

Hot tickets

Cats in competition

See Turkish Vans, Norwegian Forest Cats, Exotics, Maine Coons, Oriental Shorthairs and Sphinx, in addition to 40 other purebred categories at The Midwest Persian Tabby Fanciers Inc. cat show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 25-26 at the Ford community center for the Performing Arts, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and \$3 for children. For more information call Judy McDaniel's at (248) 681-4863.

Camp in style

More than 400 recreational vehicles are to be on display at the 20th Annual Michigan Camper, Travel & RV Show through Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Pontiac Silverdome, 1200



Featherstone, Pontiac. Show times are 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 23-24, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children, age 6-14. (248) 456-1500 for the Pontiac Silverdome.

Reel 'em in

Learn the basics of ice fishing and then try your new skills on Ky Wildwing Lake (weather permitting) at Kensington Metropark near Milford and Brighton. The fishing lesson starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at the park nature center. The program fee is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Pre-register by calling (800) 477-3118.

Music and comedy

Ron Coden performs folk music and comedy, along with bass player Steve Fava and guitarist Ron Bright, at



8:30 p.m. Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8 and 22 at O'Mara's, corner of 12 Mile and Coolidge, Berkeley. No cover charge. Call (248) 399-6750 for reservations.



Erin McKeown brings her distinctive style of singing and songwriting to the Ann Arbor Folk Festival.

Emerging artists

Ann Arbor Folk Festival spotlights performers with an edge

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Never heard of 24-year-old singer/songwriter Erin McKeown? That's not surprising. David Siglin prides himself on presenting up and coming performers at The Ark so it's no wonder this year's Ann Arbor Folk Festival offers adventurous programming on Friday night in addition to legends like Taj Mahal on Saturday, Jan. 25. Unfortunately, that concert's already sold out but Siglin isn't worried. In fact, he's excited about the prospect of spotlighting emerging artists on Friday, Jan. 24, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

"This is the first time in the 26-year history of the festival we're doing it for two-days," said Siglin, artistic director of The Ark which puts on the folk festival. "It's hard on an audience to mix all those styles—bluegrass, jazz, different eras of music. Over the years, we discovered part of the audience doesn't like an edge, they're more traditional. Friday night's a little more adventurous with progressive sounds of folk and roots music."

ERIN MCKEOWN

McKeown's music is beyond categorization. Her distinctive voice and sometimes quirky lyrics set her apart. She's especially fun to listen to. *Distillation* is her debut CD. The recording process is as unique as McKeown who combines pop, boy, roots, and Tin Pan Alley in her music. Produced by David Chalfant for Signature Sounds, the CD consists of originals except for Rodgers & Hart's 1940 *You Mustn't Kick It Around*.

McKeown grew up in Virginia where her mother made her take piano lessons from preschool to her early teens. It was then she picked up the guitar and started to think of herself as a musician. By age 14, she was playing in a cover band and deep into the bar rock culture. But it wasn't until her student days at Brown University that she began performing solo and writing music.

"David was living in a farmhouse in Massachusetts when he built a studio and we decid-



Jeff Lang hails from Australia where he played slide guitar in the blues band Chain before pursuing a solo career.

ed to record there," said McKeown. "We worked in whatever rooms were available. It's a very simple record. What you hear is what you get. When you're recording you have to maintain separation. He'd place someone in the kitchen and someone upstairs. He placed us in stairwells, the bottom of a staircase. You need to get as much separation as possible."

"For the new CD, we're utilizing the same philosophy of listening to instruments in rooms. It was recorded in a different Massachusetts farmhouse and set for release in late spring. There's a wide dynamic range. It's a lot of fun. I try to bring those things to a live performance. Hearing it live is not all that different from the recording. I just hope that people would have a different appreciation for a wide variety of styles. Look at people's CD collection. You'll find different styles. People like different styles of music."

PLEASE SEE FOLK FESTIVAL, B5

ANN ARBOR FOLK FESTIVAL

What: The Ark presents its 26th annual festival featuring Patty Griffin, Jeffrey Galties, Erin McKeown, Jeff Lang, The Waybacks, Josh Ritter, Billy Jonas, and Seth Bernard

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24

Where: Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

Tickets: \$25, Call (734) 763-TKTS. For more information, (734) 761-1800 or visit The Ark online at www.a2ark.org



Artistic Expressions
Linda Chomin

Storytellers warm the heart on a cold January day

Most people dread the cold and boring days of January, but not me. I look forward to talking to the storytellers featured in Canton Project Arts' annual festival.

Storytelling is a way of life for them and they can't help interspersing tales into the conversation. All I have to do is ask a question and they're off telling me about growing up across the street from the Detroit Zoo.

That's what makes the festival so delightful. You never know what you're going to hear. As usual, organizer Corinne Stavish has lined up a variety of tellers for the festival Saturday, Jan. 25, at Summit on the Park in Canton.

"It's all new tellers presenting the oldest community-based art form," said Stavish, a Southfield resident who will be telling at The Ark during the Ann Arbor club's annual festival Friday-Sunday, Feb. 14-16. For more information, call (734) 761-1800. Like The Ark festival, Canton Project Arts offers storytelling times for children and adults.

The audience is very much involved with the tellers who have different artistic styles and represent different ethnic and religious groups. We'll have a diversity from African American Barbara Jones Clark to Laura Pershin

PLEASE SEE STORYTELLERS, B3



Barbara Jones Clark will share her love of children's literature at Canton Project Arts' annual Storytelling Festival.



Chef Laurent Devin prepares Confit of Duck Leg.

French bistro food: Trip to Paris isn't necessary

BY ELEANOR HEALD
CORRESPONDENT

Bistros, especially in the fifth and sixth districts on the Left Bank in Paris, are legendary.

EATING OUT

They're small, generally crowded and run by a husband and wife team. He cooks and she greets, serves and runs the front of house with one, or at most two, servers. Aromas of simmering meats or Escargots sizzling in garlic butter, are instantly warming on a winter evening. Tastes offer

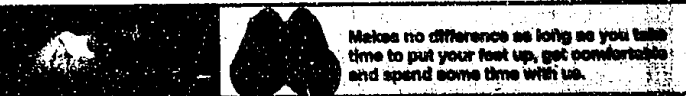
comfort. Ah, the delights of Paris!

Yet it's all as close as a trip across the Detroit River to Windsor and an unhurried dinner at Elaine Bistrot Francaise, owned by Valerie and Laurent Devin, who speak perfect English with an ever-so-charming French accent. They do, however, answer the phone with the appropriate French greeting, "bonjour" during the day or "bonsoir" in the evening.

Windsorites call the location the Old Riverside neighborhood, 10 minutes from the

PLEASE SEE EATING, B6

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.