

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater

Let's go Dining

Let's go to the Movies

Let's go Traveling

Let's go listen to Music

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1994

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYONIK

Happy holidays! thanks for your help

Happy holidays! Thank you for all your help in launching our new Let's Go! section. Your "Wish You Were Here" photos, participation in movie contests and giveaways, and letters have been much appreciated.

The Christmas spirit is contagious. It's a time of optimism, for counting blessings, and sharing with those less fortunate than we are.

We're happy to have been able to help community groups promote their concerts, plays and other special events. Let's Go! forward and keep up the good work in 1995.

■ The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and American Red Cross are urging the metro-Detroiters to "hear the music" this holiday season, and support a crucial need for blood. The DSO and Red Cross will present the "DSO Holiday Blood Drive" at the nine donor centers in metro-Detroit including Bloomfield Hills 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26. The first 500 people who attempt to donate will receive a pair of Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert vouchers. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule an appointment.

■ Michigan Opera Theatre is sponsoring a "Save-A-Life" Monday blood drive at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2. As an extra incentive, MOT will present each donor with a certificate for one ticket to its spring "Season of Masterpieces." The Ritz-Carlton will also give each participant a certificate for a discounted room rate. MOT will entertain with performers and costumed dancers of their own. Don't let the spirit die after the holidays. Call 1-800-528-4383 to schedule an appointment.

■ Begin the new year on a joyful note — join a community choir. Here are two opportunities. ■ Schoolcraft College Community Choir will hold auditions for new members 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

See MARQUEE, 2B.

Now showing

Chris and Debbie Necovski, owners of Brother's Family Restaurant in Plymouth, know when it comes to food, everybody's a little bit Polish.

Find out what's on stage in your community.

Jodie Foster creates a believable "Neil."

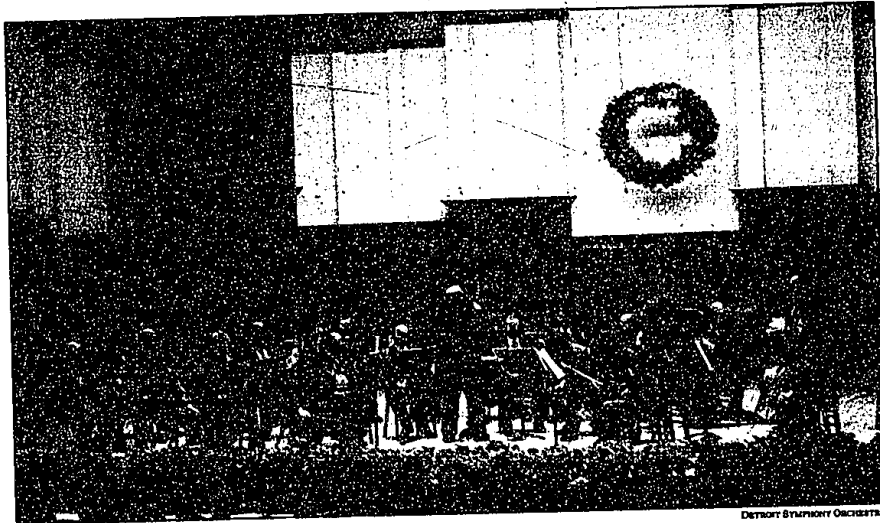
Kate Rosecrance, co-owner of Carlson Travel Network-Suncoast Travel in Plymouth, offers tips for champagne travel on a beer budget.

Wally Pleasant is back with "Houses of the Holy Mo'."

Looking ahead

Locally produced "Xtinct!" is a mix of the pop culture icons and love and despair.

Obnoxious share their New Year resolutions.



DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

New year's: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents "Night in Old Vienna," a festive and romantic New Year's Eve tradition.

Here's what to do on New Year's

When it comes to New Year's Eve, some of us like to swing from chandeliers, most of us don't. Some of us go for champagne and confetti, and some of us prefer quiet dinners and midnight strolls.

Planning a fun New Year's Eve can be a challenge, so we turned to our readers, who have solutions for everything.

We asked readers to recall a favorite New Year's Eve or to suggest a good way to spend a future one.

We gave away to readers 20 pairs of tickets to Second City in Detroit to those who offered tips and reminiscences.

Here's a sampling:
"The year before last we had a New Year's Eve party with our four children. We started the evening with a twilight movie theater matinee then returned home and decorated the house with balloons. We played cards and board games and ate hors d'oeuvres and ice cream punch. As the midnight hour grew nearer, we donned party hats and gathered noise makers. We toasted the New Year with alcohol-free grape wine." — Karen Metz, Canton
"My very best New Year's Eve

experience in Detroit was dancing on the stage of the magnificent Orchestra Hall after a wonderful dinner at the elegant and cozy Whitney restaurant. We listened to the great Detroit Symphony Orchestra perform a concert of light Viennese music and toasted the New Year with a glass of champagne with friends and music lovers." — Marita Stepe, Bloomfield Hills
"For a fun and inexpensive New Year's Eve, I would suggest a progressive dinner for five or six couples, allowing at least an hour at each home. A neighborhood group can dress casually and romp through the snow (if any). Each couple can take a category, for example: appetizers, soup, salad, main course, dessert (cocktails optional) and entertainment. Be imaginative." — Seris Hest, Livonia
"I've found a wonderful way to fit in as a single person on New Year's Eve. I've volunteered at Birmingham's First Night for the past two years and will do so again this year. In fact, I'm bringing in new recruits." — Sharon Sheffer, Bloomfield Township
"My best friend and I feel that New Year's Eve is a time to cele-

brate with the entire family, so a few years ago we arranged to take our husbands and children on an evening carriage ride of Birmingham. We bundled up for the excursion, put hot chocolate in a Thermos for the kids and Irish Coffee in another for the adults. We climbed in an old-fashioned enclosed carriage, and were singing, laughing and watching a soft sprinkling of snow." — Tammy Dyer, Livonia
"The traditional New Year's Eve for a Red Wings fan is to go to the game. Get a room downtown and shuttle, or taxi, over. Let's hope we can do it this year." — Deb Bury, Redford
"Last December, on a whim, my husband, Fred, and I travelled by train to Chicago and stayed at a downtown hotel near the station. We left from Ann Arbor after picking up a boxed lunch at Zinger's, man's Deli and enjoying a "bon voyage drink" at the Gandy Dancer restaurant. In Chicago, we walked to the Midland Hotel. We found plenty to do — museums, a

works display — all within walking distance." — Loretta Blum, Farmington Hills
"In 1992, my husband and I celebrated our first New Year's Eve together. We had dinner with several other couples and went to Ward Presbyterian Church's 11 p.m. service. Near midnight, the lights in the sanctuary were turned down until the entire congregation was sitting silently in the dark. It truly was a wonderful peaceful moment of quiet reflection on what God has done in the year past and what blessings lie ahead in the new year." — Jill Van Doornik, Farmington Hills
"Looking back to 1990 with good neighbors, friends (and connections), we ordered a lobsters and clams steamer pot from restaurant suppliers and proceeded to have a gourmet potluck New England Seaford New Year's Eve dinner. It was so enjoyable the 20 of us have repeated it even better each year." — Lynne Loren, West Bloomfield
Look inside for more New Year's things to do.

Learn to ski winners head for slopes

BY KEELY WYONIK
STAFF WRITER

The response to our "Learn to Ski" contest was great! We received over 40 entries, and would like to thank everyone for participating. Nancy Pichla of Garden City was the winner of our contest. She will soon be headed to Sugar Loaf Resort to spend the weekend skiing with her son.

Runner-up, Martha Breen of Livonia, received a Michigan Ski Industries Association White Gold Card which allows her to ski one time free at each of the participating ski areas across the state during the 1994/95 season.

"My girlfriend and I are single parents; each of us has a 15-year-old son," wrote Pichla explaining why she would like to learn how to ski. "The boys are always wanting to know why we can't go away for weekends or have a day on the ski slopes like some of their friends." Pichla and her friend, Pat Terry, also of Garden City, will be getting a few pointers on skiing from their sons. Pichla's son, Brett, and Terry's son, Steven, have skied before, but their moms have never tried it.

Breen wrote that she's been skiing twice and snowplowed all the way down the beginner's hill before falling to a stop. Her husband is the only one in their family who has done any "real skiing." The Breens have a son and two daughters.

Sugar Loaf Resort is one of 29 Michigan ski areas and shops teaming up to offer an array of special ski programs this winter.

Working with McDonald's restaurants and Ski Industries America, the Michigan Ski Industries Association is introducing beginner snowboard, downhill and cross-country ski programs under the

heading "Menu of Michigan Skiing." The menu which is broken into three courses — "Discover Michigan Skiing," "Discover Michigan Snowboarding," and "Cross-Country Ski Festival," begins on January 3.

Look for details of the Menu of Michigan Skiing on tray liners at McDonald's restaurants or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Menu of Michigan Skiing, 7164 Dear Lake Court, Clarkston, MI 48346-1271.

Participants in Discover Michigan Skiing and Discover Michigan Snowboarding receive three beginner lessons, each consisting of a 90-minute beginner lesson, all at very low introductory prices. Participants must pre-register.

The price for the first session of Discover Michigan Skiing is \$25 for adults, and \$15 for children seven to 14. The second session is \$30 adults, and \$20 kids, and session three is \$35 adults, \$25 for kids.

The average cost of a lift ticket alone is \$28," said Jim Bartlett, president of the Michigan Ski Industries Association and general manager at Nube Nob Ski Area. "Add rental equipment and a group lesson, and the package at most ski areas would be about \$65."

Cross Country Ski Festival introduces new cross-country skiers to the joys of proper skiing techniques well-groomed trails. On Sunday, Jan. 8 all participating ski areas will offer a free, group lesson and free trail pass. Ski equipment is not included, but may be rented to all pre-registered participants.

Nearby participating resorts include Mt. Brighton, Mt. Holly, Pine Knob, and Riverview Highlands.



STAFF PHOTOS BY GUY WARRIOR

Skiers: J.J. Hill explains ski resort information to the Baughman Family of Farmington Hills, Ashley, Gail and Bill at the Michigan Ski Show. Tyler Christensen and Matt Kessler, look at boots.