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THE WEEK AHEAD

Look at that: The Livonia Arts Commission presents needlepoint and photography exhibits throughout January at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

MONDAY

Council meets: The Westland City Council meets 7 p.m. Monday in council chambers, second floor of Westland City Hall, Ford Road west of Wayne Road.

TUESDAY

Planning commission: The Westland Planning Commission meets 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in City Council Chambers, second floor at Westland City Hall, Ford Road west of Wayne Road.

THURSDAY

Newburg Night Out: Newburg United Methodist Church's midweek evening of education, fellowship, drama and music for all ages, Newburg Night Out, will meet beginning Thursday at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

FRIDAY

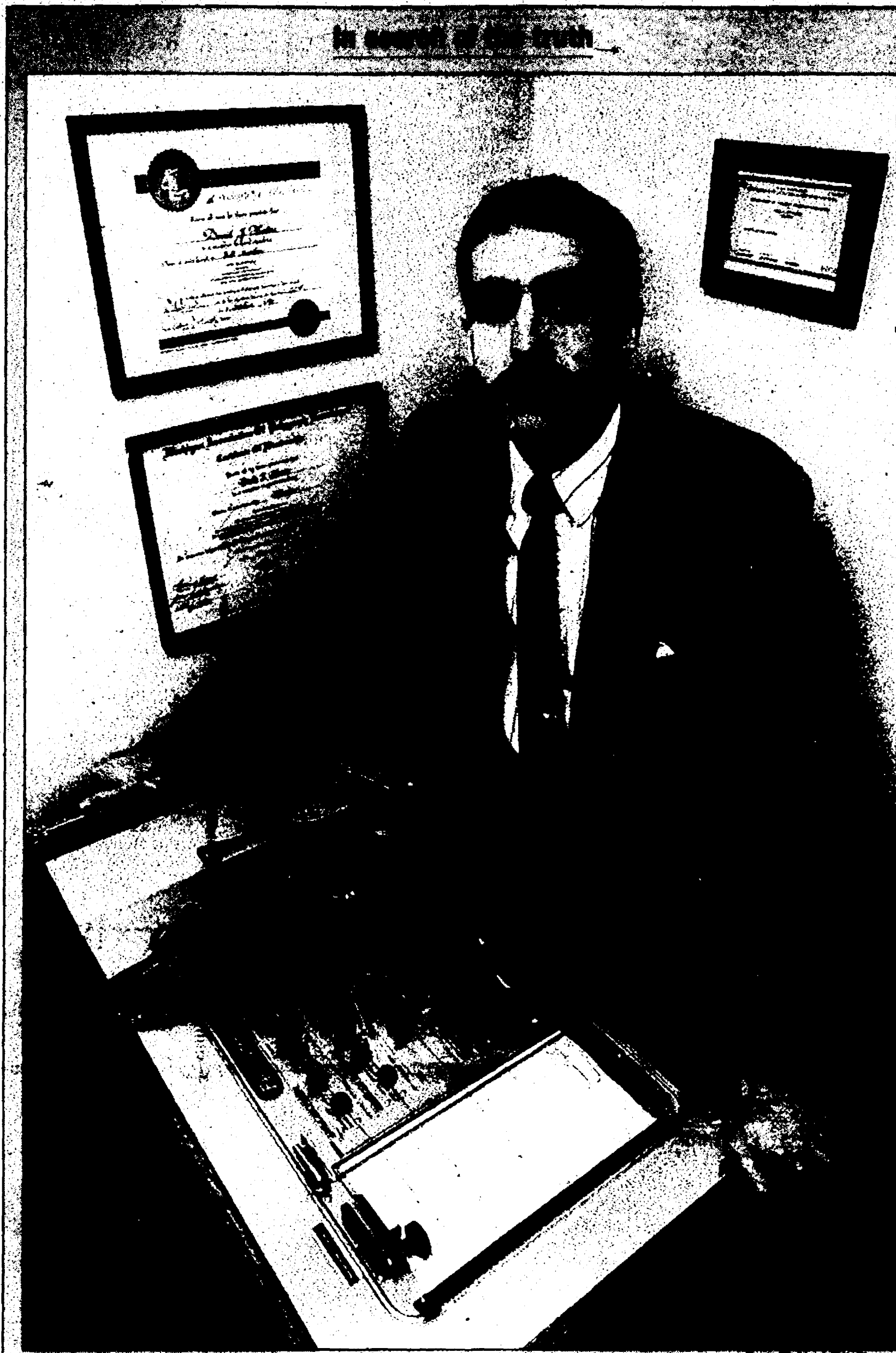
Bowling League: An 18-week Christian-oriented singles bowling league is being organized at Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt Road, Westland, beginning 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8. Call (734) 422-7420.

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It's a test: David Heater is a polygraph examiner for the Westland Police Department. He administers lie-detector tests in a small room decorated only by a polygraph machine and a chair.

Truth or consequences It's examiner's job to detect liars

BY DARRILL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dcclem@os.homecomm.net

David Heater is not the man to lie to — and that's the truth. He's so good at separating liars from truth-tellers that he gets paid to do it. He can identify liars by the way they breathe, by the thump-thump of their heartbeats, by the way their skin sort of crawls when he asks probing questions. "Scared? Don't be. Unless, of course, you're hiding a body in the basement, stashing drugs in the attic or gradually embezzling a half-million from corporate coffers.

Heater, 35, is a polygraph examiner for the Westland Police Department. He administers those dreaded lie-detector tests in a small room decorated only by a polygraph machine and a chair. "Everyone who sits in that chair is nervous, whether they're telling the truth or not," Heater said. It's his job to tell the difference, and he has remarkably reliable — though not foolproof — ways of doing it. Polygraph test results aren't generally admissible in criminal courts, but they can be used for certain pretrial motions and civil court cases. They also can help point a finger at

crime suspects and steer investigators away from innocent people. And, at times, they can prompt confessions. "The polygraph test is a very stressful experience," Heater said. **Intensive training** He received his state polygraph license in October after completing nine weeks of intense training at a private school and after administering 200 tests under the supervision of Michigan State Police Lt. John Wojonarowski in Oak Park. Heater also had to have a bachelor's degree — his was in journalism. **Please see POLYGRAPH, A2**

Injured boy, 5, leaves hospital

■ A boy, who suffered a slashed head, a collapsed lung and lower intestinal injuries in an accident, was released Wednesday.

A 5-year-old Canton Township boy has gone home from a hospital to recover from severe injuries he suffered in a Christmas Eve car accident in Westland.

The boy, who suffered a slashed head, a collapsed lung and lower intestinal injuries, was released Wednesday from Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, a hospital spokeswoman confirmed.

Westland police Sgt. Peter Brokas had said the boy was improving. "His condition has been upgraded, and the doctors expect a full recovery," he said.

The boy suffered critical injuries about 3:15 p.m. Dec. 24 when his mother apparently fell asleep while driving north on Hannan at Palmer Road, police officer Jack McIntosh said.

The woman's car ran off the road and hit a traffic sign before hitting a tree. The woman wasn't seriously injured.

The mother has been cited for misdemeanor charges of operating under the influence of liquor/narcotics and child neglect.

The woman had apparently picked up her son from a baby sitter after going to a bar, police said. Neither mother nor son was properly restrained in the car, police said.

Shoppers make new resolutions

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

'Twas a few nights before the New Year and your neighbors were out, talking about resolutions to be better people and much less stout.

Resolves from shoppers at Livonia Mall and outside Kmart in Garden City ran the gamut from hopes of better grades to keeping in touch with old friends.

Some were philosophical and planned to improve their character and others had grand ideals of spreading goodwill.

Losing weight tipped the scales as the most common response.

Krystal Fisher of Farmington Hills, Angie Albanna, visiting from San Francisco, and Livonia residents Pauline Grunick and Adeline Riegel said they hoped to shed pounds in 1999. Riegel said she also has her eyes on a casino win.

The experts say that the chances of maintaining an exercise regime after making a New Year's pact, are as slim as winning the jackpot.

No one knows that better than Jason Wooley, a Canton resident and Fitness USA manager with a kiosk in a corri-

Please see RESOLUTIONS, A3

Money maker

A Westland man recently won the \$250,000 top prize in the Michigan Lottery's "Jingle Bills" instant game.

The winner, who requested anonymity, bought the winning ticket in Lincoln Park.

"I bought the ticket before work and scratched it off when I got there," he said. "When I first looked at it I couldn't believe the amount. It had too many zeros to believe that it was really true. It has been a week since I scratched it off and it still really feels strange to actually be the winner."

The Westland man, an avid golfer, said he has been regularly playing Michigan Lottery instant tickets for the past 10 years.

He plans to use his winnings to pay bills, make car repairs and pay for his children's college tuition.

PLACES & FACES

Help for the needy

Westland firefighters donated Christmas gifts for three homeless families who are using temporary lodging at the Wayne County Homeless Shelter in Westland. This is the eighth consecutive year the firefighters in conjunction with Target, Kohl's and Beaver Creek have assisted local needy families. The firefighters arrived about 10 a.m. Christmas morning at the shelter, which is located in the old Eloise Complex on Michigan Avenue.

Reconstruction begins

American Power Wash Inc. and FDR Investments

have selected a contractor to reconstruct the American Power Wash building which was damaged by fire earlier this year. Builders started demolition on the building's interior recently and expect work will be completed in 6-8 weeks.

Camaro club

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth is the new club sponsor of the Eastern Michigan Camaro Club which is based in Westland.

The 72-member club, established in 1991, is the largest Camaro Club in Michigan.

LaRiche has proposed car events at the dealership and participating in the all-Camaro event, Camaro SuperFest '99.

The club meets 7:30-8:45 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in the service writeup area.

Polygraph from page A1

from Michigan State University. And he had to pass a state written exam and survive an interview process.

He has now given 280 polygraph tests, not only for Westland police but also for authorities from Garden City, Canton Township, Troy, Inkster, West Bloomfield and several other communities.

Few departments have their own polygraph operator, and Westland police Lt. Marc Stobbe, who heads the detective bureau, said Heater's expertise has made a difference.

"It's a very large resource for us," Stobbe said. "It saves us a lot of time and manpower. We can eliminate a lot of suspects by giving them the polygraph. If they pass it, we can move on to other suspects."

Police officers can't force suspects or witnesses to take the polygraph, and half of those who agree to it don't show up for their appointments.

Those brave enough to follow through can expect to spend about two hours with Heater. He starts by talking informally with test-takers, building up their confidence in the polygraph and in his ability to administer it.

"For the nervous truthful person, their only fear is that they will be falsely accused," he said.

But Heater has found that truth-tellers usually relax as the test proceeds, compared to liars

'It's a very large resource for us. It saves us a lot of time and manpower. We can eliminate a lot of suspects by giving them the polygraph. If they pass it, we can move on to other suspects.'

Lt. Marc Stobbe
—Westland police

who are betrayed by their involuntary nervous systems when faced with probing yes-or-no questions.

Watching for signs

Liars tell on themselves in several ways while sitting in the polygraph chair:

- Pneumatic tubes placed around their chests and stomachs measure breathing patterns, which tend to change along with their heartbeats when they are faced with questions they'd rather avoid.

- A strap placed around one arm reveals blood pressure changes.

- Monitors connected to two fingertips measure the skin's electrical resistance, which changes when lies are told.

- A sensor underneath the chair detects body movement. Some suspects try tricks such as placing tacks in their shoes and inflicting personal pain in an attempt to alter their body reactions and confuse the polygraph machine.

"There is no reliable tactic that

I'm aware of to consistently beat a polygraph test," Heater said.

As the questioning proceeds, the polygraph machine etches lines on paper charts to measure respiration, heartbeat, blood pressure and the skin's response — allowing Heater to see any patterns.

"We can see the physiological changes," he said. "What we're detecting is the fear of being detected."

Heater conceded that 7 percent to 10 percent of his tests are inconclusive, even though his questions are carefully worded. He worries at times that guilty people may walk free due to confusing results that might halt an investigation.

Still, he said, the vast majority of tests help steer investigators as they try to solve crimes.

Police Sgt. Terry Donohue recalled a confession that Heater marketed from a Westland supermarket employee who had stolen \$1,000 while on the job.

"Without Officer Heater and the polygraph, that person would have never confessed," Donohue

said. "I had already interviewed her, but she confessed only after she failed the polygraph."

Common crimes

Crimes most commonly resulting in polygraph tests include criminal sexual conduct, larceny and embezzlement.

"Those are the top three, followed by assaults," Heater said.

Sex crimes are particularly troubling for polygraph operators like Heater. A suspect and a victim may have different perceptions of what was criminal sex or consensual sex, and both people may appear truthful on the tests.

"The polygraph only tests what a person believes to be true," Heater said.

Lies in cases like murder are easier to detect.

Stobbe praised the job Heater is doing.

"It's essential that a polygraph examiner is someone who is highly intelligent and who possesses a high degree of integrity. We have that in Officer Heater," Stobbe said.

Heater freely admits that polygraph tests aren't perfect, but he said they do help solve crimes.

"It's the best thing that mankind has devised to tell if someone is telling the truth or not," he said.

He seemed like he was telling the truth.



John Zech, first place

Sam Corrado, third place

Beanie raffle

Beanie Babies and \$500 were given as prizes in a Westland Chamber of Commerce raffle held at Farwell and Friends Restaurant in Westland Dec. 20.

Winners and their prizes included: J.J. Zech of Wayne, \$500; John Owen of Westland, basket of Ty 1997 October release fourth-generation Beanie Babies Snowball, '97 Teddy, Spinner, Gobbles and Batty; Sam and Gail Corrado of Westland, Princess Di Beanie Baby.

The raffle was chaired by Lisa Walker, Westland Observer advertising representative. Garden City Hospital donated the raffle tickets.

Partial proceeds will go toward the Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund and the remainder will assist in small business programs.

Chamber lunch

The state of the Wayne-Westland schools will be the topic Tuesday, Jan. 12, when Greg Baracy, school superintendent, addresses the Westland Chamber of Commerce. The business luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at Joy Manor.

Raised in Wayne, Baracy and his wife, Gabriele, both graduat-

ed from Wayne Memorial High School. They have two children and continue to live in Wayne. Baracy began his professional career as a high school teacher in 1974. Since then, he has taught at the college level and has served

as department chair, vocational director and assistant superintendent for general administration. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Wayne State University. Tickets for the lunch and program are \$13. Call (734) 326-7222 for reservations.

After hours

The Westland Chamber of Commerce membership committee's new member Business After Hours will be held 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Electric Stick. The Electric Stick is sponsoring the hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available. The event will introduce the new chamber members to chamber benefits and to established members. Members are invited to bring friends and co-workers to the event.

The Electric Stick is at 6581 N. Wayne Road. To RSVP, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.



CITY OF GARDEN CITY PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 21, 1998 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Present were Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Briscoe, and Waynick. Absent and excused was Councilmember Kaledas.

Also present were City Manager Bayless, City Clerk-Treasurer Bettis, City Attorneys Cummings and Salomone, Department of Public Service Director Barnes, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Miller, Parks and Recreation Director Whitson, Police Chief Kocis, and Lieutenant Maier.

The Mayor announced it was time for Public Discussion for items not on the agenda.

♦ Herman Bersano, of Garden City, wished Mayor and Council a Merry Christmas.

♦ Item 12-98-540

Moved by Wiacek; supported by Lynch:

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of December 14, 1998, as corrected.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-541

Moved by Lynch; supported by Briscoe:

Mayor Barker commented on the fact the McKenna & Associates bills are to be approved by the Planning Commission prior to being listed on the Accounts Payable; and, the City Attorney will give an itemized billing so charges can be applied to the correct account.

RESOLVED: To approve the Accounts payable, as listed.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-542

Moved by Dodge; supported by Briscoe:

RESOLVED: To approve and authorize the City Manager to submit on behalf of the City of Garden City the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Garden City is a community that is located within the Rouge River Watershed (Middle Three and Lower Two) and,

WHEREAS, the Rouge River is a variable resource where the water quality in the river has been impaired to the extent it has become a threat to human health, and wildlife and,

WHEREAS, the City of Garden City, in cooperation with other communities, the Wayne County Rouge Program Office, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, is desirous in restoring the Rouge River to allow for water activities and,

WHEREAS, the City of Garden City has passed resolutions supporting the efforts of the Middle Three and Lower Two subwatershed groups by approving the vision Statements, Prologues, and Goals of each subwatershed and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has developed a General Storm Water Permit to allow communities to develop activities and projects that will help restore the river, including Education and Illicit Discharge Elimination Plans and,

WHEREAS, the City of Garden City has been active in the support of the General Storm Water Permit and,

WHEREAS, the City of Garden City would like to seek a Certificate of Coverage under the General Storm Water Permit.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that by approval of this resolution;

1. The City of Garden City is supportive of the efforts to clean the waters in the Rouge River and is seeking approval of their application for a Certificate of Coverage under the General Storm Water Permit.

2. Appoints the DPS Director as the official CONTACT PERSON for the purposes of the Application.

3. Authorizes the City Manager to execute and submit the Application for Coverage on behalf of the City of Garden City.

AYES: Unanimous

The Council as a Whole discussed the following items:

1. Year 2000 Study.
2. Engineers Report-Greg Weeks.
3. Wade-Trim Payments.
 - a. Engineering Services 11/1/98 - 11/28/98, Pardo/Hartel Project.
 - b. Engineering Services 11/1/98 - 11/28/98, Beechwood, Birchlawn & Moeller.
4. Conceptual Park Development Master Plan.
5. HRC & McNeely & Lincoln Joint Venture Invoice.
6. Telephone System Audit.
7. Civil Infraction Ordinance.
8. DPS Annual Purchase-Water Repair Sleeves.
9. DPS Purchase-Lawn Equipment.
10. Supplemental Appropriation-Library.
11. 1999 City Council Meeting Schedule.
12. Comcast Franchise Agreement Extension.
13. Investment Policy.

♦ Item 12-98-543

Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch:

RESOLVED: To approve payment to Wade-Trim in the amount of \$3,621.50, for Professional Services rendered from 11/1/98,

for the Pardo/Hartel Project, as recommended by the City Manager, charged to Account #202-202-337.042.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-544

Moved by Wiacek; supported by Dodge:

Council was informed that this is not the first payment to Wade-Trim for this project.

RESOLVED: To approve payment to Wade-Trim in the amount of \$2,588.00 for Professional Services rendered from 11/1/98-11/28/98, for the Beechwood, Birchlawn & Moeller Street Project, as recommended by the City Manager, to be charged to Account #202-202-337.055.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-545

Moved by Dodge; supported by Wiacek:

RESOLVED: To approve the proposal for a Conceptual Park Master Plan and Park Playground Equipment update as submitted by Wade-Trim at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Manager, to be charged to Account #011-895-956.160

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-546

Moved by Dodge; supported by Briscoe:

Council informed the citizens that if this company finds nothing in their audit, we pay nothing.

RESOLVED: To award the bid for the Telephone System Audit to Tel-Adjust, Inc., for a cost of 50% of the refund debate collected on past amounts only, as recommended by the City Manager.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-547

Moved by Briscoe; supported by Lynch:

Council informed the citizens that if this company finds nothing in their audit, we pay nothing.

RESOLVED: To award the bid of repair sleeves to East Jordan Iron Works, in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be charged to Account #592-593-740.000.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-548

Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch:

Council informed the public that this piece of equipment had been tested prior to purchase.

RESOLVED: To award the bid for lawn equipment to Southlane per State Contract in the amount of \$15,578.34, charged to account #401-401-332.020.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-549

Moved by Lynch; supported by Dodge:

RESOLVED: To approve Supplemental Appropriation #A99-004 for the transfer of \$7,000.00 from library fund balance into line item 790-790-978.00 (Books) and transfer \$2,500.00 into line item 790-790-978.001 (Audio/Visual).

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-550

Moved by Wiacek; supported by Lynch:

Council expressed their desire that this would be the last extension and everything would be in place by July 31, 1999.

RESOLVED: To introduce an Ordinance to extend the term of a certain franchise agreement with Comcast Cablevision, Inc., and set a public hearing on same for January 18, 1999, at 7:25 p.m., at City Hall.

AYES: Unanimous

♦ Item 12-98-551

Moved by Briscoe; supported by Waynick:

RESOLVED: To go into Closed Session to discuss Attorney's opinion and pending litigation.

AYES: Unanimous

All Council, as of the beginning roll, returned from Closed Session and the following motion was offered.

♦ Item 12-98-552

Moved by Briscoe; supported by Waynick:

RESOLVED: To approve payment to Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. and McNeely & Lincoln Joint Venture in the amount of \$46,174.95 for 10 months of November and December 1997 through the current period, for services performed on the Sewer Separation Construction Projects.

AYES: Councilmembers Lynch, Wiacek, Briscoe and Waynick.

NAYS: Mayor Barker and Councilmember Dodge.

Motion passed.

♦ Item 12-98-553

Moved by Waynick; supported by Briscoe:

RESOLVED: To direct the City Manager to have the Department of Public Services Director contact the City Attorney within 24 hours of this motion.

AYES: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
Treasurer/City Clerk
AMB/tp
L 072002

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THE

Observer

NEWSPAPERS

1996 General Excellence Award

Resolutions from page A1

dor of Livonia Mall. He lured passers-by with a display of pictures showing that exercise really does flatten stomachs and build abs.

While losing weight is one of the most common New Year's resolutions, it's also one of the most commonly broken, Wooley said.

"We get a crowd who comes in for three months, they get into shape and look great and then they quit," said Wooley explaining that fitness centers have a 60 percent higher attendance rate between January and April.

Family affair

While some shoppers pined for personal improvement, others hoped to maintain strong family lives.

Livonia resident Bill Relias strolled through the mall with his arm draped over his son, Jeff, an Observer carrier. Rustling Jeff's hair, Relias said his resolution is to be more patient.

Kurt Smith, a Livonia resident who works at Thomas and Thomas Sound Entertainment in Garden City, puts a high premium on family life, too.

"I would try to concentrate a lot more on my health and spend more time with my family," Smith said.

Family relationships were top on Livonia resident Lynn Miller's list. She plans to spend the next 365 days working on "improving communication skills with my spouse. And I'll try to be a lot more patient with my kids."

If the price of cigarettes rises to \$5 a pack, Miller said, she will also quit smoking.

Alexander J. Kosido of Plymouth follows the philosophy that the more you give the more you receive.

"I really don't have any (resolutions)," he said. "But, the most important thing to a senior like myself is, I feel, staying busy. I thank the good Lord for good health and that I'm able to stay busy; and for my wife, six children and 13 grandchildren. I'm always giving and it comes back to me 100 fold."

Mary Koehler of Livonia and



Hopes for new year: Jennifer Parker, a 14-year-old Westland ninth-grader at John Glenn High School, said she resolves to earn better grades during 1999.

Sarah Artish have similarly high goals. "Both women, who were stopped at different ends of the mall, said exactly the same thing: "I'd like to become a better person."

"I love being with people," Artish said. "I love the public."

Nearby, Mary Therese Aubrey of Rochester, took a break from shopping. Sitting on a bench with three of her five daughters, Aubrey said, she plans to pray more in the new year.

Not for everyone

Some people, like Raene

Kemp of Redford and Tracey Hrubak of Livonia, haven't had time to think about next year, yet. And others, like Ralph Alcalá of Redford and Janet Marshall of Garden City, definitely won't break their resolutions, because they don't make them.

"I never keep them anyway," Marshall added.

And others keep on trying. Like Dan Petersmark, a Macomb Township resident, who has made the same resolution for the last 10 years.

"Quitting smoking is probably my No. 1 problem and my

No. 1 resolution for the 10th year in a row," Petersmark said.

Walking through the mall with a friend, Jennifer Parker, a 14-year-old Westland ninth-grader at John Glenn High School, said she resolves to earn better grades during 1999.

Wayne Chubb, a Redford resident, said he will work on being prompt, because his tardiness is annoying to his friends and family. And Margarine Finney of Taylor hopes to get a new job.

Gene Nelson of Detroit said he hadn't made a resolution

yet, but when pressed for an answer he added: "To be more prosperous and to be more sharing and caring to people."

Laura Hall, who moved from Wayne to Boston 16 years ago, said she will go to almost any length to keep in touch with lost friends.

While in town, Hall said, she has knocked on doors hoping to contact people she hasn't talked to in almost two decades. The response, she said, has been great. Most people, who don't have an idea of who she is, invite her into their homes and try to help her search.

City budget chief seeks Livonia job

BY MATT JACEMAN
STAFF WRITER
mjachman@oe.homecomm.net

Livonia City Council members will likely be sifting through stacks of resumes during the holiday break.

Twenty-one people, including the Westland budget director, have applied for the city treasurer's job, and the council plans to meet in committee at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, to decide how to narrow the field and pick a successor to Laura Toy.

Toy, who is halfway through her second two-year term as treasurer, was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November and took office Friday, Jan. 1.

Council President Jack Engbreton said there was an 11th-hour rush of applicants. Seven people submitted or completed their applications on Tuesday, six on Monday.

The candidates include Gerald "Joe" Taylor, a former city councilman; Elizabeth Duggan, the Westland budget director and the former Livonia deputy treasurer and Councilman Brian Duggan's stepmother; Bill Fried, a community activist and former council candidate; Richard DeVries, a Schoolcraft College trustee and also a former city council candidate; and Patrick Nalley, a Livonia Public Schools Board of Education member.

The council has scheduled a second committee-of-the-whole meeting, at which interviews with the candidates will start, for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, Engbreton said. The committee of the whole meets in the council chambers on the second floor of city hall.

Tuesday, Jan. 12, has been set aside for a second committee meeting, if needed, Engbreton said. The council is expected to officially pick a new treasurer during its first voting meeting of 1999 on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

If the council does not make an appointment within 30 days of the office becoming vacant, Mayor Jack Kirksey would have the power to do so.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM P. RICKMAN

Funeral services for William Rickman, 53, of Van Buren Township were Dec. 30 from Uht Funeral Home in Westland.

Mr. Rickman, who died Dec. 26 at his home, was born June 6, 1945, in Highland Park. He was a laborer, working in landscaping.

Survivors include a sister, Mary Mallard of Westland; nephews, Allen and Paul Mallard; niece, Dawn Hayward; and seven grandnieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were two nieces.

Burial was at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton.

MARY LANDA

Funeral services for Mary Landa, 71, of Westland were Dec. 29 at Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland with the Rev. Joseph Muscat officiating.

Mrs. Landa, who died Dec. 22,

was born May 18, 1927, in Detroit. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include husband, Jerry J. Landa; daughter, Nancy (Jeff) Ainsworth; son, Jerry J. Landa Jr.; and two grandchildren, all of Westland.

Cremation rites were accorded. Memorials may be made to VNA Hospice, 25900 Greenfield, Suite 600, Oak Park 48237.

FLORENCE H. KENNEY

Funeral services for Florence Kenney, 84, of Westland were Dec. 30 in St. Damian Church with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements were made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home.

Mrs. Kenney, who died Dec. 27 at her residence in Westland, was born May 26, 1914, in Chebbygan. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are her husband, Maurice; sons, Maurice, James

(Laura) and Patrick (Phyllis); daughters, Jacqueline (Richard) DeSmyter and Mary Ann (Frank) Salinas; sisters, Olive Buchanan and Arlene Farmer; 13 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

JOSEPH J. DOBBS

Funeral arrangements for Joseph Dobbs, 88, of Westland were made by Uht Funeral Home.

Mr. Dobbs, who died Dec. 26 in his Westland residence, was born Jan. 11, 1910, in Indiana, Pa. He was a machinist in the electronics field.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn; sons, Gerald and Joseph (Alice); daughter, Carolyn (William) Bonanni; brother, Joe; sisters, Victoria Dobbs, Anna Boccardi, Helen Kare and Carolyn Long; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Area chorus to hold auditions

The Livonia Civic Chorus will hold auditions for its spring season at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, and Tuesday, Jan. 26. Auditions will be at Frost Middle School, on Stark north of Schoolcraft Road, just south of the Livonia Family YMCA.

Prospective chorus members can go to either audition, which are also rehearsals for returning

members.

The chorus is looking for basses and tenors, but anyone who likes to sing and lives in the metropolitan area is welcome to audition. The chorus, partly sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, has up to 70 members.

In its 34th year, the chorus will be rehearsing in early 1999

for its spring show, scheduled for Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, at the Clarenceville High School auditorium. The show will include a little acting, a little dancing and a lot of singing.

For more information, call chorus president Dick Ruel at (734) 525-1447 or publicity chairwoman Kimberly Alderman at (734) 525-6414.

WESTLAND ACHIEVERS

Items for Westland Achievers may be sent to Beth Sundria Jachman, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, faxed to (734) 591-7279 or e-mailed to: bjachman@oe.homecomm.net

Chard Corte, a freshman, and Ronald L. Schomer, a sophomore, have been named to the dean's list for the fall term at Northwood University in Midland. Both are Westland residents.

Corte is the son of Steven and

Cindy Corte and Schomer is the son of Ronald Schomer. To achieve dean's list recognition, students must earn a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Two Westland residents were among 1,900 graduates at Central Michigan University in August. Receiving degrees were Joseph P. Morelli, master of science in administration and Jacquelyn H. Tuggle, bachelor of science in business administration.

Matthew F. MacDonnell-Oakley of Westland recently received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton. He graduated cum laude.

Lisa Anastasia Hardaloupas of Westland has received her master of organization development degree from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Holiday Pounds Erased With Sensible Eating Habits, Exercise.

Livonia Fitness Center Caters To Women With 'Real' Food, Personal Attention, On-Site Exercise.

Holiday excesses mount an annual attack on the waistlines of American women, adding 12 lbs. to the average female figure. Many resort to "quick fix" fad diets-- pills, powders, temporary solutions-- as a means of holding the battle lines during the season of national overindulgence.

But experts say there's no shortcut to maintaining a healthy figure; sensible eating habits and regular physical activity alone will curb the effects of party food & drink that precede the new year.

Enter Inches-A-Weigh, the national fitness and nutrition center for women, recently opened locally in Livonia.

"Our program hinges on the idea that permanent fitness requires 'real' grocery store foods prepared the way our clients like to eat," says Barbara Horowitz, owner of the bustling business.

"Our behavior modification program builds the foundation for a healthy lifestyle our clients can enjoy indefinitely, through sensi-



Inches-A-Weigh figure shaping equipment

er levels of exertion in each hour-long session." She adds, "What sets us apart is the combination of support, nutritional counseling and our shaping equipment."

Many Inches-A-Weigh clients have had trouble with other programs due to existing medical constraints. "It's great because it works gently enough for women with back problems, diabetes, or even arthritis," says Julie. "What I love most about my job is helping clients achieve goals they thought insurmountable. That happens all the time around here."

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Mike Kalkas, Westland, MI

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A piece of racing history reaches finish

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER
mchestney@oc.homecomm.net

It was all over at 6 p.m. Thursday at Ladbroke Detroit Race Course.

By that time, horse-racing diehards had placed their last bets on a race televised from Northville, and tallied their last winnings (or losses) from the 48-year-old Livonia racetrack. Employees had answered their

last phone call, swept their last floor and served their last beer. For the last time, ticket-takers had cashed in their last tickets.

By 8 p.m., Michelle Schoen, a horsemen's bookkeeper from Westland, had cleaned out her desk and said her last goodbyes to friends she has made in 25 years spent working at the track.

With the official closing of Ladbroke, the state's only all-thoroughbred track, a piece of

Michigan history came to an end.

The last thoroughbred race on the mile-long oval track took place Nov. 8; since then, betting has taken place inside on races televised from tracks around the country.

Ladbroke sold the property for \$30 million in March to a group of investors who plan to build a commercial and industrial center on the site at Schoolcraft Road and Middlebelt.

"It's been very difficult this last year," Schoen said. "It's been like going to a funeral every day."

Parts of the building already are missing, sent on to racetracks owned by Ladbroke in California and Pennsylvania, or donated to Michigan organizations.

Chairs in the basement viewing area have been ripped out. Instead of the hum of race fans, the basement now houses tractors, trucks and other field equipment.

Ladbroke's massive 48-star flag, made of wool, has been given to the city of Livonia. Vintage black-and-white pho-

tographs have gone on to Greenmead Historical Village. Huge, dusty photograph albums will now be housed at Michigan State University's School of Agriculture. A slew of trophies went to the Michigan Racing Commission.

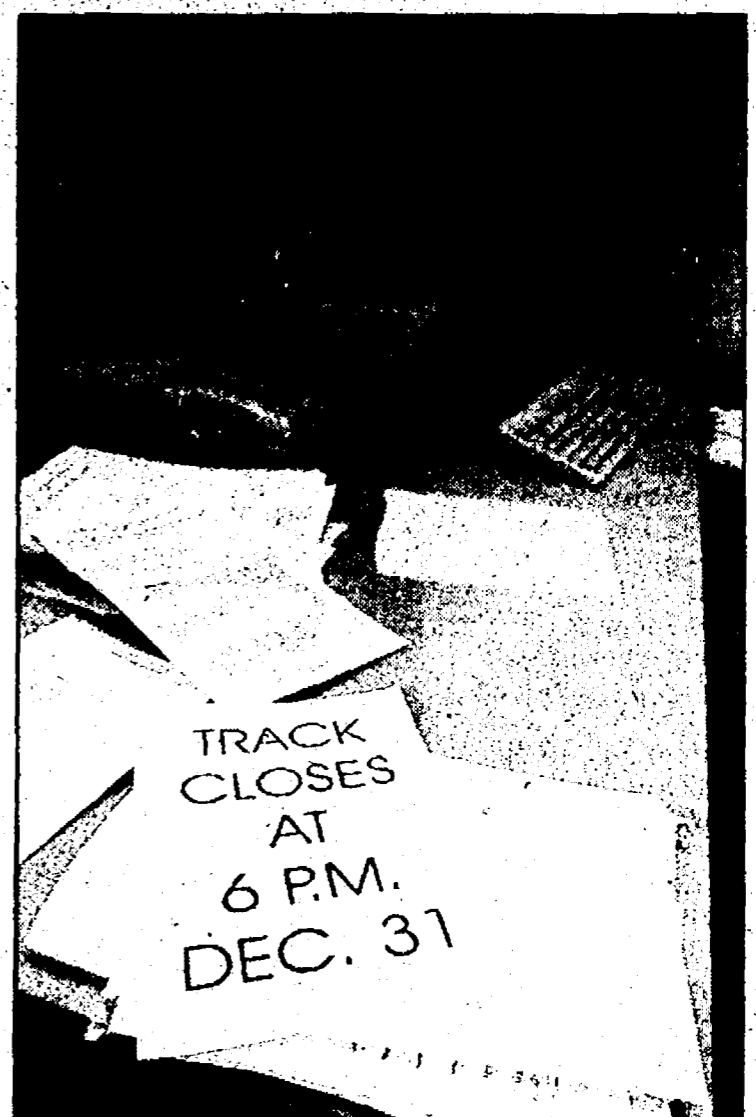
Saying farewell

With a remnant work crew, the rest of the furnishings — the betting carrels, TV sets, office furniture, dining tables and chairs — will be hauled out in January.

The crew will lock up the building for the last time Jan. 31. At that time, only the out-buildings and the building's shell will be left.

Every day of 1998 since the property sale was first announced has been a "hug" day, said Carol Schroeder, Ladbroke's director of marketing. Employees, horse owners, jockeys and racing fans have all consoled each other over the loss with hugs.

"We've been in this grieving process a long time," Schroeder said. "Two years ago, we had 1,200 employees. Now it's 60. On



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Closing time: A last day of operations memo sits in an office at Ladbroke DRC last week.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF ADOPTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at its Regular Meeting of Monday, December 28, 1998, the City Council of the City of Garden City did adopt the following:

1999 - SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY

Monday	January 04, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	January 11, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	January 18, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	January 25, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	February 01, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	February 08, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	February 15, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	February 22, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	March 01, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	March 08, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	March 15, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	March 22, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	March 29, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	April 05, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	April 12, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	April 19, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	April 26, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	May 03, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	May 10, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	May 17, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	May 24, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	June 01, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	June 07, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	June 14, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	June 21, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	June 28, 1999	Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 06, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	July 12, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	July 19, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	July 26, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	August 02, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	August 09, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	August 16, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	August 30, 1999	Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 07, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	September 13, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	September 20, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	September 27, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	October 04, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	October 11, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	October 18, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	October 25, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	November 01, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	November 08, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	November 15, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	November 22, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	December 06, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	December 13, 1999	Council Meeting
Monday	December 20, 1999	Council Meeting

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for:

INSTALLATION OF EIGHTEEN (18) NEW LOCHINVAR BOILERS & ONE (1) LOCHINVAR POOL HEATER

Project includes (not limited to) demolition and removal of existing equipment at five (5) school sites and installation of the above equipment pre-purchased by Livonia Public Schools.

Specifications, bid forms and plans may be reviewed at the Central Office Maintenance Department. Any questions regarding this bid may be directed to Mr. Tim Kohut, Maintenance Supervisor at 734-523-9160.

A MANDATORY BUILDING WALK-THROUGH WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 22, 1999 AT 8:30 A.M. at the Maintenance Building at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan (South of 5 Mile, West of Farmington). TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED.

Bids will be received until 10:00 A.M. on the 8th of February, 1999 at the Board of Education Maintenance Department. At this time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read. Vendors are encouraged to attend.

Bid security in the amount of 5% of the total proposal, in the form of Bid Bond or Certified Check must accompany each bid. Performance Bond and payment bond will be required of the successful bidder.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part in the interest of uniformity, design, equipment, delivery time or preference, to waive any informalities and to award to other than the low bidder, with rationale to support such a decision.

Published January 8 and 10, 1999

Jan. 1, it will be next to zero."

Schoen spent her first five years at the racetrack handling bets. Then she took over the horsemen's books and spent the next 20 years keeping the track's accounting straight for both horse owners and jockeys.

Schoen is the person horse owners and jockeys came to when they wanted to get paid. She's the person both groups haggled with if they disagreed over where they placed, or the size of the purse.

Schoen said she never lost an argument.

This year, she paid \$14.7 million to the horse owners; \$1.4 million to jockeys. The huge computer-printed books now sit on her desk. All 1,000 accounts show the same tally: zero.

Most of the tears were shed after the last live race, outside in the winner's circle, when the tracks fans sang a farewell "Auld Lang Syne."

"Everyone was crying; we were all choked up," Schroeder said.

Desolate scenes

Since Nov. 8, portions of the

huge building have become mini-ghost towns where a human foot hardly ever trods.

Horse stalls near the track, numbered one to 10, now stand empty.

Unexpectedly, a TV set runs in the cluttered and unkempt rooms jockeys relaxed in. But nary a jockey is in sight.

Picnic tables where race fans ate, drank and watched the horses round the track are long gone.

The rotunda fountain has been shut off.

The long row of horse stalls that once housed a thousand horses now stand deserted.

Flowers still line the winner's circle, where winning horses strutted in triumph.

But only memories and photographs of the hundreds of horses feted here now remain.

"Every thing you see here today will soon be gone," Schroeder told a visitor. "That's hard to accept. It's the end of an era, an era that made Livonia

become a city because of the taxes that could be gotten from the track."

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Rene Santiago, M.D.
35270 Nankin Blvd. #501
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 421-2334

Leola Surul, M.D.
4811 Venoy Road
Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 721-0707

Adhikari Kaza, M.D.
4811 Venoy Road
Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 721-0707

Peter Stevenson, M.D.
2100 Monroe St
Dearborn, MI 48124
(313) 278-3900

Brian Sider, M.D.
2100 Monroe Street
Dearborn, MI 48124
(313) 278-3900

Roger D. Smith, M.D.
7300 Canton Center Rd
Canton, MI 48187

Edward T. Merkel, M.D.
7300 Canton Center Rd
Canton, MI 48187

Women's Health and Wellness Center
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Includes soup bar and cole slaw or salad. No limit. One coupon for entire party. Dine-in Only

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No Limit • One coupon for entire party • Dine-in only

State grant decision delayed

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College, along with 26 other agencies vying for grants from the Michigan Jobs Commission, will have to wait to learn who will receive \$30 million in grant money.

Kathy McMahon, spokeswoman for the Michigan Jobs Commission, said the decision is turning out to be more difficult than expected.

"I think it's just taking a little longer than expected," McMahon said. "Hopefully we'll make a decision by mid-January."

A busy holiday season is partially to blame for the delay, she added.

With agencies such as Schoolcraft College, Focus:HOPE, Oakland, Macomb, Henry Ford and Oakland community colleges and many others competing for \$113 million worth of projects, the competition is stiff.

So far the commission has reviewed all 26 of the applications.

"I just think there's some really good proposals out there," McMahon said.

The Michigan Jobs Commission visited Schoolcraft in October. During the visit, Schoolcraft officials received some positive feedback from Michigan Jobs Commission officials, who dubbed the plan a "strong proposal."

Schoolcraft is asking for \$6 million to build a 32,000 square foot technology center on the Waterman Campus Center.

The center is designed to be a hub where business, students, faculty and the community can access and apply information technology.

The proposal outlined six major goals for the multi-phase project:

- To increase information technology competencies as applied to local and regional manufacturing operations
- To increase the number

of workers with information technology skills in the current and future work force

- To redesign instructional methods in an effort to offer open-entry, open-exit learning

- To create a state-of-the-art facility focusing on certified skill set instruction in information technologies

- To improve the ability of companies and organizations to compete locally, nationally and globally.

- To provide a central location for a variety of community and business services conducive to the economic health of the region.

The jobs commission completed site visits in the fall. Awards were initially expected to be made in December.

The commission expects groundbreaking to occur in spring. Funding for the projects will come from the Michigan Renaissance Fund which collects a portion of Indian gaming money.

Kelley blasts PSC's decision on Edison rate requests

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

Frank Kelley's battle against public utilities went down to the wire. In his final days as attorney general, Kelley blistered the state Public Service Commission for a "\$76 million gift to Detroit Edison," the largest electric utility.

The PSC ordered Edison's rates reduced by nearly \$94 million or 2.8 percent. It also approved Edison's request to accelerate depreciation costs on the Fermi 2 nuclear plant, a change Edison sought because PSC soon will let customers choose electricity suppliers.

PSC chair John Strand said one effect will be to reduce Edison's stranded (unrecoverable) costs \$500 million and promote competition.

"Now," said Kelley, "when customers are entitled to rate reductions of \$170 million effective Jan. 1, 1999, the commission is cutting rates by only \$94

million per year and allowing Detroit Edison to increase its revenues from customers by \$76 million per year."

Kelley said his testimony showed Fermi 2 costs were overstated, hence it had less need for accelerated depreciation.

Kelley gave this background: In 1988, Edison made a settlement that permitted it to recover billions from customers for the Fermi 2 plant. Edison was permitted to increase rates for 10 years. After that, Edison's rates were to be reduced by \$53 million a year in 1998 and by \$170 million in 1999.

But on the first day of 1998, the PSC let Edison recover storm damage costs from 1997. So it reduced rates by \$38 million instead of \$53 million.

And on the first day of 1999, Edison will reduce rates by just \$94 million instead of \$170 million.

The PSC's Strand said the latest order requires a \$496 million rate reduction in 2008, when the

Fermi 2 plant is fully depreciated. In other business, the PSC on Dec. 28:

- Granted licenses to two telephone companies to provide basic local service in Michigan. United States Telecommunications (TelComPlus) and DIECA Communications Inc. of McLean, Va., join more than 60 companies licensed to provide basic local service.

- DIECA's license covers these areas in Ameritech Michigan's zones: Birmingham, Clarkston, Commerce, Farmington, Holly, Lake Orion, Livonia, Northville, Oxford, Plymouth, Rochester, Southfield, South Lyon, Troy, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield, among other communities.

- Approved expansion of MediaOne's license to provide basic local service in: Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Franklin Village and Wayne. MediaOne is headquartered in Plymouth.

AAA offers cold weather emergency tips

Cold air and snowy conditions across the state continue to cause an increase in emergency road service calls, according to AAA Michigan. Motorists are advised to use extra caution when they travel during cold weather.

To help motorists avoid unnecessary delays, AAA Michigan offers the following cold weather car care tips:

- Park your car in the garage. If you have no garage, or if it's

full of lawn equipment or another car, put a tarpaulin over the car or put a plastic trash bag between the door (or window glass) and the frame.

- To avoid frozen door or door locks, buy a lubricant that is available in most auto supply stores.

- Heat your key (a pocket lighter works nicely), but remember to wear gloves or hold the key with pliers.

- Use a hair dryer, but make

sure the extension cord is one graded for outdoor use and the wall socket is grounded.

- Fill a plastic jug or bag with hot water. Hold it against the door panel or lock area. But don't throw hot water on the car. It, too, will freeze.

- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid fuel-line freeze-up.

- Test your battery load strength to determine its cold weather cranking power.

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<p>SOUTHFIELD Tuesday, January 12 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Southfield Civic Center 26000 Evergreen Rd. (10 and Evergreen, on east side of Evergreen) (Refreshments will be served)</p>	<p>FARMINGTON HILLS Tuesday, January 12 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Longacre House 24705 Farmington Rd. (Between 10 Mile Rd. & 11 Mile Rd. on west side) (Refreshments will be served)</p>	<p>WESTLAND Wednesday, January 13 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Melvin Belle Recreation Center 36551 Ford Rd. (Between Newburgh and Wayne Rd. on south side) (Refreshments will be served)</p>
<p>DEARBORN Wednesday, January 13 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Dearborn Holiday Inn - Fairlane 5501 Southfield Service Dr. (On corner of Southfield and Ford Rd.) (Refreshments will be served)</p>	<p>DEARBORN HEIGHTS Thursday, January 14 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Canfield Community Center 1801 N. Beech Oak (Between Cherry Hill and Ford Rd.) (Refreshments will be served)</p>	<p>LIVONIA Thursday, January 14 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Livonia Civic Center Library 32777 Free Mile Rd. (South side of 5 Mile Rd. & east of Farmington Rd.) (Refreshments will be served)</p>

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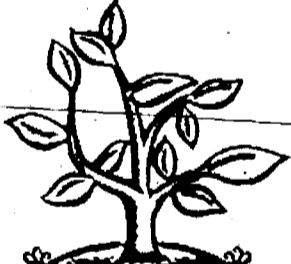
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your estate will go through probate, which could take months or even years, and probate fees could be substantial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're married and your estate is over \$650,000 net, without proper planning your family may owe federal estate taxes of up to 55%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you become incapacitated, or unable to sign documents, a court may assign a conservator to run your estate as the court sees fit.
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Law Office of
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Sponsored by: Law Office of Jeffrey R. Saunders. Attorney Jeffrey R. Saunders speaks to area residents about living trusts and proper estate planning. Mr. Saunders has practiced law for 10 years and his practice focuses on estate planning. He is a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys—and his seminars on living trusts are said to be "informative & easy-to-understand."

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MEDICAL BRIEFS

Free eye care

Low-income workers and their families in Michigan can sign up to receive free eye care in March through a program called VISION USA.

To qualify, people must have a job or live in a household where at least one member is working full or part time; have no health insurance that covers eye exams; meet certain income criteria based on household size; and not have had an eye exam at a doctor's office within the last two years.

Obtain application forms from: VISION USA, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141. Completed forms must be postmarked by Jan. 22, 1999.

Applicants will also be screened for eligibility by phone from Jan. 4-29. Call (800) 766-4466. Phone lines are open weekdays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The application form, along with other information about VISION USA, is also available on the American Optometric Association's Web site (www.aoanet.org) in the "Meet the AOA" section.

Avoiding 'winter skin'

When Old Man Winter starts blowing, seniors need to pay particular attention to their skin.

"Older skin tends to be thin and dry," said William R. Silverstone, D.O., CMD, medical director of Botsford Continuing Health Care Center. "The lack of humidity in the air further dries the skin, making overexposure to the sun, wind and cold problematic."

"The best defense to protect your skin is to use consistently a skin lotion with a high-lanolin, low-alcohol content," suggested Silverstone. "Your lips also need extra care." Don't forget about the food factor. "Good nutrition helps put skin in a better physiological state to improve its defense mechanism," explained Silverstone. "This includes drinking at least eight glasses of water per day, which rehydrates the skin and helps it create a protective layer of oil."

Bone density-cancer link

Doctors investigating whether bone density is linked to breast cancer risk are seeking females to participate in a research study at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Females ages 40-85 who are newly diagnosed with breast cancer may be eligible to participate in the study. Females from the same age group with no history of breast cancer are also being sought for the study.

Participants will be asked to complete lifestyle questionnaires, have a painless bone density measurement and a small blood sample drawn. "This study is intended to provide doctors with more information about genes that may determine a woman's bone density, and how those genes may play a role in breast cancer," said Karmanos investigator Dorothy Nelson, Ph.D. The national study is sponsored by the U.S. Army's Department of Defense.

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Latex allergy

Exposure can create sensitivity in health-care workers

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON • STAFF WRITER

kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

A Providence Hospital employee for the past 19 years, Maureen Sage has worked in a variety of departments including labor/delivery, medical surgery and, most recently, the operating room as a Laser Surgery Officer. Over the last two decades she's donned thousands of pairs of exam and sterile gloves due to the nature of her work.

Ironically it's the exposure and contact with natural rubber latex that has virtually forced Sage from the OR and into a position where she has no contact with latex products and subsequently limited patient interaction.

In September 1997, after extensive testing, Sage was diagnosed to be suffering from Latex Allergy (immediate hypersensitivity) — having become sensitized (gradually made allergic) to latex due to long-term exposure.

Compared to other types of reactions, Sage almost instantly experiences sneezing, watery eyes, scratchy throat, shortness of breath and respiratory problems that in some cases could lead to anaphylactic shock.

"I can no longer do the job I went to school for and that's very frustrating," said Sage.

While Sage falls under the "hypersensitive" category, it is estimated some 8-17 percent of health care workers suffer from natural rubber latex sensitization or allergy and 1-6 percent of the general public. David E. Cohen, MD, M.P.H., assistant professor of dermatology, New York University School of Medicine, speaking at the American Academy of Dermatology's Derm Update '98, approximated that more than 5.6 million American health care workers use more than seven billion pairs of gloves each year.

Who's at risk?

Health care workers have a greater chance of sensitization due to the frequency of use and exposure to latex gloves and medical supplies that contain latex. However, persons in the field of dentistry, housekeeping, food service, landscaping, and cosmetology are also at risk. At even greater risk are atopic individuals (those with other allergies or asthma). It is estimated that as many as 25-30 percent of atopic health care workers may become sensitized.

According to Anthony Burton, M.D., medical director of Employee Health - St. Joseph Mercy Health System, individuals who have hypersensitive reactions to latex have systemic antibody formations to proteins in products made from natural

rubber latex.

Harvested from the rubber tree, *Hevea Brasiliensis*, products can contain up to "240 potentially allergenic proteins," according to the American Nurses Association. Latex is tapped from the latex ducts of the tree and sent to processing facilities.

"The allergy is to a protein that naturally occurs in the rubber tree," said Burton. "The cornstarch powder found in the gloves acts as a vehicle for the protein that irritates the wearer via skin contact or inhalation when the gloves are removed and the powder is dispersed into the air."

Increasing incidents

The rising occurrences of latex allergies has been attributed to the 1987 mandate by the Centers for Disease Control to establish "universal precautions" — a set of precautions designed to prevent transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and other bloodborne pathogens when providing first aid or health care.

Coincidentally, the United States Food and Drug Administration, between 1988 and 1992, received more than 1,000 reports of adverse reactions to natural latex rubber.

Burton said the quality of latex gloves produced worldwide varies greatly from manufacturer to manufacturer depending on the degree of processing the product has undergone.

The employee health medical director from St. Joe's described two "major kinds of latex products": dipped and hard rubber latex.

■ Dipped latex products, such as gloves, are fashioned when the latex sap is poured into porcelain molds. While the gloves remain on the molds they undergo one or more rinses to leach out protein and residual chemicals. The liquid eventually solidifies and the gloves are peeled away.

The quality of the glove, as well as the protein and chemical content is vastly different and thus one brand of gloves could create a dramatically different reaction in an allergic person than another.

■ Hard rubber latex products are found in things such as erasers, the back of carpeting, and rubber tips from step stools.

Prevention measures

While avoidance is the key to decreasing reactions, that presents a personal and professional

challenge for some allergy sufferers, particularly those like Sage. She found herself having to change jobs to avoid contact with the protein.

In the health care field alone there are more than 40,000 regularly used products that contain natural rubber latex including mattresses found on stretchers, adhesive tape, exam/sterile gloves, rubber tourniquets, elastic bandages and medication vial stoppers.

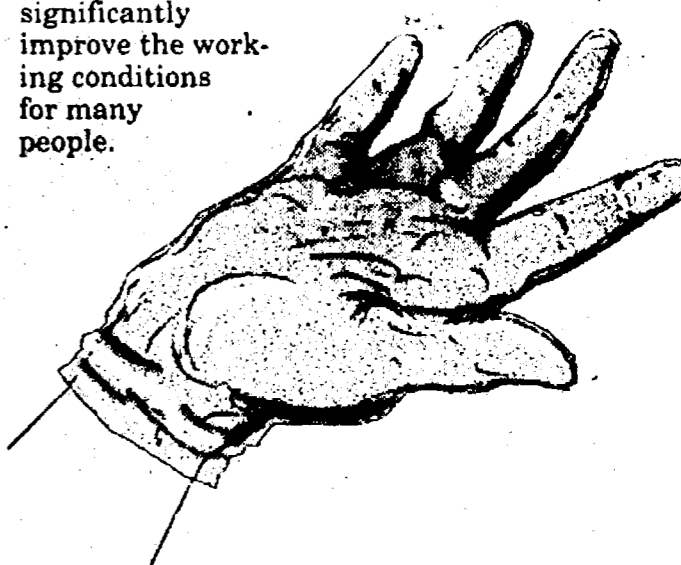
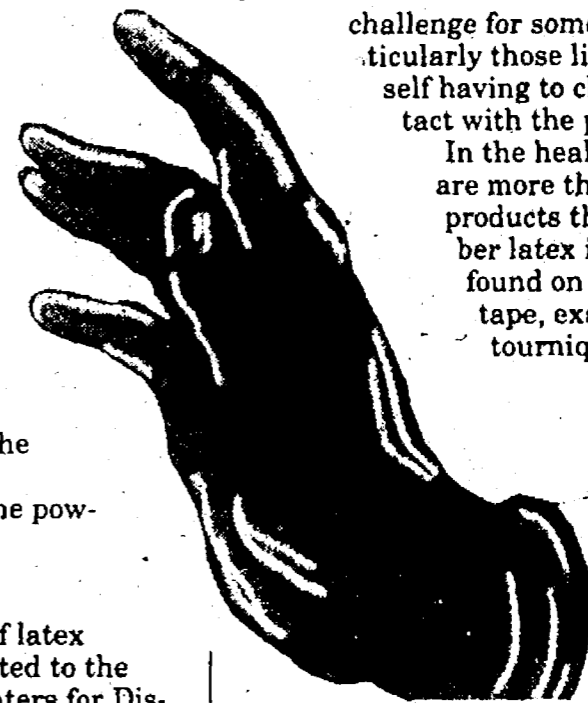
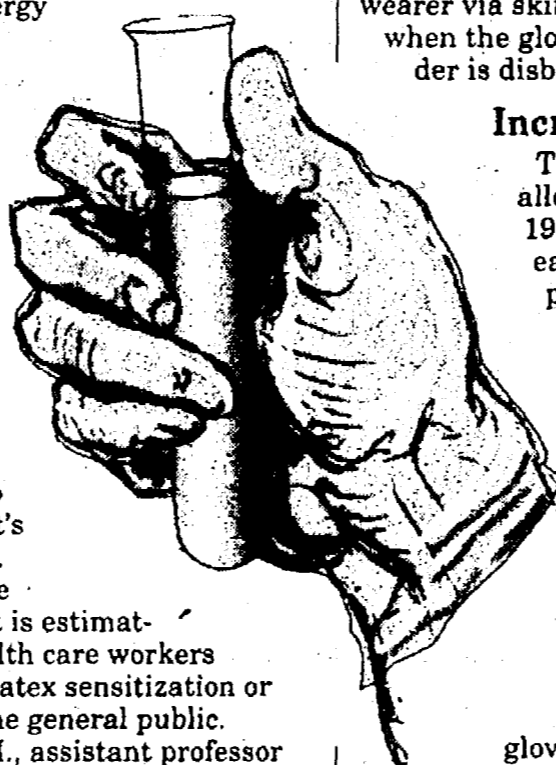
Personal items such as condoms, pacifiers, toys, teething rings, erasers, rubber bands, sports equipment, balloons, goggles, and dishwashing gloves can

also produce a wide range of reactions from individuals suffering from the allergy.

Sage's employer, Providence Hospital, introduced a latex allergy questionnaire to all of their employees in a proactive attempt to identify persons who may have the illness or are likely to become latex sensitive. Burton, representing St. Joseph Mercy Health System, added that most hospitals have taken steps similar to St. Joe's, Providence, and Henry Ford by establishing latex allergy committees and various screening opportunities.

"In my opinion hospitals really should be using powder-free gloves," said Burton, who added individuals with the allergy can minimize their exposure by wearing powder-free latex-free gloves.

Most recently the administrative staff of Providence Hospital made the decision to go powder-free, hospital-wide. "It's a good dream hospitals would be able to go latex-free but in reality powder-free will significantly improve the working conditions for many people."



Patients also need to be aware of latex allergy symptoms and precautions

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER
kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

Becoming latex sensitive or allergic isn't an isolated problem for the medical profession.

The increasingly common illness is also affecting patients who have had multiple hospitalizations, persons with spina bifida, and individuals with a history of allergies.

A patient may not be aware they are sensitive to latex and experience a reaction upon a visit to their dentist or during a hospital stay. Sensitization can occur after repeated exposure by way of skin-to-skin contact, inhalation, a mucous membrane, wound inoculation, or a parenteral injection (inside the body).

Hospitals such as Providence in Southfield now provide latex-free areas and medical carts containing latex-free supplies.

"We're seeing sometimes two to three patients a week with the allergy," said Maureen Sage, Providence Hospital employee, member of the Associate Latex Committee and a resource for latex issues. "People need to be aware of the symptoms and take the necessary precautions. Exposure is the biggest factor."

Who's allergic, who isn't?

Diagnosing the allergy is the first step in taking precautions against a reaction. Dr. Anthony Burton, medical director of employee health services-Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, says there are currently three methods of testing for the allergy.

■ Blood test. The Food and Drug

Administration approved specific testing for the presence of the latex antibody, of which there are at least six.

Burton warns that the blood test isn't 100 percent accurate as negative results don't always mean the person isn't allergic.

■ Skin prick test. The skin is scratched or pricked with a diluted solution containing latex proteins and positive results can include swelling, itching and redness. The hazard associated with this test is that there is currently no FDA or commercially approved latex extract used in the testing. Therefore the allergist or dermatologist must make their own extract. This can cause varying results depending on the levels of protein found in the latex product used to create the solution.

■ Latex patch. The FDA has approved a latex-patch that is applied to the skin of the potential allergy sufferer and it's worn and monitored over several days.

There are several precautions suggests Sage that can be taken to protect an individual from becoming sensitized to latex proteins. They include:

■ Being tested if you experience symptoms following latex exposure.

■ Avoiding exposure completely if at all possible.

■ If the diagnosis is positive and you are deemed Type I hypersensitive, wear a medical alert bracelet; carry an auto-injectible epinephrine (Epi-Pen®).

■ Use powder-free gloves that are low in latex protein.

■ Wash your hands thoroughly if it is necessary for you to don gloves.

■ Wear the appropriate gloves for your diagnosis and for the task at hand.

■ Alert your dentist, stylist, and physician as well as anyone else who may have contact with you, while they are wearing gloves, to your allergy.

■ Also, health care providers should be prepared to accommodate your needs in the event you suffer from a latex allergy.

"Most people who are positively identified with the allergy should educate themselves and avoid exposure whenever possible," said Burton. "I've seen hundreds of success stories where persons were able to wear the appropriate gloves for their level of sensitivity and return to their working environment."

Mandated guidelines

Following the increase in incidents of latex reactions over the last decade, the FDA, in September 1997, ruled that all medical devices containing latex must be labeled with warnings of possible allergic reactions. The packaging for devices containing natural rubber latex must now be labeled: "Caution: This Product Contains Natural Rubber Latex Which May Cause Allergic Reactions."

The regulations also require the

removal of the word "hypoallergenic" from products that contain reduced levels of latex. The FDA ruled this is a misleading claim since even small amounts of latex can trigger allergic reactions.

"This was a big step in identifying the supplies I was working with and exposed to that contained latex as an ingredient. There are literally thousands of products you would never expect to contain the protein that do and this will make identification and the creation of latex-free environments easier," said Sage.

If you suspect you are experiencing symptoms related to latex exposure (dermatitis, hives, congestion, asthma, itching, watery eyes, swelling, etc.) seek medical attention from a physician, allergist or dermatologist who can properly diagnose you. There are countless resources for allergy sufferers such as:

E.L.A.S.T.I.C (Education for Latex Allergy/Support Team & Information Coalition), (610) 436-4801.

A.L.E.R.T (Allergy to Latex Education & Resource Team), (414) 677-9707 or 888-97ALERT, alert@execpc.com

Spina Bifida Association of America, (800) 621-3141 or (202) 944-3285.

Latex Allergy News, (860) 482-6869. Web sites:

■ <http://allergy.mcg.edu/physicians/ltxhome.html>

■ <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/latex-all.html>

■ www.latexfree.com

New computer? Follow these tips to save setup time

Judging by all the gushing PR news releases and the exuberant sales figures from the PC industry, this past holiday season was one of the best ever for computers and peripherals.



MIKE WENDLAND

For proof, look at all the red eyes you've been encountering among friends, family and co-workers who have been up till the wee hours trying to get those new Christmas gadgets working. It's like this every year at this time. Despite all the talk about Plug 'n Play, about how easy computers are now supposed to be, they still can be buggers to figure out. Personally, I spent about four frustrating hours Christmas Eve ... until 2 a.m. Christmas morning in fact ... trying to get a new CD-R burner working in my son's computer. Even though I've done it before, even though I'm supposed to know my way around a

motherboard, installation and configuration of new devices seldom go as easy as they're described on the outside of the boxes they come in.

So, for all of you who have similarly suffered, let me pass along some PC Mike setup suggestions from someone who's been there. While these six steps won't solve every problem, they will, I believe, help most of us, most of the time.

Step No. 1 - Work no more than 30 minutes at a time. Then, no matter how close you think you are, take a break. Re-think. All the big mistakes usually result from carelessness or desperation. If you haven't solved it in half an hour, get up, walk around, watch some TV, go to bed. Get away from the problem for at least a half an hour. A fresh mind does wonders.

Step No. 2 - Return everything to the original condition. Start over. Unplug. Uninstall. Remove. Then, step by step, slowly reinstall the hardware and software. Read the instructions again, especially the little "Read Me" text files that come on the install disks. Very often,

these text files correct problems found after the manual was printed or make things clearer than the printed instructions.

Step No. 3 - Go online to the manufacturer's Web site. This is how I solved my installation problems with my son's CD-R. Every manufacturer now has a website. And almost all have online support areas where you can download new and updated drivers or find FAQs (frequently asked questions) dealing with specific problems and troubleshooting help.

Step No. 4 - Go to Newsgroups. With nearly 30,000 Newsgroups now on the Internet, chances are you'll find one dealing with your device or similar problems. Search through the groups for comments related to your issue. If worst comes to worst, post a question. I've had some answered in as little as five minutes. Newsgroups get results.

Step No. 5 - Post questions on discussion lists or BBS's. I have

a Computer BBS on my website (www.pcmike.com). There are always people lurking around ready to help. Again, read through previous posts or use the site's search engine to see if the issue has already been discussed. If not, post your problem and ask for help. Most discussion group regulars love helping out.

Step No. 6 - Call the manufacturer's help desk. Expect a busy signal. Expect to be put on hold. For a long time. Help desks are jammed from Christmas through Valentine's Day. When you call in, listen to the recording to see if there's a Fax Back service. If you have a basic installation or configuration problem, there's often a printed tip sheet that can be instantly Faxed to you. Usually, these faxed instructions are easier to understand than the manual.

The six steps above won't solve every problem. But they offer a sound starting point.

If you have Windows 98, be sure and use the "Update" feature found in the Start bar at the lower left part of your screen. This connects automatically to the Microsoft website and alerts you to new fixes, patches and updates that can smooth out your whole operating system.

Microsoft's Web site also offers a very comprehensive online help resource. Go to the main Web site (www.microsoft.com) and look under "Support." You type in your question and a powerful search engine kicks back a list of various articles and suggestions for dealing with it.

And if all the geek-speak gobbledegook has you confused, one of my favorite sites for translating the technobabble is the "whatis" site (www.whatis.com). You'll want to bookmark this site.

Be sure to listen to my PC Talk radio show next weekend on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT. I'll be

broadcasting live from the huge Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas both Saturday and Sunday, from 4-6 p.m.

Mike Wendland reports about computers and the Internet for NBC television stations coast-to-coast. His radio show is heard every weekend on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT. You can reach Mike through his Web site at www.pcmike.com

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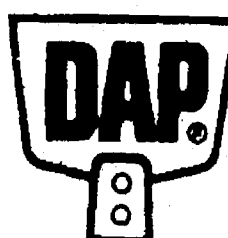
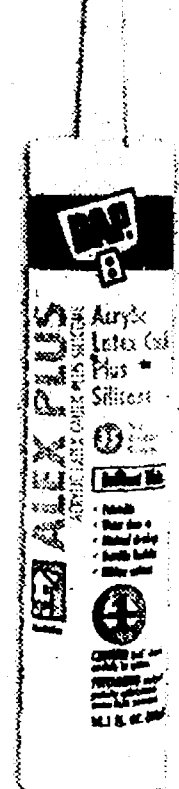
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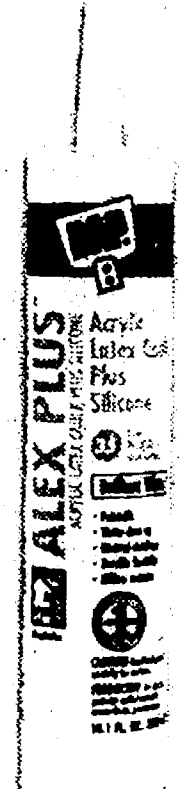
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CONVERSATIONS



FRANK PROVENZANO

The poetic genius of Shakespeare

The long lines of ticket buyers at the Birmingham Theatre weren't waiting for the latest high-tech, action-adventure film.

They waited to hear the words of the 16th-century English bard of Stratford whose work they probably studied in high school and college, and whose poetry may have seemed more suited to the ivy-covered walls of academia than the rawness of real life.

OK, OK, maybe they waited to see the plucky Hollywood version of the man whose passion, artistry and inventiveness transcends the ages. (Yes, there are sword fights, bawdy repartee and sex scenes.)

With the star appeal of Gwyneth Paltrow, and an utterly engaging screenplay co-written by playwright Tom Stoppard, "Shakespeare in Love" has accomplished what crusty British literature professors could only imagine.

William Shakespeare has gone mainstream without reducing iambic pentameter to a senseless slogan.

In Hollywood's best year ever at the



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLINSKY

Blockbuster: Todd Cochran, general manager of the Birmingham Theatre, moved "Shakespeare in Love" to one of the theater's larger venues because of overflow crowds.

box office with 1.46 billion tickets sold (a 5 percent increase from 1997), "Shakespeare in Love" is an encouraging sign that movie-making can reverse the literary past and enlighten contemporary sensibilities.

The movie is arguably the surprise hit of the year, according to Todd Cochran, general manager at the Birmingham Theatre.

Overflow audiences

"Audiences are more sophisticated and want well-written, well-acted movies," said Cochran, who compares the instant appeal of "Shakespeare in Love" with last year's endearing hit, "Good Will Hunting."

After the initial showings in L.A. and New York drew sold-out crowds, Cochran realized that he'd better make room for overflow audiences. The movie, scheduled to be shown in one of the smaller venues, was moved to one of the larger screens at the downtown Birmingham complex.

Based on unexpectedly high ticket revenue for the film, theaters in Livonia, Westland, Madison Heights and Southfield are most likely making similar adjustments.

Layers and layers

A slow grin spread across Cochran's face as he conceded that more people will learn about Shakespeare through "Shakespeare in Love" than by any college course.

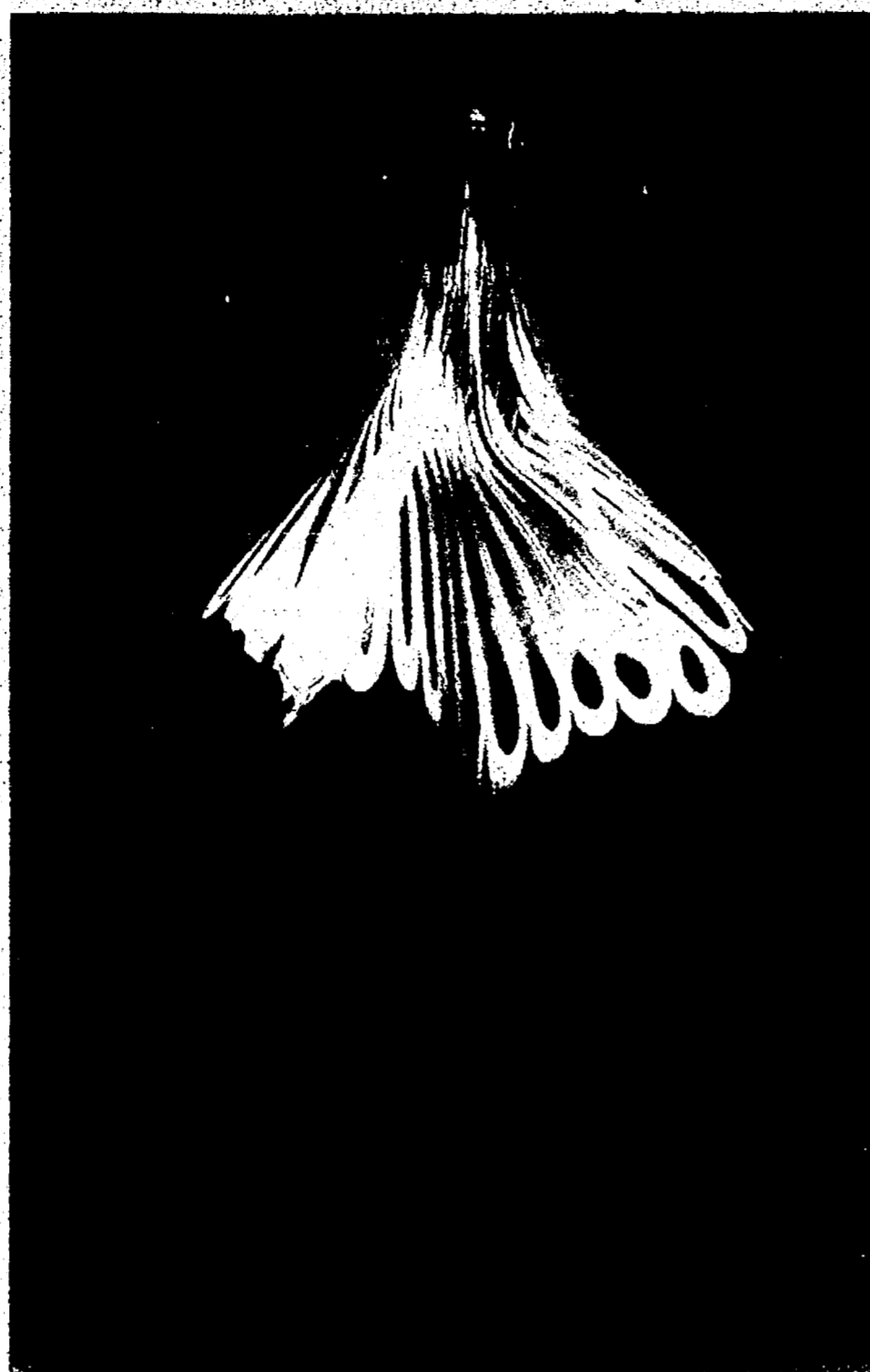
Of course, Hollywood has had other successes when translating Shakespeare to film. Sir Laurence Olivier's "Hamlet," and "Richard III," along with Liz Taylor and Richard Burton in "Taming of the Shrew," and Kenneth Branagh's string of recent films come readily to mind.

But arguably, these films didn't have the lasting power of "Shakespeare in Love," said Cochran. Why? Technology.

With videos and DVDs, the life of a film is being redefined because movies are watched over and over again.

"Accessibility is the key," he said. "Audiences want to laugh, but they also want a good story that stands up

Please see CONVERSATIONS, B2



Studio glass: This vessel by Stephen Powell is on display through Feb. 14 in the Jack and Aviva Robinson Gallery.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

With the touch of a computer screen, Mary Ann Wilkinson demonstrates the impact Salvador Dali's surrealism had on Alfred Hitchcock's films, in particular the dream sequences in "Spellbound." Wilkinson touches the screen a second time and Dali's imagery appears in a vintage Porky Pig cartoon.

One of six computer stations installed in the newly renovated Modern and Contemporary Art Galleries at the Detroit Institute of Arts, this interactive program is part of a plan to lure visitors into spending more time studying the work of Warhol, Picasso and Matisse.

"What characterizes the 20th century is that artists started looking at art in a different way,"

said Wilkinson, who was named curator of 20th century art in the midst of renovations in August 1997. "It was during the surrealist period, film was beginning to be used as a medium by artists. Looking at Hitchcock's 'Spellbound' and a Porky Pig cartoon, you really see the impact of Surrealism on artists and culture in America."

Walking through the 20th century galleries, visitors begin to learn there is more than one way to look at art, Wilkinson and education director Nancy Jones planned the galleries with that concept in mind. Both were instrumental in bringing about changes in interpretive labels and instituting computer stations and a hand-held audio tour in the 22,000-square-foot space. The changes didn't come about by accident or a curator's whim. Even before the first brush of paint transformed the 20th century galleries into a well-lit space for viewing the works of Christo, Georgia O'Keefe and Robert Rauschenberg, the museum polled the public for ideas on how to make the galleries user friendly.

Renovations

"It's been an exciting process," said Wilkinson. "We did a visitor's evaluation before and during renovations because we were committed to making this space something people would like to use. So many people are intimidated by modern art because it's so hard to look at. It makes you think, 'Just as it has done for centuries, people want art to tell a story. So many people are afraid that they won't understand.'"

Unlike special exhibition audio tours, INFORM, a hand held audio tour, tells visitors about the artist and work of their choosing after entering the number located near a symbol on the work's descriptive label.

"Some people don't want to read, some



Unleashing raw emotion: This Abstract Expressionist gallery features works by Franz Kline (left to right), Barnett Newman and (center) Mark DiSuvero.

20TH CENTURY ART INTERACTION

Galleries invite visitors to study art and artists



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

New space: One of the DIA's newly reopened 20th century galleries features pop art by Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg, and a seating area to ponder what the artists were thinking when they created the work.

people only want to listen," said Wilkinson. "People learn in a variety of ways. As far as for INFORM, this is the first try to have a hand held audio tour for the permanent collection. In the next several months, we hope to add the rest of the museum."

"It's a very experimental," added Jones. "Most museums don't do what we've done. Most audio tours are like listening to an art history lecture. We want to let people know there is more than one way to look at a work of art. On the audio tapes, I give my interpretation, Mary Ann gives her's and then there's a formal analysis."

For visitors who want to go beyond what they see and experience in the galleries, there's an education room stocked with books, tables and chairs, and a computer station. A casual area in the corner of one gallery is for anyone who wishes to read or just sit and contemplate the works of Oldenburg and Warhol.

Working together

"It was a very collaborative effort," said Jones. "We wanted to create the kind of an environment that's inviting. We want to give insight into what visitors are looking at and to provide opportunities for them to explore the art. There's more and more research being done on the art experience to make it more exciting, more engaging. We know people like inter-activity, to have the works of art communicate to them."

Please see INTERACTION, B2

The Detroit Institute of Arts

Where: 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
Museum hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday. The museum is closed Monday and Tuesday.
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For more information, call (313) 833-7900 or <http://www.dia.org>.

BOOKS

'On a Good Day' author wrings humor from the mundane

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
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At times, Gay Rubín admits she wonders if she's crossed the line into her own fictitious literary universe, a place populated by the type of eccentric characters straight from an Anne Tyler or John Irving novel.

For a disciplined writer like Rubín, who explained her need to write is a practice on the level of religious worship, there's a renewed urgency.

"Right now, I feel more compelled than ever about my work," said Rubín of Birmingham. "I want to have an eye-to-eye, heart-



Author Gay Rubin

to-heart relationship with my readers." After decades as a "secret writer" — known as a fiction writer only by a few friends — Rubín has emerged in the last several years as a talented, often-published short-story writer who blends taut, well-crafted plots with rapid-fire prose.

Rubín's latest collection of short stories, "On a Good Day," reflects the playful, stream-of-consciousness swirling narrative breeze that also makes her a charming conversationalist.

In January, she'll begin a book-signing tour that will include appearances at Borders Books in Rochester Hills and Dearborn, and visits to book stores in Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Fla., and Los Angeles.

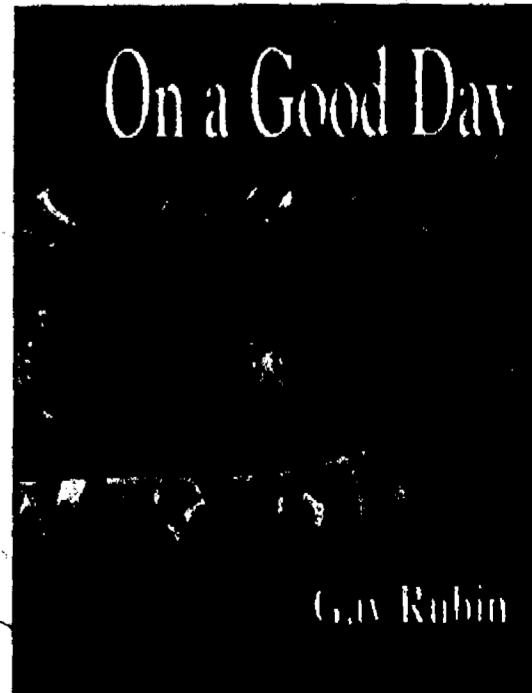
Pursuit of story

From an unlikely cigar-chomping contributing writer to "Cigar Lifestyles" who wanted to be a singer — but couldn't sing — to a mother of two grown daughters, Rubín's perspective draws on "those special moments" when you can feel the magic of life, she said.

"I want to answer questions that people have about life."

And that, for Rubín, means wringing humor from the mundane. For instance, a clerk at one of Rubín's

Please see BOOKS, B2



Heart-to-heart: Gay Rubin's newest book has a playful, stream-of-consciousness breeze that will likely settle gently with readers.

Interaction from page B1

The 20th century galleries are much like a work of art in progress. The education department is creating more interpretive labels, but also developing new tools for interpreting art. Currently in the works is a curiosity cabinet for the pop art galleries. The hands-on activity will help viewers experience a variety of pop art. Brochures are also being written that concentrate on a single piece of art.

"Mary Ann was excited about this being a laboratory," said Jones. "We learn so much from what we've done. I haven't seen anything like this in other museums. It's very special."

Disassembled 18 months ago to make way for the "Splendors of Ancient Egypt" exhibition, the modern and contemporary art galleries lead viewers through a gamut of styles from Abstract Expressionism to Picasso and Cubism, Matisse and the School of Paris, Minimalism, and Abstraction after 1950. Among the newer works is Martin Puryear's wire mesh and tar sculpture. The 1997 work, acquired two months ago, is at once delicate and sturdy.

"We never had the opportunity to take everything out and put everything in again," said Wilkinson. "We wanted to make the collection understandable and approachable. We realized early on that we couldn't do it

chronologically so we've grouped art works in clusters. The hard part to doing this was not putting out everything I wanted to."

Visitors will find Kandinsky's work incorporated with art by Adolph Gottlieb and Detroit artist Ed Fraga. More than ever, Michigan-made art can be seen in the galleries. Ellen Phelan, Ann Mikolowski and Brenda Goodman are a few of the locals being shown. Tyree Guyton's "Caged Brain" from 1990 is created from rope, a bird cage and other found objects. The last contemporary art gallery deals with narrative painting. Here, visitors are treated to works by Mike Kelley, who grew up in Michigan and now lives in California, and Peter Williams, an instructor at Wayne State University.

"It's a good way to learn about artists in the state," said Wilkinson. "This gallery will change often so people will understand how deep our collection is. The contemporary gallery shows the return to figurative painting that happened in the late 1980s. A video kiosk will eventually feature performing artists. That's why people have to keep coming back."

Passion for Glass

The exhibition, "A Passion for Glass: The Aviva and Jack A.

Robinson Studio Glass Collection," is one of the highlights of the 20th century galleries. It continues through Sunday, Feb. 14 in the large scale, well-lit showcases. William Morris, Dale Chihuly and Ginny Ruffner are among the contemporary studio glass artists in the collection, the Robinsons donated to the museum in 1996.

"The Robinsons gave a donation to transform the gallery into a space where you can display decorative arts," said Wilkinson. "We've never had that before. Decorative arts will end up in this gallery once the Robinsons glass collection exhibit closes."

Wilkinson plans to rotate work in the 20th century galleries in six months. Warhol portraits on loan to the Kalamazoo Museum will be displayed upon their return. A special project space will host installations, art and video such as Bill Viola's "Nine Attempts to Achieve Immortality" created in 1996.

"It's more of a work in progress," said Wilkinson. "Seeing where it works, what doesn't work. Now that galleries have been reinstalled we can go back and fine tune. We can start thinking about acquisitions and bringing in exhibits such as Ben Shahn in July."

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

ARTISTS OF THE MONTH SHOW

The Livonia Arts Commission presents needlepoint, photography and mixed media in its three venues for the month of January.

John Copa of Orchard Lake exhibits his photography Jan. 3-30 in the Livonia Civic Center Library's Fine Arts Gallery, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road.

In the second floor showcases next to the gallery, the Livonia Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild display handcrafted items Jan. 4-28.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, until 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

The Schoolcraft College and Visual Art Association of Livonia students of Westland artist Saundra Weed exhibit 90 mixed media works Jan. 15-29 in the lobby of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, east of Farmington Road.

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OPENS

Canton Project Arts hosts a photography exhibit produced by Focus:HOPE Jan. 16 to Feb. 1 at Summit on the Park in Canton.

There will be 117 images from student photographers that "Focus on the Mission" of the nonprofit organization. The images will be on display during a Jan. 23 Storytelling Festival at the Summit.

For more information, call Kathleen Salla at (734) 397-6450.

FREE CONCERT

The Music Club Recital Series

presents pianist Arthur Greene noon Wednesday, Jan. 20 in the Forum Recital Hall at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia.

Greene, a faculty member at the University of Michigan School of Music since 1990, has performed in concerts throughout the U.S., Europe and Far East. He has appeared as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, RAI Orchestra of Turin, the San Francisco, Utah and National symphonies, the Czech National Symphony, the Tokyo Symphony, and in recital at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Lisbon Sao Paulo Opera House, Hong Kong City Hall, and concert houses in Shanghai and Beijing.

For more information call Schoolcraft College's music department at (734) 462-4400, ext. 5218.

Books from page B1

favorite bookstores told her about how he once set out to "live on the street, but found it so hard that he had to get a job."

That line set Rubín in pursuit of a story. She invited the store clerk to lunch.

As a result of conversations with the clerk, Rubín penned "Howie the Bum," one of the short stories in her recent collection.

But the road from epiphany to finished story, for Rubín, can hardly be called facile.

"Writing is about heart, and knowing storytelling as a craft is how you get to heart," she said. It's a tireless process.

Rubín rewrites endlessly, then cuts, cuts, cuts until all that remains is the essential spine of the story.

In between, however, it's not unusual for her to put aside a story. A 100-page story sat in a drawer for a decade before Rubín said she resurrected it because "I finally knew what it's about."

And an expansive draft of a novel - which measures in pages about three-feet high - is all finished, according to Rubín;

except, of course, it just needs new words, she said.

As her finest short stories demonstrate, understatement is Rubín's finest literary tool.

A sense of play

A regular lecturer at local writing conferences, Rubín also teaches creative writing at the University of Michigan, where she earned a master's in fine arts.

In the spring of 1997, Rubín translated her love of books into a cable show, "Writers' Roundtable," which aired in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. The show, which ran for four months, featured discussions with writers, including Charles Baxter and Judith Guest.

For a gregarious person who is relegated to the sedentary writer's life, Rubín sees the irony as a lesson for her own life and for her readers.

"I want people to see ironies and paradoxes in my stories that teach them something about life," she said. "But I want to write about serious things in a way that's playful."

True to her credo, Rubín

already has a working title for her next collection of stories. She refers to her new work as "How to be a bitch."

"It's autobiographical," she laughed. "I used to be a nice person. There's already one story, it's called 'How to out-bitch the bitches.'"

Of course, Rubín laughs. Then, she wonders whether she should have said what she did. When she's told that it's a "provocative title," she's apparently convinced to stick with her quote.

But before Rubín continued to work on her next collection of stories, she'll travel to promote her new book, and meet many of the readers who she keeps in mind as she writes.

While it may all seem like play, there's no mistaking Rubín's sense of urgency.

"Let me know what you think of my book," she said. Then, she quickly adds: "Only tell me if you love it. If you don't, I'm unavailable."

Don't believe it. Rubín is just past the pages in her book. Readers will find her eye-to-eye. Heart-to-heart.

Conversations from page B1

over time." And there's plenty of layers in "Shakespeare in Love."

Shakespeare's shadows

Taking liberties with history and Shakespearean scholarship, the movie offers an inventive story behind the story of Shakespeare's great romantic tragedy "Romeo and Juliet."

While there are many references to other plays in Shakespeare's body of work, and an impressive range of acting talent, the truly remarkable feature

of the film is Shakespeare's mastery of language and ability to transfer passion into stunning descriptive phrases.

In the age of tabloids, sitcoms and pulp fiction triteness, few writers can even pass through Shakespeare's long shadow.

Of course, Shakespeare lived amid a time when words were akin to the realism of photography and the magic of film.

Hopefully, "Shakespeare in Love" will be a bridge for readers to explore the playwright's larger body of work, including "Ham-

let," "Othello," "The Tempest," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Twelfth Night," "Henry V," and "Julius Caesar."

After all, in our age of terminal reruns, perhaps rereading and rewatching Shakespeare's works is the best we can hope for.

Frank Provenzano can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or at fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net. Or write to: The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

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Noteworthy

Gallery exhibits, art shows, classical concerts

MAKING CONTACT: Please submit items for publication to Frank Provenzano, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or fax (248) 644-1314

AUDITIONS/ CALL FOR ARTISTS

ANN ARBOR STREET FAIR

Original juried art fair now accepting applications for 1999. Artists should send self-addressed stamped envelope to the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, P.O. Box 1352, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Or call (734) 994-5260. Applications must be received by Feb. 5.

ART & APPLES CALL FOR ENTRIES

Paint Creek Center for the Arts seeks applications from artists interested in exhibiting fine arts or fine crafts at the juried "Art & Apples Festival," to be held Sept. 11-12, 1999 in Rochester Municipal Park. Slides must be received by March 1, 1999. Entry fee: \$25. To receive an application, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Art & Apples Festival, Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine Street, Rochester, MI 48307; (248) 651-7418, or (248) 651-4110.

BIRMINGHAM CONCERT BAND

Adult musicians (woodwind, brass and especially percussion players) of all ages. Rehearsals are 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 7, at Groves High School, 13 Mile Road, west of Southfield Road, in Birmingham. Call Bruce Kramer (248) 333-7519 for details.

BLUE LAKE FINE ARTS CAMP

Auditions for ballet students for summer fine arts camp. Auditions include a masterclass taught by Jefferson Baum, Blue Lake's director of dance. Noon Saturday, Jan. 16, 3226 Old Main, Wayne State University, Detroit; 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, School of Dance, 220 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor. For details, call (800) 221-3796 or (616) 894-1966.

FINE ARTS COMPETITION

Call for entries for the 1999 Michigan Fine Arts Competition presented by the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, March 5-26. Open to artists at least 18 years old living and working in Michigan. Works in all media accepted. Cash prizes total \$9,000. Submit 35 mm color slides by Jan. 4, 1999. For details, contact Lizbeth Spink, (248) 644-0866, Ext. 103.

HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

Creative Arts Center, N. Oakland County, invites local artists to participate in its annual "Holiday Marketplace Gift Shop," through Jan. 2, 1999. Fee: \$15. 47 Williams Street, Pontiac, (248) 333-7849.

LIVONIA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

Independent youth orchestra for students ages 10-18 holding auditions by appointment Saturday, Jan. 16. Call (734) 591-7649 or (248) 476-6341. Rehearsals 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

MADISON CHORALE

Open to singers from any community. Auditions 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, Wilkinson Middle School, 26524 John R, Madison Heights; (248) 548-6340.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

COMMUNITY CHOIR
Auditions for new members 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 12 and Jan. 19, room 530 of the Forum Building, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road (between Six and Seven Mile Road). Call Shari Clason (248) 349 8175 or the college (734) 462-4435 to schedule an appointment.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

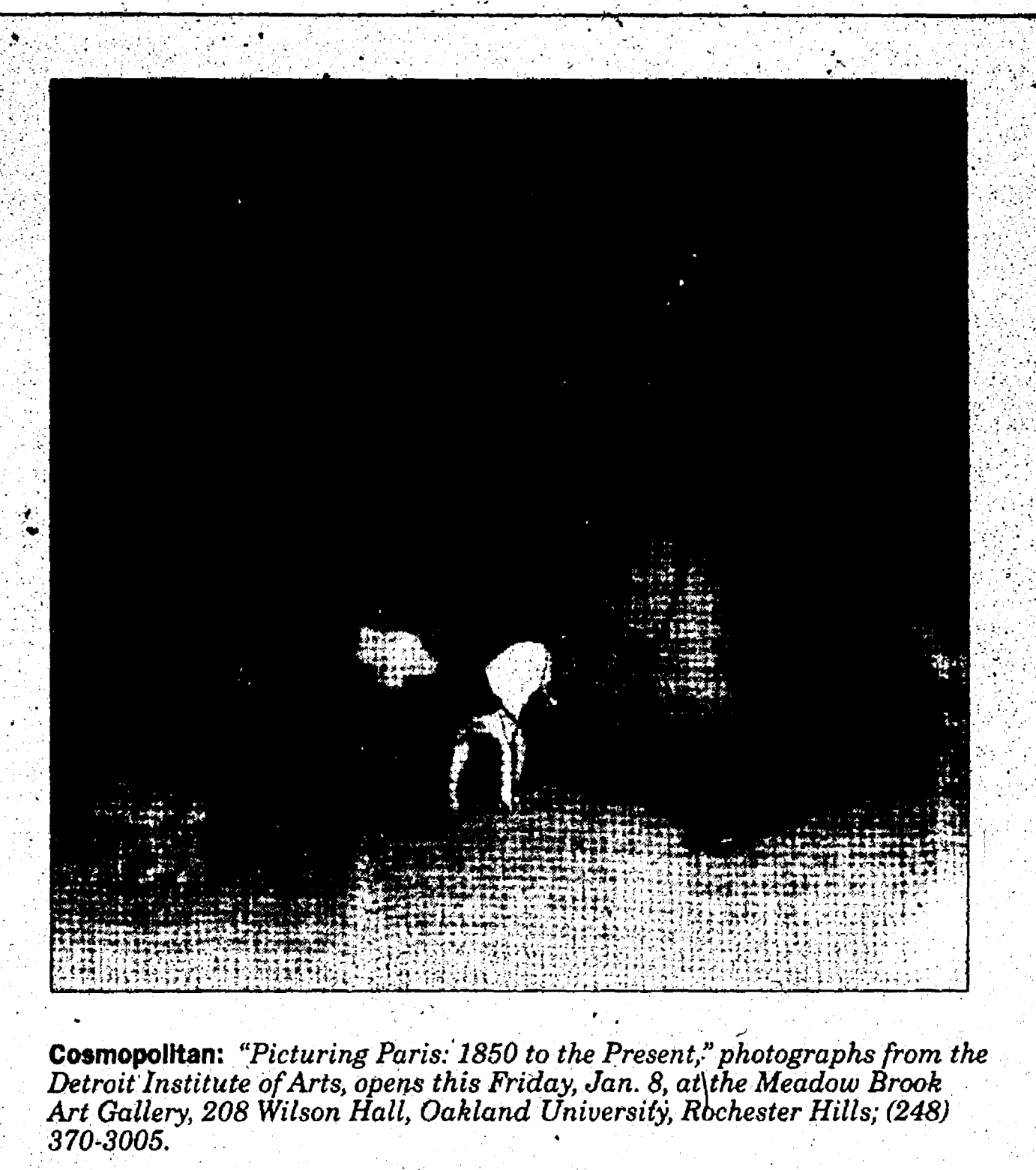
ART MUSEUM PROJECT/U-M DEARBORN

Non-credit studio art classes and workshops, late January through March. Programs led by instructors from the area, including Bill Girard, Grace Serra, Mary Stephenson, Donna Vogelheim. For information, (734) 593 5058.

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER

Offers a range of art classes, including children's holiday gift workshops. 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham; call (248) 644 0866 for more information.

CREATIVE ARTS CENTER



Cosmopolitan: "Picturing Paris: 1850 to the Present," photographs from the Detroit Institute of Arts, opens this Friday, Jan. 8, at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery, 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester Hills; (248) 370-3005.

Winter classes for children, teens and adults begin Jan. 16. Eight-week courses include cartooning, drawing, arts and crafts, painting, pottery, multimedia exploration, photography and blues guitar. Fees vary. 47 Williams Street, Pontiac, (248) 333-7849.

D & M STUDIOS

Classes for preschoolers through adults begin week of Jan. 4. Offered through Canton Parks and Recreation and Plymouth Parks and Recreation, 8691 N. Lilley Road, Canton; (734) 453-3710.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Classes for adults, educators and youth. Call for details, (313) 833-4249. 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

EISENHOWER DANCE ENSEMBLE

Classes for age 3 and up. All levels of classes for recreational and professional students, including modern, ballet, pointe, tap and jazz. Rochester Hills; (248) 852-5850.

GEIGER CLASSIC BALLET ACADEMY

Newly refurbished dance studio opening for new enrollment. 782 Denison Court, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 334-1300.

JINGLE BEL, INC.

Winter classes include participation in the Rochester/Troy Youth Community Show Chorus: ages 6-10 - 6:15-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 30; ages 11-16 - 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 30. Drama, singing, choreography classes, ages 6-14, 5:15-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 12-March 30. Other classes include drama for children, instruction in range of media, and instrumental lessons. For details, call (248) 375-9027.

KAMMUELLER DANCE CLASSES

Advanced and professional classical ballet program, 9:30 a.m. Monday-Friday; intermediate level Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays at 11:30 a.m. 5526 W. Drake, West Bloomfield, (248) 932-8699.

PAINT CREEK CENTER

Registration for winter classes, Jan. 18-March 29. Classes for preschoolers to adults. New program, Winter Wonderart Day Camp, will be offered for students ages 6-11 during Feb. 15-19. 407 Pine Street, Rochester, (248) 651-4110.

PEWABIC POTTERY

Winter classes, including tile making, basic ceramics, wheel throwing for ages 13 and up. Call for fees. 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit, (313) 822 0954.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Winter classes & workshops for all ages, including sculpture, watercolor dance decorative

painting, pottery, film, drawing, children's theater, creative writing and more. 774 N. Sheldon Road, For schedule, call (734) 416-4278.

SWANN GALLERY

Free life-drawing art classes, open to anyone. Other classes on oil and acrylic painting, pencil, watercolor, pastels and sculpture 1-4 p.m. Sundays, 1250 Library Street, Detroit; (313) 965-4826.

CONCERTS

B'HAM MUSICALE

Celebration of National Federation of Music Clubs Day, 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, featuring pianist Marian Siatczynski, and soprano Kaye Rittinger. The Community House, 380 S. Bates Street, Birmingham.

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"The Bell and the Swan," a program of Haydn, Massenet, Kreisler, Paganini, Brahms, 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3; "Beethoven's Emperor," complete cycle of Beethoven Piano Concertos, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9; "Brahms Requiem," 8 p.m. Thursday & Friday, Jan. 14-15, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16; "Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration," a program of Dvorak, Ellington, Copland and a Gospel medley, 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17. Tickets: \$13-\$63; (313) 576-5111. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit.

LIVONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ensemble of seven members of the full orchestra in a performance of chamber, jazz and pop music, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, Livonia Civic Center Library, Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile Road, between Farmington and Merriman roads; (734) 464-2741.

UMS AT U OF MICH.

Soprano Renee Fleming 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14. Hill Auditorium, N. University at Thayer Street, Ann Arbor, (734) 763 3100.

LECTURES

DIA

"A Day on the Grand Canal with the Emperor of China," narrated by David Hockney, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, Lecture Hall, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833 7900.

U-M SCHOOL OF MUSIC

U of M Professor of Ethnomusicology Judith Becker presents, "Volcanoes, Blacksmiths and the Power of the Gamelan Ensemble," 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, Britton Recital

Hall, E.V. Moore Bldg., U of M campus, Ann Arbor; (734) 764-0594.

VOLUNTEERS

FAR CONSERVATORY

Needs volunteers to assist with leisure, creative and therapeutic arts programs for infants through adults with disabilities, weekdays, evenings, Saturdays. Call (248) 646-3347.

LIVONIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Greenmead Historic Village seeks volunteers to assist in school tours, Sunday tours, special events, special projects and gardening. Open May-October & December, Eight Mile Road at Newburg, Livonia; (734) 477-7375.

MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND

Seeks volunteers to help with non-performing activities. Web site: mccb.org, or contact MCBB, Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road; (248) 349-0376.

MUSEUM DOCENTS

Volunteers to conduct school tours for grades 3-1, special pre-school tours and tours to the general public and adult groups. Volunteers receive extensive training, including one-and-a-half days of class per week from September-June. For information, (313) 833-9178.

MUSEUMS

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Through Jan. 3 - "The Buffalo Soldier," a historical documentary of the African American soldier into the U.S. Army during 1866-1912. 315 E. Warren Avenue, Detroit, (313) 494-5800.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Through Jan. 31 - "Ancient Glass from the Holy Land," 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, (313) 833 7900.

GALLERY (OPENINGS)

LIVONIA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

Jan. 4 - Livonia Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild exhibit; works of photographer John Copa of Orchard Lake. Through Jan. 30. 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia; (734) 466-2490.

ANN ARBOR ART CENTER

Jan. 7 - "Artists Under the Italian Influence," featuring work of Juliana Clendenin, Jim Cosgwell, Susan Crowell, Ed Fraga, Mark Pomilio, Debra Bosfo Riley and Mei Rosas. Through Feb. 7. 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 994-8004.

CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

Jan. 8 - "Spirit of Memory," paintings and prints by Sawan Elgamal. Through Jan. 30. 47 Williams Street, Pontiac; (248) 333-7849.

MEADOW BROOK ART GALLERY

Jan. 8 - "Picturing Paris: 1850 to the Present," photographs from the Detroit Institute of Arts, through Feb. 21. 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester Hills; (248) 370-3005.

SWANN GALLERY

Jan. 8 - "Tribute to the J.L. Hudson Building," a photography show, through Feb. 6. 1250 Library Street, Detroit; (313) 965-4826.

YAW GALLERY

Jan. 8 - "A Gathering of Spoons," works by sculptor/silversmith Jonathan Bonner, through Jan. 30. 550 N. Old Woodward Ave., (248) 647-5470.

CARY GALLERY

Jan. 9 - "Michael Mahoney: Paintings and Works on Paper," through Feb. 6. 226 Walnut Blvd., Rochester; (248) 651-3656.

HENRY FORD COMM. COLLEGE

Jan. 11 - "Art of the Iris," works by various artists, through Feb. 5. Reception 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14. Sisson Gallery, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn; (734) 845-6487.

PLYMOUTH COMM. ARTS COUNCIL

Jan. 12 - "Japan Revisited," featuring Yoriko Hirose Cronin and Emi Kumagai Watts, through Feb. 10. Reception 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23. 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth; (734) 416-4447.

JANICE CHARACH EPSTEIN GALLERY

Jan. 14 - "Extraordinary Stitches: The art of fiber & thread," featuring works of 23 artists, through Feb. 25. Reception 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield; (248) 661-7641.

ALFRED BERKOWITZ GALLERY

Jan. 15 - "Diversity: Victims & Survivors," paintings by Richard Kozlow, selected interviews from the university's "Holocaust Survivor Oral Histories," an archival collection assembled by UM-D Professor of History Dr. Sidney Bolkosky. Through Feb. 14. 4901 Evergreen Road, #1165 AB, Dearborn; (734) 593-5058.

GALLERY EXHIBITS (ON-GOING)

BARCLAY GALLERY

Through Jan. 3 - "In the Shadow of Mount Fuji," a collection of Japanese prints. 580 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham; (248) 645-5430.

GALLERY 212

Through Jan. 3 - "Behind the

Mask," featuring works by six local artists. 212 S. Main, Ann Arbor; (734) 665-8224.

SOUTHFIELD CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Through Jan. 4 - Works by metalsmith and jeweler Miro J. Masuda. 24350 Southfield Road, just south of 10 Mile Road, Southfield; (248) 354-4224.

GALERIE BLU

Through Jan. 9 - Papier-mâché artist Stephen Hansen. 568 N. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham; (248) 594-0472.

HILBERRY GALLERY

Through Jan. 9 - Painting, sculpture, works on paper by Yayoi Kusama. 555 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham; (248) 642-8250.

NETWORK

Through Jan. 14 - "Photoflux," an exhibit by four Cranbrook alumni. 7 North Saginaw St. in Pontiac, (248) 334-3911.

HILL GALLERY

Through Jan. 16 - "Pak'al Tunich Stone Gardens," Maya architecture and landscapes. 407 W. Brown St., Birmingham; (248) 540-9288.

REVOLUTION

Through Jan. 16 - Exhibition by sculptor Elena Berriolo "Enclosed Gardens," recent works on paper by Gina Ferrari, and ceramic sculpture by Korean native Jae Won Lee. 23257 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 541-3444.

SYBARIS GALLERY

Through Jan. 16 - "... skywalking," works by Gerhardt Knodel. 202 E. Third St., Royal Oak; (248) 544-3388.

ROBERT KIDD GALLERY

Through Jan. 21 - New paintings by Fritz Mayhew. 107 Townsend St., Birmingham, (248) 642-3909.

ELAINE L. JACOB GALLERY

Through Jan. 22 - "Metaphors," works by Yvette Kaiser Smith. Wayne State University, 480 W. Hancock, Detroit; (313) 993-7813.

SCARAB CLUB

Through Jan. 28 - 85th Annual Gold Medal Exhibit & Holiday Sales Show, featuring fine art, sculpture and photography by Scarab Club members. 217 Farnsworth, Detroit; (313) 831-1250.

G.R. N'HAMDI GALLERY

Through Jan. 30 - Paintings by Frank Bowling. 1616 Townsend, Birmingham; (248) 642-2700.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Through March 15 - "Memory and Vision," A Celebration of Jewish Community, 1899-1999, museum-quality exhibition of artifacts and photos chronicles 100 years of the organized Jewish community of Detroit. 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Docents available for guided tours, call (248) 642-4260, Ext. 271.



Profiles: "Michael Mahoney: Paintings and Works on Paper," is on exhibit through Feb. 6 at the Cary Gallery, 226 Walnut Blvd., Rochester; (248) 651-3656.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Judy Collins shares lessons from a hard life in memoir

Singing Lessons: A Memoir of Love, Loss, Hope, and Healing
By Judy Collins
(Pocket Books, \$25)

By KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@e.homecomm.net

Singing is as natural to Judy Collins as breathing. She's been singing for as long as she can remember - for the joy of it, to put food on the table and to heal emotional wounds. The most painful of all being the suicide of her only child, a son, Clark, age 33, in January 1992.

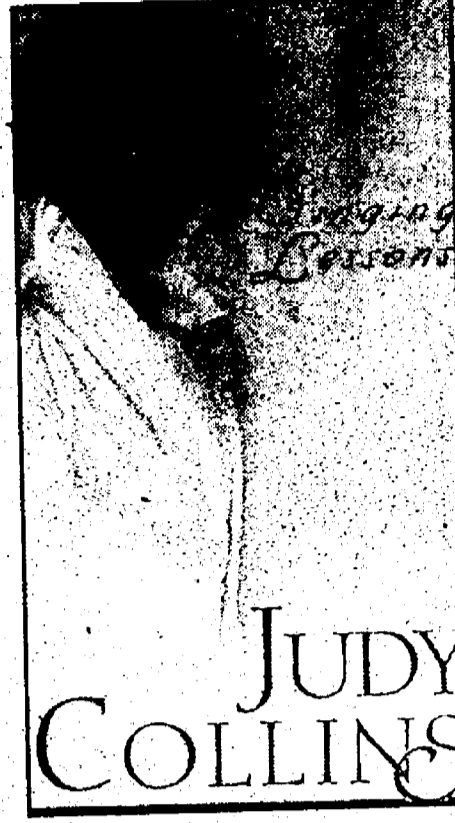
In her journal, Collins' younger sister Holly wrote - "Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem." For survivors, the weight of wondering if there was something you could have done to stop the suicide, can be unbearable.

There were times after Clark's suicide when Collins herself wanted to die. She wrote instead, to remember her son, to help her survive. There are few guidebooks for survivors. Collins began "Singing Lessons: A Memoir of Love, Loss, Hope and Healing," thinking that it would be a book about suicide. Instead, it turned out to be a tender, very personal story, about Collins, her life, and battles with depression and alcohol, and struggle to go on living after Clark died.

"As I wrote," said Collins, "I realized that Clark's story was about memory, but it was also about the lessons I had learned: lessons of work, of survival, of loss, of love; lessons of singing through the storm."

Blessed with good teachers who helped her become the legend she is, Collins generously shares those lessons in her memoir. Her book is part autobiographical, part confession, part instruction. Each of the 14 chapters begins with a personal prayer.

She is forgiving as she pieces together painful memories such as her father's depression and



JUDY COLLINS

alcoholism, demons, which later haunted her. For Collins, the pieces, once scattered, have come together, and she's found the solution to what was once a painful puzzle.

Clark, also suffered from depression, and began using drugs when he was 9 or 10.

In her search for peace, Collins learned that "suicide tendencies are not inherited, but tendencies toward depression are." There was alcoholism in both her mother's and father's family. As she was finishing her memoir, a nephew died from an overdose.

"Singing Lessons" is about loss, but it's also about joy. Collins is a remarkable woman who has led an interesting life. She met President Kennedy and became friends with President Clinton and his family.

Her father, Charles Collins, lost his sight at the age of 4, yet put himself through college, learned to play piano, and supported his family as a radio announcer. Despite his blindness, Charles was fiercely independent. He and Judy's mother, Marjorie, instilled in their five children a strong work ethic, and

belief in God. Growing up, Collins battled polio. As a young adult she fought tuberculosis.

Married after she learned she was pregnant, shortly before her 19th birthday, Collins supported her son and husband, Peter, a graduate student, by singing in clubs during the folk movement's formative years in the 1960s. She was a career woman during a time when most women stayed home with their children.

During the 1960s, Collins was making history, sharing the stage with people who would become American folk legends including Bob Dylan, Peter Yarrow and Pete Seeger. She recorded songs by Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell before mainstream America knew who they were. Collins sang at anti-war rallies, fund-raisers for the freedom workers in Mississippi, and benefits for women's rights. She remains active in politics and social causes and recently received an award by Peace Action for her work with UNICEF.

She knows the pain of being a single mother, and losing custody of a child, which she did after divorcing Peter. Later, Peter, who remarried the day after their divorce became final, returned Clark, then 9, to his mother because he was a handful.

Always there was the music, and it has comforted Collins throughout the years. No matter how bleak things were, she never lost faith, or belief in the power of love. In 1978 she met Louis, whom she married in 1996.

Her lessons are inspiring, especially at the start of a new year when many people vow to change their lives - "Even the darkest day has its sunlight."

As an added bonus, the book includes a CD with four songs written by Collins - "Singing Lessons," "Born to the Breed," "The Fallow Way," and "The Wedding Song (for Louis)."

National Amusements Showcase Cinema
Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DOWN IN THE DELTA (PG-13)
SUN. 11:50, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50;
MON-THURS. 12:30, 2:50, 5:10,
7:40, 10:10

NP THE FACILITY (R)
SUN. 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 7:20, 8:10,
9:40, 10:20; MON-THURS. 12:40,
2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40, 10:30

NP PATCH ADAMS (PG-13)
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4:45, 7:15, 9:50, 10:20; MON-
THURS. 12:20, 1:20, 2:50, 4:50,
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NP STEPHEN (PG-13)
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9:45, 10:15; MON-THURS. 12:00,
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NP THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG)
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3:00, 3:50, 5:10, 6:05, 7:20, 9:30;
MON-THURS. 12:10, 12:50, 2:10,
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NP SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
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Showcase Cinema 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of
Telegraph
248-334-6777
Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
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STAR TREK: INSURANCE (PG)
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SUN.

FOCUS ON WINE



RAY & ELEANOR HEALD

There's liquid gold in them thar hills!

Lusting for gold in the 1850s, fortune seekers headed to California's Sierra Foothills. By 1856, money gushed and lifestyle demands for the best food and drink gold could buy reached a pinnacle. The rush to plant grape vines nearly equaled the rush to discover gold.

By the mid-1860s, a full-fledged pioneer wine industry had been created in the redlands and granite spils of the Mother Lode Country. Back then, more wineries operated there than in the rest of California.

Boom times ended when mines ran dry, late in the 19th century. This downturn was followed by the first phylloxera outbreak, devastating most vineyards. Wineries that survived had their backs broken by Prohibition. But that's the past. The present is bright and the future exciting.

Ironstone Vineyards

The word bargain is no longer associated with wines from California's north coast counties of Napa and Sonoma. But it is alive in former Gold Rush country such as Calaveras County. A bevy of more popularly priced wines are the discovery from today's Gold Rush hills.

Visitors to the region take a step back in time into mining towns such as Murphy's, where you find Ironstone Vineyards and a wine Mother Lode.

Ironstone bills itself as "unique in all the world." We asked Stephen Kautz, Ironstone's president to explain this. As starters, he cited 100 percent family ownership; California family vegetable farming dating back to 1923; and grape growing since 1968. Vineyards planted to chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blanc and zinfandel were farsighted for their time. Today, Ironstone farms about 6,000 acres of grapes.

At first, grapes were sold to other wineries. In 1982, Ironstone had its first vintage, but a major turning point in quality and recognition came in 1988 when the Kautz family hired talented winemaker Steve Miller and gave him a state-of-the-art facility that included underground caves.

So proud of its wines and facility, the Kautz family made their location a destination winery and entertainment center, with an in-house bakery, a cooking school, banquet center for 1,500 and one of the top 10 winery gardens in the United States. An amphitheater under construction will be completed in Spring 1999. Indeed, there's more than wine at Ironstone!

Good values

But the wines? Very good and all under \$10. Do we now have your interest?

Please see WINE, B6

Wine Picks

■ **Picks of the pack:** 1996 Hartford Court Pinot Noir, Dutton Ranch-Sanchetti Vineyard, Russian River Valley \$35, showcases full, rich and voluptuous Russian River Valley fruit intensity with more evident oak than 1996 Hartford Court Pinot Noir, Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard \$30, full of elegance and finesse. Both are excellent and a matter of style preference.

■ **Reds to buy and cellar:** 1995 Geyser Peak Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon \$30; 1995 St. Supery Meritage, \$40; 1996 Venezia Meola Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon \$24; 1995 Stags' Leap Winery Petite Syrah \$24; 1996 Fisher RCF Merot, Napa Valley \$30; 1996 Fisher Coach Insignia \$30; and 1996 Archery Summit Estate Pinot Noir (inaugural release from Oregon) \$75.

■ **Value reds:** 1998 Rosemount Shiraz-Cabernet \$8.50; 1997 Canyon Road Cabernet Sauvignon \$8; and 1996 Preston Faux \$12.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week

- 2 Unique
- Main Dish Miracle

OATMEAL

START YOUR DAY WITH A WARM TUMMY

By MELANIE POLK
SPECIAL WRITER

If cold, dark winter mornings aren't enough reason to seek the comfort of a steaming bowl of oatmeal, then consider that January is National Oatmeal Month — a worthy observance for a food that's both wholesome and extremely popular.

A single cup of oatmeal provides four grams of total dietary fiber, including two grams of cholesterol-lowering soluble fiber. The grain is also an excellent source of such nutrients as thiamin and magnesium.

There are several basic types of oatmeal, which differ in cooking time and texture rather than taste and nutrition. Steel-cut (also called Scotch or Irish) oats are oat groats (oat grains without their hulls) that have a coarse, chewy texture and take up to 20 minutes to cook; rolled oats, which are groats that are steamed and flattened between steel rollers, cook more quickly; quick oats are cut into small pieces before rolling and cook in only a minute; and instant oats are precooked and pressed, so they need only boiling water to reconstitute them. Oats should be stored in a dark, dry spot in a well-sealed container. If humidity is a concern, refrigerate oats for up to a year.

For breakfast, it's hard to beat a bowl of oatmeal, especially when combined with fruit. Cook some up with grated apple and cinnamon, or serve it with sliced banana.

Beyond breakfast, oats are a great addition to dishes like meatloaf, stew or soup for adding substance and thickening. Use oats as a coating for oven-fried chicken breasts or fish. Seasoned oats make a super stuffing for vegetables, and they also make a good coating for pan-roasted potatoes, carrots and other vegetables.

Oats are the basis for a variety of sturdy breads, biscuits and cakes, and oatmeal cookies are a delicious way to get extra fiber in your diet. Use oats in fruit crumbles, low-fat pie crusts and brownies as well.

Melanie Polk is a registered dietitian and Director of Nutrition Education for the American Institute for Cancer Research.

See recipes inside.



QUAKER OATS

Dessert for breakfast: Like the bread it's named after, Banana Bread Oatmeal features fragrant cinnamon and nutmeg, sweet ripe bananas and crunchy pecans. Use quick oats for a creamier texture; old-fashioned oats for a heartier taste and texture.

FUN FACTS

- January is Oatmeal month because we buy more oatmeal in January than during any other month of the year. In January 1998, we bought 36 million pounds of oats — enough to make 360 million bowls of oatmeal.
- Adults 65 years of age and over eat the most oatmeal — an average 79 bowls a year. Kids 12 and under eat, on average, 50 bowls per year and are the biggest consumers of flavored instant oatmeal.
- Of those people who eat instant oatmeal, 55 percent combine the oats and liquid and cook it in the microwave.

- While 86 percent of all oatmeal is eaten at breakfast, 6 percent of oatmeal is eaten at dinner.
- We add something to plain oatmeal 92 percent of the time. The top five favorite oatmeal toppings, in order, are: milk; sugar; margarine/spreads/butter; fruit, mostly raisins and bananas; and syrup/honey.
- Among the more unusual oatmeal toppings cited by National Eating Trends are: sesame seeds; coconut; pistachios; sunflower seeds; whipped cream and whipped topping; and cottage cheese.

Information compliments of The Quaker Oats Company

Pick weight-loss and health goals that are right for you

SENSIBLE LIVING



BEVERLY PRICE

As you enter January of the new year, what are you thinking about when it comes to your health? Although you may establish weight loss and health goals for the new year, will you follow them through?

There are so many weight loss programs out there beckoning you to sign up. They sound tempting when you're tempted. "20 pounds of weight loss in one month." However, will they help you change your eating habits?

Most weight loss programs not only fail to address the emotional issues behind why you may be overeating, but they also have very little to offer in the way of nutrition education. How do you evaluate the "best" weight loss program for you? Let's explore some of the advice that the experts have to offer.

In the book and audio tape, "Thin for Life," by Anne Fletcher, she describes characteristics of individuals who kept their weight off for three or more years. Most of the individuals she sur-

veyed had lost and gained back their weight several times, and had been overweight since childhood. After years of struggling, they found an approach that was right for them.

"Just because something worked for a celebrity does not mean it is right for you," writes Fletcher. They may have gone through a program or met with a dietitian, but ultimately, the "plan" was their "plan." It was not just a "menu to follow."

Why diets don't work

This is why so many "diets" don't work. They simply provide a safety net so you don't have to make any effort. The diet does the work for you, so you do not have to think at all. But when the diet is over, you are left wondering, "Now how do I maintain my new weight on my own?" As Dr. Stephen Gullo says in his eye-opening audio tape, "Thin Tastes Better," "If you don't solve your emotional problems as well as deal with your food cravings while

you are 'dieting,' they will still be there when you lose your weight." He goes on to explain that eventually, you will gain back the weight you have lost if you did not deal with your food issues during the weight loss process.

Canadian best seller, "You Count, Calories Don't," by Linda Omichinski, founder and president of HUGS International, Inc. developed an empowerment approach to health which is embraced by defeated dieters.

- Forget the scale, calorie counting and fat gram levels
- Learn how to tune into your body for signals that mean enough & more
- Discover individual patterns for food and activity levels that maintain personal energy
- Find the strength to accept yourself just as you are and get on with life

One of my clients, Sharon Sweet, who successfully achieved her weight loss goal said, "This is not my only

goal. Now that I achieved one goal, I need to work toward my next nutrition goal."

You never get to a final place. You are always perfecting and exploring new avenues when it comes to your health. So, when evaluating a personal weight loss program for 1999, whether it is a group or one-on-one guidance from a health professional, make sure that your potential program meets your individual needs. If you do not see progress in terms of behavior change within six weeks, don't be afraid to enlist the help of a mental health professional in order to help you get to the root of your eating behavior. Happy New Year

Beverly Price is a registered dietitian and exercise physiologist. She operates Living Better Sensibly, a private nutrition practice in Farmington Hills that offers programs for individuals and corporations. She is the co-author of "Nutrition Secrets for Optimal Health," Tall Tree Publishing Company. Look for her column on the first Sunday of each month in Taste. Visit her website at www.nutritionsecrets.com.

See recipes inside.

See recipes inside.

Nutritious oatmeal isn't just for breakfast

See related Oatmeal story on Taste front.

SWISS FRUIT MUESLI

- 3 ounces (1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons) wheat kernels (available at health food shops)
 - 2 ounces (1/4 cup) rolled oats
 - 3 ounces (1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons) raisins, chopped apricots or prunes
 - 4 tablespoons chopped nuts (pecans, almonds, walnuts)
 - Fresh fruit (sliced peach, pear, strawberries, banana, apple or seedless red or green grapes)
 - 8 ounces plain nonfat yogurt
 - Honey or maple syrup (optional)
- In a bowl, combine wheat kernels, rolled oats, raisins or other chopped dried fruits, nuts and yogurt; stir until mixed. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Top with fresh fruit before serving.

Nutrition information: Each of the four servings contains 284 calories (will vary depending on type of fruit used) and 6 grams of fat.)

Recipe from the American Institute for Cancer Research

BANANA BREAD OATMEAL

- 3 cups fat-free milk
- 3 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 2 cups oats (quick or old-fashioned, uncooked)
 - 2 medium-size bananas, mashed (about 1 cup)
 - 2 to 3 tablespoons coarsely chopped toasted pecans
 - Vanilla nonfat yogurt (optional)
 - Banana slices (optional)
 - Pecan halves (optional)
- In medium saucepan, bring milk, brown sugar, spices and salt to a gentle boil (watch carefully); stir in oats. Return to a boil; reduce heat to medium. Cook 1 minute for quick oats, 5 minutes for old-fashioned oats, or until most of the liquid is absorbed, stirring occasionally.

Remove oatmeal from heat. Stir in mashed bananas and pecans. Spoon oatmeal into four cereal bowls. Top with yogurt, sliced bananas and pecan halves, if desired. Serves 4.

Cook's Tip: To toast pecans, spread evenly in shallow baking pan. Bake at 350°F, 5 to 7 minutes or until light golden brown. Or, spread nuts evenly on microwave-safe plate. Microwave on HIGH 1 minute; stir. Continue to microwave on HIGH, checking every 30 seconds, until nuts are fragrant and brown.

Nutrition information: Calories 340, Calories from Fat 50, Total Fat 6g, Saturated Fat 1g, Cholesterol less than 5mg, Sodium 100mg, Total Carbohydrates 60g, Dietary Fiber 6g, Protein 14g, Calcium 268mg.

Recipe compliments of Quaker Oats

VEGETABLE OAT PILAF

- 1/2 cup chopped mushrooms
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 3/4 cups old-fashioned oats, uncooked
- 2 egg whites or 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 medium tomato, seeded, chopped

Cook mushrooms, green pepper, onions and garlic in oil over medium heat, stirring occasionally until vegetables are tender, about 2 minutes.

Mix oats and egg whites until oats are evenly coated. Add oats to vegetable mixture in skillet. Cook over medium heat stirring occasionally until oats are dry and separated, about 5-6 minutes. Add broth, basil, salt and pepper. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, 2-3 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Stir in tomato. Serve immediately. Serves 8.

Recipe compliments of Quaker Oats

APPLE BERRY CRISP



Wake-up call: Muesli is a delicious combination of oats, fruits and nuts.

Topping

- 1 cup oats (quick or old-fashioned, uncooked)
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 5 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

Filling

- 4 cups thinly sliced Granny Smith apples (about 4 medium)

- 2 cups frozen blueberries (do not thaw)
- 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar

- 1/4 cup frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Vanilla ice cream (optional)

Heat oven to 350°F. In small bowl, combine topping ingredients;

set aside. In medium bowl, combine filling ingredients, stirring until fruit is evenly coated. Spoon into 8-inch square glass baking dish. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit. Bake 30-35 minutes or until apples are tender. Serve warm or at room temperature with ice cream, if desired. Serves 9.

Recipe compliments of Quaker Oats

Wine from page B5

The 1997 Ironstone Chardonnay is brimming with tropical-fruit flavors and a fruit-driven finish, with a light touch of oak. Its a wine that says, "Pull the cork and enjoy me today."

Ironstone Merlot from the 1996 vintage is blended with cabernet sauvignon for structure. Red fruits dominate with olive complexities in the background and a mellow palate

impression. Bright cherry and juicy blackberry fruit are the hallmarks of the fruit driven 1996 Ironstone Cabernet Sauvignon.

There aren't many varietal cabernet francs on the market and those that are, are often mucked up with too much oak. The 1996 Ironstone Cabernet Franc sings blueberries and bright red fruits finishing with spicy peppery notes.

Ironstone 1995 Shiraz is yummy and jammy with smoky bacon accents that make you think of a Rhone wine from France. Ironstone was the first California winery to release a varietal Shiraz in 1992.

The 1997 Ironstone Obsession is an off-dry white wine, made from the symphony grape, a hybrid developed in the U.S. and produced from a cross between muscat of Alexandria and grenache gris. Refreshing and crisp, it makes a great match with Asian, Thai or spicy Cajun foods.

Wine Seminar

To repeat, all Ironstone wines are incredible values for just under \$10. We're conducting "Seeing Red" an all red wine seminar 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays Jan. 25, and Feb. 1, 8 and 15, at the

Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, \$120 per person for the series. Topics includes red wines from the Rhone Valley, Australia, Italy and Bordeaux. Phone (248) 644-3443. Look for Focus on Wine on the first and third Sunday of the month in Taste. To leave a voice mail message for the Healds, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864.

TOOTH DECAY

It is important to distinguish between "caries," the Latin word for "decay," and a "cavity," the hole that occurs if the caries has destroyed the tooth enamel and penetrates the tooth's dentin. Caries may first appear as a white or brown spot on tooth enamel. It is an indication that bacterial acids have begun to dissolve calcium and phosphate in the tooth enamel (demineralization). If it is detected early enough, it is possible to remineralize the enamel and stop decay by cleaning the teeth thoroughly, applying topical fluorides, and removing plaque. Otherwise, once a cavity forms, remineralization cannot fill it up. Left untreated, a cavity will continue to grow until it destroys the entire crown of the tooth.

This column on tooth decay is brought to you in the interest of better dental health. For dental care that will take you into the 21st century, call LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES at 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. We stay abreast of new techniques and scientific advances in dentistry as they develop. We are a highly qualified and experienced team of professionals - and we're here to help you make the most of your smile. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road. Smiles are our business.

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P.S. Dentin is the bone-like tissue that comprises the largest portion of the tooth.

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THE Observer & Eccentric HOME TOWN Newspapers

Job Fair

Laurel Manor in Livonia
Wednesday, March 24, 1999
11:00 a.m.—7 p.m.

- ★ "Great Job! Well organized!"—Kohl's Department Store
- ★ "We received 400 resumes; thought it was great."—Employment Connections Personnel
- ★ "Very organized and professional"—Parisian Department Store
- ★ "The advertising was wonderful, we were very pleased with the turn-out."—Performance Personnel

These are just a few of the positive comments we received following our first Job Fair in September '98. This March, you will have an opportunity to participate in our second, which promises to be even better. This general job fair is open to all professions and occupations. So, if you wish to add or replace with competent personnel, our Job Fair is the place to be on March 24, 1999. Commit now! Space is limited—Don't miss this chance to find the help you've been searching for!

To reserve your space, call 734-953-2070.

Your participation is only \$625 and includes:

- An 8-foot skirted table and chairs (no booths, please)
- Box lunches for two (2) staffers
- Inclusion in all Fair advertising and editorial in The Observer & Eccentric and HomeTown Newspapers
- Inclusion on our Web Sites promoting the Fair
- A QUARTER PAGE AD IN OUR OFFICIAL JOB FAIR SUPPLEMENT with distribution to more than 255,000 households (see specifications on the reverse)
- Radio promotion of the Job Fair
- An excellent opportunity to meet prospective employees

Plan for our next Job Fair on Wednesday, September 22, 1999!

Get a healthy start with good-for-you dishes

See related Living Better Sensibly column on Taste front.

BALSAMIC-ARTICHOKE SALAD

- 2-3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Brown rice syrup
- 1 1/2 cups chopped and drained canned unmarinated artichokes
- 2 cups drained canned mandarin orange segments
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley

Whisk together vinegar and brown rice syrup. Add remaining ingredients and toss well. Let stand 20 minutes. 4 servings.

PIZZA MARGHERITA

- 4 ounces canned, peeled, and diced tomatoes
- 1 whole wheat flour tortilla or focaccia bread
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground pepper
- 18 fresh basil leaves, roughly chopped
- 8 ounces grated soy cheese

Preheat oven to 500°F. Empty tomatoes into sieve and set over deep bowl. Toss several times to speed draining. Reserve juice. Pour about 2/3 cup reserved tomato juice into small saucepan.

Add vinegar and pepper. Bring

to boil over high heat. Continue boiling to reduce liquid; you should have slightly more than 1/4 cup sauce. Remove pan from heat; stir to cool. Place dough of choice on lightly sprayed pan. Spread sauce over crust.

Top with fresh basil leaves and cheese. Bake until cheese melts, and crust is golden brown.

CHOCOLATE BROWNIES

- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 2 teaspoons chocolate extract flavor
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

Stir ins:

Black Forest: 1/2 cup dried cherries, reconstituted and mixed in.

Hazelnut: 1/2 cup toasted hazelnuts.

Hawaiian: 1/3 cup coconut and 1/3 cup toasted macadamia nuts.

Orange: 1/3 cup candied orange peel and 2 tsp. orange liqueur

Cappuccino: 2 teaspoons instant espresso dissolved in 2 teaspoons water.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 8-inch square pan. In medium bowl, mix oil, extract, and eggs. Add flour, sugar, cocoa, baking

powder, and salt until just blended. Scrape batter into pan. Bake until top slightly springs back, about 15 minutes.

SPINACH DIP

- 1 package frozen chopped spinach thawed and drained well
- 1/2 cup chopped water chestnuts
- 1 cup non-dairy sour cream
- 1 cup lowfat non-dairy mayonnaise
- 1 package Lipton vegetable soup mix
- 1 round rye bread (hollowed out)

Combine ingredients and mix well. Chill for at least 2 hours. Cut out the center of a round rye bread loaf. Take the center piece of bread and cut it into cubes. Fill the hollowed out bread bowl with the dip. Use the cubed pieces of bread as the garnish and serve together.

Contact Living Better Sensibly to see how your worksite can have dynamic nutrition education and weight loss programs, along with healthy catered meals, at your worksite.

Your worksite may even qualify for a state grant to underwrite part of the cost of these programs. Call (248) 539-9424 for more information on group as well as individual weight management, education programs or cooking classes

Make your own granola

AP - Homemade granola is an appealing form of cereal food. It's simple to make, too, since most of us keep the oatmeal and other key ingredients on hand.

Gingersnap Granola, an uncommon variation on the theme, pairs traditional quick or old-fashioned oats with contemporary oat bran.

Lightly sweetened and full of crunch, it owes its gingersnap-like flavor to molasses, lemon peel and spices. A 3/4-cup serving of this low-fat recipe contains 4 grams of dietary fiber, 230 calories and only 19 percent calories from fat.

Stored airtight, Gingersnap Granola will keep several weeks at room temperature. For a treat, top with low-fat yogurt and fresh berries.

GINGERSNAP GRANOLA

- 3 cups oat bran
- 2 cups oats (quick or old-fashioned, uncooked)
- 2 tablespoons margarine

Gingersnap Granola, an uncommon variation on the theme, pairs traditional quick or old-fashioned oats with contemporary oat bran.

- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons light or dark molasses
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (optional)

Heat oven to 350 F. Spray 15-by-10-inch jellyroll pan or rimmed baking sheet with no-stick cooking spray.

In large bowl, combine oat bran cereal and oats; mix well and set aside. Put margarine in 2-cup microwaveable bowl. Cook on high

(100 percent power) 30 to 45 seconds or until melted. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Drizzle over combined cereals, stirring until evenly coated; spread evenly in pan.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown, stirring every 10 minutes. Cool granola in pan on wire rack. Store tightly covered. Makes 8 servings (about 6 cups).

Nutrition facts per serving: (1/8 of recipe, about 3/4 cup): 230 cal. (45 cal. from fat), 5 g total fat, 1 g saturated fat, 100 mg sodium, 0 mg chol., 4 g dietary fiber.

Recipe from: Quaker Oats.

VINTAGE Wishes You A Safe And Happy New Year

 JUMBO CRAB LEG PIECES only 5⁹⁹ lb.	 USDA Grade A Lean-N-Meaty PORTERHOUSE & T-BONE STEAKS only 3⁹⁹ lb.	 USDA Grade A Lean-N-Meaty BABY BACK RIBS only 2⁹⁹ lb.
 USDA Grade A Center Cut PORK CHOPS only 2⁶⁹ lb.	 CHUCK for a BUCK 1 lb. of Ground Chuck only 1⁰⁰	 USDA Boneless POT ROAST only 1⁷⁹ lb.
WORLD'S BEST PARTY SUBS • CATERING • PARTY TRAYS • TOP QUALITY PIZZAS		
 Our Own Famous Rotisserie ROAST BEEF only 3⁹⁹ lb.	 New Kowalski's Import Lean POLISH HAM only 3²⁹ lb.	 Our Own Famous Homemade Sweet & Sour or Italian MEATBALLS 1⁸⁹ lb.
 Kowalski's HARD SALAMI only 3¹⁹ lb.	 Real American CHEESE 2⁶⁹ lb.	 Real Muenster CHEESE 2⁶⁹ lb.
 KOWALSKI LOAVES Olive, Pickle, Kielbasa & Old Fashioned only 2⁹⁹ lb.	 24 oz. Cube Cans Bud or Bud Light 12⁹⁹ *tax & deposit	

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Legacy of the Hohokam seen everywhere in Arizona

BY THERESE L. MCFARLAND
SPECIAL WRITER

I cruised south out of Phoenix on U.S. 10 toward Tucson. It was straight and flat and brown and dry. My delight at seeing the sun in the winter was slightly offset by the lack-luster scenery dotting the highway.

Whenever I'm on vacation my sense of direction and map reading rallies. Perhaps by some divine intervention, I can find obscure places with minimal of no signs. Back in the Detroit-metro area, I have to really concentrate to find downriver.

What seemed like only minutes later, I was already 40 miles south of Phoenix and wandering a course through desert land to the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in Coolidge, Ariz.

Weathered, tawny monoliths of the prehistoric Hohokam Indians glowed with majestic reverence against the cowgirl blue sky. Named by the Spanish explorers, Casa Grande means "the Great House." This incredible technological feat used a mud mixture of sand, clay and limestone applied on top of a wooden frame, in courses that were as thick as four feet near the base. Casa Grande, deemed the largest existing Hohokam ruin structure, is a splendid example of their final architectural style; their Classic Period (1100 to 1450 AD).

This was my introduction to

the Hohokam, a mysterious ancient people who left behind evidence of an advanced civilization and technology, similar to the more popular Anasazi culture to the north. Strolling the compound ruins and the Great House aroused heart and mind questions about these highly evolved people who date back to 300 AD, according to archeologists. Some believe that the Great Halls, like the Great House at Casa Grande, were astronomical observatories. The people gathered in these reflective arenas to examine their world through strategic openings in the walls and also to give thanks.

For a small fee, the visitors center offered exhibits and artifacts reflecting the Hohokam lifestyle, a desert farming community with well-developed canal and irrigation systems. They were also keen hunter-gatherers, traders and artisans. Unique to the Hohokam were the traditional, decorative red-pigment paste on buff pottery.

In the late 1600s, missionaries visiting this site found the Pima Indians living in brush huts nearby the ruins. The Pima claimed their ancestors were the "ho-ho-KAHM," which translates into "all used up." The disappearance of the Hohokam remains a mystery today.

Traveling south on U.S. 10, I exited toward the Tucson Mountain district - or Saguaro

National Park. Remote signs, rugged terrain and saguaro desert giants beckoned. Native to southern Arizona, the saguaro cactus can grow up to 50 feet tall, live for 150 to 200 years and weigh up to eight tons. I had just enough time to drive the nine-mile dirt road known as the Bajada Loop that winds through majestic saguaro, barrel cactus, teddybear cholla, prickly pear cactus and mesquite trees.

I parked my rented brilliant orange Mustang near a scenic path at the base of a small desert mountain that led up to preserved petroglyphs. I was delighted by the prospect of these ancient drawings. Then my mind conjured some crazy people lurking at the mountain's top, waiting to knock me out and rob me, or worse. I realized the horrid influence of TV and started down the path. However, still a city girl, I kept the pepper spray in my vest pocket. Emphatic signs to stay on the trail prompted my search for desert wildlife, like roadrunners and gila monsters and the western diamond-back rattlesnake. All I spied were a few cactus wrens making holes in spiny cholla cactus.

The handiwork of the Hohokam, the petroglyphs were spectacularly arranged at the small mountain's crest, as if an open-air chapel. I couldn't interpret their designs, but it felt like a happy and thankful story. In silent unison with an elderly gentleman and his companion, we stood in awe.

I exited the park and witnessed striking pink blue magenta rays piercing gauzy clouds layering a limitless sky. Caught up in the beauty, I nearly crashed that brilliant orange Mustang. My destination was north to Scottsdale.

The following day I traveled east out of Scottsdale toward the quaint, historic town of Globe, a charming example of the Golden Age of Mining (1870-1920), not to mention the home of the oldest Woolworth store of the west. I visited the local ruin of Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park, attributed to the Salado Indians who also unexplainably disappeared around 1450 AD.

The Salado are well known for their incredible and highly decorative utilitarian pottery. I



PHOTOS BY T.L. MCFARLAND

All aglow: A luminous sunrise shrouds Castle Rock, one of several vortices found in Sedona, Arizona.

lurked through rooms (some reconstructed) and climbed the two-floor structures of the prehistoric Indian settlement. Near the compound's edge stood an enigmatic sunken chamber. Similar to the kivas of the ancient Anasazi, it was a room dug deep in a pit with an altar against the wall and a small hole to allow the spirits smoke to enter and leave. I envisioned their sacred ceremonies. Prior to the Salado (between 900 and 1100 AD), evidence suggests that the Hohokam inhabited these same grounds in their pit houses.

My plans to continue about an hour and a half farther east to the Kinishaba ruins located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation were thwarted. It was simply too late. I returned to Scottsdale.

Time limitations forced choices. The next morning I headed

north toward Sedona but detoured to visit what is perhaps one of the best preserved structures in the Southwest, Montezuma's Castle. Ochre cliff mountain dwellings fronting an azure sky, this magnificent accomplishment by the Sinagua Indians dated back to 1125 AD. I found myself wondering about their daily lives in these cliff-side dwellings. Never mind the obvious questions of hauling all their provisions up those steep walls, how did they keep their toddlers from walking off the edge and dropping to their death?

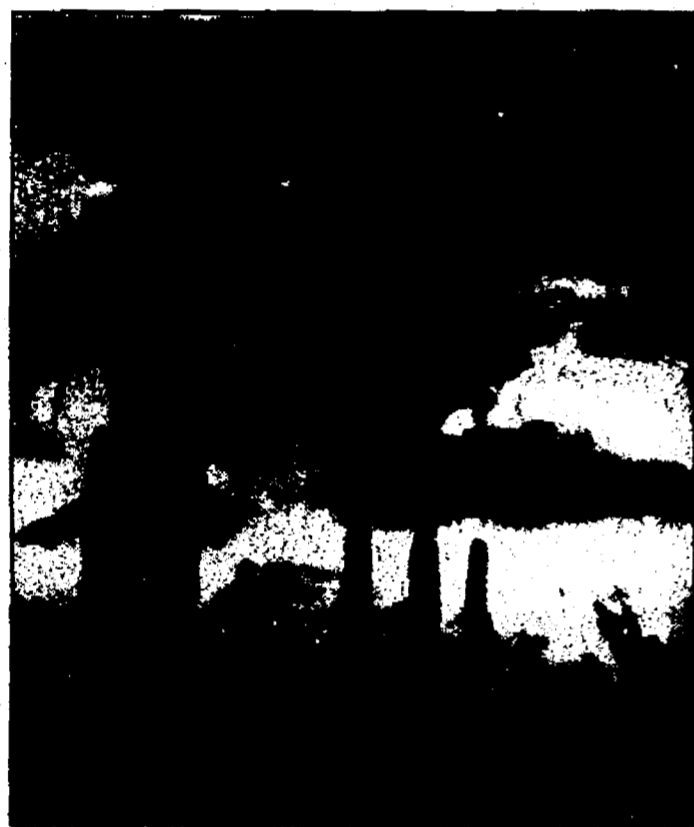
Prior to dwelling in cliffs, these farming people had lived in the surrounding valley area, which I discovered had also previously been occupied by those mysterious Hohokam. In fact, it is believed that the Sinagua lifestyle was dramatically

altered when they adopted the Hohokam irrigation system.

It was obvious that the prehistoric Hohokam had influenced the Sinagua, the Salado, the Pima and more than likely many other Native American people. Actually, I found myself becoming intrigued by their mysterious existence that was technologically advanced yet simple and spiritual. I wanted to visit other obscure ancient ruins throughout Arizona, to learn more about their lifestyle. But the reality of a plane to catch in Phoenix, baby-sitters to relieve and responsibilities awaiting me, loomed. I knew that my time, like that of the ancient Hohokam, was "all used up."

Therese L. McFarland is a freelance writer living in Farmington Hills.

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