

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Chicago appears with the Doobie Brothers, 7:30 p.m. at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets \$35.25 pavilion, \$18.75 lawn. Call (248) 377-0100.

SATURDAY



The Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents "The Planets" 8 p.m. at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills. Pre-concert lecture, "Cosmic Inspiration," 7 p.m. Tickets \$8 to \$50, call (313) 676-5111, (248) 377-0100, or (248) 645-6666.

SUNDAY



Janet Ginnis stars in "Belles," Mark Dunn's drama in two acts, presented by SRO Productions, 2 p.m. at the City of Southfield's historic park, the Burch on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road. Tickets \$8 general admission, \$7 seniors and children. Call (248) 827-0701 for information.



DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Polar bears to dive into Arctic Ring

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

Ashley Feel turned away from the polar bear exhibit at the Detroit Zoo to ask no one in particular if that's where they're building the Arctic Ring of Life?

The 11-year-old Bloomfield Hills girl knows all about the new home being built for the polar bears and can't wait for the exhibit to open in May of 2000.

The \$13 million dollar naturalized habitat will take the place of the rocky landscape and the pool with the big purple bull in it. An interactive facility for polar bears, seals and people, the nearly four acre space will be the world's largest polar bear exhibit when completed. Until then, the bears continue to lumber along the craggy terrain just in time for their 2 p.m. feeding.

"I love polar bears," said Feel. "Polar bears are my most favorite animal in the whole wide world. I love them because they're cute, they're white and they swim."

Polar bear mania

The giant plush polar bear and cub on Ron Kagan's couch are a dead giveaway to the zoo director's current love affair. He "first began to think about reinventing the polar bear exhibit more than four years ago." In addition to the polar bears and seals, other cast members will include arctic foxes, snowy owls, lemmings, and a little frog that turns into an ice cube each winter and then thaws in spring and hops away.

"When you have a dream you have a dream. It's evolved," said Kagan. "It has this incredible 70 foot see-through

tunnel. Diving and swimming polar bears and seals, who will be separated by a transparent barrier, will be all around you. There will be real icebergs. It's very elaborate with ice all around. There will be massive amounts of artificial ice and ice flows, and viewing galleries with entrances with icicles dripping water."

Kagan expects a few bruised polar bear noses initially. Ever since the African wild dogs were brought in earlier this year from Honolulu and placed next to the zebras, the dogs occasionally try to chase the black and white striped beasts. So Kagan expects the hours to dive after the seals a few times before realizing the barrier is there.

"We're following the bears migratory path. They follow the seals," said Kagan. "Humans understand stories. We're telling the story of the arctic for visitors. It's a story of a trek to the North Pole."

Visitors will enter into an Inuit village complete with art then follow a trail from the tundra to the open sea to pack ice to an underwater gallery and through the 70 foot acrylic tunnel to an exploration station on top of which is a huge ice making machine. Blocks of ice, weighing hundreds of pounds, will



The Detroit Zoo

WHERE: 8450 W. Ten Mile Road at Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak, (248) 399-0503.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, until 6 p.m. Sundays, until 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Sept. 1.

ADMISSION: \$7.50 adults, \$5.50 seniors/students, \$4.50 children ages 2-12. Parking is \$3 for cars/ovens.



Qualified sketches based on illustration from Detroit Zoological Institute

FESTIVAL

100th Annual Highland Games

WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 7. Gates open 8:30 a.m., closing ceremonies 6 p.m.

WHERE: Greenmead Historical Village, Newburgh at 8 Mile Road, Livonia.

ADMISSION: \$10 at the gate, \$8 in advance. Patron tickets \$35 (individual), \$60 (couple) or \$120 (family of four), call (313) 866-4703. Information available online at www.highlandgames.com

PARKING: Patron, handicapped and limited general parking in the main lot at Greenmead off Newburgh Road. There is a \$5 charge for non-patron parking in the Main Lot, which is expected to be full by 10 a.m.

SAFETY: General parking in the Shuttle Lot at Schoolcraft College, south of 7 Mile Road on Hogarty Road, and at the Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church on 6 Mile Road, just west of Higgett Road. There is no charge for parking in these lots, and complimentary shuttle buses will run every 5 to 10 minutes throughout the day beginning at 8:30 a.m. The buses are handicapped accessible and will drop off and pick up passengers at the main gate of the Greenmead.

SPECIAL EVENT: Old-fashioned Ceilidh (kale-ee) - 7:30-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 13001 Farrington Road, just north of 7 Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$30 in advance, call (248) 593-6064.

St. Andrew's Society hosts Highland Games



The Rev. Willet J. Harrington

By KEELY WYGNONIK
 STAFF WRITER
 kwygnonik@oe.homecomm.net

Curt McAllister of Luke Orion was always conscious of his Scottish roots, but he didn't do much digging around until an aunt began doing genealogical research.

Scottish on both his mother and father's side, McAllister is looking forward to attending the Highland Games for the first time on Saturday, Aug. 7 at Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia.

Sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, a group formed on Nov. 30, 1849

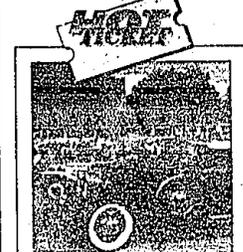
by 35 Scottish immigrants to "help those less fortunate and promote Scottish heritage," the games have been held in metro Detroit for the past 150 years.

Detroit's Highland Games is the longest running festival of its kind in North America.

Proceeds from the games are used to fund gift-giving throughout the year. Think of the games as a showcase of all things Scottish — music, dance, history, and food. The games will feature three stages of entertainers including 20 bagpipe bands.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS INSIDE

Please see GAMES, E2



Hot Tip: If you love classic cars, plan to attend the 21st annual Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills. Over 260 vintage automobiles will be on display. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 children ages 13-17, no charge for children under age 12. Call (248) 370-3140 for information.