

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY

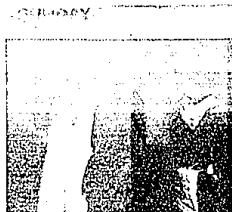


"If You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," the Righteous Brothers Bobby Hatfield (left) and Bill Medley will help you find it during an 8 p.m. concert at the Fox Theatre. Tickets \$28.50, \$36.50 and \$50, at the box office, or call Ticketmaster (248) 433-1515.

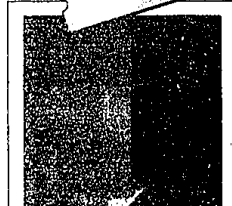
SATURDAY



The Livonia Symphony Orchestra draws musical pictures in a 7:30 p.m. concert at Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy Road, Livonia. Tickets \$15, \$10 students/children. Call (248) 645-6666 or (734) 464-2741.



Joyce McGookey (left to right), Lance Abbe of Plymouth and Janice Meisner star in the Players Guild of Dearborn's production of "Night Watch," a thriller by Lucille Fletcher. Curtain 2:30 p.m. at the theater, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Tickets \$11, call (313) 561-TKTS.



Hot Ticket Item: "Van Gogh: Face to Face," an exhibit of 66 portraits opens Sunday, March 12 (sold out), and continues to Sunday, June 4 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and until 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Timed tickets \$16 Monday-Friday, \$18 Saturday-Sunday, \$9 ages 6-17, and include admission to museum, exhibition and Acoustiguide audio tour. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call (248) 433-8444. For more information, call the Hotline at (313) 333-8499 or visit the Web site at www.dia.org

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with song and dance

BY KEELY WYOCHNIK
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After Mardi Gras and Paski Day comes St. Patrick's Day. Another reason to celebrate whether you're Irish or not. Festivities officially begin 2 p.m. Sunday, March 12 with the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Michigan Avenue in Detroit's historic Corktown at Trumbull. The parade begins at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Third and proceeds west on Michigan Avenue to Wabash.

On St. Patrick's Day, many local pubs will open as early as 9 a.m. Blackthorn, a popular local Celtic band, is presenting a concert 3 p.m. Sunday, March 12 at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, and performing noon to 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17 at Cowley's Old Village Inn in Farmington.

Over 30 local musicians and

entertainers will be featured at the 15th annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest at the Hellenic Center in Westland, which begins at 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day.

Blackthorn

The regulars at Cowley's are familiar with Blackthorn, the band performs there on even-numbered months throughout the year. You can see them at the pub

on St. Patrick's Day, or at the Southfield Centre for the Arts this Sunday.

Gary McMullen joined the group 12 years ago. "We do 60-70 shows a year," he said. "We take it very seriously, and do it for fun and profit, we love it. We all work for a living, and have no strong aspirations that we're going to

Please see **CELEBRATE, E2**

Holiday events

■ An After the Parade Party 3:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12 at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 Ecorse Congress, Detroit. Irish entertainment featuring Michael O'Brien, a cash bar with Irish beer and food are included. A \$5 donation is welcomed. Children under 12 are free. Call (313) 863-5618.

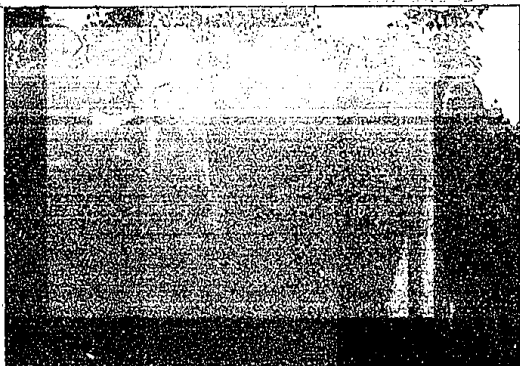
■ The City of Southfield's Parks and Recreation Department presents Blackthorn in concert, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 12 at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. Tickets are \$8 and include an opportunity to meet the artists following their performance, call the Southfield Centre for the Arts (248) 424-9041. Ranging from sea chantees to more serious ballads and contemporary music emerging from the Emerald Isle, the music of Blackthorn brings audiences a glimpse of the true Irish experience.

Blackthorn will also be performing noon to 4 p.m. Friday, March 17 at Cowley's Old Village Inn, 33338 Grand River, Farmington. There will be music all day at Cowley's on St. Patrick's Day. Call (248) 474-5941 for information.

■ Mary Black, Ireland's premier folk singer, will sing at a St. Patrick's Day Concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 16 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

■ St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest 4 p.m. to midnight Friday, March 17 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, between Newburgh and Levan, Westland. Tickets \$8 per person at the door, call (313) 537-3489. Event features Irish music, song and dance by over 30 local performers. Corned beef and cabbage dinners will be offered for sale along with a variety of snacks. Cash bar.

Talented group: (At left) Croupal Cool, the award-winning group consisting of Jeremy Kittel (left to right), Colleen Shanks, Sean Gavin, Tyler Duncan, and Colleen Burke will perform on St. Patrick's Day in Westland. (Top photo) Blackthorn Gary McMullen (left to right), Richard McMullen, Fred Klein and Dennis Green is one of metro Detroit's best known Celtic bands.



BENEFIT

Mask auction helps put a face on homelessness

BY LINDA ANNY CHROMI
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Forget TV images you've seen of dirtied men hanging around a homeless shelter. The Coalition on Temporary Shelter's brown brick building on Peterboro in Detroit's Case Corridor is a place filled with hope, love and cleanly dressed men, women and children on their way to a new life.

Founded 16 years ago as a 40-bed shelter in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Corktown, COTS helps the homeless by providing 300 meals a day and 51,000 emergency shelter nights a year. But COTS isn't just a shelter. Last year COTS, after assessing residents' employability and helping them obtain training and education, filled more than 5,000 jobs with homeless people.

That's why COTS MASKORAIDE auction Saturday, March 18 is so important. This year celebrities such as Jeff Bridges, Rosie O'Donnell, Martha Reeves and Red Wings Darrin McCarly, and artists Elbert Weber of Livonia and Curtis Bailey, Birmingham, have painted masks in hopes of changing the face of homelessness in Detroit. Hundreds of students from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county schools,

"MASKORAIDE for COTS"

Wash. Celebrities, artists, business people, and media personalities paint masks for an auction to benefit COTS. Raffle for a two-year lease on a Lincoln Navigator.

When: 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 18. Where: Detroit Yacht Club, 1 River Bank Road, Belle Isle.

Tickets: \$100, includes buffet dinner, auction and dancing; \$200 patron, includes VIP cocktail reception. Call (313) 831-3777.

including Plymouth Christian Academy, painted smaller lapel pin masks for the event.

John Murphy, a Redford ceramist and instructor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, is one of more than 170 artists, athletes and celebrities creating masks as vibrant and imaginative as the makers. Several months ago when COTS sent Murphy the mask to paint, he decided to turn it into a work of art.

Using the mask as a mold, the internationally exhibited artist created three porcelain clay masks then painted them with his traditional black and white striped and checked treatments. He calls them "Targets of Hardship." "I wanted to help the cause - the homeless," said Murphy, who frequently donates his work to Empty Bowls fundraisers around town. "It's what I

always like to say, 'you have to give it away to keep it.'"

Chairperson Beth McKeown is hoping to raise more than \$125,000 to fund programs such as Day Care for parents who need to receive training before becoming independent. A clothing store, stocked with donations of used pants, shirts, dresses and suits, helps residents put their best foot forward while looking for a job.

"If you're getting your life together you can stay with us two years," said McKeown. "We're giving a hand-up, not a hand-out."

For those unable to live on their own either because of advanced age or mental and physical challenges, COTS provides long-term residency. Homelessness can happen to any one. Every day fires, the loss of a job, divorce, and illness force people into a life on the streets.

"COTS is very communal," said McKeown, "everyone helping each other out." And that's what COTS is all about.

Some of the masks will be on display through Thursday, March 16 at the Andy Sharkey Gallery and Carol Grant Decorative Arts, 610 2nd Washington, Royal Oak. Call (248) 646-6770 for information.



Creative faces: This mask by artist Agnola Peters is one of more than 170 to go on the auction block to help raise money for COTS.