating Hanukkah there.

"It's the warmest place to be. Everybody knows you," she said.

Here's what's happening in winter country:

Shanty Creek/ Schuss Mountain

The resort is building a new golf course, designed by Tom Weiskopf, and someone got the idea that with all that earth being moved, maybe it would be a good idea to place it on top of Schuss Mountain and increase the vertical for skiers.

So, 300,000 cubic yards of dirt have been moved to the peak to create an additional 40 feet of fun, or about six more turns down the mountain for slalom fans. Also new this winter: four quad chairlifts, 12 additional ski runs, night skiing at Schuss Mountain and quadrupled snow-making capacity.

Shanty Creek has 41 runs total, with the longest run at 5,280 feet. It welcomes snowboarders and also features 30 kilometers of cross-country trails.

Lift tickets for adults range from \$26 for a one-day midweek to \$88 for a three-day weekend pass. Night skiing is available at Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for \$10 after 5 p.m. and \$8 Sundays-Thursdays.

The resort offers a variety of getaway packages from a one-day midweek getaway for \$69 to a four-day holiday package for \$474. For reservations and information, call 1-800-678-4111.

Crystal Mountain Resort

This 1,500-acre, year-round resort is 28 miles southwest of Traverse City in Thompsonville. It features 25 downhill slopes and 35 kilometers of cross-country trails.

This year it will host the third annual National Women's Ski & Snowboard Festival, Feb. 2-8. Designed for both novice and veteran women skiers and snowboarders, the festival includes instructional clinics, equipment demonstrations and other informational activities.

Crystal Mountain features the

new Inn at the Mountain, which opened in October with 29 new suites at the base of the slopes. The Inn is adjacent to the original lodge.

Lift tickets range from \$15 for two-hour, after 5 p.m. tickets to \$37 for all-day tickets for adults. Cross country trail passes are \$10 for all-day. Ski packages range from \$69 per person for one-night in a studio to \$285 a night for a weekend in the 1-bedroom condo. For reservations and information, call 1-800-Your-MTN.

Sugar Loaf

Sugar Loaf in Cedar offers seven ski lifts, 24 slopes, 24 kilometers of groomed cross-country trails, slopeside lodging, indoor and outdoor pools, snowboarding and tubing.

For the 1997-98 season, a weekend, two-day lift ticket will be \$55 per person, with an all-day daily pass (midweek) priced at \$28. Tickets are \$10 for night skiing after 4 p.m. Sunday through Friday. Lodging and lift tickets are \$69 per person for one night of lodging and a lift ticket from 4 p.m. on day of arrival and midweek ski packages that include one night's lodging, one dinner and breakfast and a lift ticket beginning at 4 p.m. on the day of arrival are \$79 per person based on double occupancy.

For reservations and information, call 1-800-952-6390.

Boyne

This is the granddaddy of Michigan ski resorts, operating Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls and Boyne Highland in Harbor Springs. This year it is celebrating its 50th anniversary. For the 1997-98 ski season, the resorts are offering a gold season pass to every 10-year-old child. This season pass affords the children unlimited skiing or snowboarding at both Boyne Highland and Boyne Mountain. To start the kids off right, a specialized "learn to ski" will be offered at \$19 for 90 minutes of instruction in skiing or snowboarding and equipment rental.

New this year at Boyne is 10,000 additional feet of snow-making capability and 50 new snow guns.

Boyne Mountain has 41 runs, a 500-foot vertical drop, four quad chairlifts and 35 kilometers of cross-country trails. Boyne Highland features 42 runs with longest more than 5,200 feet and 25 kilometers of groomed cross-country trails. Lift tickets start at \$33 for midweek to \$187 for a five-day holiday ticket. Ski packages including lodging begin at \$88 for a one-day Sunday-Thursday ski packages up to \$830 for a weeklong ski package in a luxury suite.

For reservations and information, call 1-800-GO-BOYNE.

Grand Traverse Resort

Grand Traverse doesn't have a mountain, or even a hill, so it's winter emphasis is on cross country.

The resort, recently purchased by KSL Recreation, is offering two wintertime packages. The Winter Escape and the Romantic Escape packages will be available through April 30. The Winter Escape is priced at \$139 per person and includes two nights lodging, dinner one evening, breakfast on two days. The Romantic Escape includes champagne at \$159 per person.

Grand Traverse includes cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horse-drawn sleigh rides and ice skating. It also sells lift tickets for nearby Crystal Mountain and Shanty Creek.

For information and reservations, call 1-800-748-0303.

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OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Whalers on top

The Plymouth Whalers' rookie sensation, David Legwand, ignited a three-goal outburst in the second period that lifted the Whalers to a 5-2 victory over the North Bay Centennials Thursday in North Bay (Ont.).

The win also put Plymouth into a tie for first place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with the London Knights. Both teams had 37 points going into the weekend's games; the Whalers (17-8-3) had played one fewer game than London (18-10-1).

Legwand, the OHL's third-leading scorer and the top rookie scorer, scored his 32nd goal of the season with an assist from Yuri Babenko 7:35 into the second period, breaking a 1-1 tie. Just 35 seconds later, Legwand and Babenko assisted on Andrew Taylor goal, his 14th, to put Plymouth up 3-1.

Legwand netted his second goal of the game, and 33rd of the season, at 14:36 of the second period with Babenko drawing his third-straight assist to make it 4-1.

Babenko fired his 10th goal of the season past North Bay goalie Matt Carmichael at 1:37 of the third period for the Whalers' final goal.

Steve Wasyloko accounted for Plymouth's first goal, his first of the season, at 3:38 of the opening period.

Robert Esche was in goal for the Whalers; he made 25 saves.

Wildcat tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats AAU girls basketball teams will have a series of open tryouts next month for all those interested female players.

•16, 17 and 18 and under players: Tryouts for all three will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth;

•15-and-under: Tryouts will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth;

•14-and-under Blue: Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at West Middle School in Plymouth;

•14-and-under Red: Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth;

•13-and-under: Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth.

Tryouts for 10-and-under, 11-and-under and 12-and-under teams will be announced later. For further information, call Fred Thomann at (313) 459-7315 or Bob Blohm at (313) 459-1763.

Soccer refs

New soccer referee training will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 at the Canton Township Hall. Those interested in becoming a soccer referee must attend all four sessions.

You must be at least 12 years old to take this class. To register, send your name, social security number and a check for \$43 made payable to the Michigan Referee Committee to: P.O. Box 700260, Plymouth, MI, 48170-0945.

For further information, call (313) 454-7335. Class size is limited.

Hockey contest

Red Wing fans, take notice. MediaOne and ESPN have joined forces to bring the Hockeymania! Contest to Michigan. The contest runs through March 27 and will include five raffles for hockey and Red Wings-related prizes.

There is no purchase necessary, but the contest is only open to Michigan residents 18 and older. Complete contest details and entry forms are available at all Michigan MediaOne locations.

Prizes include a trip for two to Chicago for the Wings/Blackhawks game Dec. 11; a trip to Vancouver to see the 1998 NHL All-Star game; a bundle of prizes on Jan. 19, including three ESPN2 NHL jackets, 24 "Fire on Ice" T-shirts, and 24 ESPN2 hats; a trip for two to the ESPN world headquarters in Bristol, Conn. Feb. 19; and a trip for two to a 1998 Stanley Cup championship game April 1.

Salem should be a title contender

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

The high school volleyball season is off to a bad start.

But let's not dwell on the negative, without the first kill having been attempted or ace being served. Instead, let's just look for something positive to emphasize.

When talking volleyball and Plymouth Salem, such a search takes no time at all.

Everything — except the number of league games expected to be played — is on the upswing at Salem, according to co-coach Brian Gilles.

"On paper, this team should be the best we ever had — on paper," said Gilles.

Now that's going out on a limb, considering that in the past four years, the Rocks have one — that's right, just one — dual-match loss in the Western Lakes Activities Association. They have constantly been a powerhouse in the league.

But winning the WLAA, while still a major objective, won't be good enough for Salem this year.

"Our goal is to be in the state final, to win the state championship," Gilles declared bluntly. "We've never had that goal here before."

That's because Salem hasn't been able to get past Livonia Ladywood in the state regional tournament before. The Blazers figure to remain as the Rocks' main obstacle between them and a state tournament run — but that's down the road a spell.

First things first. And first on Salem's list is regaining the WLAA championship, which was captured by

Walled Lake Central last season.

The Rocks, who finished 40-9-5 overall in '96 and were 10-1 in the WLAA, losing only to Central, have lost just two key contributors from that team: Jenny Storm and Kristie Giddings. Both were solid players, but the Rocks have a lot left.

"The heart of our club is back," said Gilles, who shares Salem's coaching duties with Allie Suffety.

The biggest of the returnees are a pair of seniors, both fourth-year varsity players who were all-WLAA last year: 6-foot-1 middle hitter Amanda Abraham and 5-9 outside hitter Jenny Trott.

Abraham and Trott were instrumental in Salem's success in '96, to be sure; both have ability enough to play at the NCAA Division I level. Indeed, Trott has already signed with Central Michigan, while Abraham must decide between playing basketball and volleyball.

And yet, if there is one particular quality that separates Salem from its WLAA competitors, it's the depth of its talent and experience.

There are six other seniors on the team, and four of them are entering their third year on the varsity: 5-6 setter Kari Flynn; 5-10 outside hitter Kelly Street; 5-6 defensive specialist Jenny Matthews; and 5-9 outside hitter Ellen Stemmer. All four have starting experience.

So, too, do seniors Karen Prosyk, a 5-9 defensive specialist, and Jill Peterson, a 5-9 outside hitter.

Those eight alone would bolster a team's hopes. But Salem has even

Please see SALEM VOLLEYBALL, E2



A reason to cheer: With such standouts as Jenny Trott (left) and Angie Sillmon (right) returning, Plymouth Salem should challenge for the WLAA title again.

Slicing games: Easier for who?



C.J. RISAK

Really, it's not that big a deal. Anyway, who really cares whether Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball teams play best-of-five games or best-of-three games in their matches?

Any of the WLAA school principals who adhered to that theory and voted for the shorter matches obviously did not put much faith in the "acorn" policy.

You know what I mean: From the acorn grows the mighty oak.

The "oak" in this instance is the maelstrom created in Plymouth and Canton following the seemingly abrupt switch from five-game to three-game matches.

Certain WLAA coaches are upset, and the reason is simple: Their players won't get a chance to play as much.

Plymouth Salem coach Brian Gilles is leading the opposition. "I'm getting madder by the day," Gilles said last Thursday.

What has upset Gilles isn't the change to a best-of-three format. "I don't have a problem with that," he insisted.

What bothers him is the timing. "Why didn't they let us know in August so we could adjust our schedules?" he asked.

Please see RISAK, E2



Big swing: Stephanie Chefon, one of four returnees for Canton, figures to be their strongest hitters.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Chiefs' coach has big plans

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

A lot has changed with Plymouth Canton's volleyball team.

Let's start at the top: Gone is coach Steve Anderson, who was forced to resign after just two years due to commitments in his full-time job at the Plymouth Parks and Recreation department.

It was a decision Anderson regretted having to make, particularly after guiding the Chiefs to the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division title and a 34-10 record last season.

His loss is substantial. But so is the loss of eight seniors, including Jessica Orleman, an all-conference selection, Nikki Kovachevich, Jenny Sikora, Donna Logsdon, Brandi Bernard, Megan Weller, Jessica Bradley and Courtney Wells.

Which means first-year coach Cynthia Montgomery faces a bit of a rebuilding job. She does, however, face it with great optimism.

Indeed, despite the losses to graduation and Canton's previous reputation for futility, Montgomery believes her team at least possesses the ability to challenge for the division title once again.

"My goal is to reach the state finals," she said. "Realistically, I would like them to accomplish what they did last year."

Montgomery has no head coaching experience, but she knows the game. A Detroit Cass Tech graduate, she attended Wayne Memorial as a sopho-

Please see CANTON VOLLEY, E2

Late triple stops Canton

BASKETBALL

A valiant Plymouth Canton comeback was derailed in the final seconds of Friday's basketball game when Monroe's Jeremy Griffin drained a three-pointer with about 12 seconds to play, giving the Trojans a 43-41 win at Canton.

"It was a great basketball game. We played hard," said Canton coach Dan Young, his team now 0-2. "I'm proud of our kids — they gave a great effort, they didn't give up."

"They played their butts off."

Free throws ended up playing a major role in the Canton defeat. The Chiefs opened up a 13-6 lead after one quarter, but foul problems — Eric Larsen and Scott Samulski each had three in the first half — helped Monroe (now 2-0) to a 14-3 second-quarter scoring advantage and a 20-16 halftime lead.

The Trojans' cushion grew to 11 in the third quarter before Canton rallied, narrowing the gap to 34-29 entering the final period.

A three-pointer by Joe Cortellini — he led the Chiefs with 20 points — tied

the game at 35-35, setting the stage for the dramatic finish. Larsen made 1-of-2 free throws with just over a minute remaining to put Canton up, 41-40.

The Chiefs then got what they wanted: a defensive stop. On their next possession, Samulski was fouled, but he missed both free throws. The Chiefs made just 7-of-14 (50 percent) from the line in the game; Monroe hit 9-of-18 (50 percent).

Griffin, who led Monroe with 14 points (including four three-pointers), didn't miss, although his game-winner was contested.

Dan McLean added 15 points for Canton.

"I'm glad we're playing these tough teams now," said Young. "It'll only make us better later in the year, when we really want to be."

A.A. Huron 60, Salem 54: Everything was going Plymouth Salem's way Fri-

day at Ann Arbor Huron — for three quarters.

Then the wheels fell off. The Rocks took a 50-39 lead into the final period, then took just six shots at the basket as the host River Rats outpointed them 21-4 over the last eight minutes to win going away.

"We folded, we didn't play very well, we threw the ball away," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We didn't handle the pressure very well, and we didn't finish."

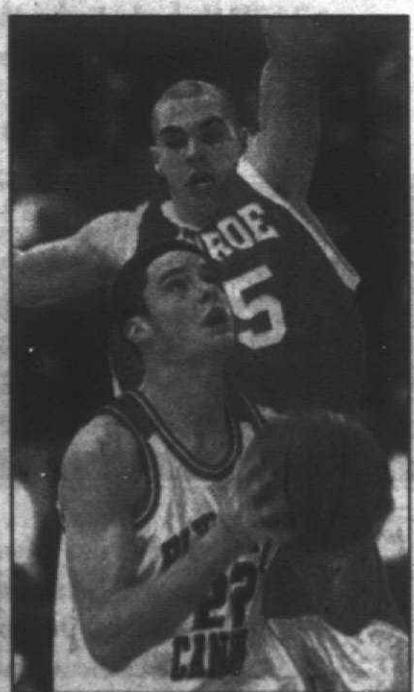
The loss left the Rocks winless after two games. Huron is 2-0.

The game didn't start that way. "We played better (than in the season-opening loss at Monroe) for the first 26 minutes," said Brodie. "I was happy. We were inspired, for three quarters anyway. Then we got tentative."

"In the fourth quarter, we looked like we did against Monroe."

Andy Power, who led the Rocks with 19 points, got them off quickly, scoring nine points in the first quarter as

Please see BASKETBALL, E3



Searching: Canton's Eric Larsen (with ball) looks for a shot past Monroe's Don Case.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Risak from page E1

Gilles wanted to postpone the change until next year; that would allow him to alter his schedule, perhaps add another tournament or two.

Here's the root of the problem: The Michigan High School Athletic Association allows 18 playing dates in volleyball. A team can play five matches in a tournament on a Saturday or a single match on a Wednesday — it wouldn't matter. Each would count as one playing date.

Teams competing in the WAAA have 11 of their playing dates absorbed by league matches. Last year, when matches were best-of-five games, a team was guaranteed at least 33 games (that's if a team played the minimum number of games in every match).

With the format altered, at least 11 games are trimmed from each WAAA team's schedule.

That means fewer opportunities for players to see action. And as Gilles pointed out, "Shouldn't we be doing what's best for the kids?"

Tom Johnson, the principal at Northville HS who serves as chairman over the WAAA, dismissed Gilles on several counts. The issue has been researched,

Salem volleyball from page E1

Johnson maintained. "The motivating factor behind this was that we were not consistent with the state, which is best-of-three," Johnson said.

True, in the state tournament matches are best-of-three. But gaining experience for a successful run in the state tournament is a necessity, and the only way to gain playing experience is by playing.

When asked if he thought playing opportunities would diminish with the reduction in games, Johnson said, "We did a study on this and found the best players kept playing."

It didn't matter if it were a best-of-five or best-of-three, for the majority of the WAAA schools lineups and substitution patterns did not change substantially, he said. Johnson added that none of this should have come as a surprise; coaches knew of the study, which had been ongoing for more than a year.

Which is why he found no reason to delay implementing the switch in formats: "What would be the wisdom in putting it off for a year? It has no effect on the current schedule."

The study's been done, Johnson said. The votes have been cast. Case closed.

"That's a lie," was Gilles' response. "I want to see his documentation. That's just not true. There was no study done."

Understand, Gilles has a rare opportunity confronting him. His Salem teams have won three of the last four WAAA titles, and had a streak of 43-straight league match victories snapped by Walled Lake Central last season.

He returns next of a team that went 10-1 in the league in '96. The Rocks are heavy favorites to win it again. But Gilles and his team are eyeing bigger prizes.

"My goal is to be a state champion," the Salem coach said. His current team has the potential, but now will it be properly prepared?

Gilles said state title contenders like Portage Northern and Temperance Bedford play 25 more matches a year than Salem does. That's 25 more chances at improvement.

Whatever Johnson thinks, this isn't the end of it. Parents of players at both Plymouth Canton and Salem have sent letters protesting the switch; before a reason for the change was pre-

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
 Tuesday, Dec. 16
 Saline Christian at Agape, 7 p.m.
 Hamtramck at Clareville, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Wild at Harper Woods, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Adrian at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 S. Lyon at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
 Farmington at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Divine Child, 7 p.m.
 Bellevue at Salem, 7:30 p.m.
 Harrison at Brighton, 7:30 p.m.
 St. Agatha at Villanova, 7:30 p.m.
 St. Florian at Ply. Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Dec. 17
 Clareville at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
 Thursday, Dec. 18
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Ypsilanti at Farmington, 7 p.m.
 N. Farmington at Midford, 7 p.m.
 Harrison at Riv. Richard, 7:30 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 19
 West Wayne at Agape, 6:45 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Luth. N'west, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
 Lincoln Park at Redford Union, 7 p.m.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Allen Park at Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Canton at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
 Redford CC at O.L. St. Mary, 7:30 p.m.
 Immaculate at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. St. Alphonsus at Marshall Middle School, 7:30 p.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 Monday, Dec. 15
 St. Mary's at Madonna, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Dec. 17
 St. Clair (Ont.) at Scarft, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 20
 Madonna at Northwood, 1 p.m.
 Kellogg at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 Monday, Dec. 15
 Madonna at Ferris State, 6 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 19
 Tiffin (Ohio) at Scarft, 7 p.m.
 Scarft at Macomb Toumey, TBA.
 Saturday, Dec. 20
 Tiffin (Ohio) vs. Kalamazoo at Madonna Tourney, 3 p.m.
 Scarft at Macomb Toumey, TBA.
 Sunday, Dec. 21

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Employees of the Observer & Eccentric and Joe Louis Arena and their families are not eligible.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Alen Park at Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Canton at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
 Redford CC at O.L. St. Mary, 7:30 p.m.
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Canton volley from page E1

more, then played in college at Jackson State in Mississippi, where she was an all-conference player for two years.

"I think the potential is definitely there," Montgomery said of this year's Chiefs. "We've got some great hitters — the hitting is there, the serving is there, the passing is getting there."

Even with the substantial losses, Canton has four seniors returning with considerable experience.

Amy Plagens, a 5-foot-10 middle-outside hitter, is "one of our best all-around players," according to Montgomery, and Stephanie Chefan, a 5-11 middle hitter, "is our best hitter."

Christy Even, a 5-8 outside hitter, and Robin Hamilton, a 5-6 setter and all-around player, figure to fill key roles on the team.

The rest of the team, while not as experienced, has potential promising enough to keep Montgomery's hopes high.

Angie Germain is a 5-4 sophomore setter; Elizabeth Elsner is a 5-7 junior middle-hitter; Carrie Kovachevich is a 5-8 junior outside hitter; Jennifer Currier is a 5-9 junior outside hitter; Robin Devos is a 5-6 junior defensive specialist; Erica Hanz is a 5-5

Basketball from page E1

Salem opened up a 21-13 lead. Huron closed to within 29-24 at the half, but a 21-15 Salem advantage in the third period made it an 11-point game entering the final period.

Free throws again played a significant role. Huron, despite trailing most of the game, was 13-of-21 from the line (62 percent) to 3-of-5 (60 percent) for Salem. In the fourth quarter, the Rats made 6-of-11; the Rocks were 0-for-1.

In two games thus far this season, Salem is 14-of-19 from the line (74 percent); the Rocks' opponents are a combined 32-of-46 (70 percent).

Salem's 22 turnovers against Huron — which had 13 — didn't help, either. The Rocks were also outrebounded, 27-23.

Bhavin Patel added 11 points to Salem's cause. Matt Mair totaled eight, with Jeff McKian getting four points and a team-high six rebounds.

The Rats were paced by Levar Sommerville's 17 points, seven of those coming in the fourth quarter. Ramal Huron finished with 14 and Nate Johns scored 11, six in the fourth.

PCA 72, Academy of Detroit 69: Scott Carty and Chris Brandon scored 19 points apiece to lead Plymouth Christian Academy into the final of its own Eagle Kickoff Classic Friday.

PCA, now 2-0, met Southfield Franklin Road Christian for the title Saturday.

The Eagles took a 51-46 lead into the fourth quarter against Academy of Detroit, thanks to three free throws by Jordan Roose in the closing seconds of the third, then held on with some solid free throw shooting.

PCA was 22-of-31 from the line (71 percent) for the game, including 11-of-13 (85 percent) in the final period.

Derrick Iseene added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Eagles, and Nick Brandon totaled 10 points. For Academy of Detroit (1-1), Jermaine Coleman scored 16 points and Anthony Paige had 14.

Dearborn 70, Franklin 62: Highly-regarded Dearborn held off a late Livonia Franklin rally to earn the victory Friday at Franklin.

The visiting Pioneers, now 2-0 overall, roared out to a 19-4 lead and hung on for the win.

Franklin, which slipped to 1-1, pulled within four during the final quarter but couldn't get any closer.

"Their defense had a lot to do with it," Franklin coach Dan Robinson said. "They came out and really overplayed us. I think we were trying to be too perfect in our offense instead of just being players."

Junior guard Colin Wilkinson led the winners with 19 points, while Jason Herrick contributed 12 (including three dunks). Colin

Basketball from page E1

have to feel comfortable instead of feeling nervous."

Wayne led 13-9 after one quarter and 26-22 at halftime.

With 2:03 left in the third period, Robert Price's hoop gave Wayne its largest margin of the night, 40-27. The Zebras outscored Glenn 16-11 in the third to go ahead 42-32.

In the decisive fourth quarter, Wayne spread out its offense and held Glenn off by making 12 of 14 free throws. The Zebras were 19 of 27 from the line overall, while the Rockets hit 16 of 25.

"Early in the game we had people shoot that shouldn't have," Schuette said. "We didn't go to the big men soon enough."

"But we're young. Everybody talks about what Wayne lost from last year, but we only have two back and the rest have only JV experience. But eventually it's going to be there."

Glenn returns to action Tuesday at home against Adrian, while Wayne is off until Friday when it begins its brutal Mega Conference Red Division slate at Ypsilanti.

"We're going to battle through and try to get better," Henry said. "But the key problem is our schedule."

Basketball from page E1

What Madonna University's women's basketball team had accomplished the past few weeks, winning five of its first seven games, was impressive to say the least.

But win No. 6, last Thursday at Madonna against Wayne State, was perhaps the best of the bunch.

The reason: There wasn't a single star lighting the fire for the Fighting Crusaders. Indeed, the player who had led them through the early portion of their schedule had been point guard Katie Cushman.

But one player does not make a championship-caliber team, and in its 78-75 triumph over WSU Madonna proved it wasn't a one-person team.

Indeed, Cushman wasn't on her game most of the night. She took just one shot from the floor, scoring seven points and dishing out four assists in less than 18 minutes of playing time (she had just two fouls).

Others, notably Michelle Miela, picked up the slack admirably. Four Crusaders reached double-figures in scoring, with Dawn Pelc leading the

Lady Crusaders nip Tartars

rebounds. Shooting proved paramount in the game. Madonna made 29-of-51 from the floor (56.9 percent) while WSU was 29-of-74 (39.2 percent).

Wayne St. 301, Madonna 93 (men): Examine the totals from Wednesday's game at Wayne State, and you'll see that Madonna was outplayed in every facet.

The Tartars shot better, rebounded better, had fewer turnovers, more assists and fewer fouls as they pushed their record to 5-4. Madonna slipped to 1-10.

Kevin Tate hit 9-of-11 of his floor shots to lead WSU with 22 points. Tony Goins (from Westland John Glenn) added 18 points and four assists. Terrance Porter notched 14 points and five assists and Tim Herron totaled 13 points.

Madonna's only double-figure scorer was Nick Hurley (Plymouth Canton), with 13 points. Hurley also had four steals and three assists. Eric Giovanni (Livonia Stevenson) and Mark Hayes added nine points apiece

COLLEGE HOOPS

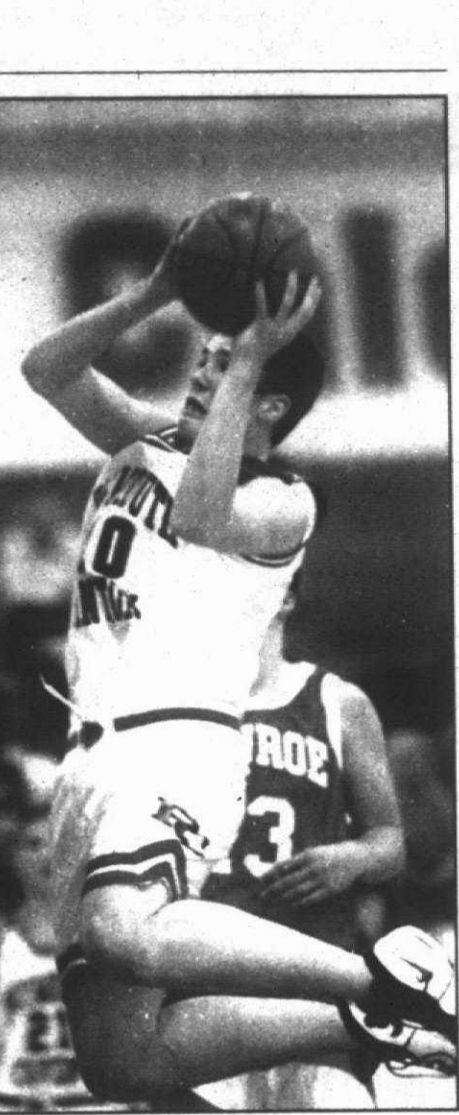
way with 17 points (on 8-of-12 shooting) and six assists.

The Tartars (4-4) took a 73-72 lead with 1:42 left in the game on a Shay Lewis layup. But Madonna retaliated, with Lori Enfield — who came off the bench to net 14 points and grab 13 rebounds — scoring a basket with 1:24 remaining.

The Crusaders repelled WSU's ensuing counterattack and, in the final 37 seconds, three free throws from Chris Dietrich and another from Mary Murray iced the victory.

Dietrich and Murray each scored 15 points, with Murray getting 10 rebounds and two steals and Dietrich making three steals.

The Tartars were led by Lewis' 19 points. Britta Anderson, a Plymouth Canton graduate, contributed 15 points and eight rebounds, and Fawne Allershey had 14 points and eight boards. Sarah Warnke, another Canton grad, chipped in with eight points and seven



Point-producer: Finding scorers has been a problem for Canton, but Dan McLean has done his share — he scored 15 points against Monroe.

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MORE PREP BASKETBALL

Harrison's comeback clips Lapeer East

SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

It wouldn't be unfair to say Farmington Hills Harrison stole a 43-38 basketball victory from Lapeer East Friday night.

The Hawks (2-0) trailed most of the fourth quarter and were down by as much as six points. But they closed the game with a 9-0 run to beat the winless Eagles before a large and loud home crowd.

"These guys have been doing this to me for three years," coach Mike Teachman said. "It's called, 'refuse to lose.'"

Harrison trailed 38-32 with 3:25 to go in the game. Ricky "The Truth" Bryant

began the Hawks' rally with a basket that was followed by a low post hoop from Andy Burt.

After a Lapeer East turnover, Matt Derocher nailed a three-pointer to give the Hawks a 39-38 lead with 41 seconds left. Dave Pesci and Kareem Smartt each made a pair of free throws in the final seconds to give Harrison its five-point victory.

Teachman pointed to the play of Brian Lewis for sparking the comeback. His hustle in recovering several loose balls "got everyone else started."

Jerrad Johnson led Harrison with nine points while Jared Hopkins and Derocher each had eight. Glenn Paku-

lak had 12 points for Lapeer East.

Friday's win wasn't a classic for Farmington Hills. Neither team, in fact, played particularly well.

Teachman said the Hawks simply need practice and playing time to get familiar with each other.

"We're still not in condition," he added. That limited his rotation to about eight players. Teachman said he would like to have a rotation of about 11 players eventually.

The coach also wasn't happy with the Hawks' passing. But he added that Lapeer's defense had something to do with the number of turnovers his team made.

"We were trying to make passes an average defensive team would give us," said Teachman. "But they weren't average."

After an 11-11 first quarter, Farmington Hills offensive woes surfaced in the second. Sloppy ball handling and a few errant passes put the Hawks into 24-19 halftime hole.

"We played right into their hands by taking jump shots and watching," Teachman said.

The coach said he told his team to attack inside in the second half. Harrison did just that and opened the third quarter with a 7-0 run.

Smartt connected on a drive to the

basket and Hopkins swished a jump shot to make it 24-23 at the 6:18 mark. A three-pointer from Johnson gave Farmington Hills a two-point lead.

It didn't last, however, as Lapeer rallied to take a 29-28 lead by the end of the period.

A Johnson basket gave the Hawks a 30-29 lead to start the fourth quarter. But the Eagles put together a 7-0 run to take seemingly take control.

With hustle and determination, the Hawks were able to comeback and take the game. Teachman was proud of the effort his team gave.

"It was amazing," he said. "Refuse to lose."

Clutch free throws lead Trojans to victory over Aggies

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Clarenceville junior guard Albert Deljosevic banked in a desperation half-court shot as the third quarter ended in Friday's boys basketball game at

Redford St. Agatha.

The way things had been going for Clarenceville senior center Justin Villanueva, his two free throws with five seconds left seemed just as unlikely.

But Villanueva, who missed

five of his first six free throw attempts, sank both ends of a one-and-one to break a 49-49 tie and give the Trojans a 51-49 victory before a sellout crowd.

"I was so nervous my first couple of free throws and my last two I wasn't nervous at all," said Villanueva, who scored 19 points and grabbed a team-high 11

rebounds. "I either made them or I didn't. That wasn't me that won this game. That was Clarenceville High School."

Clarenceville coach Rick Larson must have felt like a year's worth of suspense was packed into this game — the Trojans' season-opener.

The meeting is turning into

quite a rivalry. Larson remembers opening the season three years ago here with a 92-90 double overtime loss.

"Nineteen more of these games and I'll be dead," Larson joked. "You'll be writing my obituary."

Villanueva's heroics came only four seconds after St. Agatha had a chance to break the tie with a pair of free throws. But the Aggies missed both and Villanueva got the rebound and was fouled in the backcourt as he pushed the ball up the court.

After the missed free throws by St. Agatha, the best Aggies' coach John Fenbert could hope for was overtime.

The decisive free throws handed the Aggies their first loss after a 67-50 victory in their season opener three days earlier against Dearborn Heights Fairlane Christian.

"We said not to foul number 4 (Deljosevic) — we didn't want to foul anyone in that situation," Fenbert said.

Villanueva scored 15 points in the first half, staking Clarenceville to a 29-24 halftime lead. Deljosevic had 12 of his game-high 22 points in the second half, including a three-point shot early in the fourth quarter to give the Trojans a 47-45 lead after they had surrendered the advantage in the third quarter.

The rest of the Trojans combined for 10 points, including four by Rick Barack to go with seven rebounds.

"We knew they had a big guy (Villanueva) and they had a good guard (Deljosevic)," Fenbert said. "They were the two that beat us, basically. Hand it to them. We made a run on them and they didn't fold."

Deljosevic made six of 13 shots from the field and none were bigger than his 40-foot heave before the buzzer sounded at the end of the third quarter that cut the

Trojans' deficit to 43-42.

The basket came at the end of an 9-0 run by St. Agatha that had given the Aggies their first lead since early in the game, 43-39.

"Al is awesome," Villanueva said. "That was the turning point of the game."

Deljosevic said he thought the shot had a chance to go in. He turned to the crowd and extended his arms in celebration before falling to the ground like a soccer player does after scoring a big goal.

"Coach wants the ball to me at the end of the quarters to be the decision maker," Deljosevic said. "I looked at the clock before I got the ball and let it fly. I may be a little bit of a showboat but I'm not out there to put anyone down. I'm just for my team."

St. Agatha senior center Ian Wincher, playing despite a hip pointer, had 16 points and 12 rebounds, including seven in the first quarter. Jonny Lomibao and Wesley Shaw added 11 points.

The Aggies had a 33-32 rebounding advantage with Shaw and Eric Jones grabbing six each to support Wincher.


"We're proud of Ian," Fenbert said. "If it was an injury that could have gotten worse by playing we wouldn't have played him. But we could have sat him out easily."

Clarenceville made 20 of 45 shots from the floor and St. Agatha was only 18-59.

Larson wasn't happy with Clarenceville committing 24 turnovers to St. Agatha's 16, but he felt secure whenever Deljosevic touched the ball.

"I'm excited about the team, the electricity out there," Larson said. "As a younger player, Albert didn't always focus his energy in a positive way. He plays with fire and heart."

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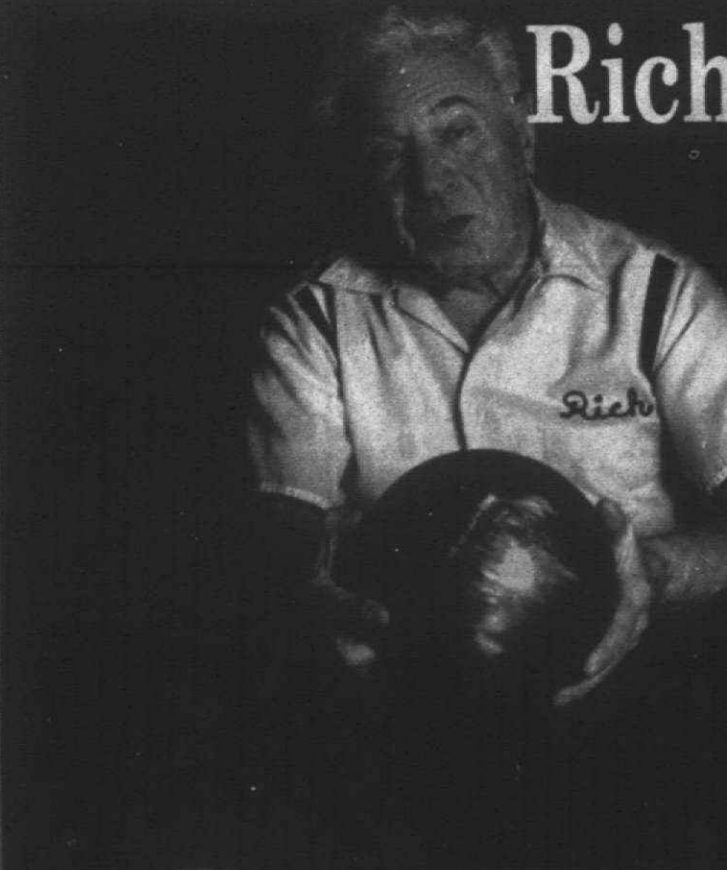
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RECREATION PAGE

Stealing thunder

Old Timers put on great show

Points to ponder: How come every time it snows like last Wednesday, most schools are closed, but all bowling centers remain open?

All men are the same, they just have different faces so you can tell them apart. What makes men chase women they have no intention of marrying? The same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving.

It was not so funny at the 67th Annual Old Timers Tournament Nov. 29 at Thunderbowl Lanes.

It took a few days before the results were in hand, but all kidding aside, Larry Paladino of the Birmingham Eccentric beat me for the first time. Not just once, but all three games.

Once again, this event featured the return home of the great Joe Norris, who at 89, can still outbow most of us earthlings. Norris considers the Detroit Old Timers event as the best one-day tournament in the nation.

Now a resident of San Diego, Norris holds many all-time bowl-

ing records and the beat goes on.

Joe Sytniak, 56, of Dearborn Heights took the overall championship with games of 226-232-278, a series of 736.

In the under-50 category the winner was Barry Oderfer, 49, of Fraser 206-254-247/707 with 44-year-old Garden City's Rick Eiermann runner-up with a 267-241-174/682. Doug Evens, 49, of Lincoln Park finished third.

In the 50-59 group, Tom Hay, 58, of Detroit prevailed with 224-248-246/718, followed by Lou Ivancik, 56, of Wyandotte and Neil Beckman, 51, of Southfield.

The 60-64 group was won by George McNair (63) 248-236-207/691 followed by Brownstown's Ernie Segura and Hall of Famer Fred Vitali, 60, of Farmington Hills.

The 65-69 bowlers saw Jerry Cole, 68, of Taylor roll games of 223-247-232/702, followed by John Bevak, 66, of Grosse Ile and Lloyd McNabb, 65, of Warren.

In the 70-74 category, it was Gene Merritt, 72, of Jackson who topped Gabe Fazekas of Dearborn and Loren Dean, 72, from Woodhaven.

The 75-79 set featured William J. Rose, 77, of Farmington shooting 222-223-182/627, beating out John E. Bonino Jr., 76, of Warren and Walter Reaume, 75,

from Trenton.

The top age category is 80-and-over with Hall of Famer Joe Paulus, 80, of Bloomfield Hills taking the top spot with 197-203-210/610, nosing out Larry Murphy, 85, of Allen Park and the "Mechanic" Jarv Woehlike, 84, of Dearborn.

The highest game in the event was a 269 by Phil Insalco of Dearborn Heights and the oldest bowler was Lewis Saad, 94, and going strong.

Give a lot of credit to these old timers.

The lane conditions were dry and difficult as attested to by my own scores, which are not fit to print at this time.

Even Gordon Bickle could have beaten me.

A nice dinner topped off the event and a good time was had by all, including Larry Paladino.

The third annual Senior/Youth Challenge will be Saturday, Feb. 7 at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

Known as the "Match of the Ages," it will feature the senior bowlers from the Mayflower Wednesday Senior Classic against top youth bowlers from leagues at Mayflower and Beech Lanes.

Opening ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. (open to public). For more information, call Ron Lancaster at (313) 595-1155.

TEN-PIN ALLEY



AL HARRISON

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Mayflower Lanes (Redford)

Friday Seniors - Bill Britton, 256/690; Ken Schell, 247/628; Jerry Holden, 248/605; Mel Albitte, 252/631; Jack Dahlstrom, 242/626.

Mayflower Senior Classic - Cliff Taylor, 233-239-213/685; Paul Temple, 259-237/677; Tony Wolak, 263-224/648; Jim Zellen, 233-213-246/692; Jim Casteel, 233-244-660; Hal Ladouceur, 227-222/629.

Monday Seniors - Jack Dahlstrom, 257/694; Mel Albitte, 257; Jim Zellen, 244/608; Lee Onkka, 235/640; Fred Smith, 255-257/714; Al Thompson, 257/685; Tom McGlasson, 248/649.

Plaza Lanes (Plymouth)

St. Colette's Men - Rob Anderson, 278/695.

Sheldon Road Men's - Charlie Riffle, 290; Dick Kossel, 208-266-210/684.

Plaza Men - Bryan Macek, 255-279-244/778; Rick Rulen, 276-225-221/722; Steve Demeter, 255-235-256/746.

Waterford Men - Tom Buchanan, 220-238-258/716; Bob Johnson, 223-212-278/713; Rich Planko, 257-234-214/705; Jon Demeter, 224-229-247/700.

Keglers - Jim Griffin, 201-267-236/704.

Guys & Dolls - Bob Lanning, 300.

Super Bowl (Canton)

Ford General Parts - Ozzie Rattigan, 267; Bob Colangelo, 257; Eric Stamper, 670; Bill Grove, 659.

Wed. Nite Men - Tony Johnson, 264/706; Rich North, 255; Mike Mamroctski, 638.

Super Stars - Vicki Hurley, 200/535; Pam Johnson, 199.

Late Nite Delite - Doug Gauthier, 246/660.

Cloverlanes (Livonia)

All-Star Bowlerettes - Kathie Maser, 247-279-246/772; Tina Barber, 262-235-238/735; Aleta Sill, 212-268-235/715; Sandy Winbiger, 215-276-224/715; Tamika Glenn, 224-229-247/710.

National Seniors Bowling Ass'n Tournament - Don Hargraves, 300.

Sunday Mixed - Larnell Cozart, 300/786; Daryl Scott, 297/798; M. Stephenson, 300/760.

FoMoCo Thurs Nite - Bobby Williams, 248/685; Jack Considine, 258; John Teetzl, 256; Frank Knitter, 268; Randy Thompson, 248/660; Steve Gutusky, 248/698.

St. Aidan's - Dave Golen, 213-237-216/666; Joe Naujokas, 212-232/636; Bob Racey, 218-244/644; Rich Radak, 256-223-268/747; Jeff Amolsch, 258; Tony Kaluzny, 225-253-670.

Mon Detroit Edison Mixed - Don Gavin, 288/700; Willie Smith, 266/718; Larry Stier, 233/682; Annette Wilson, 230/613; Nancy Januszewski, 201/563.

Telcom Men's - Joe Cramer, 279; D. Nutt, 297.

Wonderland Lanes (Livonia)

Westside Prop. Travel - Don Johnson, 278/746; Charlie Orbecky, 276/724; Jerry Nichols, 269/710; Lloyd McNabb, 279/707; Tony Conley, 705 (156 pins o/a).

Wonderland Classic - Jim Burton, 278/781; Fred Ramirez, 278-277/775; Bill Sayyae Jr. 300/760; John McGraw, 279/768; Brad Wolter, 723.

Nite Owls - Mark Linser, 258/702; Jim Ocholik, 249/651; Curt Grangood, 247; Darrin Liptow, 266/640.

Nite Owls - Darrin Liptow, 666; Joel Spishak, 660; Shane Wyatt, 640; Ken Hawk, 622.

Motor City Men's Early - Tom Small,

247/735; Mike Gephart, 289/722; Scott Mears, 265; Jim Molnar, 732.

Woodland Lanes (Livonia)

Livonia Elks - David Crosskey, 299.

Senior House - Tom Madgwick, 279/760; Ed Grace III 265/749; Minh Grougan, 256/696; Jim Johnson Jr., 244/692; Jim Knoll, 257/687; Dave Norwick, 279/703.

Midnight Mixed - Joe Komindo, 299/686; John Hurley, Sr., 299/712; Dale Manteuffel, 690; Tom Schultz, 688.

Ford Parts - Jimmy Hayes, 727; Tom Cyril, 689; Scott Begin, 664; Dennis Weatherford, 665; Chuck Sprosek, 713.

Jacks & Jills - Dana Fisher, 201/522.

Men's Trio - Keith Suda, 684; Jack Lawson, 685; John Wodarski, Sr., 682; Dan Lenart, 696; Frank Hoffman, 697.

Livonia Strikers - Gary Omodio, 300; Brian Spicer, 298.

Grandale - Steve Helewski, 256; Bud LeBlanc, Jr., 269.

Morning Glories - Krene Basner, 232.

Wonder Women - Jan Beard, 241.

Lyndon Meadows - Lisa Sallade, 233-223/610; Karen Mulligan, 232.

Thurs. Morn. Ladies - Jean Grezak, 232.

Garden Lanes (Garden City)

St. Linus Classic - Dick Barina, 212-266-206/684; Matt Dalley, 232-220-226/678; Ed Stephenson, 207-257/658.

Plum Hollow Lanes (Southfield)

W.D.B.A. - Sherry Broyles, 221.

Tues Mixed - Audrey Williams, 278/623; Herb Washington, 276/682; Wayman Gale, 278/654; Leon Burke, 216-232-213/661.

Novi Bowl (Novi)

Westside Lutheran - Tim Wallner, 279/690; Lynn Lewis, 664; Tim Collins, 662; Brant Engel, 656; Dave Cornwell, 635.

Deer firearms harvest falls

Preliminary deer harvest estimates by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources indicates that the 1997 firearms harvest fell slightly short of last year's total and this year's pre season expectations. The DNR predicted a harvest of 290,000 for the firearms season. The results of an annual survey of southbound hunter traffic during the recently completed 16-day firearms season showed an estimated harvest of 282,000 white-tails. The final harvest numbers, which are determined by a mail survey of licensed hunters, won't be available until July.

"We recognized early that the 1997 harvest would be lower than last year and these figures confirm our expectations," said DNR deer specialist John Urbain. "We definitely are encouraged by the harvest in the southern Lower Peninsula. The antlerless harvest of 58,000 deer in this part of the state was up 22 percent over last year."

The buck harvest in the southern Lower Peninsula (Zone III) was down from 74,360 last year to an estimated 72,000 this year. Urbain attributes this decline to the large antlerless harvest in southern Michigan and increased amounts of standing corn in the fields throughout the firearms season.

In the northern Lower Peninsula (Zone II) the buck harvest slipped from 77,350 last year to 68,000 this fall. The overall harvest in Zone II was down from 116,325 in 1996 to 106,000 this year.

Many hunters in the northern Lower commented that there

was a lower incidence of buck rubs and scrapes. The possible reduction of buck activity may have resulted in less movement of the deer.

"The herd in this part of the state was also noticeably older than in past years," said Urbain. "There may have been fewer firearms deer hunters afield due to early reports of lower deer numbers, but hunters were seeing deer and hunting longer."

The harvest in the Upper Peninsula (Zone I) was down from a record 85,118 in 1995 to an estimated 56,000 this year, which is a direct reflection of back-to-back severe winters, which caused many young deer to starve to death. There was a significant drop in the number on one-and-a-half-year-olds harvested this year because many deer in that age class were lost last winter.

Despite the drop, this was the seventh largest harvest on record. The top six harvests were 334,940 in 1989, 319,289 in 1995, 316,400 in 1990, 299,319 in 1996, 294,310 in 1988 and 293,710 in 1991.

"Deer season is far from over and we anticipate hunters will use the additional late season opportunities to harvest deer," said Becky Humphries, acting chief of the DNR's Wildlife Division. "A significant number of deer are expected to be taken during the remaining deer seasons, especially antlerless deer on private land in agricultural areas as the corn harvest continues."

Successful hunters

Success reports continue to filter in from Observer & Eccentric readers. If you or a hunting friend had a successful season let me know. My phone and fax numbers and mailing address are listed at the bottom of this column.

The "bug" is back for Mike Manogian.

"I was a dedicated deer hunter for many years, but lost interest for the past three years and spent my Novembers surf fishing in Florida," explained the Bloomfield Hills resident. "However, this past year my two sons, Michael and Ralph, begged me to join them for deer hunting up north."

Now, Manogian is wondering if his sons will invite him back next year since he shot the only buck in camp this year — a "big" 6-pointer.

"The bug is back and I'm already preparing for next season," said Manogian. "Yes, I'm inviting my two sons."

Art Duprey has been waiting 24 years to shoot a buck big enough to hang on the wall of his family's cabin. The wait ended this past season as the Livonia hunter shot a beautiful 8-point buck at 7:25 a.m. on November 16th while hunting on the family property in Isoco County.

Clarkston's Robert Bonham filled his first firearms tag on opening day when he dropped a 3-point while hunting state land in Emmet County. He was hunting private land in Cheboygan County on Nov. 28th when he filled his second tag by bagging an 8-point.

Darrell Hagen tagged his first buck in 10 years of hunting when he shot a 5-point on Nov. 29. The Troy resident was hunting in a fence row along a cut corn field in Oakland County.

Lake Orion residents Steve Sims and Todd Carothers each arrowed a doe on the opening weekend of the bow season while hunting on private land in Ogemaw County.

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI. 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

Outdoor Calendar

hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call (810) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION

Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours through Dec. 22 are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. Call (810) 693-6767 for more information.

POINTE MOUILLEE

The rifle and pistol range at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in Rockwood has been closed due to environmental concerns. Call (313) 379-3820 for more information.

CLASSES

FLY TYING
Bueters Outdoors in Northville still has openings for its fall fly tying classes. Call (248) 349-3677 for more information.

OUTDOOR CLUBS

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation, 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. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

ARCHERY

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nomi-

nal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks, toll free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

1998 PERMITS

The 1998 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 and \$8 for senior citizens. The annual boat launching permits are \$18 and \$9 for senior citizens. Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

DATES/DEADLINES

DEER
The second archery season runs through Jan. 1 statewide. Muzzleloading season runs through Dec. 21 in Zones II and III. A special late antlerless only season will run Dec. 20-Jan. 4 on private land only in Zone III.

SQUIRREL

Fox and gray squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

RABBIT

Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

Naturalists changing habits

Throughout the years naturalists have taught people the workings of the natural world. Naturalists learn from personal observation and by reading what others have observed and concluded. As more information is acquired, initial observations and conclusions change.

For years I have taught that the tufted titmouse and the black-capped chickadee are kissing cousins to each other.

They were considered by scientists, far more knowledgeable than I, that they were in the same genus, or taxonomic unit.

Tufted titmice were Parus bicolor and black-capped chickadees were Parus atricapillus. This relationship was based on behavior, anatomy, plumage, molt and other characteristics.

NATURE NOTES



TIM NOWICKI

Now, with the advent of DNA testing and other chemical tests to determine relationships, these two species are now in two different genera or taxonomic units.

Based on new findings and weighing the old findings, tufted titmice are now Baeolophus bicolor and the black-capped chickadee becomes Poecile atricapillus. They are still closely related to each other, but not quite as close as before.

Relationships between animals have always involved heated debates. Years ago, before naturalists really spent time looking at their subjects, female mallard ducks were considered a different species from the male mallard duck because they look so different.

Just recently scientists shocked many people when they placed the turkey vulture into a group of birds they do not look like at all.

Its hard to believe, but the turkey vulture, which has been grouped with the birds of prey, like hawks and eagles, is now placed in with the herons, bitterns and storks.

A vulture's body shape and structure is very unlike those of the long necked, long legged herons and storks.

Decisions such as these are not made at the drop of a hat.

Ornithologists from around the world evaluate the research and sit down in committees to discuss the results and decide what is the best decision based on the available information at the time.

Science is constantly changing because scientists are constantly learning new things about their discipline.

The Hubble telescope, for instance, is rewriting the textbooks on Astronomy, while DNA mapping has allowed biologists to analyze the building blocks of living organisms.

As time goes on, new techniques will become available and present day information may become obsolete, necessitating new changes.

So, for now, I can't call titmice and chickadees kissing cousins anymore, maybe I'll call them hugging cousins, or hand-shaking cousins.