

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Ann Arbor Folk Festival veteran Arlo Guthrie performs at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Doors open 8 p.m. Tickets \$22 in advance. Call (248) 544-3030.

SATURDAY



The Players Guild of Dearborn and the Guildings present "Aladdin, The Musical" 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Tickets \$5, call (313) 561-TKTS.

SUNDAY



Lisa Hunter celebrates the release of her CD "Flying," with a party and performance 8 p.m. at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Call (734) 761-1451 or visit <http://www.a2ark.org> for more information.

What you really want

Groups like the Spice Girls, Hanson and the Backstreet Boys are sending teens' hearts aflutter



Admirable bunch: When Ginger Spice (in red dress) announced that she was leaving the Spice Girls, it made the front page around the world. According to reports, the attitude of Scary Spice (in the leopard pattern) pushed her out of the band. The remaining group, Baby Spice (in blue dress), Sporty Spice (in red halter), and Posh Spice (wearing a cocktail dress) will arrive at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Sunday, July 26.

A muggy night in the small, quiet community of Berkeley usually lures residents to the Dairy Queen or Clark's Ice Cream stores on 12 Mile Road. On one particular night, however, the Spice Girls' song "Say You'll Be There" echoed down the road. Folks waiting for their orders to be filled at Kam's Express craned their necks to see where the voices were coming from. It even captured the attention of an elderly lady walking into Rite-Aid with the help of a cane. What they were looking at was four junior high-aged girls sitting on a concrete wall outside of a bank singing an impressive rendition of the hit song. Teen-idol worshiping is at a high. Within the last year, groups like the Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, Hanson and 'N Sync and singers like Usher have found their ways onto walls of children's rooms. Nikki VanDorn, marketing director for

radio station WDRQ (93.1), said children (and some adults) are attracted to acts like these because they give kids something that society has been lacking—good, positive role models. "I think that bands like Hanson and the Spice Girls give the younger group of teens someone to look up to. (They offer) wholesome images of role models, good backgrounds and they really enjoy the music. And there's always that little sex appeal," VanDorn explained. "With Hanson, they convey a good family image which parents are very much into. They're not worried about their backgrounds. The other appeal to Hanson is they're hitting it big and they're not that much older than they are." Ann Boss, who works in promotions for WKQI, Q95.5, agreed. "I had Shawn Cassidy and Andy Gibb. I loved Andy Gibb," she said in response to

a co-worker's chuckle. "If they want someone who's squeaky clean, that's Hanson. They like the Spice Girls because they dress up. I'm taking my niece to the Spice Girls and she already knows what she's going to wear. Her favorite Spice Girl is Baby Spice. Her parents are really concerned, but I think my niece only gets about half of what their songs are about. She just likes to dance." Boss may have idolized Cassidy and Gibb, but teen idolism pro-dates that. The Beatles sent swarms of females into frenzy. Like Marcia Brady, plenty of women fawned over Davy Jones. They will get a chance to reprise their childhood when Jones, Peter Noone and Bobby Sherman perform at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Friday, June 19.

Please see **REALLY**, E6

Jump start my heart

Current or former teen heartthrobs are visiting the Detroit area throughout the summer. For more information about shows at Meadow Brook, Pine Knob and The Palace, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacenet.com>

- The Teen Idols featuring Peter Noone, Davy Jones and Bobby Sherman perform at 8 p.m. Friday, June 19, at Meadow Brook Music Festival at Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. Tickets are \$22.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn.
- Hanson and Admiral Twin perform a sold-out show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 29, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township.
- Janet Jackson and Usher perform Friday-Saturday, July 17-18, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. The first show is sold out; tickets for the second show are \$50.25. Call (248) 645-6666 or (313) 596-3200 for more information.
- Backstreet Boys visit The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., in Auburn Hills at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 24. Tickets are \$20.50.
- The Spice Girls perform a sold-out show at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 26, at The Palace of Auburn Hills.
- 'N Sync is tentatively scheduled to perform Friday, July 31, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Ticket information soon. Call (248) 546-7610 for more information.
- Clay Walker and the Dixie Chicks perform Thursday, Sept. 10, at Pine Knob Music Theatre. Expect an announcement in early July about tickets.

Writing is murder for local author

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

"It had a lot to do with the weather." Shirley Schenkel said it with the cadences of a perfect opening for a murder mystery. But the Farmington Hills writer was talking about how she got started writing. "Back in the winter of 1984, we had an ice storm. We had no power and they said it wouldn't be back on for two—three days," she said. "I had the flu, so we stayed at a motel. I took some motel stationery and started writing something."

Following the old adage to write

about what you know, Schenkel wrote a short story about "murder in the meat department" as she was working in the Farmer Jack's meat department at the time. She became so enthralled with writing that for the next year, she woke up early every day to write. "I found I had a lot to learn," she said. She learned well enough to win a publisher's contest. The first prize was publication of her mystery novel "In Blacker Moments" in 1994 by AKA publishers in Seattle, Wash. Schenkel will be signing her book as

part of Murder, Mystery & Mayhem's "Michigan Murder Mystery Author Spectacular" featuring 10 Michigan writers, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, June 22, at the store, 35167 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The writers are Lee Meadows of Ann Arbor, author of the Lincoln Keller mystery "Silent Conspiracy"; Tom Grace of Dexter, author of "Spyder Web"; William Kienzie of Detroit, whose latest Father Koesler mystery is "The Greatest Evil"; Willetta Helsing of Dearborn, editor of "Detecting Women



Shirley Schenkel: Author of "In Blacker Moments."

Please see **MURDER**, E2

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sassy singers rip it up at Frog Island Festival

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

The 17th Annual Frog Island Music Festival gets a jump start June 26 with a hot trio of rhythm and blues divas guaranteed to rip it up. The dynamic ad hoc collaboration of Marcia Ball, Irma Thomas and Tracy Nelson headline Friday, June 26, beginning three days of musical jambalaya. In January the three Rounder Records label mates released a knock-out CD, "Sing It." Marcia Ball, who has played Frog Island in the past, said the idea for the CD was Irma Thomas'. "We were all on the same label and had been doing



Hot trio: Tracy Nelson, Irma Thomas and Marcia Ball (left to right) are combining their talents on a new CD and on tour, stopping at the Frog Island Festival June 26.

Please see **SASSY**, E3

WHERE: Friday-Sunday, June 26-28
TICKETS: \$17.50 per day in advance, \$20 per day at the gate. A special non-transferable three-day pass, available in advance, \$40. To order by phone, call (248) 645-6666.
WHERE: Frog Island is on the Huron River in Ypsilanti's Depot Town district at the intersection of Huron and Cross Streets.
Friday, June 26
• 5 p.m. Gates open
• 6:30 p.m. Motor City Street Band
• 7 p.m. Little Brian Terry & the 2-4-cats Travelers
• 8:30 p.m. Chubby Carter & the Bayou Swamp Band
• 10:30 p.m. Marcia Ball/Irma Thomas/Tracy Nelson
Saturday, June 27
• 11:30 a.m. Gates open
• Noon George Daddard & the Kingspins
• 1:30 p.m. The Johnny Favourite Orchestra
• 3 p.m. The Twistin' Tarantulas
• 4:30 p.m. The Imperial Swing Orchestra
• Saturday Night Big Blues Bash
• 6 p.m. Thelma Davis & Do Paas Dah
• 7:30 p.m. Aaron Funderberg & the Rocketts with Sam Meyers
• 9 p.m. Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang
• 10:30 p.m. Keb' Mo' Band
Sunday, June 28, A Jazz Picnic
• 11 a.m. Gates open, WEMU pancake breakfast
• 1 p.m. Keller/Kocher Quartet
• 2:15 p.m. The Marion Hayden Sextet
• 3:45 p.m. The Lyman Woodard Trio with Betty Jojola
• 5:15 p.m. The Andy Boy Trio
• 7:15 p.m. The Nat Aschberry Quartet

Hot Tix: Eight-time Grammy winning country music performer Vince Gill visits Pine Knob 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20 with special guests Restless Heart. Tickets \$32.50, \$22.50 and \$15.50, call (248) 645-6666.

