

Canton Observer

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

OPINION

Pausing to reflect: Easter and Passover give area residents reason to think./A12

COUNTY

Spring ritual: More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped Friday from a helicopter to the delight of hundreds of awaiting children, who will scramble to collect these goodies during the county's 14th Annual Great Marshmallow Drop./A8

COMMUNITY LIFE

Somber scene: People are coming from far and near to Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia to be anointed by the rose-scented oil, said to be myrrh, that has been streaming from an Icon of the Mother of God./B1

AT HOME

Special space: Students found imaginative places for rugs in The Ghiordes Knot-American Society of Interior Designers Student Creative Space Competition. Their designs were displayed at The Ghiordes Knot showroom at the Michigan Design Center in Troy./D6

ENTERTAINMENT

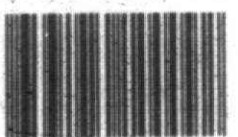
Theater: Jessica Grove, Dorothy, is nearing the end of the yellow brick road in "The Wizard of Oz," now playing at the Fox Theatre./E1

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Study points to signal changes

■ Cutting the wait at stop lights on Ford Road could be one way to ease congestion, according to a just-completed traffic study.

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

It's no secret that driving along Ford Road in Canton — no matter what the time — can be a frustrating and lengthy proposition.

Preliminary results of a traffic study of Ford, between Canton Center and Lotz roads, indicate that changing signal times may help relieve congestion.

According to Downtown Development Authority Coordinator Kathleen Salla, the goal is to make Ford Road businesses as accessible as possible. Signal and intersection improvements may be the key.

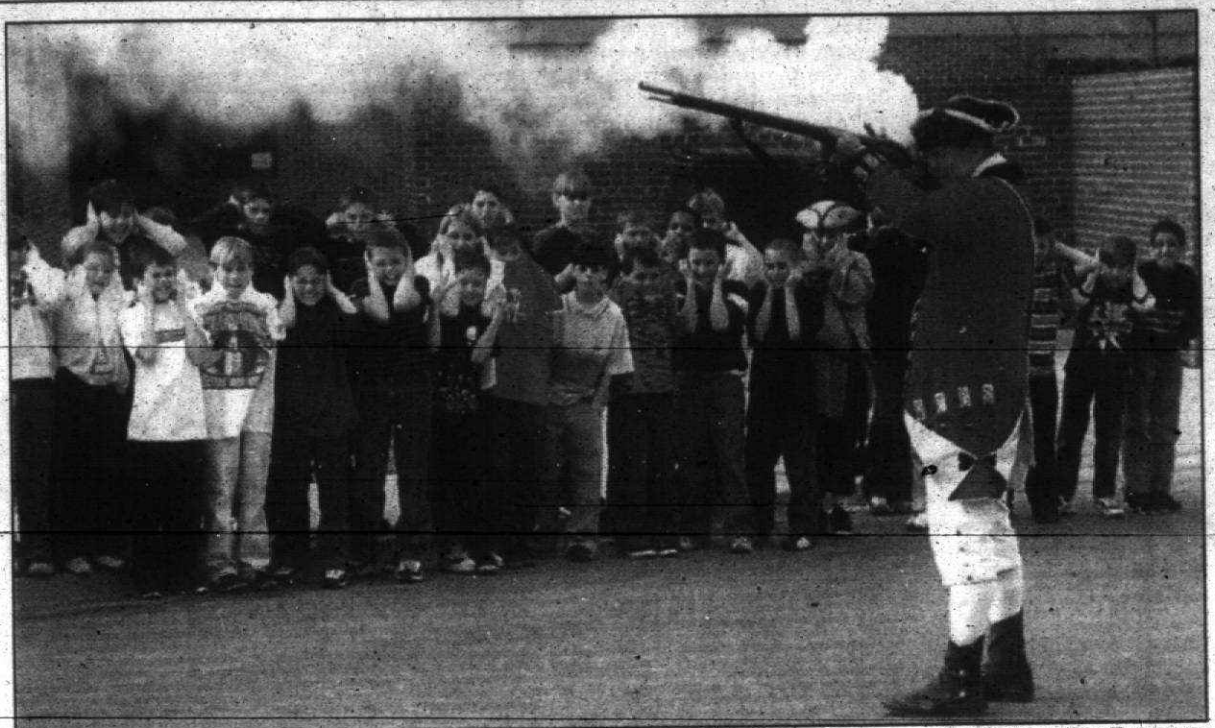
"We hope improvements will make that happen," Salla said.

The township's desire to improve traffic flow at the Ford-Haggerty intersection necessitated the study. The DDA responded by paying for the study, which was done by consulting firms, late last fall.

Going into the study, township officials identified two possible solutions for the intersection. One was to change signal times and the other widening Haggerty Road.

Study results indicate the signal

Please see **TRAFFIC SIGNALS, A2**



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

That's loud: Jim Evans fires a Civil War-era muzzle-loaded rifle Thursday as the fourth-graders from classes taught by Jeff Fordell, Carol Packard and Karen Habermas cover their ears.

Big bang

Bentley students learn about state

Jim Evans and Jim Graham of the Mackinac State Historic Parks Educational Outreach Program visited several Plymouth-Canton schools recently, including a stop last week at Bentley Elementary School in Canton.

Evans and Graham, based at Colonial Michilimackinac and Historic Mill Creek, brought animal pelts, authentic weapons, and loads of lore to give students a hands-on sense of Michigan's history.



No match: Wes Shelton (left), 10, helps Jim Evans light a fire using a flintstone and steel, as Jim Graham looks on during the demonstration at Bentley School.

Leap in faith: Church expansion planned

BY LILLY A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

Jill Meyers, her husband, Jeff, and 17-month-old daughter Abigail scurry into St. Thomas a' Becket Church on Lilley Road in Canton on Sunday in hopes they will get a seat. Many times they end up standing the entire service.

"Every Mass is crowded," Jill said. "If you don't get there at least 15 minutes early, you are not guaranteed a seat."

ST. THOMAS A' BECKET

Jill fears on Easter the church will be jammed.

"On Easter, we are going to leave a half hour early, even though we live three minutes away," she said.

The Meyers and some 2,800 other church families may be glad to hear St. Thomas a' Becket was granted unanimous approval Tuesday by the Canton

Township Board of Trustees for special land use to expand on its 10-acre site.

Dennis O'Beirne, chairman of the building committee, said they are planning to expand the west side of the building by 20,000 square feet. The new worship area will contain 1,200 stackable chairs, 450 more seats than are currently available. The chairs will

provide flexibility for seating disabled people and will allow expansion of religious education during the week.

The old part of the church will be used for offices, gathering and meeting rooms.

The parish will continue gathering throughout the expansion.

"They can build a new church (area) while they occupy the old church, and then one day we will move over."

Please see **CHURCH, A4**

KIA ready to roll as Canton's first-ever new car dealership

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

Residents may soon be able to purchase something they've never been able to get in Canton — a new car.

Dick Scott KIA hopes to open its doors by the end of this year. According to General Manager Jeff Scott, the Korean manufacturer offers solid products.

"We think they're really well-made," he said, noting that product lines won't interfere with his company's Dodge Dealership in Plymouth. "There is very little overlap between the two. We thought it would be a good fit."

The proposed dealership would be located on the north side of Michigan Avenue between Lilley and Haggerty roads. New car sales and service would be included at the site, which sits on 2.3 acres.

While KIA may not be a household name in Michigan, it has been making cars for more than a half-century. The company started with motorcycles and trucks and moved up to passenger cars.

A recent merger made KIA the largest manufacturer in Korea, said Scott. Its cars are popular in Asia, he added.

KIA came to the United States about five years ago. Scott said products were introduced in the west and have been moving east since.

"The Michigan-Wisconsin market is the last (to be penetrated)," he said.

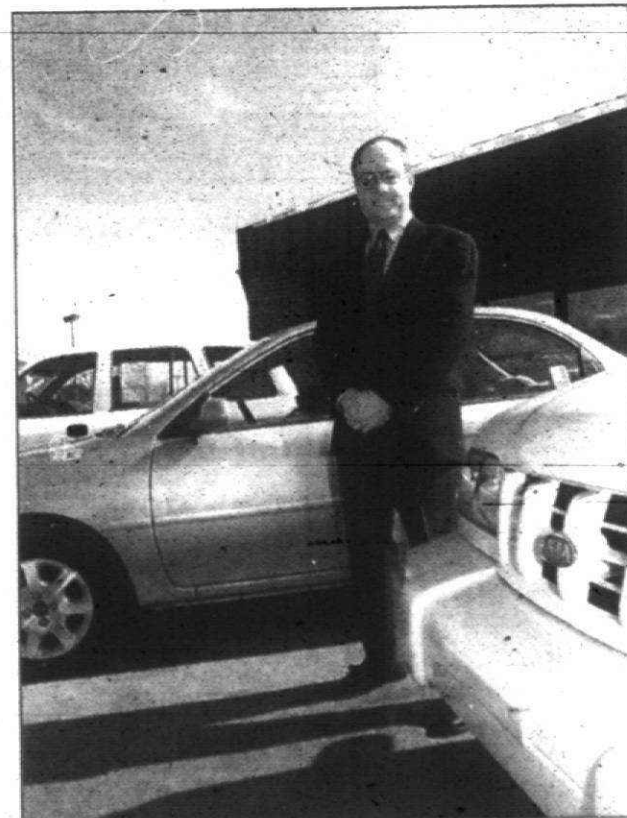
The Plymouth dealership began selling KIAs in January.

"We've had good interest," said Scott. "People have been pleased with the vehicles we've sold so far."

Currently, KIA offers a mini sports utility vehicle and a small sedan.

"Sportage" comes in four SUV variations plus a convertible. Prices start at \$15,500 and range up to \$21,000.

Please see **NEW CARS, A2**



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

New wheels: Jeff Scott, general manager of Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth, shows off the KIA models that will soon be available on Michigan Avenue in Canton.

Police get national exposure

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

It's not often that Canton makes national television.

But come early May, the township's police department will be featured on Fox's "America's Most Wanted" program. Producers and reporters worked on a three to five-minute segment Monday at the station.

"We give you exactly what happened," show spokesman Mike Molnar said. "It's real people with real emotions and real lives."

The show airs each Saturday at 9 p.m. on channel 2 in Canton. Hosted by John Walsh, "America's Most Wanted" is the network's longest running program with its start starting in 1988.

"We have a very loyal audience," Molnar said. "We stay No. 1 or 2 in the ratings every Saturday."

The show segment will focus on the police department's use of new composite picture drawing software, FACES, in helping to solve a rape case.

Mitchell Dean Sprossig of Monroe, 37, is accused of raping a 23-year-old Livonia woman last December in a Canton model home. He currently is awaiting trial on charges of criminal sexual conduct at Wayne County Circuit Court.

The alleged victim, who was working as a Realtor at the time of the incident, used the software program to draw a

Please see **TV SHOW, A2**

OBITUARIES

HAZEL D. BARTON Services for Hazel D. Barton, 75, of Canton Township were April 1 in the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth...

Creek. He was an industrial painter for the industrial painting company of Flint and Detroit. He came to the Canton community in 1944 from Kentucky...

Net rock: Rockers goalkeeper has inspirational message Detroit. She died March 19 in Plymouth. She was an executive secretary. She retired in 1992 from Massey-Ferguson after 23 years of service...

field after a recent game. A ball bounced off a player's rear end and into the net in overtime, which gave Finnerty his first victory as a professional coach...

removed," said Butch Raby, vice president for business services. Between May and August contractors will remove asbestos from ceiling tiles and elbow joints of water pipes...

plant fund will finance the improvements. Once the board approves the asbestos removal contract, contractors will begin sealing off sections at a time within the Liberal Arts Building...

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SALE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON County of Wayne, State of Michigan 1999 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOND (General Obligation Limited Tax)

be retained by the Township. No interest shall be allowed on the good faith check and checks of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to each bidder's representative or by overnight carrier service...

point and marketing symbol. His likeness and trademark diva was splashed on billboards along area freeways. However, his play along with the team's plummeted...

documents" for three years and that the commission consider specifically requiring that maintenance and repairs, including towing services, should be competitively bid...

documents" for three years and that the commission consider specifically requiring that maintenance and repairs, including towing services, should be competitively bid...

If You're Sick Of Saying It, How Do You Think Your Pet Feels? The Michigan Humane Society's Pet Education Center offers a variety of affordable group classes and private sessions specializing in positive reinforcement for dogs and puppies...

BOOK-ENTRY ONLY: The bonds will be issued in book-entry only form as one fully registered bond per maturity and will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as bondholder and nominee for The Depository Trust Company...

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting...

Read Arts & Leisure Mexican Gardens II FAMILY RESTAURANT Serving Authentic Mexican Food Buy One Lunch or Dinner and Receive HALF OFF A 2ND LUNCH OR DINNER

CHAMELEON BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM Specifications are available in the Finance & Budget Department. The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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INTEREST RATE AND BIDDING DETAILS: The bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates not exceeding 8% per annum, to be fixed by the bids therefor, expressed in multiples of 1/8 or 1/20 of 1%, or both. The interest on any one bond shall be at one rate only and all bonds maturing in any one year must carry the same interest rate...

ADVERTISMENT TO BID CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Sealed bids will be received by the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188 until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 15, 1999, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following: CHAMELEON BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

ADVERTISMENT TO BID CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Sealed bids will be received by the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188 until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 15, 1999, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following: PORTABLE LIGHTING SYSTEM

Computer Express Tech On-Site/In-Home Sales & Service Commercial & Residential Computer Networking PC Customizing Web Page Designing Y2K Inspection Basic Computer Training Internet Advertising Computer Rentals Y2K Solutions

Healthy Aging SAFWAN KAZIBOUZ, M.D., FAMILY & GERIATRIC MEDICINE, Orangeblaw Professional Center, 10523 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 Phone: (734) 422-5225

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE UPDATE Alzheimer's disease is the most common dementia (cognitive and memory decline) in people over the age of 65. It affects approximately 4 million Americans and is the fourth leading cause of death after heart disease, cancer and stroke. The emotional and social impact of this disease is suffered not only by patients, but also the caregivers.

GOOD FAITH: A certified or cashier's check drawn upon an incorporated bank or trust company or a Financial Surety Bond, in the amount of \$15,000, and payable to the order of the Treasurer of the Township is required for each bid as a guarantee of good faith on the part of the bidder...

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APRIL 8, 1999 Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1999 AT 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be held in the First Floor Meeting Room in the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD. The following Agenda will be discussed:

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE UPDATE Alzheimer's disease is the most common dementia (cognitive and memory decline) in people over the age of 65. It affects approximately 4 million Americans and is the fourth leading cause of death after heart disease, cancer and stroke. The emotional and social impact of this disease is suffered not only by patients, but also the caregivers.

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Residents named to GOP committee

Residents from Canton and Livonia were elected to the Wayne County Republican Committee at its recent biannual election in Dearborn Heights.

Attorney Donald L. Knapp Jr. of Livonia was elected first vice chair and Herb Scott of Canton, vice president for managed care at Major Pharmaceutical, was elected treasurer.

Elected as chair was attorney Margaret V. Van Houten. She replaces state Sen. Thaddeus

McCotter of Livonia who decided not to seek another term. Van Houten, 33, is a councilwoman in Dearborn Heights and the youngest chair in the history of the Wayne County Republican Committee.

Van Houten praised McCotter for his leadership over the last few years as chair of the committee and as a county commissioner.

"Senator McCotter is to be commended for his leadership in

ensuring the election of Republican county commissioners and conservative judges to the Wayne County Circuit Court. He went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that taxpayers are protected from big government.

"As a result of his leadership, Wayne County is the only county in Michigan that requires a supermajority to raise taxes," said Van Houten.

Others elected include: Gloria

Rocha of Detroit, the former chair of the 15th Congressional District Republican Committee, second vice chair and Krista Haroutunian of Detroit, an attorney with Edward L. Haroutunian, P.C., secretary.

The committee's major goals include the re-election of U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham as well as judges "dedicated to interpreting the law instead of creating it."

County parks host marshmallow drop at Nankin Mills

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped April 2 from a helicopter to the delight of hundreds of awaiting children, who will scramble to collect these goodies during the county's 14th Annual Great Marshmallow Drop, which also falls on Good Friday.

Children can turn in the marshmallows for prize-filled eggs at the drop at 11 a.m. at Nankin Mills in Westland. Children will collect the marshmallows in different age groups.

If the weather does not cooperate, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, April 3.

"This is an exciting

event for children of all ages," said Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara. "What a great way to start out the spring with a wonderful outdoor activity."

The Great Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by WNIC-FM and is the first of a record number of warm weather events planned by Wayne County Parks for 1999.

Nankin Mills is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For additional information on this or any other Wayne County parks event, call (734) 261-1990.

Inspectors from page A5

want to protect them. That is absolute insanity.

"Another complaint included 28 separate allegations about care provided to 17 residents including allegations that the director of nurses physically abused a resident because she could not stand the sound of the resident gritting her teeth -115 days without doing anything about it.

"An employee was fired for refusing to falsify documents - 136 days with nothing done about it.

"A resident signed himself out of a home and did not return for 251 days. Investigation? No.

Nothing done about it.

"Another facility had 16 complaints that have not been investigated. The oldest uninvestigated complaint, alleged that a resident's leg was amputated because the facility did not take proper precautions to prevent infection. That complaint has gone 320 days without being investigated."

Feds critical

Cherry, the Senate minority leader, said Young's amendment was prompted by two federal reports showing severe flaws

with Michigan's nursing home enforcement. The General Accounting Office, a congressional agency, criticized the state for minimizing the seriousness of complaints and failing to follow up.

Engler's budget message said, "The highlight of the FY-2000 recommendation is a new \$10 million Nursing Home Quality Incentive Grant program which CIS will administer with assistance from the Michigan Quality Council.

"The grant program will reward homes that consistently

maintain health and safety standards while going the extra mile to provide quality care."

The CIS budget covers all state inspections and regulations. It also provided \$20.8 million in arts grants, the same as last year.

Refer to Senate Bill 361 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909-7514.

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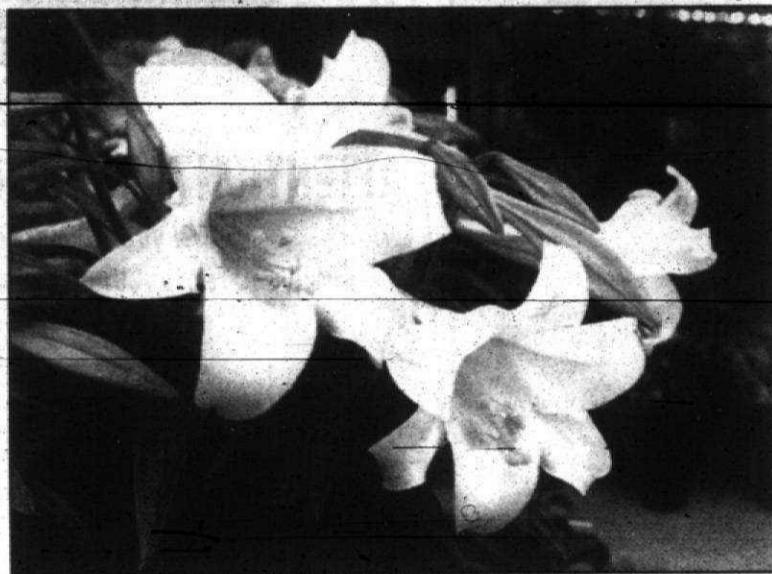
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STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Easter blooms

Sign of spring The Easter season is a busy time at area floral shops and markets, including Westborn Market on Middlebelt Road in Livonia. Earlier this week, Phyllis Johnson (above) of Chickamauga, Ga., in town visiting family, stopped by the Westborn Market to pick up some flowers before visiting her mother's gravesite in Livonia. Westborn will be open at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday for flower shoppers. Westborn stocks more than 1,000 plants for the Easter holiday. While lilies are popular, customers also purchase azaleas, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, according to floral manager Kate Butsky.



UM-D chief supports Engler's tier funding

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

The chancellor of the University of Michigan-Dearborn broke with the leadership from Ann Arbor and is supporting Gov. John Engler's "four-tier" formula for funding 15 state universities.

James C. Renick, who is leaving for North Carolina July 14 after six years, told a House budget panel that Engler's recommendation "establishes a plan for stable and predictable funding."

"While there are many questions about the rankings recommended in the executive budget," Renick said, "the idea of funding tiers recognizes that our colleges and universities have different missions and meet different needs, and hence require different levels of support from the state."

UM-Dearborn would be in tier 2, along with Oakland and Western Michigan universities, getting \$4,700 per student.

The plan was opposed a week later by Lee Bollinger, U-M president, who called the tier formula "unwise. It takes away the role of the Legislature to make annual complex judgments. Every single university is special. Abandon the idea of formula funding altogether."

Bollinger predicted Engler's formula, if enacted, would force up U-M tuition 4 to 5 percent.

Renick said UM-Dearborn, however, "will be able to stay within the governor's recommendation for minimal tuition increases."

Meanwhile, U-M announced March 22 that Renick is leaving to become chancellor of the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. It's considered an "historically black college," said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the 16-campus University of North Carolina.

A native of Rockford, Ill., Renick attended colleges in Ohio, Kansas and Florida and

worked his way up the administrative ladder in Florida before joining UM-D in January of 1993.

Bollinger praised Renick for "working closely with faculty and business and community leaders."

While one board of regents governs U-M's Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses, they are operated separately and have separate line items in the \$1.48 billion state higher education budget.

UM-D is proposed for \$25.7 million in Engler's FY 2000 budget.

The campuses have quite different missions.

While UM is considered a world-class research university, UM-Dearborn notes that it's part of "the intellectual capital of the auto industry," with two-thirds of students in some programs gaining work experience and salaries as interns in business.

Renick said he got a "valentine" message from a Compaq recruiter who said he's "happy if I get one candidate from each day's interviewing." At UM-D, the recruiter had five applicants and "I found four that I would have hired on the spot ... These are the best prepared and brightest students that I interviewed all week."

Now 40 years old, the UM-Dearborn campus has the highest percentage of engineering students (12 percent of credit hours) of any state university except Michigan Tech, Renick said.

"At UM-Dearborn," said Renick, "instructional and physical plant costs associated with teaching engineering, computer science and natural sciences are major factors in our cost structure."

During Renick's tenure, UM-D enrollment has risen to a record 8,300 and will continue to rise 2-3 percent a year, he said. Major building projects have been completed, and the campus raised \$25 million in capital.

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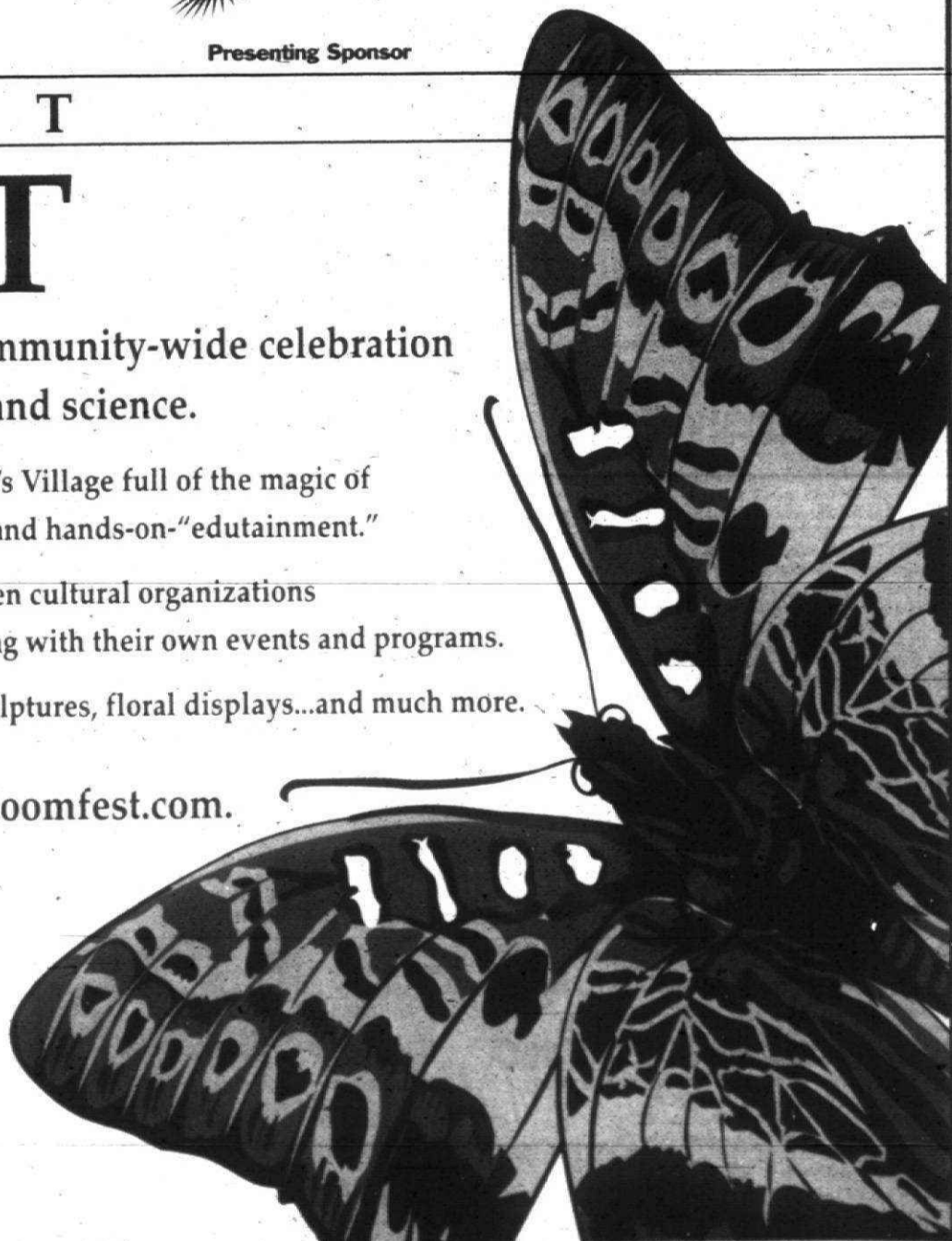


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STATE CAPITOL CAPSULES

New laws

Most bills passed by the Michigan Legislature take effect 90 days after lawmakers adjourn at the end of December in even-numbered years. Here are some 1998 laws hitting the books this week:

No cloning - Human cloning becomes illegal, and violators can face 10 years in prison, loss of professional licenses for five years and fines of \$30 million. Sponsor was Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton. Cloning is the creation of a duplicate human being by genetic manipulation.

Fewer billboards - Scenic roadways will have fewer billboards under PA 553, which hikes fees for erecting and maintaining billboards and spaces them 500 feet apart. The act also bans stacking billboards and establishes a felony penalty for destroying trees within a road right of way.

Jet Skis - The Personal Watercraft Safety Act require anyone renting Jet Skis or similar products to complete a boater safety course or obtain training in safety prior to rental. Violators can get 90 days in jail and fines up to \$500.

Hazardous wastes - Polluters must pay the costs of dumping hazardous wastes under new amendments to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Payment would be in addition to court fines, said the sponsor, Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton. His

amendment covers persons involved in transporting, treating, storing, disposing of, or generating hazardous wastes.

New bridges

Some 71 local bridges will get a 50 percent funding boost for repairs and replacement, the state Department of Transportation announced. MDOT improved funding from \$19 million last year to \$29 million this year.

On the list, with estimated costs:

Wayne County - Haggerty Road bridge over Middle Rouge River, \$1.75 million.

New bills

Nursing homes - Sen. George Hart, D-Dearborn, has introduced SB 426 requiring the Department of Consumer and Industry Services to create a consumer rating index for nursing homes. Ratings would be based on the number and types of accidents, care, nutritional value of meals and staffing levels. Ratings would be published through Internet, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Office of Services to the Aging.

Loan interest - Bennett has introduced a bill that would allow students to deduct interest payments on their student loans from state taxes. SB 483 was sent to the Senate Finance Committee.

Compiled from news releases by Tim Richard, staff writer.

SC offers classes, special events

Schoolcraft College offers a series of classes and seminars through its Continuing Education Services department. The upcoming schedule includes:

■ **Internet for Seniors** - Learn how easy it is to send your grandchildren e-mail, check your investments and make travel arrangements on the Web. You can even locate people you lost touch with years ago. The one-day class is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, for a \$67 fee.

■ **Attracting Songbirds and Butterflies to Your Garden** - Learn what to plant in your garden to attract and feed butterflies, songbirds and hummingbirds. Choose from trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials to qualify your yard for registration with the National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat Program. This one-day class is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, for a \$51 fee.

■ **Dinner for Four or More** - This one-day class will focus on spring and summer meals, with demonstrations, tastings and recipes. Topics include barbecue tips; light marinades, salads and appetizers presented by Chef Kelli Lewton. The class is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, for a \$70 fee.

■ **It Makes Scents: An**

Introduction to Aromatherapy - Identify the 10 most effective essential oils, which oils to avoid and techniques for blending and application. Create your own aromatherapy preparation and learn to treat basic needs. The one-day class is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3. The fee is \$44.

■ **Geothermal Seminars** - Learn to save up to 60 percent on your energy bills with information on environmentally friendly geothermal systems, which use the earth's natural resources to heat and cool homes. The one-day class is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. for free.

■ **How To Start a Bed and Breakfast Inn** - Get realistic information on how to become a successful innkeeper, including locating an inn, financing, zoning, marketing, insurance and the basics of innkeeping.

The four-week class begins Wednesday, April 14 at 7 p.m. for a \$61 fee.

■ **On-Line Computer Courses** - A series of on-line, interactive computer courses begins Wednesday, April 14. They include: Creating Web Pages; Advanced Web Pages; Microsoft FrontPage 98; CGI Programming for the Web; Introduction to PC Trou-

bleshooting; Introduction to Quickbooks; and Windows File and Disk Management. All class fees are \$59.

■ **Experienced Rider Course** - This one-day class is for the licensed cyclist and specifically designed for large touring motorcycles and sport bikes, with emphasis on advanced riding skills. The class is at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 18. Fee is \$25 fee.

For information on these or other CES classes, call 734-462-4448.

Other events include Kids on Campus Showcase - kids have been busy on campus all semester and are ready to display what they have learned. You can read their books and see their projects 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 3, in the physical educational building.

■ **Music-Club Recital Series** - A free noon concert features Elizabeth Parcells, coloratura soprano from Detroit, with songs and arias by Mozart, Donizetti and Bellini. The Wednesday, April 14 concert is in the Forum-Recital Hall. A reception will follow the concert.

■ **International Dinner** - Enjoy a five-course meal of food from the Mediterranean prepared by second-year culinary

students. Serving begins at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, April 15 in the American Harvest Restaurant. The cost is \$25.95 per person. Call (734) 462-4488 for reservations.

■ **Women's Resource Center Luncheon Series** - Greg Kramer, doctor of chiropractic, presents "All Stressed Out and Nowhere to Go" in Waterman Center at noon Friday, April 16. The event is free, but bring a brown bag lunch.

■ **Collage Concert** - The annual collage concert features all the College's performing groups: the Community Choir, jazz choirs, the Wind Ensemble, the MIDI Ensemble and other chamber groups and soloists. The music begins at 8 p.m. Friday, April 16 in the Radcliff Community Room at Radcliff Center in Garden City. The concert is free, but donations are welcome at the door.

■ **Beekeepers School** - Beekeepers will gather at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 17 to learn the latest on bees, with workshops for beginners and pros. Non-members must pay a \$5 fee at the door, and everyone is asked to bring a passing dish.

For information on these events, call (734) 462-4417.

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HOOKED ON HISTORY



VIRGINIA BAILEY PARKER

Fashion trends can prove to be bit unhealthy

Any woman whose feet ever hurt wearing shoes with spike heels and pointed toes knows that current fashions are not always in her best interest. Looking back on fashions, it's clear that some trends have been downright unhealthy.

Take the 19th century, for example. In the 1830s, fashions were designed for the well-to-do.

Dropped shoulders — with seams placed part way down the upper arm — on stylish dresses prevented women from raising their arms. Dressed this way, a woman could do little work around the house.

Naturally, a woman who could afford to wear such a dress needed servants for household chores. But the expectation was also in place that she would be graciously sedentary, which did her cardiovascular system no good.

The average women could not afford the luxury of such a style. Nor could she wear the hobbled skirt that restricted walking, which was produced later in the century. In some ways, those of lesser means were better off.

Ideals of physical beauty were also detrimental. A fair complexion was so valued, along with a fragile nature, that the porcelain pallor of a consumptive (tubercular) victim was admired. Some praised the "half-closed eye" — an unfortunate euphemism for the heavy lidded look of illness — as "beauty soft-reclining." Women whitepied their faces with rice powder to imitate this delicate appearance, which they equated with femininity.

Dreaded corsets

And what of corsets? This unfortunate contraption impeded the simple ability to breathe normally as I saw demonstrated at a contra (Virginia Reel style) dance a few years ago. When a woman in Civil War costume was winded, I asked if she found the spirited dance too taxing.

"No," she said. "My corset won't let me get enough air!"

No wonder Victorian women were prone to fainting. Social activists, including doctors, condemned corsets for causing other serious — and sometimes fatal — problems. Tight lacing constricted the waist so much that organs were pushed out of place. Lower ribs, also crushed into unnatural positions, sometimes poked into lungs.

Various social reform campaigns encouraged looser fitting clothes, including pants and divided skirts. The most famous, of course, was designed by Amelia Bloomer, whose name is forever linked with "bloomers." When she introduced the Turkish-style trousers in 1849, ladies weren't too fond of the style, nor were most men, so it didn't catch on.

Not every woman dismissed the need for pants, however. In 1865, Dr. Mary Walker was photographed in a knee-length, flared jacket over straight-legged pants. Braided trim gave the outfit a military flair. Even her wavy hair, which fell loose to her waist, disregarded convention. She blazed a lot of trails, though, starting with the fact that Walker was an assistant surgeon in the Civil War, when women doctors were few and far between.

One group that agitated for improvements was the Rational Dress Society, which Viscountess Harberton formed in 1880. It promoted styles "based upon considerations of health, comfort and beauty."

One of its recommendations dealt with heavy layers of fabric in dresses and undergarments that encumbered women. The society recommended that underclothing — it noted that this should exclude shoes — should not weigh more than 7 pounds.

The society also proposed a divided skirt — or knickerbockers — with a loose-fitting tunic. Playwright Oscar Wilde was one of the famous reform

Please see HISTORY, B2



Layer by layer: Dana Pososki of Livonia (photo above) works on designing her egg, placing wax in the areas she would like to keep red before putting on the last color, black.

It's become a tradition at Livonia's Sandburg Public Library — Sandy Ewasek of Livonia teaching the art of Ukrainian Easter egg decorating to an eager group of students.

Thirty people, ages 12 and up, spent four hours Saturday learning how to create the eggs, called pysanky. While Ewasek has been teaching the class at the library for four years, the peasants of the Ukraine and other Eastern European regions have been decorating egg shells with melted beeswax and dye for thousands of years.

"I try to help them get the technique down, so they'll be able to do more complicated designs on their own," said Ewasek. "I teach them how to measure the egg. One side should be the same as the other. Some of the designs they do better with, if the egg is measured properly."

Traditionally, pysanky are made during the last week of Lent, Holy Week in the Catholic and Orthodox calendars. They are then taken to the church on Easter Sunday to be blessed, after which they are given to family members and respected outsiders.

Pysanky are whole, raw eggs which have been decorated with a complicated wax-resist method. As the egg goes through a series of dyebaths, from light to dark colors, designs are drawn (or "write,"



All done: Stonee Moran of Livonia holds up her finished Ukrainian-decorated Easter egg.

as Ukrainians would say) on the shell with hot wax after each dyeing.

A small, hollow funnel attached to a stick, called a kistka, is often used to heat the wax and write with. The egg is dipped in a light colored dye — yellow, for instance — and those designs that are intended to be yellow are written.

Another, darker dye bath is followed by more



Finishing touches: Fellow students watch as Cheryl Gamble of Livonia holds her completed egg near a candle to remove the layers of wax.

Eggstra special

PART OF

Easter

writing, and so on until the entire design in its several colors is on the egg. Then the egg is heated, often in the flame of a candle, and the melted wax is wiped off it. The finished egg is then coated with varnish to protect it.

In earlier times, decorated eggs were buried in the newly planted wheat fields and hung from fruit trees to assure bountiful crops. People believed the eggs had special powers to help them in daily life. Of the designs, animals represent prosperity and wealth; birds, the warding off of evil; the 8-pointed star, success; and wheat, the life's work of the peasant.

Each of the designs and colors on the pysanka is likely to have a deep, symbolic meaning. Traditionally, pysanky designs are chosen to match the character of the person to whom the pysanka is to be given.

Ewasek learned to make pysanky about eight years ago. Her husband, who is half Ukrainian, always wanted his children to make the eggs, but they were too busy. So Ewasek, who isn't Ukrainian, learned how.

"I adore my father-in-law and have interest in art, so I decided to do the eggs," said Ewasek, who confirmed that she will be teaching the class at the library next year.

Believers look to icon for help

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

It was a somber scene at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia last Friday. Families rolled relatives in wheelchairs up to the church. Others walked slowly with canes or with a limp.

Almost all of the 600 people who attended services that night came to pray in front of an icon streaming rose-scented oil that the Very Rev. Michael Matsko of Holy Transfiguration said is myrrh.

They were seeking miracles. "I'm hoping that possibly it can do some good. I have a friend who has been diagnosed with lung cancer," said Sue Williams of Livonia. "We're trying different things."

Williams added that it was worth a try because Holy Transfiguration is so close to her home.

"It's not something I'd make a pilgrimage to, it's in my neighborhood," she said. "It's something I can actually get involved with without too much expense or trouble."

She came with Dorothy Williams, also of Livonia. She is hoping that a sample of the oil coming from the icon will cure her mother.

"I used to go to the healing Mass over at St. Genevieve; this is an extension to that," Dorothy said. "Also because my mother has eye problems and I thought maybe I could get some of the oil."

A line of people stretched from the chapel, down the hallway and outside of Holy Transfiguration. At 6:45 p.m.,

15 minutes before the service started, the seats of the small, muggy chapel were filled. Some stood inside while others waited outside or in the hallway.

As each person came to the end of the aisle separating two sections of folding chairs, he or she stopped in front of the icon and prayed. The icon sat at an angle so a clear glass could catch the dripping oil. After the service, patrons were anointed with the oil and received a swab of it to take home.

Visitation is decided on a monthly basis, Matsko explained. The icon, which is called the "Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Mother of God," will be displayed 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays in April at the church, 36075 W. Seven.

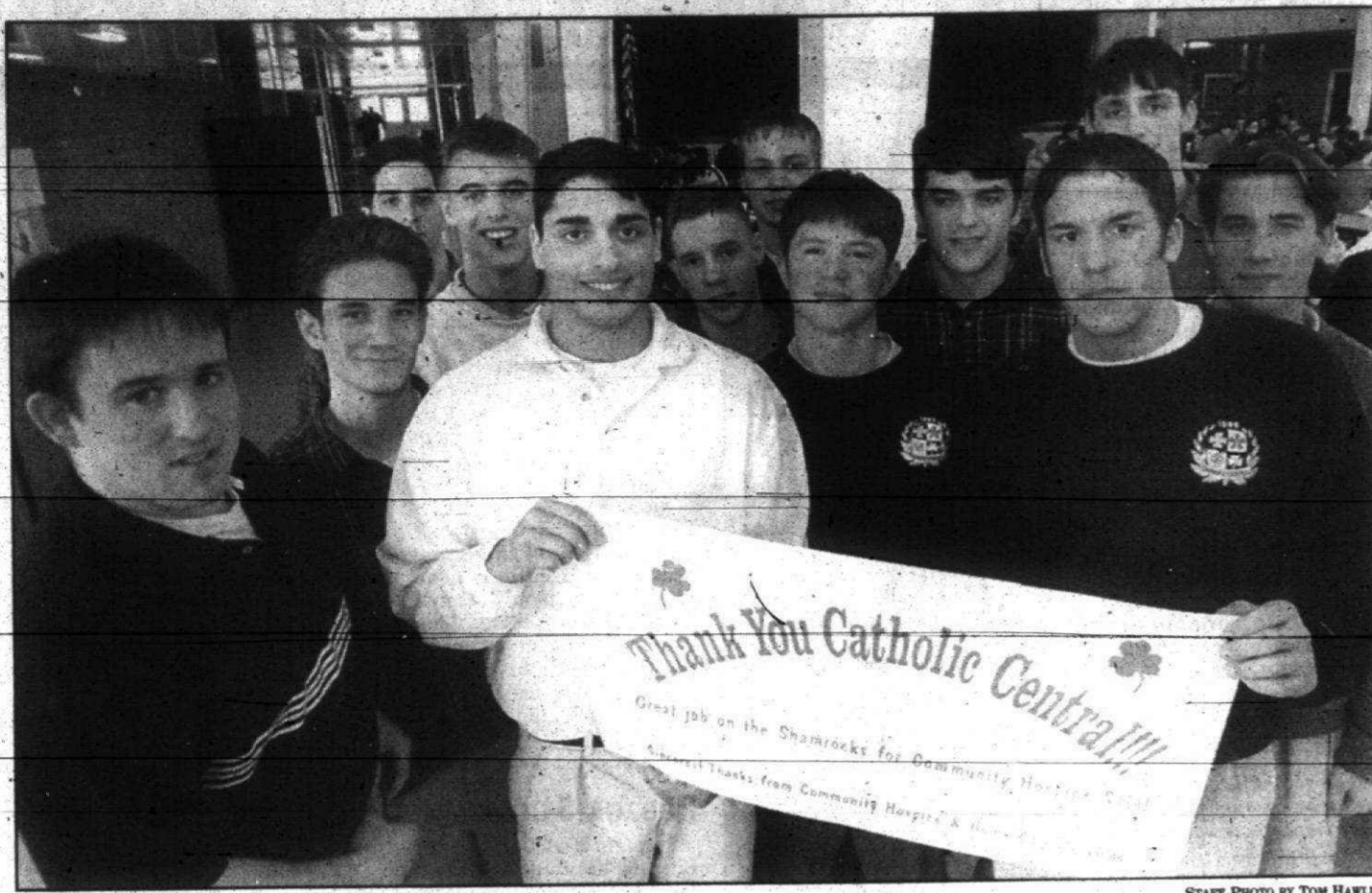
Please see ICON, B2



Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Mother of God

Piece of success: Tip-selling CC seniors savor party

The apples weren't a big hit, but 15 pizzas, a selection of brownies and cookies and pop disappeared quickly as members of the senior class...



We're No. 1: Flanked by fellow Catholic Central seniors, Dave Varlesi (left) and Dave Lusky hold the sign...

Sine-Fasadni

Antoinette L. Sine of St. Clair Shores announces the engagement of her daughter, Susanna...



An October wedding is planned at the Shrine of the Little Flower.

Hebert-Limke

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hebert of Somerset, Mich., formerly of Garden City, announce the engagement of their daughter...



A June wedding in Warren is being planned.

Simmons-Sharlun

R. Neil and Sharlene Simmons of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Nikki Lee...



A May wedding is planned at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Dacre-Welch

Olivia Jean Welch and Brent Andrew Dacre were married at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth...



To serve as his best man with Leif Rothoff, Jeff Naumanx, Colin Cronin and Rob Welch Jr. as groomsmen...

Downer-Fockens

Jeff and Kay Downer of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Meredith Leigh...



A May wedding is planned at Glenview Community Church in Glenview.

Alexander-Blanchard

Evelyn Barnes of Weidman announces the engagement of her daughter, Tammy Sue Alexander...



A May wedding is planned in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Krider-Doyle

Robin Krider Kelly of Roseville announces the engagement of her daughter, Denzel Marie...



University Alumni Chapel in East Lansing.

Go traditional or modern in filling your Easter baskets

Creating Easter baskets for everyone - kids, spouses and friends - is easy and fast, if you look at the history of the holiday...

Icon from page B1

Mile, Livonia. For more information, call Holy Transfiguration at (248) 476-3432 or visit www.oec.org...

rebirth. The Pennsylvania Dutch introduced the first modern American custom of Easter baskets...

History from page B1

ers who waded in on this issue. He approved of the style, but felt that a divided skirt must not mimic a dress...

Be a sport, read Sports

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1999 REQUEST FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FOR MASTER AUTOMATIC, INC.

NEW VOICES

Gary and Barbara Overstreet of Westland announce the birth of Gary Michael Nov. 25 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital...

Erin Kristina Jan. 10 at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins two siblings, Amanda and Tyler...

YW membership drive aims at teens, adults

The YWCA of Western Wayne County is springing into action to sign up new members. The women's organization is looking for more teens and adult women...

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN WORKS NOVIFEST ANNUAL NOVI ART FAIR APR. 16, 17, 18, 1999

ESCAPE A GUIDE TO GETAWAYS You've Got Guests Coming! To be exact, about 400,000 potential guests!

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Risen Christ Lutheran 46250 Ann Arbor Road 11 Miles West of Detroit

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First General Baptist Church 42890 Cherry Hill-Canton, Michigan 48180

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PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

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Brightmoor Tabernacle Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, pastor

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Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church 14750 Knioch • Redford Twp. 532-8655

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Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia Rev. Jean Love

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NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 36500 Ann Arbor Trail

United Methodist Church 10000 Beech Dale, Redford

Agapé Christian Academy - K through 12 45061 Goddard Road, Canton, MI 48188

WEEKEND LITURGY SCHEDULE Saturday: 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.

April 4th 'Tears Turned to Cheers' Rev. Thomas G. Badley, preaching

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OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH 23815 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia

NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 36500 Ann Arbor Trail

United Methodist Church 10000 Beech Dale, Redford

Religion from page B5

There is no admission charge. Children under age 5 will not be admitted in the auditorium, however, child care will be provided. For more information, call the church at (734) 453-5534.

'HOMECOMING' SERVICE The Rev. Jimmy Lawson of Community Free Will Baptist Church will conduct a 'Homecoming' service Sunday, April 11, at the church, 33081 Cherry Hill Road, Westland.

Committed to building peace and justice, Pax Christi Michigan will focus on 'Voices of Hope: Lesbians and Gays in the Church' when it holds its 19th annual state conference in April in Detroit.

care will be provided for those registered by April 9. For more information, call Pax Christi Michigan at (517) 482-2558.

covering such topics as "The Spiritual Genesis of Fear," "PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays): Support and Empowerment" and "Matthew Shepherd's Legacy: Facing the Reality of Hate Violence."

Catholic Church" (Twenty-Third Publications, 1992). They also are co-founders of New Ways Ministry, a national reconciliation ministry for the church and gay and lesbian people.

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CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions...

BISHOP BORGESS Class of 1989 A reunion is planned for August...

CHERRY HILL Class of 1983 Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August...

DETROIT CENTRAL January-June classes of 1944 May 23 at the Hotel Baronette in Novi...

DETROIT MACKENZIE Class of 1949 A reunion is planned for May 22...

DETROIT PERSHING Classes of 1949-53 Are planning a reunion...

DETROIT REDFORD Class of 1949 May 15 at Plum Hollow Country Club...

DETROIT SOUTHEASTERN Class of 1949 A reunion is planned for May 15...

FARMINGTON Class of 1989 Nov. 26 at the Best Western

GARDEN CITY WEST Class of 1968 A reunion is planned for September...

JOHN GLENN Class of 1979 Oct. 2 at the Wayne Ford Civic League in Westland...

LIVONIA BENTLEY Class of 1964 July 24 at the Holiday Inn-Laural Park in Livonia...

LIVONIA FRANKLIN Class of 1979 Aug. 7 at the DoubleTree Suites in Southfield...

PLYMOUTH Class of 1969 Aug. 6-8 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi...

PLYMOUTH CANTON Class of 1979 Aug. 7 at the Holiday Inn-West in Livonia...

PLYMOUTH SALEM Class of 1979 Aug. 14 at the Holiday Inn-Laural Park in Livonia...

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ST. MARY'S OF REDFORD Class of 1979 Sept. 11 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi...

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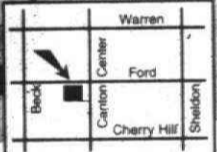
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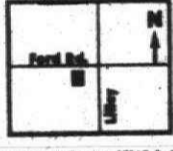
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ANNIVERSARY SALE

Churchill graduate is MSU's big stopper

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER
bemons@oe.homedom.net

Joe Blackburn got a dose of reality in the semifinals of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

The sophomore goaltender from Michigan State, who owns the nation's best goals-against average (1.49) and save percentage (.928), came into the game against Northern Michigan riding a personal 17-game winning streak.

The Spartans carried a 3-2 lead into the final period, only to be stunned by three NMU unanswered goals resulting in a 5-3 defeat.

"It was a pretty good lesson for us — that we can be beaten," said the Livonia Churchill High product. "When you have that kind of streak you think you're pretty invincible."

Maybe the loss is a good omen, according to Blackburn.

"We remembered last year we won the CCHA playoffs and then lost in the first round of the NCAAs," he said. "Coach (Ron) Mason told everybody not to get down and this game (against NMU) had no bearing on us getting an NCAA bid. We were pretty much assured a first-round

HOCKEY

bye anyway."

Things are abuzz these days in East Lansing.

The MSU men's basketball team took center stage last weekend against No. 1 Duke in St. Petersburg, Fla., in the Final Four.

Meanwhile, MSU's hockey team, 28-5-7 overall, is just one win away from the Frozen Four at The Pond in Anaheim, Calif.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, the Spartans await the winner of Friday's NCAA regional game in Madison, Wis. between St. Lawrence (N.Y.) and Colorado College.

"It's kind of nice being up here (East Lansing) right now," Blackburn said. "Right now we're trying to see who can go farther, yet we'd like to be the first two teams to win it in the same year. I don't think that's ever been done. It's a healthy rivalry because we push and root for each other."

Blackburn, a second-team All-CCHA selection, credits much of his first-year success to MSU's defensive system. It's a cross between a left-wing lock and a trap.

"It's kind of complicated to explain," Blackburn said. "We

always have three guys back and we usually have one guy going in hard. We played a similar system last year.

"Our defense has been so phenomenal this year. We usually average 10 blocked shots per game."

Two first-period goals by Northern Michigan proved to be an ominous sign for the Spartans.

"They're a good defensive team," Blackburn said. "They're a tough team to play. And I wasn't really sharp. It was tough to get in a groove. And after giving up a couple early goals, it was tough battling back."

Blackburn's confidence, however, is not shaken.

He entered Sunday's NCAA regional final with a 20-4-7 record and the best goaltending numbers in collegiate hockey since Hall of Famer Ken Dryden.

Blackburn also got a boost of

confidence on New Year's Eve when he started in goal and made 36 saves for Team USA against host Canada in the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships (held in Winnipeg, Manitoba).

"That was just a great experience for me because I remember watching the World Juniors on CBC (television) and a lot of those guys are now in the NHL," Blackburn said. "The crowd there was just going bananas and to do it in their own arena was special."

Blackburn came to MSU as a scholarship player from the Computware Ambassadors of the North American Junior Hockey. He spent his freshman season as a backup to All-America Chad Alban.

His first experience as a goaltender came as a 10-year-old when he played for the state

Squirt AAA champion Fruehauf Flyers.

"I was a player the first three years and that was my first travel team and the first time I played goalie," Blackburn recalled.

His Squirt AAA coach, Bob Goodenow, now the Executive Director of the NHL Players' Association, had a big influence on his game. Goodenow's son Joe, a freshman forward, is also a member of the MSU team.

"Joe is an unorthodox goaltender in some respects," coach Ron Mason said in MSU's media guide. "He relies on his quickness. He'll make the uncanny save that you never expect, so he can be flamboyant."

The goaltender, who is a fan of the Detroit Red Wings and Buffalo Sabres' Dominik Hasek, hopes to lead MSU to its first NCAA title since 1986.

That year was also special for a Livonia player as former Franklin High grad Mike Donnelly led the Spartans to the title and won the Hobey Baker award, the equivalent of college football's Heisman Trophy.

"It's only one game right now and we can't look beyond that because every team in this tournament is good," Blackburn said. "We know St. Lawrence plays a defensive style and their goaltender is pretty phenomenal. And Colorado College plays on an Olympic-size ice rink and they're more of an offensive team."

Blackburn is majoring in Special Education at MSU.

At Churchill he earned two letters in baseball.

But he is not ready for other spring activities right now.

A good dose of medicine would be an NCAA championship ring.

Outdoors from page C5

Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours are 10 a.m. to sunset Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. On Mondays and Tuesdays only the sporting clay course is open, noon to sunset. Bald Mountain is located at 1830 Greenshield Road, which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Road. Call (248) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours are 12-5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Road. Call (248) 693-6767 for more information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7756; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

APRIL FOOL'S WALK
A naturalist-led hike under the light of the "Blue Moon" begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1, at Stony Creek.

SLOPPIN' THE HOGS
Children age 5 and older can help feed the farm animals during this program, which begins at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at Kensington.

NATURE PROGRAMS
The nature center at Stony Creek will offer the following programs beginning at 11 a.m. each day during spring break: Funny Frog Faces, Monday, April 5; Hot Dogs and Stories, Tuesday, April 6; Pickin' Pellets,

Wednesday, April 7; Turtles and Tortoises, Thursday, April 8; Bluebirds for You, Friday, April 9.

SPRING CLEANUP
Spring cleanup days are scheduled at several Metroparks in the upcoming weeks. Most programs last one-half day and lunch is provided for all volunteers who register in advance. Cleanup days will be held Saturday, April 3, at Walcott Mills, (800) 477-3175; Saturday, April 17, at Stony Creek, (800) 781-4242; and Metro Beach, (800) 477-3172; and Saturday, April 24, at Lake Erie, (800) 477-3189; and Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

1999 PERMITS
The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call (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.

SPRING EGGCITEMENT
Learn how nature decorates eggs and enjoy some egg games and crafts during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at Independence Oaks.

AMPHIBIAN AMBLE
Meet live frogs and take a walk to listen for amphibian antics during this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at Independence Oaks.

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) 349-8300. For programs at Bald Mountain, call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland, call (810) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake, call (810) 229-7067.

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Keely Wygonik, Editor 734-953-2105

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



West End Productions presents "Saucy, Bossy and Burlesque," a comedy that captures the spirit and jokes of a vanished era, 9 p.m. at the Wunderground Theatre, 110 S. Main St., (1 block south of 11 Mile Road), downtown Royal Oak. Tickets \$12, call (248) 541-1763.

SATURDAY



Visit the Japanese Snow Monkeys at the Detroit Zoo, and follow the bunny trail that winds through the length of the park. Several treat stations offer candy, food, books, and toys for children (while supplies last), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Guests who bring in a non-perishable food item from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. admitted free, food goes to Mother Waddles Perpetual Mission. Zoo admission is \$7.50, \$5.50 seniors/students, \$4.50 children ages 2-12. \$3 parking. (800) 732-3477 or (248) 398-0903

SUNDAY



Henry (Steve Martin) and Nancy (Goldie Hawn) star in the comedy "The Out-Of-Towners," now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters.

HOT TICKET



"Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball," a new touring exhibit at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave. in Detroit's Cultural Center, opening Saturday, April 3 and continuing through Sunday, May 16. Admission \$5 adults, \$3 children (17 and under). The museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (313) 494-5800 for information.

A BEGINNING TO AN END



Off to see the wizard: Casey Colgan as the Scarecrow, and Jessica Grove (Dorothy) in a scene from "The Wizard of Oz."

There's no place like the road for Dorothy

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

Remember the scene in "The Wizard of Oz" where Dorothy repeats "there's no place like home," clicks her heels and off she goes, back to Kansas.

Born at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Grove lived in Birmingham as a child, and later moved to Ohio where she is an honor student at Hilliard Davidson High School. Home is Hilliard, Ohio near Columbus, where she lives with her parents, Willie and Katie, and her brother, Thomas.

"I still like going home, but also, there's no place like the road. It's like a second home," said Jessica Grove who plays Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," now playing at the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

Grove has been touring with the show since 1997. She was 15 years old then, and celebrated her 17th birthday in February.

She's followed the Yellow Brick Road all across the country, but her journey is coming to an end.

The search is on for a new Dorothy to replace her. "My last show will be late this year," she said. "I've decided to finish my senior year in my own backyard."

There have been a few breaks

"My last show will be late this year," she said. "I've decided to finish my senior year in my own backyard."

Jessica Grove

in between shows. This tour of "The Wizard of Oz" began Dec. 26, and Grove's been on the road ever since.

It hasn't always been fun or easy. "Honestly, during the first tour I started doubting myself," she said in a telephone interview from Chicago where the show is now playing. "I was missing home, my friends, my cat."

But now, she feels differently about things. "It's definitely opened a lot of doors. I got to go to the Grammy's this year. It was like one big huge concert."

Grove also liked seeing all the different stars, "and what they were wearing."

Traveling has allowed her the opportunity to check out some colleges. She's leaning toward Boston Conservatory because they're supportive of actresses like her, and allow time off to be in shows.

But Grove's not star struck, and recognizes that being Dorothy is an opportunity to

make children smile. "I visit hospitals and take the kids Beanbag Babies. It's really rewarding," she said.

Grove loves what she does, and wants to pursue a career in film and TV and do more musicals too.

She has some advice for the girls who will be auditioning to be the new Dorothy in this production, or for other shows.

"Just have a good time," she said. "It's an opportunity to show your stuff. It's good experience to audition whether you get to finals or not. You win some, you lose some. You don't get everything you try out for. You have to fit the role, and you don't always. They won't cast you to play the mean girl if you look too sweet. I've been at auditions where people said I was too nice."

Working with Mickey Rooney who plays the Wizard has been fun. "He's a character," said Grove laughing. "But he takes good-care of me, and makes sure I eat my dinner."

Being on the road is also a challenge academically. Grove still has to do her school work, often while other cast members are out for a leisurely dinner, or working out at the gym.

"We do 10-12 shows a week," she said. "It's a pretty tough schedule. Sometimes I feel left out, but it's one of the sacrifices I have to make."

This production of "The Wizard of Oz," has changed a little from the one presented last year. "They improved it a bit," said Grove. "It's pretty much the same, except for the scenery improvements, and choreography."

Her favorite moment of the show is when she gets to sing "Somewhere Over The Rainbow." "The stage is mine," she said.

Please see DOROTHY, E2



Jeffrey Jacob Tauber Hyke

Young actor says good-bye to cast, hello to school

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

After 13 months on the road together, Jeffrey Jacob Tauber Hyke of Rochester Hills felt like part of the "Les Miserables" family.

"The hardest part of leaving the tour was saying good-bye," said Hyke, 12, who played the part of Gavroche, a street urchin. "It was like saying good-bye to family. I like

"It was great," said Hyke. "But I've been there long enough," he said about the tour. Happy to be home, Hyke had to quickly learn a new part - middle school student.

choked for five minutes."

On Monday, Feb. 15, Hyke and his mother, Susan Tauber, a staff reporter for the Clarkston edition of the Eccentric Newspapers, came home.

"It was great," said Hyke. "But I've been there long enough," he said about the tour.

Happy to be home, Hyke had to quickly learn a new part - middle school student.

"It's good, I'm getting used to it, except for getting up at 6 a.m.," said Hyke about starting at West Middle School in the middle of his sixth grade year. On the road, bedtime was 1 a.m., with a 10 a.m. wake-up from mom.

Acting since second grade when he appeared in a Channel 62 TV commercial, Hyke has already had a pretty impressive career.

He's played Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol" at Meadow Brook Theatre for the past three years and appeared in shows at Paper Bag Productions in Detroit and Avon Theatre in Rochester Hills. He played the demon child in "Nerd," a role his father Stuart teases "he was born to play," and is rehearsing for the Avon Players' upcoming production of "Children of Eden," in which he plays young Abel.

Please see GOOD-BYE, E2

POPULAR MUSIC

StunGun defies threats, releases EP

WHO: StunGun and special guest Queen Bee

WHAT: Celebrate the release of StunGun's self-titled EP with a party and performance

WHEN: Thursday, April 1, doors open at 10 p.m.

WHERE: Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, in Hamtramck.

HOW: There is a cover charge for the 18 and older show. For more information, call the club at (313) 369-0090. StunGun can be reached via its Web site, <http://www.gbiddollar.com/stungun> or stungun@hotmail.com.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

Hanging out with members of the all-female pop quintet StunGun is kind of like joining a girls club. They laugh and giggle, whisper across the table about guys in the coffee shop and talk about nail polish.

Laughing and giggling isn't something that StunGun could do the latter part of 1998 thanks to a female stalker that was harassing the band. With that almost behind it, the band members are concentrating on their new EP "StunGun" and partying with their friends.

"StunGun" contains five songs with "some really cool remixes" on there,

according to platinum-blond guitarist Joell of Redford.

"I kind of wanted more on the CD, but we really didn't have enough time and money," she said.

"StunGun" was recorded with Warren Defever, a Livonia resident and multi-instrumentalist best known for his band His Name is Alive. When the women were introduced to him, they were unaware of his international reputation as a top-notch musician. All they knew was that he was a great guy.

"He's a very good guy to work with. The atmosphere is very comfortable. He works with you, he doesn't try to change you. That's what we want," Joell

Please see STUNGUN, E2



STAFF PHOTO BY PALL HUSKINMAN

Celebrating release: StunGun - guitarist Joell of Redford, keyboardist Justine of Redford, singer Danielle of Plymouth, bassist Tania of Auburn Hills, and drummer Kelly of Garden City.

Good-bye from page E1

"I've always had it on my mind," said Hyke about acting. "My dad worked at Oakland University, and I started going to concerts and seeing different shows when I was six weeks old."

Dorothy from page E1

"With the exception of the dog, it's my moment to shine and sing my heart out." The role of Dorothy is every young actress' dream come true, said Grove.

Stungun from page E1

explained. "He helped us out with a few ideas." "Instrumentally, he brought in a piano. He brought in strings for this one song 'Hollywood' that's melancholy. It's slow and it's all fit. He'd ask you what you think and then he'd suggest something."

Longtime friends

Joell and Justine, 1993 graduates of Redford Union High School, have known each other since kindergarten. Both of them got early starts on their careers.

"I was the first one to read it. When I clicked on there and I started reading it, my heart was getting this sinking feeling. It was a really scary feeling," Justice explained.

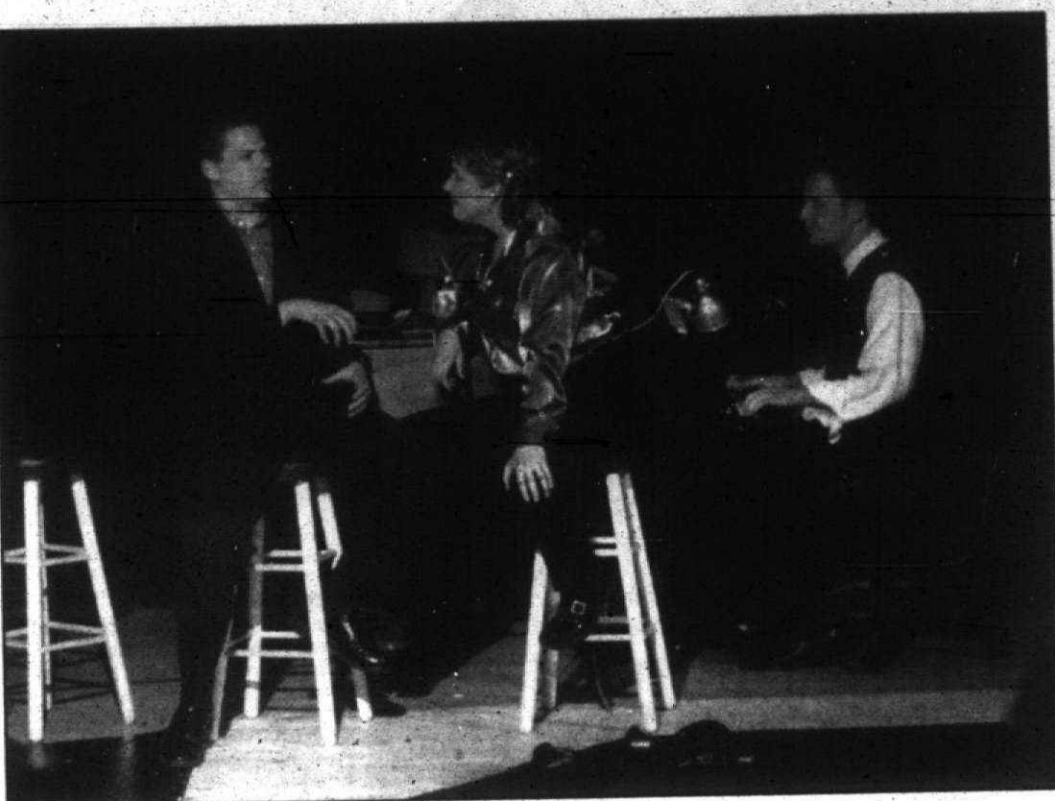
Chance meeting

Marc Warzecha (left), Mary Vnette and Marc Evan Jackson in a scene from The Second City-Detroit's new revue, "Impeachment & Cream."

Second-City Detroit steps up to serious satire challenge

BY KIELY WYGONIK STAFF WRITER kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

It's a man's world, so they say, except at The Second City-Detroit where, for the first time, women outnumber men on the Mainstage cast.



Chance meeting: Marc Warzecha (left), Mary Vnette and Marc Evan Jackson in a scene from The Second City-Detroit's new revue, "Impeachment & Cream."

Music director Marc Evan Jackson also plays a big role in the revue, ticking the audience almost as much as he tickles the ivories.

"It's very cool, you get to play a broader range of characters," said Mary Jane Pories, one of seven cast members. "We're not just a rarity. Instead of just playing the mother, wife and whore, we play doctor, lawyer, co-worker — regular people. We're only separated by our ability to play the characters."

position such as abuse of power or status. If you're working as a temporary employee, you'll love the scene about the "Temp God" who tells the temp to "steal pens and Sweet & Low and make long distance phone calls to college friends."

Current events, relationships, Motown humor, this show covers all the bases with lots of surprises thrown in.

story driven than being joke to joke," added Exner. "The scenes take longer." In a downtown Detroit vintage clothing shop, Vnette plays store owner Mary Danielle (Pories) lives in Section 8 housing and comes to the store every day.

"Impeachment and Cream" What: The Second City-Detroit's 15th revue. Where: The Second City-Detroit, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. When: Performances 8 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, with additional shows 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The cast also performs a free improvisational set, free of charge, after the 10:30 p.m. show on Fridays and Saturdays.

ment as you walk around the corner from the parking structure to Second City-Detroit. Ever wonder how the people who live there feel?

For Vnette it's like jumping out of an airplane. "Improv is my form of jumping out an airplane," she said. "Jumping out of airplanes is something I would never do, but it's the same rush."

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NOVI EXPO CENTER. Thursday, April 8, 2pm-10pm. Friday, April 9, 2pm-10pm. Saturday, April 10, 10am-10pm. Sunday, April 11, 10am-7pm. SPECIAL GUEST: Leon Frechette demonstrates the proper use of power and hand tools.

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MOVIES

'EDtv' takes a funny look at the price of celebrity

By Hugh Gallagher Staff Writer hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net
"EDtv" is the latest in a group of movies that explore the impact of the media on our lives...

Ed Pekury (Matthew McConaughey) and his brother Ray (Woody Harrelson), redneck rays from Texas...

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Table with columns for National Amusements Showcases, Star Theatres, Star John's, Showcase Pontiac, Star Rochester Hills, and United Artists Theatres. Lists movie titles, showtimes, and prices.

Candid '20 Dates' will find its way to your heart

By Victoria Diaz Special Writer
A couple of years ago, while in his early 30s, Myles Berkowitz found himself newly-divorced and clearly out of his depth...

Insightful look at love: Myles Berkowitz and Elisabeth Wagner in '20 Dates.'
hidden camera. There's the intense 'feminist ballerina.' There's the young woman who, after dinner, tells Myles she's going to the ladies' room...

Entertaining 'True Crime' is an edge-of-your-seat thriller

By Annie Leibmann Special Writer
It's a race against the clock in "True Crime," a thriller featuring Clint Eastwood as Steve Everett, an investigator reporter who, after a co-worker is killed in a car crash, is asked to cover the beat...

Collective Soul plays the Peach Pit and lives to tell

At first, Collective Soul drummer Shane Evans admitted, he was a little skeptical about the non-traditional venue in which it was booked. But since the Barenaked Ladies, Duncan Sheik and the Flaming Lips did it, why not Collective Soul?

backdrop for the process. "We had a house in Miami that we had rented that made things a little bit better. You would wake up and there you are in Miami on the bay looking out to the ocean. Dolphins would be playing on the water. It was nice," Evans explained.

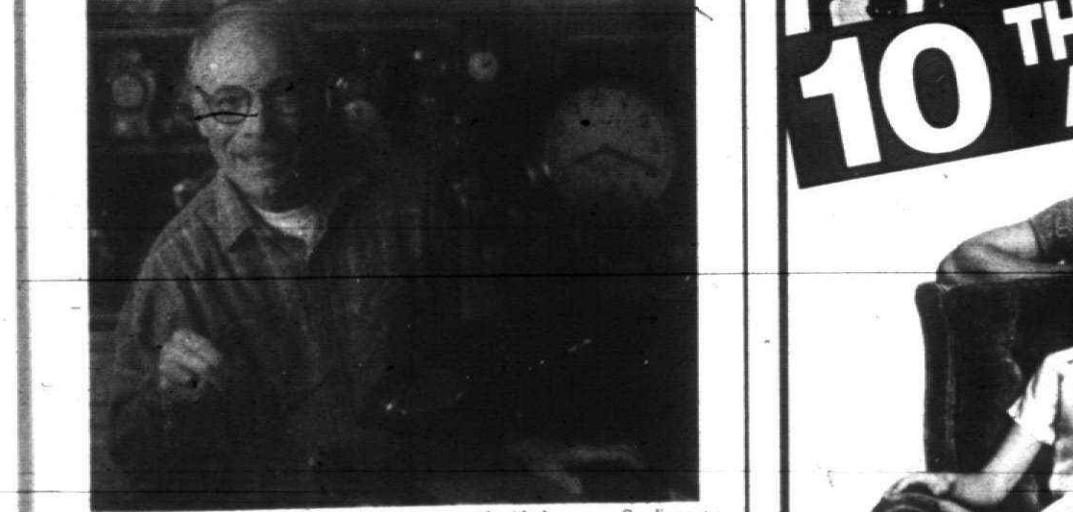
Joe Henry hits the stage uneasy

By Christina Fuoco
Playing live is the next logical step after recording an album. Sure singer/songwriter Joe Henry is looking forward to hitting the stage again. But there's a certain uneasiness about this tour which included a Saturday, March 13, stop at 7th House in Pontiac. It's the first time he's left his wife home alone with two children.

Something old, something new...

Something old, something new, something... I know we're heading into the spring wedding season, but for the sake of this column, I'd like to borrow the ceremonial formula and apply it the local arts and music scene.

Just because something is old doesn't mean it isn't valuable.



I can relate to that, maybe that's why I'm never in a rush with these guys. Standing out a dent here and there, restoring the gears... soon I'll have all the time in the world for them, just like they have for me. That's the beauty of retirement. And now that it's almost here, I'm grateful that I started planning early...

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