

Dozens of local bands ready for Blowout



Singer-musician Audra Kubat is ready to rock this weekend.

By GARY GRAFF
Of The Daily Oakland Press

It's a sobering time to operate a music festival in the Detroit metro area.

Just last week, the Detroit International Jazz Festival lost a \$250,000-per-year title sponsorship from the Ford Motor Co. And direction of the city's annual Memorial Day weekend electronic music festival changed hands with talk about turning the free event into a ticketed affair.

But organizers of this week's eighth annual Hamtramck Blowout are mostly worried about snowy weather predictions and getting all the bands started on time.

"It's nice to have the consistency," says Anthony Morrow, who produces the four-day festival for the Detroit weekly newspaper the Metro Times. "Some sponsors change and the bands change, and some of the venues change, but we know from year



Cyril Lords

to year what to expect as far as organizing the event.

"It's a type of oasis where it's happening every year, no matter what."

In fact, the Blowout has only gotten bigger and better every year — to the point where Morrow notes, "I don't know if the event actually can get any bigger."

That doesn't mean he and his colleagues won't try, however.

Last year's Blowout drew about



Outrageous Cherry is one of the bands performing at Hamtramck Blowout 2005.



60 Second Crush

PLEASE SEE BLOWOUT/PAGE D-3

THIS JUST IN ...

Get in the act ... or not

Tired of watching other people have adventures on "The Amazing Race"? Get up, get out, get going! Learn how from an expert: **Phil Keoghan**, host of the CBS reality competition series.

He'll be at Borders Books and Music in Birmingham, 34300 Woodward Ave., at 1 p.m. Saturday to discuss and sign his new book, "No Opportunity Wasted: Creating a List for Life" (Rodale, \$22.95). It's a companion to Keoghan's new TV series, "NOW: No



Keoghan

Opportunity Wasted," coming to the Discovery Channel this fall.

Borders promises the book will "transport reader from Yucatan jungle to the African Congo," saying this is not an armchair traveler book, but "an urgent call to action, inspiring and enabling people to overcome fear and seek out memorable experiences of their own."

OK, so in reality, maybe you'll go from watching adventure on TV to reading about it.

Call (248) 203-0005 for more info.

— NICOLE M. ROBERTSON

Shelter can use a little help

This weekend, think of the animals — specifically, the canines and felines.

On Saturday and Sunday, proceeds from everything purchased at **The Bargain Box** — the **Junior League of Birmingham's** upscale resale shop in Royal Oak — will be donated to the **Royal Oak Animal Shelter**. In addition, the store will accept supply donations for the shelter, including canned cat food, kitty litter, dog toys and blankets.

The Bargain Box is at 510 S. Washington. Weekend hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 546-4540.

— DOUGLAS J. LEVY

Break a leg, Linda

Can it really be 26 years since we wondered who shot **J.R.**?

Linda Gray, the huffy Sue Ellen on the infamous '80s drama "Dallas," is a guest star in a new mystery — "It's Murder, Madam," premiering 9 p.m. Friday on the Hallmark Channel.

"Dallas" should have been a sitcom," Gray says. "We were a very funny cast. We wanted to do one like 'Airplane!' We begged them. But they said, 'No, because if we do, nobody will ever take you seriously again.' And they were right."

Gray's first big break? Her leg. It was her leg that Dustin Hoffman is ogling in the poster for "The Graduate."

"It was just one of my afternoon modeling gigs — a leg shot. ... I had no idea (what) it was going to turn out to be."

— TRACY WARD

Shout back at the TV

OK, so the Oscars are over. There's no need to forget about movies though, right?

But with stinkers such as "Constantine" and "Son of the Mask" on big screens, movie lovers may just want to stay home, and a DVD trivia game might be just the ticket.

Shout About Movies from Hasbro provides video and audio clips from more than 100 acclaimed films, 40 celebrated directors and 50 industry-honored actors. Players compete in teams to identify famous quotes, scenes and characters from major motion pictures. Scoring is calculated onscreen using the remote control from a DVD player.

Shout About Movies is available where DVDs and games are sold, for about \$19.99.

— JENA PASSUT

Kutcher has brains, 'Beauty'

As if we didn't have enough dating reality shows, heartthrob **Ashton Kutcher** is getting in on the game. Is he punking us?

Kutcher, the brains behind MTV's "Punk'd," is producing a new series for the WB network this summer that takes seven nerds and seven dimwit beauties and plays matchmaker. Hmhmhmhm. Is he drawing from real-life experience with his honey, **Demi Moore**?

The show, called "Beauty and the Geek," will put contestants through a series of competitions including learning how to dance, working behind a deli counter (the guys help the girls figure out how to make change) and surviving a camping trip.

Where's "Joe Millionaire" when you need him?

— JENA PASSUT



The Daily Oakland Press/CHARLIE CORTEZ

Dr. Daniel Degner demonstrates the proper technique for applying a pressure rap for a bleeding pet as Dr. Sarah Achen assists him at Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Auburn Hills. The veterinary office will host a Winter Festival on Saturday, teaching pet first aid and offering tours.

What to do?

Clinic teaching pet first aid at open house

By DERRICK SOBODASH
Special to The Daily Oakland Press

A trip to the vet this Saturday could save your cat or dog's life. But before cringing at the thought of veterinary bills, this trip is free.

As part of its Last Blast of Winter Festival, Michigan Veterinary Specialists is offering two classes on pet care designed by Dr. Natalie Brown.

Brown graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University in 2001 and has been practicing emergency veterinary medicine ever since. Her

classes cover a variety of topics from basic first aid to seasonal hazards.

"We wanted to celebrate our 2-year anniversary and thought the classes would be a good way to invite people to learn the basic things they can do at home to help their pets," Brown says.

Attendees will learn how to place bandages for fractures or sprains; care for an animal with heat stroke; mend broken nails; when and how to induce vomiting in case they eat toxic plants; and ways

to "pet-proof" the home.

Most of Brown's lessons focus on care of dogs and cats.

"We find dogs get in a lot more trouble at home," she says with a laugh.

Lessons will end with instructions on transporting an injured animal and performing CPR.

But there's no replacement for professional care.

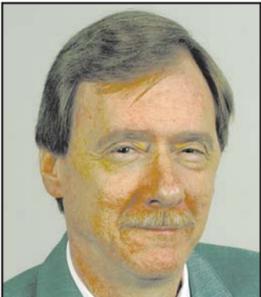
First aid is just that — a response to an emergency when medical treatment is not available. Brown

If you go

Pet classes run 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Michigan Veterinary Specialists, 3412 E. Walton Blvd. (near the YMCA), Auburn Hills. For more information, call (248) 371-3713.

COMING TOMORROW

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