

# ENTERTAINMENT

B<sup>1</sup>  
8 Days a Week E4

## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



MURRAY CLOSE

Oscar-winning performer **Hilary Swank** stars in *The Affair of the Necklace*, opening today.

### SATURDAY



ED SCHNEIDER

Detroit's Queen of Blues and Alligator Records recording artist, **Alberta Adams** performs 7 p.m. at Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. No cover, call (248) 644-4800.

### SUNDAY



CYNTHIA D. MURRAY

The Focus: Hope Holiday Music Festival features **Ron Coden, Barbara Bredius, Josh White Jr., Ortheia Barnes, Kitty Donohoe, Matt Watroba, Robert Jones, Jan Krist (pictured), Charlie Latimer, Al Ayoub, David Reske, Jelly's Pierced Tattoo**, 3 p.m. at North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Tickets \$25, call (313) 494-4438.

## Warm up to a Wild Winter at the zoo



DETROIT ZOO

**Close encounter:** Come face to face with a polar bear during Wild Winter days at the Detroit Zoo.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
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Don't be surprised if you see a mime pretending she's a polar bear during Wild Winter days at the Detroit Zoo. That more than likely will be **Cathy Huber**, one of the Mercy Mimes from Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. The mimes perform 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, in

the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. Last year, Huber and the rest of the troupe imitated animals and snakes during another Wild Winter at the zoo. This year they join an array of performers, including vocal groups such as the Mercymakers 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, and Livonia Churchill High School Choralation 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, for the festivities taking place between December and February. Walk around and watch Henry Ford Community College students carve animals and everything imaginable from ice. Then head over to the new 4.2 acre Arctic Ring of Life exhibit where seven polar bears and several grey, harp and harbor seals swim around visitors inside the 70-foot long acrylic tunnel.

Indoor exhibits like the Penguinarium and National Amphibian Conservation Center provide a place to warm up after seeing the polar bears and arctic foxes who are now wearing their white winter coats. And don't forget to stop in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery where Huber and the Mercy Mimes, under the direction of

Kathy Sill, tell the story of *The Night Before Christmas*. Huber doesn't imitate one of the reindeer in Clement Moore's tale, but eight of the other girls in the troupe do. The 17-year-old senior especially enjoys the gallery where hummingbirds and butterflies light on greenery in the tropical garden on the first level. Last year we walked around and looked at different art and artifacts upstairs in the gallery and reacted to them, then mimed after seeing how visitors would react to them," said Huber, a 17-year-old senior at Mercy High School. "We play off other people's reactions. Some with little kids would stop and watch for awhile. I don't know if they understood what we were trying to do because they were so young but they would sit with a smile on their face." The gallery is just the beginning of what the zoo has to

Please See WILD WINTER, B2

### Wild Winter

**What:** See the animals and enjoy an array of activities and performances  
**Where:** Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road at Woodward Avenue, off I-696, Royal Oak  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 1, to Thursday, Feb. 28. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day  
**Admission:** \$8, \$6 seniors/children age 2-18, under age 2 free. Call (248) 398-0900 or Wild Winter Events Hotline at (248) 543-5835 or visit the Web site at [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org)

## MUSIC

### Doo Wop Fest drives '50s, '60s music back home

BY MIKE MURPHY  
SPECIAL WRITER

Faces change, but the songs remain the same.

And the Reflections, a group of five Detroit-area vocalists who broke out nationally in 1964 with *Just Like Romeo and Juliet*, keep on singing them.

"It's taken us a long way," said Reflection's baritone voice Gary Banovetz of the 1964 hit.

The Reflections will appear Friday at Clarenceville Auditorium along with Gene Chandler, The Tokens, The Crystals and The Dubs as part of the Doo Wop 50 Tour.

*Just Like Romeo and Juliet* wasn't the only Top 40 hit that the group recorded for Golden World, a local label that was later bought out by Motown.

They also hit the Top 40 with *Poor Man's Song*, *Shabby Little Hut*, and *Just Like Columbus Did*, which sounded similar to *Just Like Romeo and Juliet* but didn't have the same impact.

*Just Like Romeo and Juliet* was the one that stuck in the minds of millions of listeners and the one that earned the group a spot on the One-Hit Wonders wall at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

"It was a monster," Banovetz said. "It was the only American song that held its own through the British Invasion."

When *Just Like Romeo and Juliet* hit, Banovetz was part of The Larados,

**What:** The Doo Wop 50 Tour, featuring The Tokens, The Crystals, Gene Chandler, The Dubs, The Reflections and the Tommy C Band.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30  
**Where:** Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia  
**Tickets:** \$30-\$40, call (800) 434-5776

another Detroit area vocal group. The two groups merged in 1977, and they've been busy playing trade shows, conventions and oldies shows ever since.

"God has given us the talent to persevere throughout the years," Banovetz said. "We give credit where it belongs. There's no other logical reason why guys our age would still be singing."

While Banovetz is not an original Reflection, two of the quintet's current members - Tony Micala and John Dean - are.

The three other original Reflections - Ray Steinberg, Don Bennie, and Phil Casterdale - will be at the Clarenceville show, although not as performers, Banovetz said.

"People owe it to themselves to come," Banovetz said. "They will remember it for a long, long time."

Florida-based tour promoter Eddie Morelli said that the Doo Wop 50 Tour



CRISTAL PRODUCTIONS

has been highly successful nationally and that the groups all contain at least one original member.

"I never knowingly present acts that don't," Morelli said. "There are a lot of bogus groups out there, but I would rather pay a little more and have the respect of my peers."

Some, like Gene Chandler, best known for *Duke of Earl*, would be hard to duplicate.

Chandler broke the charts a half dozen times after the success of *Duke of Earl*. His career went through soul and disco phases, but he's now back singing his 1950s treasures.

**Da Doo Run Run:** The Crystals are among a bevy of performers coming to Livonia this weekend to revive the sounds of Doo Wop.

"Gene does a magnificent job," Morelli said. "He is just a fantastic showman."

Morelli, who emcees the '50s shows, began promoting the package tours in Florida less than two years ago. Doo Wop is undergoing a resurgence in popularity, due to the recent PBS special series on the music, he said.

The Crystals, who hit with a slew of songs produced by Phil Spector, including *Da Doo Run Run*, *He's A Rebel*, and *Uptown*, will be coming off a stint on a cruise ship when they appear at

Please See DOO WOP, B2



Painter **Bob Burdette** will present his works, including *Make Everyday Better* (above), for the first time in Detroit when his exhibition, *Secret Agents, Lovely Ladies*, opens 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 at CPOP Gallery, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Admission is free. Call (313) 833-9901.