

Entertainment

Farmington Observer

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Orange 9mm, featuring drummer Matt Cross, formerly of Detroit, performs at The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets \$5 in advance. (313) 961-MELT.

SATURDAY



Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association Holiday Sales Show - Gifts of Art, offers a variety of handcrafted items. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1516 S. Cranbrook Road (northwest corner of 14 Mile Road), (248) 644-0866.

SUNDAY



Take "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," 2 p.m. at the 7th House in downtown Pontiac. Tickets \$22, call (248) 335-8101.



Hot tip: Local dance groups, including Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company featuring Kathleen Ott of Rochester Hills as Clara, will be presenting "The Nutcracker" this weekend. See complete listing inside.

Barenaked Ladies' 'Twistin' Tarantulas and other New Year's treats

By CHRISTINA PUOCO
STAFF WRITER

This is a call to Detroit Red Wings player Brendan Shanahan - Tyler Stewart drummer for the Canadian pop band Barenaked Ladies is personally inviting you to his band's New Year's Eve show at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"Brendan Shanahan, I know that he's a Ladies fan. When he played in St. Louis, my good buddy is Curtis Joseph, the then-goalie in St. Louis, and Shanny was in charge of the music in the dressing room. In 1993, he played the whole 'Garden' album to get ready. Maybe if they were listening to Metallica, they could have gone further," Stewart said with a laugh.

"I also know that Chris Osgood, Chris Draper and Darren McCarty are fans. They came to our show last Christmas time."

(Much to the Barenaked Ladies chagrin, The Detroit Red Wings will be busy until about 10 or 11 p.m. The Stanley Cup champions take on the St. Louis Blues at 7:30 p.m. The game is sold out.)

Stewart said choosing the Detroit area for its New Year's Eve concert was a no brainer. After all, some of the band's biggest shows have been here at Pine Knob and The Palace, and songs like "Brian Wilson" and "If I Had \$1,000,000" have inundated the radio.

The main floor and a significant portion of the lower bowl for the New Year's Eve show were sold out within 10 minutes. Tickets, \$25, still remain. Call (248) 377-0100 or (248) 646-6965 for more information. The Irish pop band The Devlins open the show at 9 p.m.

"Detroit Rock City has been very good to the Ladies. What a great night to sort of celebrate the city's support of us. We're really looking to blow out all the stops. You can look for surprises, of course. There's always surprises for Barenaked Ladies shows," Stewart said shyly.

It's no surprise, however, that going along with past practice The Palace of Auburn Hills will not allow any kind of macaroni and cheese - not just Kraft - into the venue. Fans routinely throw that and stuffed monkeys during the Ladies' trademark song "If I Had \$1,000,000."

If the Barenaked Ladies aren't your cup of tea, there's plenty of other options this New Year's Eve.

■ Royal Oak funksters The Howling Diablos and the local ska band the Parka Kings will perform at the Magic Bug, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 21 and older show. Tickets are \$20

and include hors d'oeuvres and party favors. Fans can count down to 1998 with Dick Clark's "New Year's Rockin' Eve" shown on a 600-square foot TV. (248) 644-3030

■ Local rockabilly bands The Twistin' Tarantulas and Nobody's Business, along with the Detroit Music Award-winning blues band Mudpuppy take over the second floor of Fifth Avenue Billiards, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. The \$25 individual ticket includes a complimentary glass of champagne, while the \$60 per couple ticket price includes a complimentary bottle of champagne. A light buffet and party favors come with both options. The lower level of Fifth Avenue will operate as usual. Only those 21 and older are permitted into Fifth Avenue. (248) 542-9922

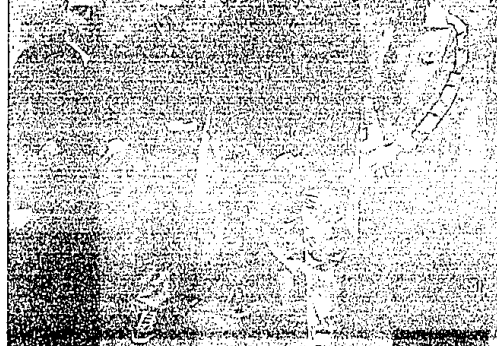
■ Former Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Bands of the Year Speedball and Big Black will perform along with Hoarse at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door for the 18 and older show. (313) 961-MELT

■ Classic rock fans will be let down to hear that there will be no "Whiplash Bash" with Ted Nugent this year. About 3,000 of those fans can take refuge at the State Theatre, 2116 Woodward Ave., Detroit, where Detroit native Alice Cooper will bring his show. Tickets are \$25 for the all-ages show. (313) 961-5451. Then there's always Deftones, Devil's Night and Illegal at The Palladium, 17650 Frazee, Roseville. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door for the 18 and older show. (810) 776-6404

■ First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willis (at Bates Street), is hosting "Chase the Blues Night" with Little Sonny and the Detroit Rhythm Band from 9:30-11:30 p.m. Sponsoring "Chase the Blues" is an effort to continue the alcohol-free New Year's Eve momentum in downtown Birmingham due to the major funding loss and subsequent cancellation of the popular First Night. After a short break, at 11:45 there will be a 20-minute closing, non-sectarian worship service. Tickets are \$7 adults, \$5 children. (248) 644-0550 or fbchc@netnet.com or <http://members.aol.com/fbchc/fbchc.htm>

■ Acid jazz act Groove Collective performs at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$20. (313) 833-9700

■ Local swingers Imperial Swing



Playing The Palace: The Canadian pop group Barenaked Ladies - from left, drummer Tyler Stewart, guitarist/vocalist Ed Robertson, stand-up bass player Jim Creeggan, singer Steven Page, and keyboardist Kevin Hearn - perform Wednesday, Dec. 31, at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The Devlins kick off the show at 9 p.m.

Orchestra spends its New Year's Eve at the Blind Pig, 205-203 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 for the 19 and older show. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. (313) 966-8565

■ For the sixth year, the city of Ypsilanti is hosting the drug- and alcohol-free family event New Year Jubilee. A variety of performers ranging from storytellers to jazz artists to choir to reggae bands play in a dozen different venues throughout Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town. For children, the Wild Swan Theatre will present "Frog and Toad," Sam from Gemini will perform, LaDon Williams will tell stories, and Dorby the Clown will make an appearance. Advance tickets, \$10, \$5 for children ages 6-12, are available at Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti-area Busch's Valu-Land beginning Friday, Dec. 12. Admission is free to children ages 5 and younger. Tickets are \$15 at the door. (313) 483-4444 or (313) 484-6620

■ A variety of nightclubs are holding their own parties. Fourth Street inside the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak, is having its annual celebration for those 21 and older hosted by radio station WKQI (95.5). Tickets are \$45 and include dinner, champagne, party favors, and breakfast. From midnight to 4 a.m., tickets are \$15 and include breakfast. (248) 546-7610. The New Year's Eve party at The Groove Room, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile Road),

Royal Oak, is free from 9-10 p.m. There will be a cover charge afterward. Free champagne and party favors will be offered. (248) 833-3221

■ Local halls will once again fill for the holiday. Included in that is the VFW Hall at Nine Mile and Telegraph roads in Southfield where the Rochester Hills rock band Sensitive Chosen will perform. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, both of which include beverages. (248) 652-6346

■ The City of Pontiac is expecting more than 10,000 celebrants this year at "Times Square II New Year's Eve Celebration" held from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. in downtown Pontiac. The free, non-alcoholic outdoor celebration features music and dancing in the street, food and beverage vendors and party favors. At the stroke of midnight, an illuminated ball will hit the top of a 100-foot pole located at the front of the Phoenix Center. A fireworks display follows. Numerous nightclubs in the area - Industry, Clutch Cargo, Diamonds and Spurs - will have special events. (248) 867-5603. The swing/jump band Atomic Fireballs will perform at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 335-8100

■ The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is hosting "A Singing, Dancing Gala for 1998" at 9 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, during which the orchestra will perform J. Please see NEW YEAR'S, E2

YOUTH THEATER



On stage: Don Donnelly as Aladdin (left to right), Sultan (Robert "Bobo" Loeble), Princess Jasmine (Kathleen Coleman-Lorelle), Amber (Sarah Wiercioch, bottom, left to right), and Myra (Sara Greenfield) are featured in "Aladdin."

Stages set for entertaining youth productions

By KEELY WYONK
STAFF WRITER

Toys, toys, toys is what most kids are thinking about now, but the real acting up is happening not at home, but on stages throughout metro Detroit.

There are many choices this weekend for parents seeking a little diversion from the holiday countdown. A variety of youth productions to be presented by children and adults for children of all ages are sure to please.

Dearborn Youth Theatre

Greg Wiklanski of Westland stars as Joseph in the Dearborn Youth Theatre production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14 at Edsel High School in Dearborn.

In October, Wiklanski portrayed Rolf in the Nancy Gurwin Presents staging of "The Sound of Music" at the Aaron DaRoy Studio Theatre in the Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield.

"Being cast as Joseph was a real blessing for me," said Wiklanski, 20, a sophomore at Christian-focused William Tyndale College in Farmington

Hills. "I couldn't say enough how important God has been to me. He is the foundation of my life."

A 1995 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School, Wiklanski was in three plays there, all musicals. He then took a year off from theater. Wiklanski's only performing was with the Christ Ambassadors, the college's choir, which sang during services at area churches. He returned to theater this past summer, performing in "Carousel" with Music Theatre of Michigan in Livonia and "The Sound of Music."

"Theater just started in high school as something fun to do. It's become more and more serious. Now, it's more like a passion. I'd like to make a living out of theater someday," Wiklanski said.

At William Tyndale College, he is majoring in vocal performance as well as working on obtaining his secondary education teaching certificate.

Steve Sell of Bloomfield Hills is also cast in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." In the adult chorus is Jen Rembick of Livonia. Among the wives are Cindy Wittrock of Plymouth,

Playing one of the brothers is Kean Cronin of Bloomfield Hills.

In the children's chorus are Rachel Westphal-Gaddy, Georgene Wojciechowski, and Maria Stratkowski and Matthew Thayer of Livonia; Julia Fitzpatrick and Erin Fitzpatrick of Redford; Sarah Grace of Bloomfield Hills; and Paul Kittenger of Farmington Hills.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is being staged by Dearborn Youth Theatre in cooperation with the Dearborn Recreation Department.

Youtheatre

New York's Theatreworks/USA brings the story of "Charlotte's Web," E.B. White's story of friendship between a small pig named Wilbur and a gray spider named Charlotte, to Music Hall, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14.

You'll meet Wilbur, the pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern the little girl who understands what animals say to each other; Tom-

Youth Theater Productions

■ Dearborn Youth Theatre
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" - 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Edsel Ford High School, 20801 Rotunda Drive, 1 1/2 miles west of the Southfield Freeway in Dearborn. Tickets \$10 general admission and \$9 for senior citizens, call (313) 561-0599 for reservations

■ Youtheatre at Music Hall
"Charlotte's Web" presented by New York Theatreworks/USA - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. No one under the age of 5 will be admitted to the theater.

Pre-show Playshop will be conducted 9:30 a.m. on Saturday preceding the 11 a.m. show. This hands-on workshop will explore creative dramatics with youngsters ages 5 and above. The workshop costs \$5 per person, and reservations can be made when placing ticket orders with the Music Hall Ticket Office. (313) 563-2366

■ Henry Ford Museum/Anderson Center Theatre
Wild Swan Theatre Company is presenting "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse" - 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

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