

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

Holiday movies

Santa Claus 2 kicks off the holiday offerings.
B2

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B1 (F)
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Hot tickets



Mice on ice

See Mickey, Minnie and other Disney characters skate to songs including Zip-a-Dee-Do-Dee and Under the Sea, at Disney On Ice, Wednesday, Nov. 6-Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$15-\$45, available through Ticketmaster outlets and The Palace Box Office. (248) 645-6666

African American museum

Experience the tales, sights and sounds of Liberia through a one-day "Journey" to Africa 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The program will feature music, food, movies, lectures and a panel discussion all dedicated to the history, lifestyle and people of Liberia. The program is free with admission (\$5 adults, \$3 children age 17 and under) to the museum, located at 315 East Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800.

Night Hike

Take a walk in the moonlight with a naturalist at Kensington Metropark. The night hike is at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2 at the park, located near Brighton. The park also offers "Down on the Farm - Turkey Talk," an educational program about turkeys at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2. Pre-register for programs by calling (800) 477-3178.

At the Bonstelle

Chris Williams and NyRee Fikes perform a scene from the Bonstelle Theatre's production of No Place to Be Somebody, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Charles

Chilling tale

Dracula comes to life on Orchard Ridge Theatre stage

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Don't ask Carol Thomas King to reveal her secret for making bats fly over the audience's heads. The Orchard Ridge Theatre professor has gone to great lengths to bring to life *Dracula* Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 6-9, in Smith Theatre on the campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Based on the folk tale about Vlad the Impaler who lived in the 1400s in Romania, Bram Stoker's chilling story of a blood-sucking Count calls for horrifying sights and sounds. Spiders, howling wolves and spine-tingling screams, King uses them all to set the mood for this evening of vampires and fair maidens. No, there won't be any real blood or rats used in the production but two coffins are being built, especially for Lucy and Dracula. Lucy's is constructed from Plexiglas so the audience will be able to see her sleeping in it.

THE STORY

Set in Transylvania in the insane asylum of Dr. Jonathan Seward, the play opens with Renfield telling the story of the Old Count who becomes younger and younger with each drop of blood he drinks.

"We're having two actors play Dracula - the Young Prince and the Old Count because the make-up change is so laborious. They have to make him look a few thousand years old. Jennifer Ashcroft of Alex Emilio Salon in Royal Oak is doing the makeup and hair. The biggest challenge

PLEASE SEE DRACULA, B5



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

Top, Dracula (played by Glen Vata) puts Lucy (Jenelle Mazaris) under his spell so he can bite her neck. Mazaris is a graduate of the Creative And Performing Arts program at Churchill High School in Livonia. Left, Renfield goes insane trying to break Dracula's grip on him.



DRACULA

What: Orchard Ridge Theatre presents the play about the evil Count

When: 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 6-9

Where: Smith Theatre on the Oakland Community College campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Tickets: \$7, \$5 seniors and students. (248) 522-3422

Tapas beat to the culinary pulse of Spain

BY ELEANOR HEALD
CORRESPONDENT

If you like cruising the appetizer menu in a restaurant, then tapas, the little dishes of Spain, are a perfect eating out choice.

Since the tapas craze hit the U.S. a few years ago, it seems that restaurants serving any small portions have begun calling them tapas. That's OK because tapas are not a type of food but rather a style of eating.

Authentic tapas are, on the other hand, Spanish and there are only two

EATING OUT

metro Detroit restaurants specializing in them, Sangria in Royal Oak and Alegrias in Farmington Hills.

SPANISH TAPAS

In Spanish, tapas means "to cover." Centuries ago, the first tapa was a slice of regional ham served on top of a glass of sherry to keep out flies. Bar owners discovered that the saltiness of the ham sparked beverage sales

and they began serving chorizo (Spanish sausage), Manchego cheese, olives and salted nuts while inventing more intricate offerings to be served hot. In Spain today, every region has its specialty tapas and there are as many tapas variations as there are cooks in that country.

Spaniards go to bars to join friends in conversation, to argue politics, to joke and to flirt. While engaged in all this, they eat tapas which are an integral part of the fiber and social scene

PLEASE SEE TAPAS, B5



Executive Chef Roberto Caceres presents some of the authentic Spanish dishes that are available at Alegrias.

Artistic Expressions

Linda Chomin

Local arts organizations retain concerns about tax proposal

Local arts organization leaders haven't changed their viewpoints on the culture and recreation property tax on Wayne and Oakland county residents since Proposal A failed with voters in 2000.

They applaud the fact that this time around there's more TV advertising and slick brochures to assure the passage of Proposal K on Nov. 5, but many still express concerns that symphonies and arts councils won't see their fair share of the money even though it's billed as going for Arts, Parks and Kids.

In fact, some say privately they won't vote for it but are supporting it publicly.

WHAT IT WILL DO

If passed, the Regional Cultural Funding Project would raise \$46 million annually over the next 10 years by taxing owners a half mill - that's 50 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value. For example, a homeowner would pay about \$25 on a \$100,000 house with a taxable value of \$50,000.

Two-thirds of the money would go to 17 major arts and cultural institutions: The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cranbrook Art Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Cranbrook House & Gardens, Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Holocaust Memorial Center, Meadow Brook Hall, Meadow Brook Theatre, Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Science Center, WTVS Public Television, Detroit Zoo, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Music Hall for the Performing Arts, Detroit Historical Museums, and College for Creative Studies (formerly Center for Creative Studies).

The other third of the money would come back to the communities for local government to use as it sees fit for cultural and recreational programs.

Robert Bennett supports Proposal K and wants it to pass so the Livonia Symphony Orchestra can go back to offering six concerts per season. For its 30th anniversary, the LSO had to cut back to five due to a reduction in giving caused by the depressed economy.

"I'm optimistic it will pass and will support it but I have the same concerns as last time - how the money is distributed locally," said Bennett, LSO president and former mayor of Livonia. "Of the 1/3 that stays with the local com-

PLEASE SEE PROPOSAL A, B5

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.