

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

Spectacular

Readers share
memorable
Christmas stories. B3

Hot tickets

At the library

Actor Billy Dee Williams and author Elizabeth Atkins Bowman will discuss their careers and their collaboration for the 2002 romantic thriller, *Twilight*, from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, in the Ann Arbor Library, 343 S. Fifth. (734) 327-4500.

Top contenders

Sarah Hughes, 2002 Olympic champion, will be among the athletes at the Crest Whitestrips



International Figure Skating challenge, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$55.50 and \$29.50 reserved and \$19.50 general admission, available through Ticketmaster. (248) 645-6666.

Celebrating Detroit

See The Detroit 300 Quilt, commemorating the city's tricentennial, through Dec. 31 in the City Gallery at the Castock Center, 28600 N. Mile, Farmington Hills. The gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The quilt features 62 patches donated by people of different ethnic groups, sewn together to form a striking piece. (248) 473-1656.

Bah, humbug!

Dennis Robertson (left) plays Scrooge and Scott Crowmover is Nephew Fred in



Meadow Brook Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*. The Dickens classic runs at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, and Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 18-20, and at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 and 21, and Sunday, Dec. 15, at the theater on the Oakland University campus, Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$30-\$42. (248) 377-3300.



A celebration calls for face-painting at The Detroit Children's Museum.

Bored no more: Vacation week things to do, people to see

BY ALICE RHEIN
CORRESPONDENT

For Mary and Dennis Beauregard of Cayton, the week between Christmas and New Year's is traditionally spent Up North near Manistee, where Mary's family resides.

"It's a time to see faraway friends and family," said Mary, a speech-language pathologist who currently stays home to care for her 8-year-old daughter, Lauren, and 4-year-old son, Erie. "We go sledding, ice skating and take walks in the snow. It's a wonderful family time."

And while Dennis, an engineer for Ford Motor Co., typically has that week off of work, the family plans do change from year to year.

"If we don't go Up North, then we do a lot of different things here. We have sleepovers, hit the sales and later in the week we go to see something like the Rockettes or another big show so we end the week with a big bang," said Mary. "Some years, we've gone to Frankenmuth or Greenfield Village."

And, of course, there's always playing with those new toys like the craft bead set

and the Easy Bake Oven. But if there's no trip planned, and the kids have lost interest in their new toys, vacation week can turn into a torturous time of "I'm bored."

Rather than get into that old "How can you be bored?" scenario, why not see what's out there for the kids to do? With a little research, you can find all sorts of events happening around town, many geared especially to kids with "nothing to do" during vacation week.

ART, MUSIC AND MORE

At the Detroit Institute of Arts, public relations manager Pamela Marell says holiday week is the busiest of the year because so many families attend. During this week, the DIA is open every day, including Monday, Dec. 23 and 30, and Tuesday, Dec. 31, and there are extended hours most days.

Each year, the DIA tries to program around the special exhibitions, and since the highly regarded *Debus* and the *Dance* is currently on exhibit through Jan. 12, 2003, programs include storytelling "Stories that Dance," performance in the Galleries and a special performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

"On our Friday nights (the museum is open until 9 p.m. every Friday), the crowd is diverse in every area, not only racially and ethnically, but also in all different age groups - seniors, teens and families," said Marell.

And during holiday week, diversity is also the theme. There are performances of African and African American folktales by Miz Rosie; the Detroit Puppet Art Theater - one of the city's cultural gems - presents *Cinderella* with music by Tchaikovsky; and the Peter Sparling Dance Company performs *Les Parisiennes*, which brings to life the 19th century paintings of Edgar Degas.

All events are free with museum admission, and a complete listing is available on the DIA Web site (www.dia.org) or by calling (313) 833-7900.

Though there are few Wayne State University students around during vacation week, the Cultural Center really teems with life during this time. At the Children's Museum, which moved last year from its house across from the DIA to its new loft-

Storyteller "Miz Rosie" will perform at the Detroit Institute of Arts this month.



A youngster learns about gears at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.

like space at 6134 Second Ave., community relations manager Leslie Williams says many events are planned.

"The museum is open noon until 4 p.m. with make-and-take crafts and a 1 p.m. planetarium show of the winter sky."

Also featured are several exhibits including "Feel Like a Kid Again" featuring artwork of Detroit elementary students, and a Native American exhibit called "First People, One with Nature."

Williams said that the museum will be decorated for the holidays, including Fiesta time, which is celebrated in Mexico.

CELEBRATING ETHNICITY

For Kris Femminineo, the celebration of different cultures has become an annual tradition during vacation week. "When I was working in the Detroit schools, I learned about Kwanzaa from the kids I taught. I thought it was such a wonderful celebration of spirit that I started teaching my daughter, Sara, about the holiday last year when she was 3," she said.

This year, Femminineo plans to expand the education and celebration to her whole household, which includes her husband, Tony, her father, Phil Berger, and her four stepchildren who attend Guardian Angel School in Clawson and Bishop Foley High School in Madison Heights. And a trip to the Cultural Center may be on the docket for the family as well.

At the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, vacation week will feature two photography exhibits with works by Chester Higgins Jr. and Ernest C. Withers. And *The Nutcracker* is

PLEASE SEE VACATION, B7



Artistic Expressions

Linda Chomin

It doesn't take much to brighten the holidays of those in need

Old snaps leave Brother Vincent Reyes wondering about where some of the homeless people are that he feeds at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. They disappear, and no one ever knows what happened to them.

Reyes' chilling story is just one of many I've heard while writing about fund-raisers and benefits for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. I'm making my list just like I do every year. How could I not after learning about men, women and children without homes? Something as small as a teddy bear, blanket or socks can brighten the life of someone less fortunate than myself.

I'm lucky because my more than 12 years as an arts & entertainment reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers have introduced me to organizations that are working to help feed, clothe and house those struggling to survive. Now I want to share their needs with you. But there are organizations in all of our communities that help people living on the streets and those leaving their homes in the middle of the night to avoid abuse. Find out what they do. It's always good to see firsthand; you'll want to do even more to help them.

JA'NOAH HOUSE

Audrey and Carl Mattson take their ministry to the streets via an old motor home. On Thanksgiving Day they feed over 100 people. But the Mattsons don't just help the needy during the holidays. Several times a week all year long the Livonia couple deliver food and clothing to residents and the homeless in the Cass Corridor, Brightmoor area, Brewster Projects, and Westland's Norwayne neighborhood.

A special thanks to Entemann's in Livonia, a Livonia man who donated 11 turkeys before Thanksgiving, and a West Bloomfield reader who donated men's clothing after reading past columns.

To help, call (734) 522-5077.

"We need men's gloves and socks, knitted hats, hooded sweatshirts for men and women, backpacks or duffel bags or any kind of bag for the homeless men to carry their belongings in," said Audrey Mattson. "The plastic bags rip, and we always need blankets to give to the homeless. They're out in the open just trying not to freeze."

PLEASE SEE CHARITY, B6

TO VOLUNTEER

■ Ja'Noah House
(734) 522-5077

■ First Step (734) 416-1111

■ COTS (313) 576-0219

■ Capuchin Soup Kitchen
(313) 579-2100, Ext. 203

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Mnkes no difference as long as you take time to put your foot up, got comfortable and spend some time with us.