

DIVERSIONS

Dare to rock the lawn at DTE

STREET SCENE



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

It seems as soon as summer rolls around I feel a need to peruse the outdoor concert listings to see how the next few months might progress.

Growing up, the old Pine Knob Music Theatre in the Clarkston area was as much a summer destination as going to the beach. I attended my first-ever concert there at age 7. It wasn't something classic like The Eagles, they hadn't reunited yet. And it wasn't something cool, like The Who. It was none other than Rick Springfield supported by the boy who wore sunglasses at night, Corey Hart. It must've made an impression.

Some essence of summer is still trapped there, between the concrete pavilion and grassy lawn. Memories of meeting Soundgarden just weeks after my high school graduation, of dodging the flying sod during

Pearl Jam's 1992 Lollapalooza set and of the time Soul Asylum's Dave Pirner took the stage barefooted—they all return. I still can't get myself to call the place by its new name, DTE Energy Music Theatre.

Times do change. So why haven't the concert listings at this summer hot spot? Shows return year after year, as if these bands are still chart-toppers. Hall & Oates, REO Speedwagon, Foreigner, The Allman Brothers—all sound awfully familiar.

I'm looking forward to some of the newer fare on the DTE list this season. In particular the not-to-be-missed category includes:

■ Weezer's Enlightenment Tour with Dashboard Confessional and Sparta on July 12 will satisfy punk-pop, geek-rock and emo fans alike.

■ Moby's traveling electronic party Arena2 comes to town August 6 and includes the legendary David Bowie and superstar DJs like John Digweed and Carl Cox. Think of it as a chance to catch up with everyone you met at the Detroit Electronic Music Fest.

■ Down From the Mountain, a concert featuring bluegrass music from the film *O'Brother Where Art Thou*, will feature brilliant artists like Allison Krause and Union Station and Emmylou Harris. For the benefit of the Soggy Bottom Boys, let's hope it doesn't rain on June 26.

■ Sports? beware, the Jeep World Outside Festival rivals the Warped Tour by bringing in a bevy of extreme sports for the taking on August 10. Get tips from star athletes while rock-climbing, scuba-diving, mountain-biking and kayaking—all on the grounds at DTE Energy Music Theatre (there, I said it). And get into the groove with performances by Sheryl Crowe, Train, Ziggy Marley, Rubyhorse and Five For Fighting.

If you're not exactly ready to scale a climbing wall or you're fresh out of neon toys to flash while dancing to South Side, there are plenty of choices for Detroit rockers to unite:

How often can you re-live 1969? With no many glam-metal bands on the roster this is the summer to do it.

Tesla, will return July 13 with former Motley Crue frontman Vince Neil, Skid Row and Jackyl. Dokken and Ratt co-headline July 28 with L.A. Guns, Firehouse and Warrant. I guess we can thank WRIF for making sure Detroit still has a market for this stuff.

Riding the nu-metal wave, Ozfest 2002 won't hold back on August 7, boning such artists as founder Ozzy Osbourne, and newcomers System of a Down, Drowning Pool—and a raucous performance assured to make you Party Hard—by Ann Arbor's own Andrew W.K.

Whatever you choose, it's bound to sound better under the stars.

DTE Energy Music Theatre is located off of I-75 at exit 89 in Independence Township.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola learned to play guitar on a shiny black B.C. Rich Warlock—just like C.C. DeVille used to play. She writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric! News-papers and can be reached at (248) 625-1800 ext. 12 or e-mail at scasola@oc.homedcom.net.



From the mountain: Allison Krause is among the bluegrass artists who will perform music from the film *O'Brother Where Art Thou* on Tuesday, June 26 at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston.

Don't let background ruin a great photo composition

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

Backgrounds can make or break a picture. So, just before you press the shutter release, stop! Yes, stop for a moment and take a second, hard look through the viewfinder.

Check out all four corners of the picture and the background behind your subject. Is there anything distracting like that tree "growing" out of Aunt Mildred's head or the fence post that would spoil the "in the wilds" look of the lion at the zoo? If there is, a slight movement in either camera or subject position will fix the problem.

Taking the second, hard look

through the viewfinder may add something that will enhance your shot. For example, those tree branches "framing" the distant mountain will definitely add extra impact to your picture.

Yes, backgrounds can be crucial in the effectiveness of a photograph. Backgrounds add to the composition and help set the mood of a picture or they can detract and spoil what could have been a great shot.

In addition to careful composition, a thorough understanding of depth-of-field is a must. Using large apertures, especially with

■ Taking the second, hard look through the viewfinder may add something that will enhance your shot.

a telephoto lens, will reduce depth-of-field and blur out an unwanted background in an outdoor portrait.

Just the opposite, a small lens opening on a normal or wide angle lens will increase depth-of-field so that everything in your finished picture will be sharp

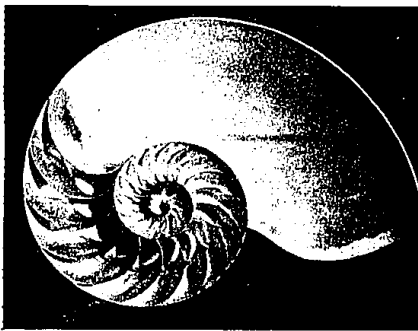
and in focus.

In close-up photography, particularly flowers, a plain, blurred background is important. A busy, distracting background will pull attention away from the beauty of the flower.

Backgrounds are very important in environmental portraits.

Effective use of props or locale will make an important difference. You say your daughter is into horseback riding? Then take a portrait of her wearing a riding outfit, at the stables, with her horse, and with riding accessories in view. Can you visualize the strength such a photograph can have?

Yes, backgrounds can make the difference between a strong photograph and an ordinary snapshot. That second, hard look will reward you with many impact-filled shots.



Background: A chambered nautilus shell makes a great photographic subject. Here, Monte Nagler used a black poster board to get a plain, non-distracting background.

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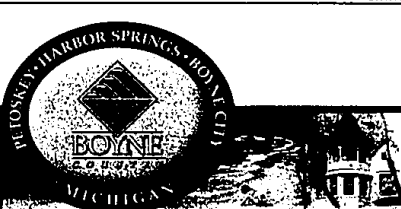
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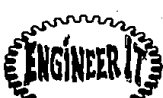
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