



Lansing trip: Kenbrook School fourth-graders met Gov. John Engler (center) on their trip to the state Capitol.

Kenbrook 4th-graders tour Lansing, meet Gov. Engler

Kenbrook Elementary School's 4th graders toured the State Capitol and Historical Museum in Lansing recently. They met Gov. John Engler, who posed for group photos, talked with students, and shook hands.

The students saw the House of Representatives, the Senate, the old Supreme Court, and the Civil

War flags display. State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington, talked to them about how a law is made.

The students also visited the historical museum. They saw a rustic cabin, an early auto show with old cars, an autographed Super Bowl football and much about Michigan's history.

Chat room from page B1

1994, when our daughter, Janice, was a little over a year old. I still remember the two elderly sisters in Dearborn Heights oohing and aahing over Janice when we delivered their groceries and gifts. That year and the next were the only years we selected a senior citizen family. Since 1986, we've "adopted" a family with children, usually living in a southwest Detroit neighborhood.

This tradition is what keeps Christmas sane for me. I have little tolerance for the commercial aspect of the holiday. Trying to keep it spiritual is especially tough when television commercials and store flyers bombard us in the months preceding Christmas with all the latest must-have gadgets.

In a small way, we help a fam-

ily in need. But we benefit, too. We've visited many living rooms furnished with little more than a modest Christmas tree and a couple of chairs. In years past, my daughters have wrapped Barbie dolls for girls their age who weren't going to receive much else on Christmas morning.

To tell them they don't need the pricey "toy du jour" is one thing. To show them loving families with very little material goods speaks volumes.

I remember the first year we brought a family a large box of used toys. I was hesitant about how they might react to this heap of unwrapped stuff. My doubts melted almost instantly. The minute the box was on the kitchen floor, four little pairs of hands were busy digging in -

putting magnetic alphabet letters on the refrigerator, banging a xylophone, zooming little cars across the floor.

In subsequent years, I've added gently worn clothes and shoes. As any mother of growing children can attest, some things get worn once or twice and then a growth spurt hits and its history. It's nice to see things get resurrected for a second life.

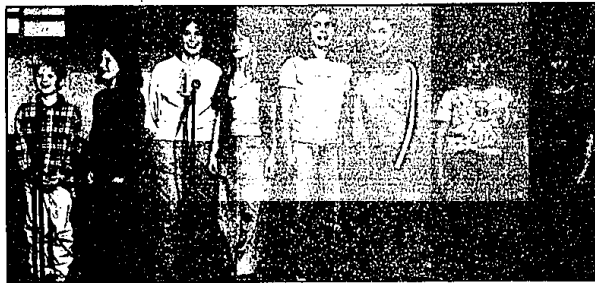
Over Thanksgiving weekend, I had a long talk about our Focus:HOPE "families" with my daughter, Emily, 11. I'm surprised by all the details she remembers from years gone by - the family with nine kids and the tall skinny dad, the mom and three daughters who had just moved to Detroit from New York City, the adorable smiling babies.

I'm looking forward to meeting our family this year. It is always one of the highlights of Christmas.

To volunteer for the Focus:HOPE Family to Family or Share Christmas with a Senior program, call 313-494-4438 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Focus:HOPE's 28th Holiday Music Festival is Sunday, Dec. 14 in the Rosedale Park Community Center, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Performers include Phil Marcus Easer, Barbara Bredius, Orthea Barnes and many more. Show time is 2-5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds benefit Share With a Senior and Family to Family. Call Laura Teetley at (313) 494-4423 for reservations.

Yule concert this weekend is a blend of old and new



Seen Light: Rehearsing for choral roles in "I Have Seen the Light" at Orchard United Methodist Church are: (from left) Ryan McCullough, fifth-grader, Forest Elementary; Katie Mitchell, fourth-grader, Longacre; Shannon Young, eighth-grader, and Nikki Cunrha, seventh-grader, both at O.E. Dunckel; Julie Cross, ninth-grader at Walled Lake Center; Emily Buckwalter, 10th-grader, Walled Lake Western; Allison Stone, seventh-grader, Abbot Middle School; and Charlie Dexter, sixth-grader at O.E. Dunckel. Performances are Friday to Sunday, Dec. 12-14, at 30450 Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile. \$5 each or \$10 for a family of four. Call 988-6716.

Are you one of the millions of people on an emotional quest for the Christmas spirit?

Plan to pursue your search by seeing I Have Seen the Light, the Search for Christmas at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile.

Performances are Friday to Sunday. Call 988-6716 for tickets. It's a new work published by Word Records and Music, Nashville, combining Christmas songs with new music.

Orchard's production has "something for everyone," - multimedia with emphasis on sound and light - featuring a multi-generational and multi-racial cast.

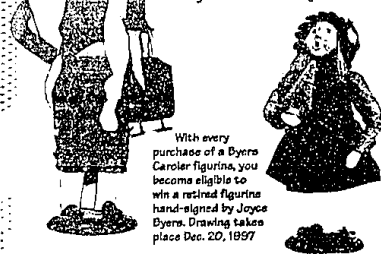
Jan Brachol, music director/organist, says: "This project is allowing us to reach out to our community and share our God-given talents."

He is a vocal music director with the Farmington Public Schools.

Another Tradition At THE Village Barn

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How will the new tax legislation affect your IRA?

To find out, reserve your place at the Merrill Lynch New Tax-Law Workshop.

If you're confused by the complex tax law changes, you may need the guidance of a Financial Consultant to know how to make the most of them. Before filing your taxes this year, and before you make contributions to any IRA, you should spend some time learning about these changes, to get answers to such critical questions as:

- Can I establish a "Roth" IRA and still maintain my existing IRA?
- Should I consolidate my IRAs?
- Are my IRA contributions still tax deductible?
- I am approaching retirement. Does the new law offer opportunities for people my age?
- Can I contribute to an Education IRA for my kids, nieces, nephews or grandchildren?
- How will the new tax legislation affect my estate plan?
- Can/Should I contribute more to my IRA now?

To find out more about your IRA options, call today to reserve your place at our upcoming workshop.

The New Tax-Law Workshop

DATE: Wednesday, December 17th
TIME: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
PLACE: Novi Hilton
Novi
SPEAKERS: David Boor, Vice President
Senior Financial Consultant
Daniel Ungerman, Financial Consultant
Both of Merrill Lynch Private Client Group
RSVP: Nancy or Karl at 248-937-6292 or 1-800-937-0446

The difference is Merrill Lynch.



Hippo from page B1

journey next spring.

The arm was what specifically for me to withstand all that I can throw at it," he said.

He's not going to dwell on the aggressive hippo, who is still alive and living in the Zambezi River.

"I'm just a little apprehensive.

It will be good to accomplish this trip," Templer said.

Although there were nightmares after the attack, they have subsided. As far as remembering the terror, he said: "Obviously there was something about me (hippo) didn't like, maybe my shirt or my after shave."

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Vet News

Steven Zinderman, D.V.M.

HELP FOR THAT "DRY EYE"

There is a condition in veterinary medicine called keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) or dry eye. This condition is most common in older dogs, especially spayed females. The signs that you may notice are a thick sticky discharge from the eye, reddening of the eye, and tearing of the eye. A diagnosis for this problem would involve a veterinarian measuring the tears produced by each eye.

The breeds most commonly affected include the Cocker Spaniel, English Bulldog, Schnauzer, West Highland White Terrier, Yorkshire Terrier, and the Beagle. This problem can be easily detected during an annual exam.

The cause of this condition is believed to be an immune-mediated change in the tear glands and treatment would involve therapy of eye drops twice daily. Some dogs may be able to

show relief with medication only one time daily. The most important aspect of this disease is that most problems can be reversed if detected and treated early.

At Small Animal Hospital, our primary concern is your pet's health. We offer boarding, house calls, and a 24 hour emergency service. For questions concerning your pet or to schedule an appointment, call our office.

Look for our next article in two weeks.

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He doesn't precisely remember the ambush, witnessed by tourists and other guides: "Adrenaline is a great equalizer."

When he gets to the area of the river where he was almost killed, Templer says he hopes to "drift by and have a beer. It will be a way to remember. (The hippo) is still out there. There haven't been other attacks."

Templer believes the hippo was probably hurt by poachers or fishermen prior to the attack and was defending his territory. The vegetarian animals live primarily in or near the rivers of Africa.

The entourage will include four or five kayakers and include a filmmaker who will document the journey. Templer's canoe will have a special paddle. With one hand he will be able to operate his kayak.

"I'm in reasonable shape for it. I'm a former competitive swimmer and rugby player," he said.

Williams can be reached online at makeadifference@juno.com. Donations can be sent to Make A Difference, P.O. Box 160, Farmington, Mich. 48332.

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