



OCC Performing Arts Coordinator Velma Jones

# OCC show celebrates Black History

In celebration of Black History Month, Oakland Community College presents *Peckin at the Blues* at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at the OCC Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The multimedia program recounts the career of Bessie Smith, famed 1920s "Empress of the Blues."

Starting in the program is OCC Performing Arts Coordinator Velma Jones who re-creates many of Bessie Smith's best known hits from the 1920's and 30's including *St. Louis Blues*, *Do Your Duty*, *Give Me a Pig Foot* (and a Bottle of Beer), *That's Nobody's Business If I Do* and *After You've Gone*.

The show opens with a PowerPoint presentation written and produced by Jones that reviews Bessie Smith's origins and rise as a leading stage and recording artist of the 1920's.

Admission is \$15. For more information or to reserve tickets call (248) 622-3422.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Ringle-Dillaman**  
Larry and Mary Beth Ringle of Ithaca, Mich. announce the engagement of their daughter Laura to Bradley Dillaman, son of Don and Patti Dillaman of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Alma College and the University of South Carolina with a master's degree in public health. She is currently employed at Denver Health & Hospital Association.

Her fiancé is a graduate of North Farmington High School and Oakland Community College. He is currently studying sports medicine at Colorado State University.

A June wedding is planned at Alma College Chapel.



**Anderson-Smith**  
Bob and Diane Anderson of McHenry, Ill. announce the engagement of their daughter Lisa to David Smith, son of Ken and Linda Smith of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be will graduate in May from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in interior design.

Her fiancé graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a specialization in security management. He is currently employed by Pinkerton as a computer forensics investigator for General Motors at the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

An October wedding is planned in Illinois.



**Davis**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Davis of Farmington Hills announce the birth of their first child, son, Aidan Reid. He was born at 9:42 a.m. May 24, 2002 at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, weighed 6 pounds and was 19 inches long.

His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shervin of Southfield and his paternal grandmother is Evelyn Lincoln of Royal Oak.



**Berkesh-Shea**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Berkesh of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Karl Lynn to Daniel Patrick Shea, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sten of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Farmington High School and the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. She is employed at Plants & Moran, PLLC in Southfield.

Her fiancé is also a graduate of Farmington High School and the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He is employed at DaimlerChrysler in Auburn Hills.

A July wedding is planned at Franklin Community Church in Franklin.

# Add romance to your life with these suggestions

Is it time to add a little romance to your life? Consider these suggestions from romance novelist Cynthia Simmons, a resident of Farmington Hills:

1. *Be sensitive.* Often worried, burdened and overwhelmed, even on our best days, it is easy to forget that our significant other feels exactly the same way. Try harder to be as sensitive to their needs and feelings as you expect them to be to yours.
2. *Stop the sarcasm.* It's something we all do from time to time - especially when frustrated. Those occasional snappish and sarcastic remarks can have devastating and long last effects on our relationships.
3. *Leave the past out of it.* If you've agreed to forgive and forget, try doing just that. Pick up from today and see how much more pleasant your time together can be.
4. *Don't jump to conclusions.* Try being positive and give your significant other the benefit of the doubt. It could amaze you how much harder they will try when they know you have faith in them.
5. *Never forget the "Thank you's."* We all take others for granted now and again - especially those closest to us. Children and even pets respond best to praise and approval. It's no different for adults. A little appreciation can go a long way.
6. *A simple touch is not to be underestimated.* Too often we hold hands during the movie, yet would never consider it on the way into the theater. A simple touch of the hand, a caress on the cheek, such gestures for no reason except to show you care, can strengthen any relationship and have you basking in a warm romantic glow.
7. *Make the extra effort.* Most everyone knows how good they feel after that long overdue haircut or the loss of a few pounds. Male or female, when you feel you're at your best it shows and others will notice and respond.
8. *Special surprises can do wonders.* It doesn't cost a fortune to spice things up. Letting your significant other know you're attracted should not be reserved for anniversaries and Valentine's Day. Surprise that special person when they least expect it, and you'll make zizzling memories that can last a lifetime.
9. *Plan something together.* We've all heard of family night - a special night set aside each week for families to enjoy one another. Try romance night. Once a week or even once a month, you'll enjoy just planning it and looking forward to it.
10. *Last but not least, say "I love you."* Let your special loved one know how you really feel and do it often. It is the firm foundation for a strong loving relationship and the sure way to ignite the flames of true romance.

# Try these Valentine's Day massage tips

With the romance of Valentine's Day approaching, Tamara Spa of Farmington Hills is offering helpful tips on massaging your sweetheart at home:

- Start by creating the ambiance with aromatherapy candles, music.
- Start with the head, and face, massaging the tension from the temples.
- Pay special attention to the muscles in the back of the neck. People carry a lot of stress there, and often this area is overlooked. Drag the thumbs along the muscles at the back of the neck from bottom to the nape.
- Caressing is the lightest form of massage. You can stroke the head, cheek, even one's hand. These gentle caresses from one loved one to another have the potential to soothe, uplift, and enhance closeness without a word.
- One of the most common reasons for massage is to relieve sore muscles. With your fingertips and thumb, knead the tense area like dough and work the area back and forth using as much pressure as comfortable.
- When rubbing down the back, use the heels of your hand and gently apply pressure with your fingers. Start from pinkie to index finger as if you are typing or playing the piano.
- Don't forget your partner's hands and feet. Take the time to gently work the palms and backs of the hands, top and soles of the feet, and pay special attention to each finger and toe.
- When you're short on time and energy, a quick, effective technique is to massage in circles a couple of inches apart down each side of the backbone.

## WANTED: Student Entries In...

### The Observer & Eccentric's First Annual NIE Contest

To celebrate National Newspaper-in-Education Week and life in your Community

Students from second grade through twelfth grade are invited to round up all of your creative talents and pick from the following categories:

- **Editorial:** Write a brief editorial (100 words or less) about something good that is going on in your school or in your community.
- **Photographer:** Take a picture of something in your community or in your school, which reflects community at school pride that would be worthy of placing in a newspaper. Then write a caption to accompany the photo.
- **Reporter:** Look through the classified advertisements for a subject to report on such as a pet for sale and make up a news story about the subject. Be sure to include the 5 W's: who, what, when, where & why.
- **Editorial Cartoonist:** Express your school spirit through your artistic abilities by drawing and captioning an editorial cartoon about it.

How does the contest work?

1. The contest will have one **FIRST PLACE** winner per category and one honorable mention per newspaper, in each of our four categories.
  - a. Grades 2-3      b. Grades 4-6      c. Grades 7-9      d. Grades 10-12
2. Judging will be based on, but not limited to the following criteria where applicable:
  - a. Originality      b. Creativity      c. Design      d. Grammar
3. All entries must be mailed to The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and received by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers no later than Tuesday, February 25th at.

Att: NIE Entries, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
P.O. Box 51908, Livonia, MI 48153-5908

Prizes  
First Place Winners in each category will get their winning entries printed in their local newspapers and win 4 movie tickets each.  
First Place and honorable mention winners will each be given a certificate of award.

*Home schoolers are welcome to enter, too! Good Luck!*

Official Observer & Eccentric NIE Week CONTEST FORM (must be completed AND attached for entry to qualify)  
I am competing in this:

2nd-3rd grade category       4th-6th grade category  
 7th-9th grade category       10th-12th grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer & Eccentric**

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