

A magician performs to raise money for his school, A3

Plymouth Observer

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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Honored: Middle school students from the Plymouth area will be honored for their ice sculpture designs at 4 p.m. in Kellogg Park.

Closings: Wayne County government offices and courts will be closed today in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. That includes the Wayne County Building in downtown Detroit, the parks and recreation administrative offices at Nankin Mills in Hines Park, Circuit Court and offices of county executive, clerk, treasurer, register of deeds and commissioners. Offices reopen on Tuesday.

TUESDAY

Moved: The Plymouth City Commission will meet at 7 p.m. tonight at city hall, 201 S. Main. The meeting was changed from Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Special: The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will have a special meeting at 7 p.m. to discuss a number of student expulsions. The meeting is at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center on Harvey.

WEDNESDAY

Meet: The Plymouth Township Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. at township hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road.

THURSDAY

Early: The State of the Plymouth Community Chamber will be discussed at 7:30 a.m. at Station 885.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Experts: Chuck Usztics, a culinary arts instructor at Romulus High School, and Richard Teple, who leads the culinary arts program at Henry Ford Community College, confer on Henry Ford's ice display.

Perfect weather's expected to draw record crowds to ice fest

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

"Scream 2" may rule theaters. But the Plymouth chainsaw massacre of ice blocks has its own appeal.

That was evidenced by the swarms of visitors returning downtown this week.

And with the weather for carving and viewing nearly perfect, record

crowds were expected through today and the close of the 16th Annual Plymouth International Ice Spectacular on Monday.

Added to the usual representation of winged horses and birds were a growing number of corporate logos etched in ice - and near perfect weather for ice carvers and spectators.

"Typically we get a day that's too sunny or a little bit too warm,"



said Paul Sincock, municipal services director. "But the way it's being predicted now it's going to be perfect for the entire run."

Property bought for new school

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Jan. 13 voted to spend approximately \$714,000 for property to build a new school in southwest Canton.

The property, located on the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Beck roads, is in an area previously targeted by the district for a new elementary school.

"In the bond project, this was the target area," said Superintendent Charles Little. "One way we felt the bond proposal would be supported is if we targeted a specific area, and that was southwest Canton. I think it's a terrific location because the population growth is going right past there."

The district wants to build the new school in a residential setting, and began negotiations some time ago with

Please see SCHOOL, A3

YMCA makes its bid

■ About a week ago, the city offered its method of running a recreation program, now the YMCA is offering its ideas.



BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Community Family YMCA has presented a plan detailing how it could run community wide recreation services and expand them.

"The YMCA would assume full responsibility for providing quality programs and opportunities for all residents in the city and township," according to the four-page proposal.

RECREATION

It was presented to members of the joint township-city recreation committee on Wednesday. They had some questions, but expressed pleasure that a non-government operator has presented a serious proposal to take over recreation.

City and township representatives on the joint recreation committee are to present the proposal to their respective

Please see YMCA, A2

Schools plan for survival

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The survival of the Plymouth-Canton School District could be dependent on the return of yearlong classes, schools in industrial parks, or maybe even making some elementary facilities schools of choice.

Those were some of the preliminary ideas expressed Jan. 13 as the district plans an all-out campaign to involve residents in the future planning of the schools to avoid a course of self-destruction.

Superintendent Charles Little told the Observer the district is in a "go-out-of-business course, and we need to find a way to curb it before it's too late."

Little, in a presentation which will also be given to parents, civic and business leaders over the next three

Please see SURVIVAL, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Practice: Sergei Fedorov had a Whale of a time when he practiced with the Plymouth Whalers Wednesday.

On ice Fedorov skates into town

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Sergei Fedorov joined the Plymouth Whalers in an hour-long practice Wednesday at Compuware Sports Arena.

"He didn't embarrass me too bad," said Whalers defenseman Troy Smith, smiling.

"I got to play on a line with him," said Whalers left wing Andrew Taylor. "I tried to give him the puck all the time."

"He really enjoyed himself," said Greg Stefan, Whalers assistant coach and former Red Wings goalie.

"I think it's a big thrill for all the

Please see SERGEI, A3

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Our Lady denied

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 1062 W. Church, was denied a rezoning sought Wednesday by church officials.

They sought to have a house recently purchased by the church across the street at 112 Harvey rezoned from residential to office use.

But some neighbors objected, claiming the proposed youth drop-in center would be too busy to suit the neighborhood during evening hours.

Planning commissioners voted 7-0 against the rezoning. Some cited safety concerns. That's because those using the house would have to cross the street, after parking their cars in the church lot.

Help the kids

You can help the children staying at Mott Children's Hospital by donating used music CDs and Playstation games.

Types of music needed include easy listening and pop-rock. The drop off location is the Little Professor on the Park book store.

For more information, contact the Brandy Memorial Fundraiser at 469-9780.

Have a heart

If you received a present you're not going to use, consider donating it to the Toniquis Creek Yacht club this month for distribution on Valentine's Day.

This "Plymouth Has Heart" project is coordinated by Eunice Terch. Drop off locations are the Pen and Ink Print Shoppe, 531 S. Mill at Ann Arbor Trail; the Plymouth Township treasurer's office at Mill and Ann Arbor Road; and the home of Warren and Eunice Terch, 14410 Huntington Drive in Lakepointe subdivision.

Items will be distributed to families in need. During January agencies will be contacted to see which can use collected items.

Wanted: Special Olympics coach

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Some 20 Special Olympians have been dry-docked without a swimming coach to work with them.

"We have a hard time finding someone" said Plymouth resident Jackie Foust, Plymouth-Canton Special Olympics area coordinator.

Their most recent coach unexpectedly left and moved away. Before that, Hooker Wellman, a Canton coach, worked with the Special Olympians. "He's a hard act to follow," Foust said.

But she's also certain that either a man or woman out there will come through for the students.

If you like young people, like to volunteer and are at least 18 years old and are a Certified

Water Safety Instructor, Foust would like to hear from you. Call her at home in the evenings, 451-0794.

Actually, time is running short. The students need to get a certain amount of practice time in - according to state guidelines - to be able to participate in the Special Olympics district games at Franklin High School in Livonia in May. Finalists from the district games then go on to the state games in Mt. Pleasant in June.

"For these kids this is such a big deal. They get medals. They get to be on the swimming blocks," Foust said.

The students range in age from 8 to the late 20s. "I know people may think they don't want to deal with these kids. But

'The swimming is their only outlet to associate with their peers.'

Jackie Foust
Special Olympics coordinator

they really are just regular kids. Swimming is a good source of exercise for the kids," Foust said.

Some of the kids have Downs Syndrome, cerebral palsy or learning disabilities.

Not all of the 20 swimming students will participate in Special Olympics swimming competition. Some of the students are involved because they are trying to strengthen their muscles, for track and field, for example. Stu-

dents who enter the Special Olympics games in swimming can't also compete in track and field, Foust said.

Other students are involved in the swimming program because it's good exercise and provides them with experience around water, as well as learning safety around water, Foust said.

Because some of the students are in their late teens or early 20s, they are already working or attending special training schools. "The swimming is their only outlet to associate with their peers," Foust said. Younger students attend Plymouth-Canton schools.

Already, Foust has 60 students registered to participate in the Special Olympics games. Fifty-four of those participants are from the Plymouth-Canton area and attend local schools.

YMCA from page A1

boards. Both the city commission and township board will also review a proposal from the city to operate recreation community wide.

Tom LaBeau, president of the Plymouth Y board, proposed spending \$197,000 for improve-

ments to the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Meeting participants said they favored representation on a governing board split in equal thirds among the YMCA, township and city.

The money proposed to be

spent on recreation would be raised by a half-mil levy. Recreation committee members have said the millage could be presented to greater Plymouth voters. But first, the city commission and township trustees would have to approve such a ballot question.

LaBeau said the YMCA-run recreation program could be paid for through a contribution of taxes and participation fees.

Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy said that was an approach favored by survey respondents.

City Manager Steve Walters, saying the cultural center ice arena is not a prime moneymaker for the city, said, "It would be an ideal retro-fit for a gym or swimming pool."

The recreation committee was formed last summer after a survey showed greater Plymouth residents are interested in expanding recreation.

By the YMCA plan, the organization would incorporate all city

Meeting participants said they favored representation on a governing board split in equal thirds among the YMCA, township and city.

and township program areas into its portfolio: soccer, men's and women's coed softball, basketball, volleyball, youth T-ball, senior activities and any other combination based on mutual agreement of the parties."

Recreation employees would work for the YMCA, not the city or township.

"Personnel policies, tax responsibilities, social security, employee benefits, purchasing policies and other administrative procedures applicable to services rendered by the YMCA would be administered by the YMCA," according to the proposal.

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Bids may be mailed or delivered to:

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Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street (Mail)
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Plymouth, MI 48170

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THE Observer NEWSPAPERS

1996 General Excellence Award

Ice

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Ice from page A1

High temperatures in the low 30s and in the low 20s were expected to continue through Monday, the National Weather Service reported.

To deal with weekend crowds, Sincok said municipal services had four traffic control plans using barricades, to avoid gridlock.

"They're usually in place about an hour or two until we thin things out," Sincok said.

For townies who want to avoid hassle, Sincok suggested avoiding downtown and using Sheldon, Mill or Ann Arbor Road if traveling by car.

Events today include the individual professional carving competition from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., individual amateur competition from 9 a.m. to noon, two-man student team competition from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Collegiate Qualifier Team event from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Events are in Kellogg Park, The Gathering just north of the park, or the lower level of the Central Parking Deck off of Harvey south of Penniman.

Parking is available in the deck's upper level, and in the municipal lot west of Forest and south of Ann Arbor Trail.

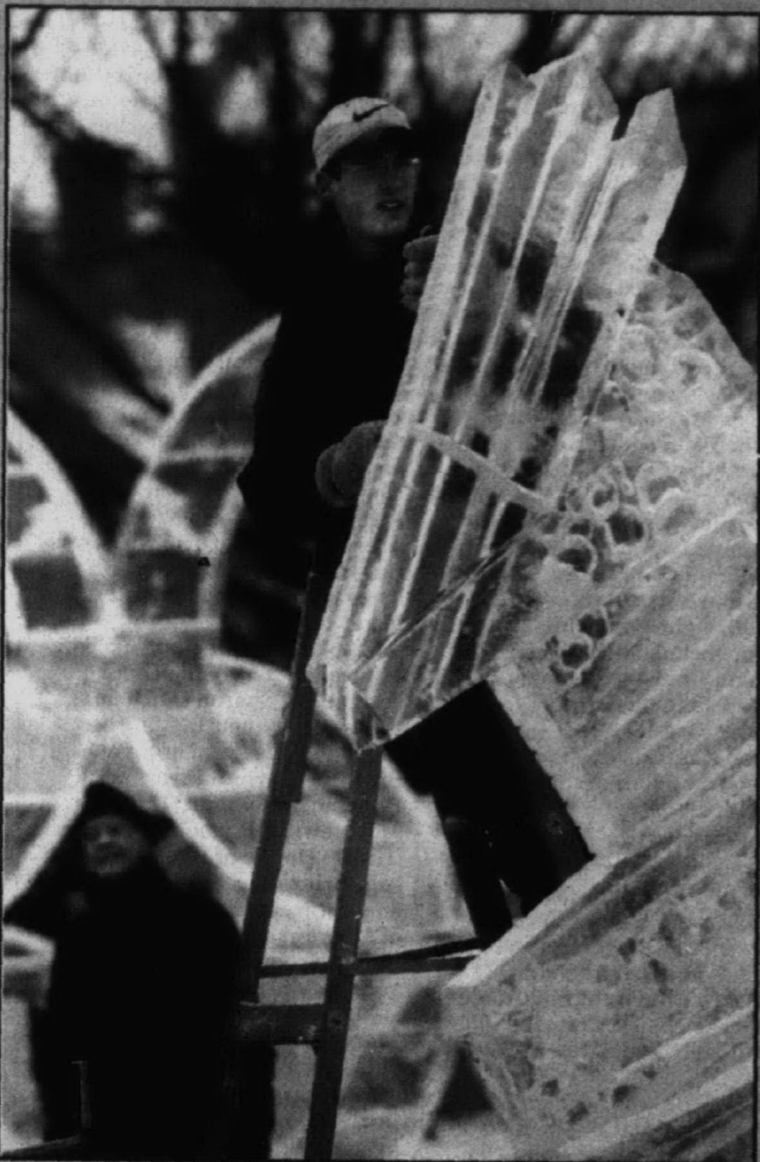
Among featured events taking place during the festival was the Celebrity Charity Carving Competition at The Gathering.

Among the participants at the 5:30 p.m. Thursday event were Dan Miller, TV Fox 2 sportscaster, who broadcast live from The Gathering as interested spectators looked on.

Miller, like some other celebrity carvers, opted to carve his company logo, assisted by a professional carver.

Plymouth dentist Tom Morse and carving partner Jennifer Hoenke, Miss Michigan, looked on as their assistant, professional carver J.R. Lorentz, outlined a winged horse on their ice block.

Lorentz then trimmed away portions of the sculpture with a chainsaw. Hoenke, wearing



Artful: Jim Shields, a Macomb County Community College student, uses a chisel to work on his school's display.

'I'm going to show two seasons. I'll have Old Man Winter with the wind blowing on one side and the sun and a sailboat on the other side.'

Judy Coy
—Celebrity carver

her Miss Michigan tiara, said, "I'm going to use the chisel, it'll be safer."

"I'm rooting for them all," explained one of the judges,

Plymouth Mayor Don Dismuke.

Soon, Hoenke was handed a torch, to apply a clear, finished look to the sculpture.

Across the ice, celebrity carving competition veteran Judy Coy of WJR-AM was expertly chainsawing her block of ice.

While chiseling, she explained, "I'm going to show two seasons. I'll have Old Man Winter with the wind blowing on one side and the sun and a sailboat on the other side."

Coy, the event winner, was asked what her favorite tool was. "The chainsaw."

Magicians perform to raise money school sound system

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Brendan Kownacki had a good idea.

"The sound system at school just didn't work too well. We have a lot of assemblies and stuff and it just didn't work too well," said the 12-year-old East Middle School student. "My dad is on the PTO and he thought that they should get a new system."

Indeed that's exactly what the PTO did. They got a bank loan for the new \$27,000 system. Ninety-five percent of the system has already been installed, Brendan said.

Now the PTO has to pay for the system. That's when Bren-

dan - a magician in his own right - approached some of his friends at the Ann Arbor Magic Club to help him raise money to pay for the sound system. They willingly and happily agreed.

You are cordially invited to see Brendan and a host of other magicians perform their art at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at East Middle School, 1042 Mill Road, north of Ann Arbor Road.

Advanced ticket sales are \$5 per person. Tickets at the door are \$6. Tickets are on sale during lunch at the school, as well as by calling 416-4955, 455-9804.

Guests will see magicians Brendan, the Derringers, Jeff

Scott, Doug Dean, Jack Hartley, George and Barbara Mathis, Jim Ruth, Jerry Hartweg and Chahn Diep.

Brendan is guaranteed to entertain with a series of silk scarves tricks, as well as magic with a guillotine - he'll ask someone to place their hand in it - a suspension and asking someone to put their head in a box while he puts a blade through it.

By no means will this be Brendan's first magic show. He's performed at other schools, as well as at Domino Farms.

All proceeds from the show will go toward paying off the new sound system.

Sergei from page A1

guys," Smith added. "He's just so fast, so quick. He takes just two strides and he's skating at full speed."

Plymouth Whalers players, ages 16-20, are among the most talented in the Ontario Hockey League. Several will make it to the National Hockey League.

But Fedorov, a recent NHL Most Valuable Player, showed some advanced skills that caused fans and players to smile in appreciation.

Passes that typically arrive on a player's stick with a "thwack" came to Fedorov noiselessly, as he turned his stick blade ever so slightly to catch the puck.

The Whalers goalies were able to stop a few Fedorov shots here and there - but not the ones fired deftly into high or low corners of the net, or pucks that jumped off his stick after a barely detectable flick of the wrists.

"To have Sergei Fedorov out here with kids that are dreaming of playing in the NHL, it's a great experience for them," Stefan said.

"It's a great measuring stick to

'This could be the last time you ever see him in Detroit, you don't know.'

Kevin Niemiec
—Whalers mascot

see a guy like this," he added.

A salary dispute with the Detroit Red Wings has resulted in Fedorov holding out this season. His future with the team is in question, and a trade could be a solution to the standoff.

David Darovitz, Whalers director of public relations, said Fedorov had been out to the arena twice to skate, but this was his first time participating in a practice.

"He just wants to get a little bit into shape," Darovitz said, adding Fedorov would likely join more practices.

Wearing some old red and white Red Wing hockey pants, flashy Nike skates and a red Ply-

mouth Whalers practice jersey, Fedorov took the ice at about 3 p.m.

After joining in some stretches, it was time for skating drills and simulated rushes up the ice with the puck, alone and with offensive line mates.

"He looks a little tired," commented Ken Haneline of Canton, who when he heard Fedorov would be practicing at the arena got his son, Kirk, out of West Middle School and headed over.

Father and son were on hand for a Red Wings game last year when Fedorov scored five goals - the last in overtime - to win the game.

But as the practice progressed, Fedorov's well-known speed on skates was returning. "He's picking up a step," Haneline said, smiling.

Kevin Niemiec of Canton, who works as the Whalers mascot, said, "He's definitely a step above the rest."

"This could be the last time you ever see him in Detroit, you don't know."

School from page A1

the property owner, Eleanor Wiles.

The parcel is approximately 17 acres, and will cost the district \$42,000 an acre, according to Little.

He said the district "will purchase the property regardless of the bond issue lawsuit results."

The comment is in reference to a lawsuit filed by Plymouth resident Jerry Vorva, who claims the

\$79.6 million in bonds voters approved for school improvements last March isn't valid. The district has had to hold up the sale of bonds while the matter is in litigation.

If the district wins the bond issue battle with Vorva, the general fund will be reimbursed with money from the bond issue. If Vorva wins and blocks the bond issue, school officials say

the district has enough money to pay for the land through the capital improvement budget.

The deal is subject to results of soil samples to make certain the property is environmentally sound.

"We still believe we can have the school ready to open in the fall of 1999," said Little.

Survival from page A1

months, said times have changed and the district needs to position itself to keep from being left behind by attracting more students.

"What doesn't count is all those houses, developments, subdivisions, porches, garages, swimming pools and fences that used to broaden our financial shoulders," said Little. "What does count is young people, that's how we get our money."

Little and board president Mark Horvath spoke of Proposal A, which limits annual property tax increases to the rate of inflation, with a 5-percent cap.

"We spend a lot of time talking about how bad Proposal A has been for us," said Horvath. "It doesn't reward districts for growing their housing business, it rewards them for growing kids. It doesn't do any good to complain about it, but to fix it."

And the way for that to happen, according to the school board, is to tap into the resources of the district.

"We need to be on the front edge of the wave, and to do that we're going to need some ideas," Horvath told the audience. "We won't be able to come up with all the ideas, so we need to go to the people. We (the school board) would be terribly arrogant if we thought we could come up with the best ideas."

Little noted that school dis-

tricts are operating with competitive rules that weren't in existence before Proposal A.

"Among them are per pupil funding," said Little. "If we are going to have any more millages, they will have to be countywide. Ask yourself this question, would you share a millage with Northville, Detroit or Grosse Pointe?"

"We want to be the bulldozer, be out in front, the tidal wave," added Little. "Some places will be consumed because they stay in the background. We want to position ourselves so we prosper, we're the leaders, so that we are not consumed."

Horvath noted Plymouth-Canton schools aren't the only game in town anymore.

"We still want to be public education, but we've got to stop waiting for the money," said Horvath. "This is a business and we have to run it that way."

And, Little is convinced there's an effort to eliminate school districts.

"It's clear to me there's an effort to eliminate public education," said Little. "There are groups out there trying to get a piece of state funding that's earmarked each year for education."

Board member Roland Thomas said "this is not a small problem financially, and we know that. It grows year after year."

Board member Carrie Blamer

said "education is always in a crisis, and we have to find a proactive way to deal with it."

Thomas, who was elected to his first stint on the board with a platform to end what was then year-round schooling, now says that may be an option to cutting costs.

"We may have to take a look at year-round schools," Thomas told the audience. "In some ways it can save costs, but there are increases in others. We need to evaluate it."

Board member John Farrow believes another idea may be "to open schools in industrial parks with day care centers, where the customers are. Many neighborhoods are empty at 11 a.m. most days."

Little even suggested schools of choice.

"We could pinpoint elementary schools in the south that might have some room for enrollment and make them schools of choice," said Little. "We could gain some revenue from students willing to come into the district where we don't meet capacity."

Little noted that salaries, electricity, gasoline, costs of repairs to buses and furniture and book costs are all increasing.

"Those costs are going up greater than what we are funded," said Little. "I'm determined to be on the front edge of this."

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OBITUARIES

GLADYS E. STRATTON

A memorial service for Gladys E. Stratton, 79, of Plymouth was Jan. 16 at St. Martin of Tours Church, Kalamazoo. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

Mrs. Stratton was born on Sept. 4, 1918, to Harry and Mary Elizabeth Epton in Bangor, Northern Ireland. She died on Jan. 8. She was educated in Bangor schools and completed two years of college. On April 1, 1944, she married First Lt. John A. Stratton of Kalamazoo in Belfast, Northern Ireland. In November 1944, she came to Kalamazoo on the blackout ship Mauritania to reside with her in-laws. She was the first Irish war bride in the Kalamazoo area.

Mrs. Stratton resided in Kalamazoo until July 1997 when she went to live with her daughter, Maureen Frey in Plymouth. She was a longtime employee of Town and Country Supermarkets, retiring in 1981. She was active in many civic and charitable causes, including Planned Parenthood, elections, and the Kalamazoo Soup Kitchen. She was also a member of St. Luke's and St. Martin's Episcopal churches. She also was a lifelong animal lover, and grew beautiful roses.

She was preceded in death by

her parents; her husband, John; one brother, Harry; one sister, Frieda Bruce; and brother-in-law, Harold P. Stratton. Her survivors include her four daughters, Mrs. J. Robert (Victoria) Vegter of Valparaiso, Ind.; Mary E. Stratton of Huntington Woods, Maureen Frey of Plymouth, Mrs. John (Kathleen) Bauman of Oak Park, Calif.; eight grandchildren, Elizabeth Anne, J. Robert II, Leslie Stratton Vegter, Jennifer Mary, Andrew John Frey, Mary Elizabeth, Hannah Maureen, Clare Laurel Bauman; one aunt, Sarah J. McPhee; niece, Margaret Mills; nephew, Alan P. Stratton; and many cousins, nieces and nephews in Northern Ireland.

Memorials may be made to St. Martin of Tours or the Kalamazoo Humane Society.

WILLIAM SLAT

A private memorial service was held for William Slat, 78, of Brooklyn, Mich., on Jan. 10 at M.G. Braun Funeral Home in Brooklyn. The Rev. Robert Freysinger of Napoleon United Methodist Church officiated.

Mr. Slat was born on April 23, 1919, in East Pittsburgh, Pa. He died Dec. 22 at the Countryside Care Center in Jackson. He was the son of Charles and Mary (Skerbec) Slat. He served 4 1/2 years in the U.S. Army during

World War II, mainly in the European Theater, and attained the rank of technical sergeant. He and his wife came to Michigan in 1946. He owned and operated Plymouth Television Service at 139 W. Liberty in Plymouth for more than 30 years, retiring in 1986. He enjoyed boating and water skiing.

His survivors include his wife, Hilda; two sons, William A. of Brooklyn, Charles T. of LaSalle; one daughter, Mrs. Robert (Kathryn A.) Biehl of Johannesburg; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to The Salvation Army.

JOHN N. WILHIDE JR.

Services for John N. Wilhide Jr., 73, of Plymouth were held on Jan. 14 at the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Mr. Wilhide died on Jan. 10. Local arrangements were made by the Taylor Chapel of the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home. Burial was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

He was preceded in death by his two sons, Doug and David. Survivors include his wife, Lucy; two sons, Phil and Mark; one daughter, Cindy; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

ROBERT LEE CORLISS

Services for Robert Lee

Corliis, 59, of Stone Mountain, Ga., were held on Jan. 14 at First United Methodist Church of Farmington with the Rev. William Ritter officiating.

Mr. Corliis was born on Jan. 28, 1937, in Redford. He died Jan. 10 in Decatur, Ga. He was a partner in Corliis Brick Cleaners for 20 years. He later sold real estate for Norwood Realtors, and insurance for the Washington National Insurance Co. In 1983, he was transferred to the Atlanta office. He was a member of the Plymouth Building Commission and the Plymouth Jaycees in the '70s. He was a very active member for 12 years at Newburg United Methodist Church.

His survivors include his wife, Suzanne of Redford; two daughters, Paula (Ed), Laura (Greg); two sons, Michael (Karin), David (Chris); eight grandchildren, Jason, Nichol, Eric, Daniel, Nathan, Chelsea, Benjamin, Lindsey; and one brother, William (Jessie).

Memorials may be made to The Asthma Research Foundation.

ANTOINETTE VELLA

Services for Antoinette Vella, 89, of Southfield, formerly of Detroit, were held on Dec. 29 at St. Ives Parish of Southfield with Rev. Lawrence Zurek of St. Michael's Church in Southfield officiating the service. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre in Southfield.

Mrs. Vella was born on Jan. 13, 1908, in Malta. She died on Dec. 25 at Angela Hospice Center. She came to America with her father and mother at the age of 12. She married Spipo Vella on April 21, 1928. She was a member of St. Michael's Blue Army Prayer Cell and St. Elizabeth's Guild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Spipo Vello; one son, George; and one daughter, Louis. Her survivors include her five daughters, Dolores (James) Mulcahy of Plymouth, Alice (Joseph) Krizanich of Troy, Mary (Angelo) Fenech of Marcellus, Rita (Morton) Dunlop of Southfield, Sylvia Oper of Fenton; two sons, Joseph (Ruth) of Alpena, John (Sandra) of Canton; 25 grandchildren; and 38 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Capuchin Mission.

EDWARD S. WESLEY

Services for Edward S. Wesley, 78, of Plymouth were held Jan. 12 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with burial in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

Mr. Wesley was born on Oct. 19, 1919, in Odanah, Wis. He died on Jan. 8 in Ann Arbor. He retired in 1989 after 35 years with Ford Motor Company in Livonia. He came to the Plymouth community in 1941. He was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3292. He served in the Army during World War II in the South Pacific. He was a special Indian Code Talker. He loved golfing and enjoyed hunting.

His survivors include his wife, Mildred M. of Plymouth; five daughters, Sharon (Michael) Kelley of Plymouth, Maureen (Michael) Kisabeth of Plymouth, Priscilla (Gerald) Piwowar of Plymouth, Georgan (Harold) Matthews of Plymouth, Penny (Ernie) Honke of Westland; one son, Brian Wesley of Plymouth; one sister, Myrtle (John) Madat of Milwaukee, Wis.; one sister-in-law, Irene Wesley of Michigan; and 20 grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. Mary's Church, P.O. Box 182, Odanah, Wis. 54861.

JENNIE SAMBRONE

Services for Jennie Sambrone, 88, of Northville (formerly of Plymouth) were held on Jan. 16 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Stanley Tokarski officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

Mrs. Sambrone was born on Feb. 5, 1909, in Detroit and died on Jan. 13 in Northville. She owned and operated the Andrine Hotel and Bar in Plymouth. The Andrine was a family-owned bar for 50 years. She came to the Plymouth community in 1927 from Detroit.

She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville. She loved her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

She loved watching her "soaps" and doing puzzles at Allen Terrace with her friends. She also enjoyed going to the race track and playing cards.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew, and son, Vito. Her survivors include her son, Paul (Antoinette) Sambrone of Plymouth; one daughter, Anna Christensen of Redford; three sisters, Lorette Bommarito of Prudenville, Neva Banks of California, Katherine Pelleritto of Roseville; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

CLARENCE CRAWFORD

Services were held for Clarence Crawford, 95, of Van Buren on Jan. 15, at the Uht Funeral Home with the Rev. Wade Byrd officiating the service. Burial was at Martin Cemetery in Bimble, Ky.

He was born on Feb. 13, 1902, and died on Jan. 14 in Van Buren. He was a machine operator for the automotive industry.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Ramona; one brother, Andrew; and one sister, Estil. His survivors include his wife, Carrie Crawford; four sons, Maurice C., Donald A., Thomas J., Walter; three daughters, Roberta Messer of Canton, Corinne Smith, Estil Ray; two sisters, Helen Snyder, Hiatha Payne; 19 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

MARIE TERRY

Services were held for Marie Terry, 76, of Northville, on Jan. 16 at the First United Methodist Church in Northville with the Dr. Douglas W. Vernon officiating the service. Burial was at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. Local arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home in Northville.

She was born on Nov. 12, 1921, in Lansing. She died on Jan. 13 in Northville. She was a retired library secretary from Plymouth Schools. She moved to Northville in 1952. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Northville. She was also a member of United Methodist Women and the Sixth Gate Cloggers.

Her survivors include her two daughters, Carole S. Kobe of Paw Paw, Kristine M. Fralicy of Kalamazoo; one sister, Hattie Bills of Lansing; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

Grand Piano Sale

Here is a comparison of 4 popular fine grand piano models.

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Kawai	RX2	E/P	5'10"	\$19,190	Japan
Yamaha	C2	E/P	5'8"	\$19,390	Japan

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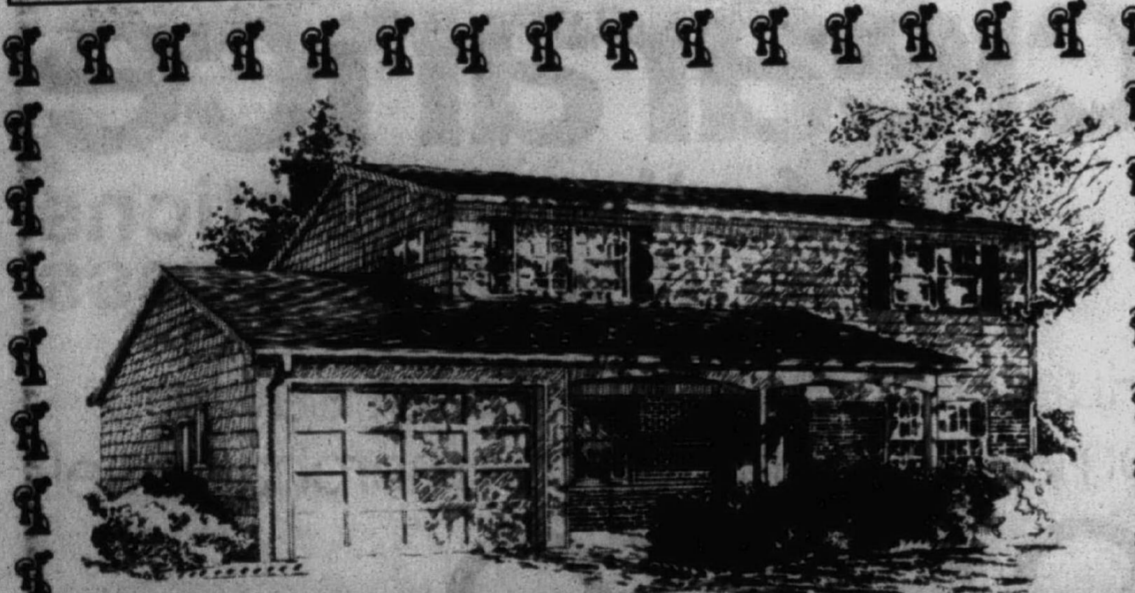
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SMART millage

Commissioners want more information from transit staff

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Before county commissioners support a Wayne County millage proposal expected to be on the ballot in August, they want to hear from leaders of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation and Detroit Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Bernard Parker, D-Detroit introduced a resolution of support Thursday. Parker's resolution calls for SMART to add a "sufficient number of routes" to accommodate displaced riders who formerly rode with D-DOT. D-DOT was expected to discontinue some bus routes.

Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, wondered if commissioners should "interfere with this situation." Commissioners Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, and William O'Neil, D-Allen Park, wanted more information before they consider support or rejection of a resolution.

Commissioner Edna Bell, D-Detroit, suggested the resolution be sent to committee and that leaders from SMART and D-DOT should be invited to appear before committee members.

The matter is expected to be discussed at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22 at the meeting of the commission's Committee on Roads, Airports and Public Services.

Cockrel appointed
As expected, Kimberly Cockrel

was appointed Thursday by Wayne County commissioners to fill the commission seat formerly held by her husband.

Cockrel was appointed after assuring commissioners she would not run for election this year for the same seat.

Kenneth Cockrel Jr. resigned to serve on the Detroit City Council after he won election to that seat in November. In his resignation letter, he asked that his wife Kimberly serve as his replacement through the end of the term, which is Dec. 31, 1998.

Kim Cockrel thanked her family and commissioners for an opportunity to serve the 5th District in Detroit. She is a lifelong resident of southwest Detroit. "It is a very vibrant, important and crucial part of our city," the new commissioner said.

The former commissioner thanked his former colleagues. Cockrel said he wanted to recommend someone who would not have the advantage as an incumbent in this year's election.

"My constituents wanted a level playing field. I wanted to put in someone who won't seek re-election," Cockrel said.

Wayne County commission seats are up for election in November. The filing deadline is May 12.

Representation wanted
Commissioners also approved an ordinance directing the Wayne County executive to appoint at least one county commissioner to the Detroit-Wayne

County Community Mental Health Board despite receiving opinions that it was not "legally enforceable."

Edward Ewell, Wayne County corporation counsel, told the commissioners the ordinance was not legally enforceable. Ben Washburn, the commission's legal counsel, said the ordinance may not be enforceable, but it also was not illegal, either.

"You could have a stalemate where the vacancy is never filled," Washburn said.

Commissioner Parker, who introduced the ordinance, believed the commission would send a strong message.

All the commissioners supported the ordinance except McCotter and Patterson.

Cloning condemned
Commissioner Patterson also introduced a resolution supporting bans on human cloning, which commissioners unanimously supported.

The resolution calls for all governing bodies to impose all appropriate restrictions, and bans offered and proposed by state Rep. Kirk Profit, D-Ypsilanti, and state Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, or at least a five-year ban as proposed by President Clinton.

"This will send a strong message to the state Legislature that we're going on record against (cloning)," Patterson said. Patterson questioned the morality of people who would clone humans and questioned the ethics of those who would support cloning.

Municipal consortium votes to join medical control group

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

The Conference of Western Wayne soon will be sending a representative to join a medical control authority as a voting member.

Members of the CWW, a legislative consortium of 18 communities in western Wayne County, decided Friday to join the Health Emergency Medical Services board of trustees and purchase one voting seat on that board. They also chose Wayne Mayor Ken Warfield to serve in that capacity.

The CWW is a consortium of elected officials from the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romu-

lus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

In November, CWW subcommittee members decided to join the HEMS because they believed that the delivery of pre-hospital care was an issue of regional importance.

"The committee further believes that local government would be best served by a voting seat," said Marsha Bianconi, CWW's executive director.

HEMS offered to adjust rates for the CWW since the membership will only last five months. The rate was prorated for each community, and the total was adjusted

from \$21,571 to \$8,988.

The Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association, a group of fire department representatives, also will receive a "non-voting" representative on HEMS.

HEMS, a nonprofit organization since 1980, delivers pre-hospital care in western Wayne County. It operates the EMS ambulance to hospital radio system with 13 hospitals, offers medical disaster medical assistance team, and information and resource services. System participants include hospitals and Wayne County Health Department working with local government providers, health centers, private ambulance services, physicians, nurses and EMS personnel.

S'craft to honor outstanding alum

Schoolcraft College is seeking nominations for outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions to their profession, the community and the College.

The award winner will be honored in person at commencement exercises Saturday, May 2.

To be eligible, nominees must have earned a minimum of 30

hours of credit at Schoolcraft, have excelled in or achieved special distinction in a particular endeavor such as civic affairs, a professional field or volunteerism, and have made a contribution to Schoolcraft while a student or alumnus. The Distinguished Alumni Committee created this award to recognize the overall success of Schoolcraft

College students. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 27. To obtain an application, contact the Department of Marketing and Development at (313) 462-4417. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275.

Local host families needed

Program of Academic Exchange (PAX) is seeking families interested in hosting a high school foreign exchange student for the 1998-99 school year.

Students take English tests, undergo personal interviews, save their money, prepare an application, gather references and then hope for an American family to open its home and heart, said Lynne Levenbach.

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For more information, call Gideon or Lynne Levenbach at (734) 453-8562 or (734) 453-6851.

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State to appeal Redford man's gun case

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

State lawyers are continuing to fight two major losses in the Court of Appeals.

Fred Mager, Redford Township resident who won a gun records case against Michigan State Police, said last week the state has applied for re-hearing before the Court of Appeals.

That court, in a 3-0 decision Dec. 15, said he is entitled, under the Freedom of Information Act, to the state's list of people whose pistols have passed local police safety checks.

"I haven't got my hands on it yet. By the time I get it, it's too late for the election," said Mager, who is unhappy about the delay.

Mager wants the list in order to build up political support for a less restrictive pistol licensing bill sponsored by Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt. State police argued that giving up the list was "an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

In another case, state attorney

The state Court of Appeals, in a 3-0 decision last month, said Fred Mager of Redford Township is entitled, under the Freedom of Information Act, to the state's list of people whose pistols have passed local police safety checks. He wants the list in order to build up political support for a less restrictive pistol licensing bill.

general Frank Kelley announced his office will go to the state Supreme Court to seek reversal of a boat launch decision against the Department of Natural Resources.

"It's likely an appeal will be filed. We have until Tuesday," said Kelley's spokesman, Chris DeWitt.

A Court of Appeals panel ruled late in December that DNR's plan to develop a public boat launch on Burt Lake had to pass muster on Burt Township's zoning ordinance. The appellate court upheld a Cheboygan Circuit Court's injunction blocking further development of the launch site.

The appellate court ruled 2-1 that some agencies - such as Corrections and public universities - are immune from local zoning laws while others - such as State Police and DNR - must meet local requirements.

DNR contends its constitutional mandate to guard natural resources and provide public recreation takes precedence over township and city regulations. The property is zoned R-1 residential.

If the Supreme Court takes the case, it will be under pressure to rule before Sept. 30, when DNR's funding for the launch runs out. Burt Lake, at 16,700 acres, is one of Michi-

gan's largest. Located west of I-75 and south of the Mackinac Bridge, Burt has one state launch at the state park at the southeast end of the lake. DNR has options on two lots at the northwest end, about 10 miles away.

Meanwhile, developers and environmentalists are awaiting a Supreme Court decision in a major wetlands case stemming from Waterford Township in Oakland County.

DNR blocked K & K Construction from developing 28 acres of a 55-acre parcel on M-59. A Court of Appeals panel upheld a lower court's award of \$5.9 million in lost property value and interest to K & K.

Siding with K & K is the Michigan Association of Home Builders.

Supporting DNR were the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association and many non-governmental environmental groups.

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HOME SENSE



LOIS THIELEKE

Carrots are worth their weight in gold

Carrots are much more than just sticks on a relish tray. Carrots are very versatile. They can be steamed, stir-fried, juiced, pureed, baked or eaten raw. Tasty desserts or quick breads can be made from carrots, they add color and crunch to salads, can be served as a vegetable side dish, or added to a piping hot soup.

One carrot can contain a full day's recommended supply of beta carotene, and certainly tastes better than a pill. The beta carotene in carrots is converted by the body to vitamin A.

Beta carotene is important for good vision, helps keep the body's cells healthy, and may protect against certain cancers, heart disease, strokes and cataracts. Vitamin A has often been referred to as the anti-infective vitamin. It does not attack the infective organism, but may keep your resistance pumped up to fight off infection.

Carrots contain lots of soluble fiber, which can help lower blood cholesterol, are low in calories, approximately 40 for a medium to large carrot and a good source of potassium.

Since vitamin A is stable in heat, carrots retain their nutrients when cooked. It is interesting to note that before the 16th century, wild carrots were used by Greeks and Romans for "medicinal" purposes.

Most children like carrots because the sugar content is high. This sugar flavor becomes more pronounced when carrots are cooked. Only beets have more natural sugar than carrots. The sugar lies in the outer layers so don't cut carrots deeply when peeling.

Storage tips

Carrots are available year-round, and Michigan and California are major producers. Do not store carrots

with apples, pears or other fruits that produce ethylene gas as they ripen. This natural gas makes carrots limp and unattractive.

Look for firm, smooth, evenly

shaped carrots that have a very orange color. The deeper the orange color of the carrot, the more vitamin A it contains. Avoid any that are flabby, shriveled, rough or cracked. If you buy fresh carrots that still have the greens attached, remove them right after purchasing. The greens can drain moisture away from carrots and make them limp and rubbery.

Carrots keep well in the refrigerator for a few weeks. When you are ready to use carrots, scrub them clean with a vegetable brush to remove any soil bacteria. Wash carrots that say "pre-washed" on the package just to make sure they are bacteria-free.

Flavor enhancers

Curry powder, cumin, dill, caraway seeds, dried coriander and mustard seeds enhance the flavor of carrots. Lemon juice can be squeezed on cooked carrots, or add a little honey and orange juice to make a glaze.

Mix grated carrots with peanut butter or cream cheese for a sandwich, or spread on crackers. To stretch meatloaf add shredded carrots. Your meatloaf will be juicier and more flavorful.

Health experts recommend eating five fruits and vegetables a day. A serving of carrots is 1/2 cup, not much when you think about it. Serving raw carrots for snacks is a good way to help you get your - Five A Day.

If you have difficulty chewing carrots, blanch them until slightly softened. After blanching the carrots will be a beautiful bright color, the nutrients will still be there, and the carrots will be easy to chew.

Please see HOME SENSE, B2

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

- Spanish winter blais
- Winter Freeze Chili Cookoff winners



QUAKER OATS

Weeknight quick: Easy Italian Mini Meatloaf Supper pairs mini meatloaves topped with seasoned tomatoes, shredded cheese and an easy-to-make pasta.

A Meatloaf

EASY TO LOVE

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

As winter blankets us with quiet and cold, simple, comforting foods are the ones we crave. And since there are always leftovers, meatloaf's a good choice for this blustery season of unexpected storms.

Melanie Barnard knows "Everyone Loves Meatloaf," and her newly published cookbook contains "more than 100 recipes for Loaves and Fixin's," (HarperPerennial, \$14.95, hardcover).

"It's the easiest thing to make, and not a lot can go wrong," said Barnard from her home in Connecticut. "It's the essence of home, and kids like it."

In her cookbook, Barnard introduces readers to a variety of "loaves" with recipes for poultry, seafood and vegetarian loaves. There are also recipes for loaves made with sausage, lamb, venison and smoked ham, and suggestions for flavorful sauces.

Once relegated to diners and school cafeterias, meatloaf has become very hip. Besides the meatloaf you grew up with, Barnard shows how seasonings can make a world of difference with such preparations as Swedish Meatloaf, Argentinean Steakloaf, Thai Beef and Brown Rice Loaf and Jamaican Jerk Chicken Loaf.

No matter what it's made of, meatloaf is one of those stick-to-your-ribs foods whose memory stays

with you. Like oatmeal, most meatloaf recipes have a story.

"My grandparents were summertime nomads," said Barnard. "Because I was the oldest, I got to travel with them in the summer. Once we drove from Pennsylvania where I lived to Colorado. This was before Holiday Inns, and we stopped at truck stops to eat. Grandma could spot a good one by counting the number of trucks parked there. A ten-truck stop was winner."

"I quickly learned the thing to order was meatloaf, mostly because it came with gravy and mashed potatoes, which were high on my favorite food list."

Meatloaf is often our first introduction to home cooking. Barnard learned how to make meatloaf from her maternal grandmother. I learned how to make meatloaf in seventh grade home economics class and was surprised it tasted so good. My mom's a fine cook, but meatloaf isn't one of her specialties. Her meatloaf was dry, even smothered with ketchup, and definitely not something I looked forward to. Meatloaf was the first recipe I shared with her.

"A lot of people treat meatloaf

like the kitchen sink," said Barnard. "But you can't throw everything into it. Good meatloaf is only as good as the ingredients you use. Don't over mix it, and don't overcook, but you don't want to undercook it either. Use your hands to mix meatloaf until everything is blended, and an instant read thermometer to check if it's done."

No matter what your meatloaf is made of they share these components - a main protein, a starch, a binder, and seasonings.

Main protein

For the juiciest basic meatloaf, Barnard recommends using only fresh, not previously frozen meat. For basic meatloaf she favors a blend of 3/4 pound lean ground beef chuck and about 6 ounces each of lean ground pork and veal. If you're making a poultry loaf, she suggests using a blend of skinless white and dark meat.

Starch

"Starch is what gives the characteristic juicy and slightly soft texture to a loaf, acting as a sponge to absorb and retain the flavorful juices," said Barnard. You can use

Making a better meatloaf

From Sharon Tyler Herbst author of "The Food Lover's Thesaurus," (Hearst Books, 1994)

- For moister, more tender meatloaf, use coarsely ground meat instead of finely ground.
- If you don't like getting your hands messy when mixing a meatloaf mixture, put the ingredients in a large, zip-closure bag, seal, then squish the contents together until well mixed.
- For a juicy, more flavorful meatloaf, add 1/3 cup of liquid (tomato or vegetable juice, wine, beef broth, etc.) per pound of meat.
- Substituting red wine or dark beer for any liquid called for in the recipe will enrich a meatloaf's flavor.
- Add fiber and nutrition by substituting 1/3 cup oat bran for 1/3 cup bread crumbs. If your meatloaf recipe doesn't include bread crumbs, add 1/4 cup oat bran plus 2 tablespoons liquid such as milk, water, beef broth, etc.
- For a moist, delicious meatloaf that helps cut back on meat intake, substitute a cup of finely grated potato or carrot (or half of each) for a quarter pound of the meat. Or add 1/2 cup mashed potatoes to the mix.
- Make individual servings by baking meatloaf in large, greased muffin tins. Small meatloaves bake faster so watch the timing.
- If you're planning to freeze a whole meatloaf, line the pan with foil, allowing enough overlap to cover and seal the finished loaf. Bake as usual, drain off grease and cool to room temperature before sealing the foil. Double wrap in plastic wrap and freeze for up to 6 months.
- Rubbing the top of the meatloaf mixture with cold water will minimize cracking.

fresh or dried bread crumbs, cracker crumbs, oatmeal, rice or pasta. Use bread crumbs in combination with other starches for an interesting texture.

Her choice for most meatloaves is fresh bread crumbs. "I like the bread to be firm and slightly dry," she said. "For a loaf with 1-1/2 pounds of main protein, approximately 1 cup of fresh crumbs is right."

Binder

Eggs are the glue that holds meatloaf together. For most loaves Barnard said 2 eggs will do, but it can be reduced to 1 if you're using milk or yogurt. To reduce cholesterol 2 egg whites or 1/4 cup of cholesterol-free egg substitute can be used in place of each egg in a recipe.

Seasonings

"I like to use fresh herbs," said Barnard, "but good-quality dried herbs are better than limp, over-the-hill fresh herbs." She reminds readers that spices don't have an indefinite shelf life, will lose potency over time and should be replaced after a year.

For baking, Barnard prefers a metal pan over glass because it "seems to promote more browning," and hence more crust. Let meatloaf rest 5 to 10 minutes before removing from pan for easier slicing.

See recipes inside.



Value wines come from Italy's northeast

Wine Picks

- Picks of the Pack:** 1995 S. Anderson Merlot, Stags Leap District \$28; 1994 Beringer Knights Valley Alluvium Red Table Wine \$25; and 1994 Chateau St. Jean Cinq Cepages \$24.
- Best buy syrahs:** 1995 Richmond \$8; and 1995 McDowell \$16.
- Critics of California chardonnay say they taste alike. Don't believe them and try: 1996 Chateau Souverain Barrel-fermented \$13; 1996 Beringer \$15; 1996 Pine Ridge Knollside \$18; 1996 S. Anderson, Carneros \$23.
- Classy merlots:** 1995 Clos du Bois \$17; 1995 Fetzer Barrel Select \$14; 1994 Lockwood Reserve \$24; 1994 Hogue Genesis Merlot \$21; 1995 Ballentine \$19; 1995 Pine Ridge Crimson Creek \$35; 1995 Schafer \$30.
- Mellow sangioveses:** 1990 Castello di Gabbiano Chianti Classico Riserva (Italy) \$23; 1995 Atlas Peak Sangiovese \$16; 1995 Iron Horse Sangiovese \$20; 1994 Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico Riserva \$33.

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

Some wine regions get all the hype. If you've heard of California wine, then you know there's a Napa Valley. It's much the same in Italy. Much attention is given to the Piedmont and Tuscany. It's not that it's undeserved, but there's much more.

Since 1772, the Boscaini family has made wine in Italy's Verona region with one simple concept in mind: good wine comes from good vineyards. Faithful to this principle, and aided today by modern grapegrowing and winemaking technology, Boscaini wines represent quality and value from Italy's northeast.

Fifth generation Dario Boscaini is current family representative. He has a degree in agricultural science with a specialization in grapegrowing. For more than 20 years, he directed the School of Viticulture in Valpolicella. With his technical assistants, he identified microzones in the Veneto and

Trentino Alto Adige regions with uniform climatic and soil conditions where wine has identifiable characteristics and unique personality.

From the original vineyard and winery in the hills of Torbe in Valpolicella, over the past two decades, the Boscaini family has acquired vineyards in the five best microzones. All wines are made from indigenous grapes, unfamiliar to most, but are either single vineyard or microzone. Grape names are not the important element here, so we're skipping them in favor of emphasizing the producer's name, Boscaini, and the microzone, both of utmost importance.

From the Alto Adige comes 1996 Boscaini Castel Firmiano Pinot Grigio \$16. Pinot grigio is the "hottest" white grape variety from Italy today. It pairs handsomely with seafood or can stand on its own as an aperitif. The Boscaini version, originates from vineyard soils rich in white marble stones from the

Please see WINES, B2



Italian winery: The cellars at Boscaini in Italy's Verona region. The Boscaini family has made wine in this region since 1772.

Marvelous meatloaf great for dinner

See related story on Taste front.

CLASSIC MEATLOAF

- 1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef or turkey
- 3/4 cup oats (quick or old-fashioned)
- 3/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce or soy sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Heat oven to 350°F. Combine all ingredients in large bowl; mix lightly but thoroughly. Shape meatloaf mixture into 10 by 6-inch loaf on rack of broiler pan.

Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until meatloaf is to medium doneness (160°F for beef, 170°F for turkey). Let stand 5 minutes before slicing. Cover and refrigerate leftovers promptly and use within 2 days, or wrap airtight and freeze up to 3 months. Yield 6 to 8 servings.

Recipe from Quaker Oats EASY ITALIAN MINI MEATLOAF SUPPER

Ingredients for Classic Meat-

- loaf (recipe above)
- 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded, reduced-fat Italian cheese blend, divided
- 2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning, divided
- 1/2 package (8 ounces) rotini pasta
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen Italian vegetable blend
- 2 to 3 teaspoons olive oil or margarine
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) Italian seasoned diced tomatoes

Heat oven to 350°F. To Classic Meatloaf ingredients, add 1 cup cheese and 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning; mix lightly but thoroughly. Press approximately 1/3 cup meatloaf mixture into each of 12 medium muffin cups.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until centers are no longer pink.

While meat loaves bake, prepare pasta according to package directions, adding vegetables during last 6 minutes of cooking. Drain well; toss with olive oil, remaining 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning, salt and pepper.

Spoon tomatoes into microwave-safe bowl; microwave covered on

HIGH until heated through. Remove meat loaves from muffin pans; top with tomatoes and remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Serve with pasta. Yield 6 servings. Recipe from Quaker Oats.

KID'S FAVORITE MEATLOAF

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 1 1/2 pounds "meatloaf mix" of ground chuck, pork and veal (Cookbook author Melanie Barnard suggests 3/4 pound lean beef chuck, and about 6 ounces each of lean ground pork and veal)
- 2 cups lightly crushed plain cornflakes cereal
- 1 3/4 cups (10-ounce package) thawed frozen peas and carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup ketchup

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large skillet, heat the oil and cook the onion and celery over

medium-low heat, stirring often, until softened, about 5 minutes.

In a large mixing bowl, use your hands to gently but thoroughly combine the meat, cornflakes, peas and carrots, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, mustard and eggs.

In a 13 by 9-inch baking pan, shape the meat into a 9 by 5-inch loaf, or pat it into a 9 by 5-inch loaf pan, smoothing the top. Spread the top with ketchup. Bake until the meatloaf is firm with a richly browned top, and a meat thermometer inserted into the center of the loaf registers 155 degrees, about 1 hour.

Let the meatloaf stand in the pan for 10 minutes before slicing. Serves 6.

Recipe from: "Everybody Loves Meatloaf: More than 100 Recipes for Loaves and Fixin's" by Melanie Barnard, (HarperPerennial, Oct. 1997; \$14.95).

WHITE BEAN AND SPAGHETTI SQUARES

- Crust
- 3 1/2 to 4 cups cooked spaghetti (about 1/2 pound uncooked)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg

- 1/4 cup grated Romano cheese
- Filling
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 small red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano or 2 teaspoons dried
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 can (1 pound) white beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) Italian-style stewed tomatoes with juice
- 2 cups (8 ounces) grated mozzarella cheese

To make the crust: Coat a shallow 3-quart baking pan with nonstick olive oil spray. If the pasta is cold, reheat it in a microwave oven, then place it in the prepared pan. Add the milk, egg, and Romano cheese, mixing well. Spread the mixture to cover the bottom and about 1 inch up the sides of the prepared pan. Set aside. Preheat the oven to 375

degrees. To make the filling: In a large skillet, heat the oil and cook the onion and red and yellow peppers over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are just softened, about 4 minutes. Add the garlic, oregano, and basil, and cook 1 minute more. In a small bowl, whisk the milk with the eggs to blend. Stir the egg mixture and beans into the cooked vegetables in the skillet. Spoon the filling into the prepared spaghetti "crust." Spread the tomatoes over the top, then sprinkle with the cheese.

Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 15 minutes. Uncover and bake until the filling is set and the cheese is melted and bubbly, 20 to 25 minutes more. (The recipe can be assembled up to 8 hours ahead and refrigerated. Increase the covered baking time by 10 minutes, then uncover and continue to bake as directed).

Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting into squares to serve. Serves 6-8.

Recipe from: "Everybody Loves Meatloaf: More than 100 Recipes for Loaves and Fixin's" by Melanie Barnard.

Home Sense from page B1

Carrots can be microwaved. Cook them in a minimum amount of water until tender, but not mushy. Cook longer if you are going to puree the carrots to add to a cake, cookies, bread or cream soup.

For a little snack, served hot or cold, carrots are certainly more than just for cake, or sticks on a relish tray.

Lois M. Thieleke of Birmingham is an Extension Home Economist for the Michigan State University Extension - Oakland County. For answers to food questions, call the hot-line (248) 858-0904.

Here's a carrot recipe from The "American Medical Association Family Health Cookbook: Good Food That's Good for You (Pocket Books/Janis A. Donnaud and

Associates, Inc.; November 1997; \$30).

LEMON AND HONEY-GLAZED BABY CARROTS

- 1 1/2 pounds baby carrots
- 2/3 cup dry white wine, apple juice, or white grape juice
- 1 1/2 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, plus additional to taste
- 2 strips lemon peel
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste

In a large nonstick skillet, combine the carrots, wine, honey, butter, salt, and lemon peel. Add enough water to barely cover the

carrots. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium, and simmer uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the carrots are tender and most of the liquid has evaporated, about 15 minutes.

Add more water if necessary to prevent scorching. If any liquid remains, raise the heat and boil it until it cooks down to make a syrupy glaze.

Discard the lemon peel. Sprinkle the lemon juice over the carrots and stir. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve.

Makes 4 side dish servings Per serving: About 117 calories, 20 calories from fat, 2g total fat, 1g saturated fat, 5mg cholesterol, 347mg sodium, 25g total carbs, 4g fiber, 2g protein

Wines from page B1

Dolomites. With attractive pear aromas, it comes across bright, fresh, crisp and elegantly balanced.

The 1995 Boscaini Bardolino Le Canne, Classico Superiore \$11 strikingly drives home the microzone benefit with its bounty of red fruits, soft, appealing mouthfeel and luxurious finish. It is interesting to note that on the wine label, the microzone Le Canne is printed above the producer's name. That's how important Boscaini considers the microzone concept. Pair it with pastas, light meats, chicken, swordfish, tuna or salmon.

A new-age Valpolicella is represented by 1995 San Ciriaco \$15, the first release of this wine.

Traditionally, Valpolicella has been made as a field blend of three grape varieties. Field blends are a mix of grapes grown in the same vineyard, harvested at the same time and fermented as a mix.

The nature of grape ripening is such that, in reality, all three grape varieties do not reach peak ripeness at the same time.

New-age Valpolicella is made by harvesting each grape variety at the peak of ripeness and fermenting each separately. Blend-

ing follows at a later stage in the winemaking process. To enhance and distinguish the overall wine, Boscaini has added a fourth grape variety (croatina) to the blend, one that no other producer in Valpolicella uses.

The label depicts a window of the Villa of San Ciriaco. The fruit-driven wine is laden with the aromas and juicy flavors of red plums, dark cherries and spice.

"This is my favorite wine," Dario Boscaini said. "I like it with fish, meats, pasta or egg dishes - just about everything." A wine reflecting the best and most complex qualities of Valpolicella is Boscaini's signature wine 1993 Santo Stefano, Vino di Ripasso \$16. Vino di Ripasso refers to a winemaking technique whereby the wine is fermented a second time.

The ancient Ripasso system was rediscovered and patented by the Boscainis. Only Dario's branch of the family is permitted

by law to use the term on the front label. The wine has all the flavor and aromas of an Amarone, but the fruit and softness of a Valpolicella.

You can't make the comparison because you've not tried an Amarone? Then 1993 Boscaini Amarone Marano \$35 with its compelling aromas and mouth-filling flavors is one you need to try.

If you're into wine cyberneering, one local site not to be missed is for the Village Corner wine shop in Ann Arbor, <http://www.villagecorner.com>. A list of some hard-to-get wines is posted and updated. Access the list using the Home Page Features button.

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 (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864.

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If you didn't see New Year's Wednesday, Jan. 13, of the Chinese dragons will dance in many cities of the T. Chinese are brave, energetic and fearless, can expect an

Chinese New Year's rituals observance are full of many foods. That is used good luck and because of his name so as the dragon parades, represent ab

Golden apricot because of gold, and filled with called jao-ze they look like and kumqu because the represents Using fruit attached is ing unity an together in t

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Prepare whole fish for a new year feast

If you didn't have a good time on New Year's Eve, try again on Wednesday, Jan. 28. It's the eve of the Chinese New Year, when dragons will dance in the streets of many cities to welcome the year of the Tiger. According to Chinese astrology, tigers are brave, energetic, independent and fearless, which means we can expect an exciting year.

Chinese New Year celebrations usually last 10 days. The rituals observed during this time are full of symbols including many foods. Much of the food that is used is associated with good luck and prosperity, often because of how it looks or how its name sounds. For instance, as the dragons dance during the parades, people throw rice to represent abundance.

Golden spring rolls are significant because they resemble bars of gold, and plump dumplings filled with pork and cabbage called *jao-ze*, are eaten because they look like coins. Tangerines and kumquats are important because their golden color also represents wealth and money. Using fruit with the leaves still attached is preferred, symbolizing unity and the family staying together in the New Year.

Although the Chinese do not usually serve dessert at the end of a meal, New Year celebrations usually include delicacies such like Eight Treasure Rice. Made with sticky glutinous rice, it is eaten to insure the coming year will bring sweet memories.

Whenever possible, Chinese New Year feasts include a whole fish, encouraging abundance and symbolizing completeness. Cooking a whole fish seems intimidating, but it's actually quite easy.

Any number of fish varieties can be cooked this way, including sea bass, red snapper, and sea trout. Of course, you can always flaunt tradition and use filets; the dish will be just as delicious.

Try to make the sauce from scratch with fermented black

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

These local Chinese restaurants will be hosting New Year celebrations. Reservations are essential.

■ **Hunan Palace**, 38259 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 473-3939; 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, 10-course dinner, dragon dance, martial art demonstration, \$45 per person.

■ **Mon Jin Lau**, 1515 E. Maple Road (at Stephenson) Troy, (248) 689-2332, 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, cost \$89 per person, includes dinner, entertainment.

■ **Shangri-La**, 6407 Orchard Lake Road (at Maple in Orchard Mall), West Bloomfield, (248) 626-8585; 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, special dinner, entertainment, \$30 per person, you can arrange for a table of 10.

■ **New Peking Restaurant**, 29105 Ford Road, Garden City, (313) 425-2230. Chinese New Year Party, 12 course dinner, prizes and entertainment, 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Jan. 26-29. Cost \$28 per person, (\$10 non-refundable deposit).

■ **Welcome the year of the Tiger. According to Chinese astrology, tigers are brave, energetic, independent and fearless, which means we can expect an exciting year.**

beans which are available in Asian markets and some grocery stores. Since the sauce is homemade, the flavor is much better than black bean sauce sold in a jar.

Don't worry about buying too many beans, since they keep a long time, enabling you to prepare black bean sauce as often as you wish. That's good to know, since the sauce is just as good with chicken, shrimp, tofu and vegetables as it is with fish.

STEAMED FISH WITH BLACK BEAN SAUCE

- 1 fish (1 1/2 pounds, sea bass, sea trout or red snapper), gutted, or 2 large filets, about 1 pound total
- 1 tablespoon dry sherry

- 1/2 cup Black Bean Sauce (see recipe below)
- 1 teaspoon roasted sesame oil

Wash and dry the fish. Place it on an oval platter that fits into a turkey roaster. Pour 2 inches of water into the roasting pan. Place a high rack or 2 empty tuna fish cans, tops and bottoms removed, into the pan to serve as a rack.

Set the platter with the fish into the roaster. Pour the sherry over the fish. Cover the roaster. Bring the water to a boil over high heat and steam the fish 10-15 minutes. Cooking time varies, but the fish is done when it is just opaque by the bone (or in the center, for filets).

Place a wok or heavy skillet over high heat until it is very hot, 1-2 minutes. Pour the juices from the fish which have collected in the platter into the pan and bring to a boil. Cook until they are reduced by half. Mix in the bean sauce.

When it boils, in 1-2 minutes, add the sesame oil. Pour the sauce over the fish and serve immediately.

BLACK BEAN SAUCE

- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- 2 tablespoons fermented



Happy New Year: Chinese New Year feasts often include whole fish. Join the party by preparing Steamed Fish with Black Bean Sauce.

- black beans, minced
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/4 cup scallions, cut into 1/4-inch rounds
- 2/3 cup chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon Oyster Sauce
- 2 teaspoons reduced sodium soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons sherry

Heat a wok on high until it smokes, about 1-2 minutes, before adding the oil. Stir in the black beans and ginger, coating them with the oil, about 15 seconds. Add the garlic and scallions and stir-fry for 30 seconds. Pour in the chicken stock, oyster sauce and soy sauce.

Bring the mixture to a boil and cook for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Each of the two servings with a quarter cup of sauce has 378 calories and 16 grams of fat.

Information for this story was written for the American Institute for Cancer Research by Dana Jacobi, author of "The Best Claypot Cooking," and "The Natural Kitchen: SOY!"

Stir the cornstarch and sherry together and add it to the wok, stirring constantly. As soon as the sauce thickens and turns clear, pour it into a bowl.

Chicken and peppers with pasta quick meal

Registered dietitian Anne M. Fletcher shares extensive research on weight-loss success stories in "Eating Thin for Life: Food Secrets & Recipes From People Who Have Lost Weight & Kept It Off" (Houghton Mifflin, \$14 paperback, January 1998).

Featured are 120 recipes including Oven-Fried Chicken, Best Macaroni and Cheese, Rich Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Sauce, and Chicken and Peppers with Penne Pasta.

For Chicken and Peppers with Penne Pasta, the pasta is first topped with tomatoes, then with sauteed chicken strips and green peppers. Each serving has 388 calories and 5 grams of fat. Serve with warm Italian bread and a tossed salad.

CHICKEN AND PEPPERS WITH PENNE PASTA

- 12 ounces boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch by 2-inch strips
- 1 cup defatted chicken broth
- 8 ounces dried penne pasta
- 1 medium green bell pepper
- 1 medium red bell pepper
- 1 1/2-ounce can Italian-seasoned tomatoes, cut into bite-sized chunks, juice reserved
- 1 tablespoon diet margarine
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or 1 teaspoon dried flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

NEW COOKBOOK

Marinate chicken in broth in refrigerator for at least 1 hour.

Cook pasta according to package directions, until hard center is gone but pasta is still chewy, about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Cut peppers into 1-inch diamond shapes or squares. Set aside.

In small saucepan, bring tomatoes to a boil over medium-high heat. Turn heat to low and cover saucepan, leaving tomatoes on burner until ready to serve.

Melt margarine in skillet over medium-high heat. Turn heat to high and add chicken (discard marinade broth). Quick-fry until

chicken pieces are lightly browned, 3 to 4 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-high and add reserved peppers, garlic, parsley, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring frequently, for about 5 minutes more, or until no trace of pink remains when you cut into thickest part of chicken.

Divide pasta into 4 equal portions in large, shallow bowls. Spoon one-fourth of hot tomatoes over each pasta serving. Top with one-fourth of chicken-and-pepper mixture. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition facts per serving: 388 cal., 5 g fat, 58 mg chol., 590 mg sodium, 25 g pro., 55 g carbo.

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SHOPPING CENTERED



New items hit marketplace

Book defines American beaux art: Tiffany & Co. design director John Loring just introduced his eighth book of American style and design, available at Tiffany & Co. in the Somerset Collection South in Troy. "Tiffany's 20th Century: A Portrait of American Style," \$60, traces Tiffany's progress and influence on American society and style over the last 100 years.

The book proceeds from the Renaissance Revival of the early 1900s to the floral masterpieces of Art Nouveau and the streamlined designs of American Art Deco; from the mid-century triumphs of renowned jewelry designer Jean Schlumberger to the masterworks by Elsa Peretti and Paloma Picasso.

There are more than 300 photographs in the book including Tiffany's prizewinning displays at world expos in Paris 1900, San Francisco in 1915, and New York in 1939. It revives the works of Paulding Farnham whose designs won more medals at international expos than any other American designer.

The story of this century's reeling progress and change involves a cast of characters from Louis Comfort Tiffany to Tiffany design directors Van Day Truex and John Loring, and trend setters like Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Babe Paley, Diana Vreeland and Audrey Hepburn who immortalized the store in the 1961 film classic "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

John Loring



Mini magic: Ritz Camera associate Joel Waldbott at Somerset North in Troy, said keeping the Canon Elph in stock is almost impossible - everybody wants one because it's easy to use and fits in your shirt pocket.

The \$299 stainless steel, Advanced Photo System camera, is no bigger than a pack of cigarettes and produces three print sizes - 4x6, 4x7 or panoramic.

Other features include active/passive autofocus, drop-in loading, no negatives (index prints are provided) and digital readiness for direct to computer film scanning. The Elph Jr., (an even smaller version) is \$219.95.



Think spring: Romantic, feminine clothes will be in store for spring. Watch for ruffles, pleats, bouquets of floral designs. This classic look is from the Worth Collection, New York, 212-223-3757.

Adding a website may build business



Contemplating a site on the Internet to increase your sales? A few local retailers discuss the pros and cons.

BY BARB PERT TEMPLETON
SPECIAL WRITER

Large, bold, bright blue letters dot the screen as cyberspace customers visiting the Internet site for Travelers World in West Bloomfield are invited to peruse a catalog of the latest designer bags.

Luggage by Andiamo, Kipling handbags and Hartman briefcases are among the many products computer users can eyeball before ordering at www.travelersworld.com.

Bruce Welford, owner of the specialty luggage shop, established the Travelers World's internet site in 1995. Welford guesstimates his shop's annual sales have increased about three percent with anywhere from two to five orders coming in via E-mail each week.

"I pay for the service once a year. It's about \$700 and that cost is based on the amount of space you are taking up on the system. I have about 10 pages out there now," he explained. "The Yellow Pages are way more outrageous than that," he added noting that advertising in the Yellow Pages costs him \$300 to \$400 a month.

"The cost is part of what's so attractive about this." Via his web site, Welford has filled orders for customers in Hong Kong, England and quite a few Asian countries.

"It certainly has been worth it and we've made a profit based on the expenses we put into it," Welford said.

One downtown Birmingham retailer, who declined

to be identified, recently dropped his store's Internet site after just eight months claiming too many problems with credit card customers.

"We found too much fraudulence in sales on the internet and just couldn't afford to take those losses," he said.

The fraud came about when customers would make credit card purchases via the store's web site, receive the shipment of the desired product but claim they never made the purchase when the bill came due.

"We got stuck arguing with the credit card company and being totally ignored by the customer who made the purchase so we just got out of it," explained the disappointed retailer.

So far Welford hasn't experienced any payment problems unless he counts a few misunderstandings customers have presented when they didn't recall their luggage came from Travelers World.

"Our name sometimes prompts some people to question the charges because they think of a travel business but as far as denying shipments, we have UPS to track that so we don't see any problems there," he said.

Right now Welford processes all of the Internet generated orders himself, but he is anxious to look into automating his site.

"We're pretty archaic at this point," he said. "I usually answer the E-mail or end up calling the customer to process the orders, but I want to do some research and upgrade things."

When Welford decides to make his web site more high tech he will most likely call U.S. Web Corporation. The Southfield-based marketing firm created the pages for his original venture onto the Internet.

U.S. Web partner Jeff Dwozkin said the company, which opened in 1995, boasts over 200 clients. Designing web pages makes up 90 percent of the firm's business and about 10 percent of those clients are local retailers.



"We meet with the clients to find out what they want to portray and although we actually set it up, they provide the graphics and help us find a look and a feel for their site," said Dwozkin.

"After two or three meetings, depending on the business, we'll have a demo to present to them."

Marmel Gifts and Toys in Farmington Hills, Viviano Flowers in St. Clair Shores and City Slicker Shoes in Detroit are on the list of U.S. Web clients. Dwozkin stresses that a majority of the firms work lies in upgrading the existing sites of business owners and isn't limited to those seeking to establish new internet sites.

"I really think these guys are just first rate," said Welford. "They always get back to you right away and they did a nice job getting me set up."

"I think soon everybody that's in business is going to be doing this and I found the outlay of expense to have the site is nothing compared to the rewards you get."

Super Bowl parties call for the latest treats

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
RETAIL EDITOR

Super Bowl parties are more than beer and Bavarian pretzels... or maybe not.

When the Green Bay Packers meet the Denver Broncos at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, friends and families will gather around their big screen TVs ready to cheer and jeer.

If you're the host, no doubt you're pulling out your favorite dip and chili recipes, and checking to make sure you've got plenty of Pilsner glasses.

But to "do the bowl" in style, the malls and mainstreets have some unique products worth a look - or a smile.

"No Super Bowl is complete without His and Hers remote controls," insisted Chris Keck of the Sharper Image (locations at Somerset Collection South and Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.) "She can click away from the game during commercial breaks and he can click back when he thinks it's about time for a replay, \$29.95 each - in pin... and blue."

Keck also suggested viewing the big game from the comfort of "the quad roller get-away chair with power recline."

"Hey, it's on sale now from \$2,795 to \$2,495," he said. "You just touch a button and the back reclines electronically as the footrest rises. Inner rollers simulate a total Shiatsu massage - kneading movements stretch and relax muscles up and down your back."

Many Hallmark stores have the "Bad Call Sponges" for sale. "You throw them at the television when you become frustrated by what's happening on the screen," said one sales associate.

Lynn Jones of Williams Sonoma (with stores at Laurel Park Place, Livonia; Twelve Oaks, Novi; and Somerset



PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Super Bowl snacks: Load your buffet table with beverages and snacks ready to serve from your neighborhood deli - this collection is from The Cellar Collection, a division of Merchant of Vino/Whole Foods, 254 West Maple in downtown Birmingham.

Collection North, Troy) suggests loading up on the Vidalia Onion Bloody Mary Mix, \$6 a bottle; bean dips, \$4.50 a jar; and salsas from \$5.75.

"We have Cajun and Bavarian pretzels by the bag for \$3.50 and all kinds of Pilsner glasses from \$3.50," she said.

Folks contemplating a big screen TV purchase will find a top-of-the-line

Sony with a 61-inch screen going for \$2,279 at Best Buy, according to sales associate Antwan Steele of the Westland store.

But forget any big screen purchases made solely to view the Super Bowl. Best Buy charges a restocking fee on any television purchased and returned in January, at 15-percent of the pur-

chase price. The fee is abolished in February.

The best-dressed Super Bowl fans will arrive at the party wearing jerseys and caps in their favorite team's colors. The JC Penney stores are reporting brisk sales of Green Bay Packers sweats...

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Audiology Department, 1:30 p.m.
Across from Westland Center, 35337 West Warren.
(313) 467-5100.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24
Breakfast with Arthur
Nordstrom hosts a morning with Arthur the Aardvark, 8 a.m. which includes breakfast, face painting, live entertainment and photos with the star. \$10 per person. Reservations required.
Somerset Collection North.
Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy.
(248) 816-5100, ext. 1690.

Martial arts demonstration
Members of the Karate for Kids and American Taekwondo Association in Canton demonstrate techniques 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Drawings for prizes like lessons, uniforms and equipment.
Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt.
(248) 476-1160.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, JAN. 25
Ladies Day out
Westland Center invites Super Bowl "widows" to come to the mall for an afternoon. Chance to register for a \$500 shopping spree. An appearance by Linda

Lee of WYCD-99 FM Country radio 3-5 p.m. in East Court. Coupons for merchandise discounts at entrances.
Westland Center, Wayne/Warren.
(313) 425-5001.

Sew-In
Haberman's Fabrics hosts a complimentary afternoon of sewing, refreshments and socializing from noon to 5 p.m. Guests should bring in projects to work on, plus teacher Linda Hedden offers tips on such topics as putting in an invisible zipper. Also shop offers many sewing classes through the spring. Call for fees and schedule.
117 West Fourth, Royal Oak.
(248) 541-0010.

Fun at Border's
Border's Books in Birmingham hosts an Ode to Scotland's poet Robert Burns with a birthday bash from 1-3 p.m. The Mask Puppet Theater offers a performance for children from 3-4 p.m.
34300 Woodward Ave., Birmingham.
(248) 203-0005.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27
Auction for charity
Princess Di Beanie Babies donated by Gabriela's of Plymouth, will be auctioned off on the air by WJR's Mitch Albon from 3-6 p.m. today.
(313) 875-4476. Or 1-800-859-0957.

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Where can I find?

(248) 901-2555

This feature is dedicated to helping readers locate sources for hard-to-find merchandise in the marketplace. If you've seen any of the items in your retail travels (or basement) please call Where Can I Find? (248) 901-2555. Slowly and clearly, leave your name, number and message, and you should see your input in the following Sunday's column.

What we found:

- A silver Christmas tree and revolving color wheel for Sally. Also KLS Electronic on Schoolcraft in Livonia sells the color wheel.
- Bottom Better Diaper rash cream can be found at Lytle Pharmacy in downtown Rochester or Meijer's in Canton.
- Video transfer box is sold at ABC Warehouse and Adray Appliance in Dearborn.
- The recording of Little Drummer Boy by Bing Crosby and David Bowie is on a CD "Edge of Christmas." OGLIO records is the producer.
- The game Tric Trax is made in Sweden by Brio Company. It can be ordered through Muriel Doll House in Plymouth.
- A brown haired Barbie for Linda of Troy was spotted at J.C. Penney, Summit Place mall in Waterford.
- Jil Sanders cologne for women is sold at Saks Fifth Avenue at Somerset Collection South. Try there also for the men's cologne.
- Karen has offered a suggestion to Myron: her grandmother taught her to darn socks by using a burned out light bulb. Stretch sock over light bulb and darn. Or try Greenfield Village or Huckleberry Railroad, they have them on display and might sell them. Or try the Royal Oak market on Sundays, one of the booths might have them.
- We found two people who can crochet a sombrero for a Tabasco bottle!
- The person who wanted the A&P dishes please call, Candy has a set.
- Found mens denim bib overalls in J.C. Penney's Big & Tall catalog.

We're still looking for:

- A store that sells Christmas card address and record books for Mickey.
- Men's one- or two-piece pajamas with a seat for Carol of Westland.
- For Linda, nail products called Mavala found in drug stores.
- Barby is looking for a 1953 McCalls Giant Golden Make-It books and a game Survivorshot.
- Bodyology Cool Blue Eye Gel for Chris.
- Fine crochet cotton size 30, 40 or 50 for Gerri.
- A 3 or 4 foot Raggedy Ann doll reasonably priced for Nancy.
- Cheryl is looking for a 1960 board game WA-HOO, similar to the game Trouble, it has an Indian theme.
- Replacement blades for hair wares.
- Pat is looking for four dark green and four raspberry cloth napkins by Vera, there is a one-half inch row of holes from the edges - and a white Hummel nativity set, Madonna, shepherd and the animals.
- John is looking for the hilarious song that J.P. McCarthy used to play on his radio show. It was called "Charge of the Light Brigade and the Bugler." He'd be willing to donate to the J.P. Foundation.
- Linelle is looking for the game of Pit.
- Barbara is looking for Shiny Sinks Plus.
- Patricia is looking for Anucci perfume; it was a Neiman Marcus line.
- Need a pattern for a Red Wings afghan.
- Laura would like Uncle Dan's Potato Chips. She used to get them at a party store in Livonia.
- Sharon would like Night Spice cologne by Old Spice.
- Edna wants the starter kit for Amish Friendship bread.
- Still looking for card game Hotel, Kismet dice.
- A Mrs. Beasley doll for Shannon of Garden City.
- Janet would like dresses named Chez; they were carried at SYS on Southfield Road but they are no longer in business.
- A microwave turntable that comes apart for cleaning for Shirley.
- Edwin Jeans for girls and Big Ben jeans for boys for Karen.
- Kathy needs all solid color borders including black. She saw them on display but can't remember where.
- Looking for a book and record from the late 60's called Shy Trunky, it's about an elephant.
- The correct address for E.J. Danish modern chair cushions.
- Debbie is looking for a Mary Mag power doll hour from the early-mid 60s on magnetic stilts in its entirety.

- Compiled by Sandy Jarackas

New fragrance



At Tiffany's: Trueste perfume and body lotion will be available in March from the jeweler in Somerset Collection South, Troy, from \$25.

Jacobson's offers a trend forecast for '98

The New Year promises to be a trend-setting year in fashion and home entertaining, according to Beverly Rice, senior vice president of fashion and merchandising strategy for Jacobson's 24 stores.

Beauty trends — Focus on an overall healthier complexion with vitamin-rich moisturizers and creams. Watch for La Prairie cellular defense shield, Estee Lauder and Lancome products rich in Vitamin A, C and E. Skin brightening systems will also be making their way to the beauty aisles that diminish discoloration and darkening. Hair coloring takes on a new style with "cosmetics for the hair." Mascara wands offer a simple and safe way for red, blonde or blue streaks, depending on your mood. The coloring washes off.

Couture "rubber bands" Among the newest trends for 1998, women in Europe in the cafes and clubs are sporting gold or silver-toned watch coils stacked up their wrists. Some choose to wear just one or two of these

stretch bracelets, while others stack as many as 100 up their arms.

Body art transfers — They offer a temporary statement for the not-so-daring. Estee Lauder and Lancome will introduce the transfers complete with pencils or crayons made from Indian ink for a personalized design.

Marabou — will emerge as the fun, most talked about accent. Prom dresses, suits and separates in lilac — 1998's leading fashion hue — have marabou detailing from simple sleeve treatments to luxurious neck wraps. Hollywood glamour influences.

Embroidery — is taking the spotlight in designer fashion. Expect it on everything from scarves to gowns. The new favorite? Embroidered tulle in hombre design.

Halter tops — and tube tops are expected to be center stage from young girls' fashion to women's designer couture. Embroidered, knit and textured halter tops are paired with capri pants and plaid skirts.

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features news briefs from the Malls & Mainstreets. For inclusion, send information to: Retail Details, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or fax to (248) 644-1314.

New bridal store in Birmingham

Roma Sposa, is now selling exclusive European designs for the bride, according to owner Anna Castaldi Roselli, at 722 N. Old Woodward in Birmingham.

Castaldi previously owned a bridal shop in Rome. A gown can take up to a year to make in the Old World style. They are priced from \$1,800 to \$4,500.

Current gowns-of-choice are made from a dazzling array of fine fabrics and silks including Gazar, Mikado, Georgette, Chiffon, Duchesse and crystalline organza lace. For more details or a personal appointment call (248) 723-4300.

The shop will host a trunk show of Peter Langer creations, Jan. 29-31. Reservations are suggested.

Revolving doors of retail

The Limited is leaving downtown Birmingham and rumor has it Urban Outfitters, headquartered in Philadelphia with a Michigan location in Ann Arbor, will take its place.

Record Town has replaced

Harmony House at both Oakland and Tel-Twelve Malls, as Harmony House builds free-standing stores in Clarkston and Troy.

The former Home Quarters store at Telegraph and Square Lake is being renovated to reopen as a Costco Warehouse, one of five new stores opening in metro-Detroit - two are set for Livonia, one for Roseville and one for Madison Heights. Those familiar with the company, say shoppers will find them similar to Sam's Club Warehouse, a division of WalMart.

Breakfast with Chanel

Saks Fifth Avenue will host Breakfast With Chanel, Thursday, Jan. 22 beginning at 10 a.m. in the designer salon on level two, to benefit The American Lung Association of Michigan.

The annual event includes a light breakfast and formal runway show kicking off the arrival of Chanel's spring/summer ready-to-wear assortment. The collection will remain at the store through Friday, Jan. 23, informally modeled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 for patrons, \$75 for benefactors. For more details call (248) 642-8006. Event chairmen include Denise Andris, Gloria Clark, Barbara Czamanske, Judie Sherman and Susan Willis-Kushner. The asso-

ciation president is Bettina Gregg. Honorary chairpersons are Sybil Jacques, Blanche Pollock and Linda Schafer.

New skin products

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Neiman Marcus introduces LaPrairie's new Cellular Brightening System. The four lotions are designed to help achieve a flawless, porcelain-pale complexion. The system includes a Soothing Lotion, Intensive Essence, Day Emulsion SPF 15 and Night Treatment.

According to manufacturers, the products include ingredients that help actively inhibit the production of melanin cells. The kit is \$300, individual lotions are priced from \$65.

Restaurant opens at mall

Oceania left Meadowbrook Vil-

lage Mall last summer and a complete renovation was undertaken to create another Chinese restaurant at the site, The Gourmet Garden. The Rochester Hills mall is the fifth location for the family-owned restaurant chain. Others are located in East Lansing, Ann Arbor, Ohio and Massachusetts. Window seats contribute to the restaurant's light, airy feel. There are more than 40 chef specials.

Nicole Miller gowns arrive

Nicole Miller has released her spring bridal party collection with 23 different styles, sizes 2-16, in a range of spring colors - pink champagne, ice green, taupe, ivory, navy platinum and black. The Nicole Miller boutique is in the Somerset Collection South, Troy. For more details call (248) 649-8816.

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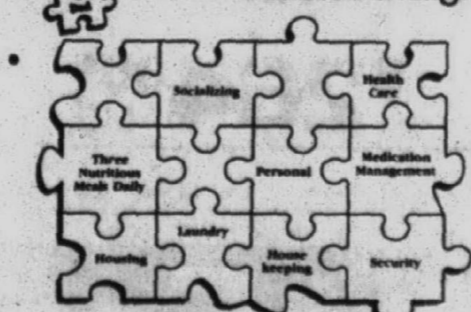
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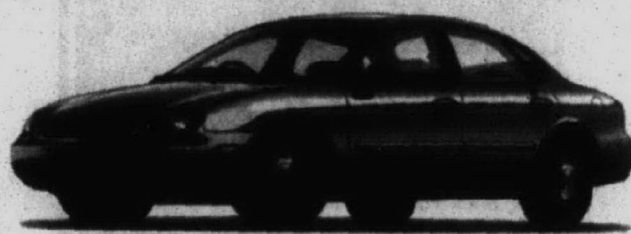


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Arts & Leisure

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Sunday, January 18, 1998

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Retired teacher now has time for painting

Ever wondered what happened to your high school art teacher? Chances are she's still painting. When Barbara Demgen retired in 1992 after 27 years of teaching art in the Livonia Public Schools, she did so with the intention of spending more time painting.

Nearly six years later, Demgen is having a one-woman show at the Livonia Civic Center Fine Arts Gallery. From sheep in the pastures at Maybury Park to an eight-foot Oriental screen consisting of four panels, the exhibition illustrates the Livonia artist's versatility.

Demgen will donate half of the proceeds from the sale of paintings (after a 30 percent commission) to the Wayne State University Medical School in memory of her sister-in-law who died last summer from bone cancer. The Livonia Arts Commission takes a 30 percent commission from all art works exhibited and sold in the gallery.

Demgen taught gifted visual arts students in the Creative and Performing Arts Program at Churchill High School before retiring. Does she miss teaching? Oh sure, but not enough to devote less time to painting (or her son Matthew).

What: An exhibit of mixed media paintings by Livonia artist Barbara Demgen.

Where: Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery, 32777 Five Mile Road (east of Farmington Road).

When: Through Friday, Jan. 30. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; until 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens; Our Town, Birmingham, and Art on the Pointe, Grosse Pointe. Last year, she exhibited in shows in West Bloomfield and on Lake St. Clair. She was represented by Atrium Gallery in Northville until the business was sold in November.

"I'm searching for a gallery, but also looking to get into fairs," said Demgen. "For me, it's always a show, a competition, but it's fun as long as you're in the field."

Forget avant garde and abstract painting, they're not her style. Demgen finds most of her customers would rather live with a landscape, floral, or one of her house portraits. In fact, her last commission was for an oil painting of trees with trunks so close a visitor to the forest could reach out and touch them.

"Because I have so much more time to paint, I'm getting into more structured pieces," said Demgen. "I love working in watercolor, but still work with oil because it feels like margarine. Oils feel so good going on the canvas."

Background

Demgen began painting seriously in the mid-1960s. She credits her classical art training at Wayne State University and Marygrove College for the technical expertise.

"Lighting makes such a difference and as an artist you have to keep experimenting with different tools," said Demgen. "But one of the most

Please see EXPRESSIONS, C2



Racing the wind: Barbara Demgen painted this 30 by 34-inch watercolor after a trip to Bar Harbor, Maine.

Exhibition documents 'Turning Point'

Monet

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Since the announcement by the University of Michigan Museum of Art nearly a year ago, art enthusiasts from Birmingham to Plymouth have anxiously awaited the Monet exhibition, which explores the French Impressionist's work around the year 1880 (see accompanying story).

For the first time since leaving his studio in Vetheuil more than a century ago, 12 paintings by Monet are reunited for an exhibition at the museum Jan. 25 to March 15.

Organized by the University of Michigan Museum of Art, "Monet at Vetheuil: The Turning Point" features paintings not shown at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1995, and four oils never exhibited in North America. The landscapes, still life and a portrait of his wife, Camille, add a new dimension to a relatively unstudied period of Monet's life and work in Vetheuil.

Turbulent times

This small village on the Seine is where Monet's life reached a critical point because of his wife's illness and death, negative criticism of his work, isolation from friends and the art scene in Paris and financial problems which forced the Monet family to share a household with supporter Ernest Hoschede, his wife and six children.

A haunting portrait of Camille from the Musee d'Orsay, Paris, was painted shortly after her death in September of 1879. Monet detached himself from the situation in order to record the changing colors in his wife's face.

On loan from 10 museums, including ones in Madrid, Paris, New Zealand, Toronto and the Metropolitan in New York City, the paintings travel to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Dallas Museum of Art after Ann Arbor.

"I think the exhibition will come up with a whole different side of Monet," said museum interim director Carole McNamara who curated the exhibition with Annette Dixon, museum curator of Western Art. "This was such a rich experience even for someone who thinks they know everything there is to know about Monet. This most familiar of painters will be in his most unfamiliar mode. You'll see paintings you have never seen. You will never look at Monet again in the same way."

The three years Monet spent at Vetheuil (1878-1881) were filled with conflict. A leading artist in the painting revolution known as Impressionism, Monet suffered from depression. As he was about to turn 40, he wrote to his friend and patron de Bellio that there was no hope left because he'd painted nothing worthy to show at an upcoming Impressionists exhibition. The depression was to haunt him periodically throughout the rest of his life.

In 1994, using the museum's painting of the Debacle to focus on Monet's years in Vetheuil, McNamara and Dixon began contacting museums around the world in search of paintings from this period.

Please see MONET, C2



Turning Point: "La Debacle a Vetheuil" from Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, one of four paintings depicting the devastating winter thaw of the Seine in 1880.



Haunting portrait: Monet recorded the changing colors in his wife Camille's face shortly after her death in September of 1879.

Monet at Vetheuil: The Turning Point

What: For the first time since leaving his studio more than a century ago, the paintings of French Impressionist Claude Monet come together in an exhibition of works created during the most turbulent period of his life.

When: Jan. 25 to March 15. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Docent-led tours 7 p.m. Thursdays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Where: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State Street at South University, Ann Arbor, (734) 764-0395.

Cost: \$6 adults; \$3 for non-U-M students, U-M faculty and staff, and senior citizens; free to Museum Friends, U-M students, and children under age 12. Advance tickets are recommended, call (800) 585-3737.

Related activities: Monet and the Cultural and Social Milieu of Impressionism, an interdisciplinary symposium 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in Angell Hall, Auditorium A.

North of Here, a dance performance inspired by Monet's winter landscapes at Vetheuil and created by Jessica Fogel and her students in the University Dance Company, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 5-7, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Power Center. For tickets call (734) 764-0450.

A Taste of Monet dinner theater featuring Monet's favorite recipes followed by a multimedia theater presentation written especially for the occasion by Chicago playwright Frances Sebastian 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Michigan League, 911 North University. This dramatic portrait of Monet is based on his letters and enhanced with music and slides showing his works. Tickets are \$40 and seating is limited. For reservations, call (734) 647-7463.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

New DSO chief marks time while planning future

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER

The most interesting hypothetical question facing Louis Spisto, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's incoming executive director, is: If he took the Pacific Symphony from small-to-big-time, then where will he take the DSO?

It might take two years to get an answer.

When Spisto, 41, comes to Detroit to take charge of one of the top orchestras in the United States in March, he'll be following the course



Louis Spisto

set by his predecessor, Mark Volpe, who left the DSO in August to become managing director of the Boston Symphony.

Spisto will arrive to find things neatly in place, including the DSO's 1998-99 concert schedule, planned tours of Europe and Japan, a range of community outreach programs and the finishing phases of the \$80-million Orchestra Place project.

The intangible look of the DSO, however, may soon be distinctively different.

"We need to shape the image of the orchestra, bring it up to date," said Spisto, credited with transforming the formerly "small time" Pacific Symphony into the third largest in California.

Building relationships

In the long run, the DSO may reflect Spisto's defining personal



Changes ahead: Spisto will oversee the completion of Orchestra Place and an expanded program schedule.

Please see CHIEF, C2

Expressions from page C1



Artistic expression: Barbara Demgen painted this windmill from black and white photographs taken in the 1960s in Europe.

important things I learned at Wayne and Marygrove was how important the basics are. You have to know how to draw first before you start on the seven-foot canvases."

Demgen paints wherever and whenever possible. She still takes her Arches watercolor pad to create vibrant still life during 14-year-old son Matthew's tennis lessons at the YMCA. A French Cafe, rendered in Expressionist style, captures a bed & breakfast in Saugatuck.

"I love painting on site," said Demgen. "Trips up north sitting on the dunes painting is heaven to me."

Animals seem to be her strong suit. Watercolor and gouache paintings of pheasants and pintail ducks were done in the mid-1970s when Demgen was entering duck stamp competitions. A recent acrylic painting of a "Jaguar" takes an eye-to-eye view of a magnificent cat. The yellow and green irises seem almost to mesmerize the viewer. Demgen instills a personality in her animals, people and birds. Even the animals on the carousel at Greenfield Village seem to take on a life of their own.

Linda Ann Chomin is an arts reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have an interesting idea for a story involving the visual or performing arts, call her at (313) 953-2145.

BUYING BEANIE BABIES!

Table listing various Beanie Babies items and prices, including items like 'Buddy, Cuddles, Lumpy' for \$7.99 and 'Squiggly, Spot & Velvet' for \$10.99.

Monet from page C1

The final 12 were selected to present an overall picture of this turbulent time in Monet's life.

Four of the "La De Bacle (The Breakup of the Ice)" paintings (which all have the same name) from New Zealand, Madrid, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and Switzerland are included to illustrate Monet's early attempts at using a 'serial approach.

"We wanted to highlight the Debacle series and the sub-groups within this series," said Dixon. "This period hasn't been studied that much. It turns his life around. He's experimenting with the light and atmosphere then at Vetheuil for the late 1880s serial paintings. For anyone as dedicated a landscape painter as Monet, the Debacle or anything with that kind of impact, an artist would be anxious to record."

"La Debacle," the version owned by the University of Michigan Museum of Art, depicts the ice-filled Seine as cold and treacherous. According to records, 1879 was the coldest winter ever recorded in the

region with the temperature falling to 13 below zero. A sudden thaw at the end of December, sent a torrent of ice and snow rushing through Vetheuil and Lavacourt, toppling trees and wreaking havoc as the river made its way toward Paris. Painting on an easel on ice and snow-covered banks, Monet sketched the works on site and finished them later in the studio.

"The Seine at Lavacourt" is the largest painting in the exhibit and done when Monet was trying to get back into the Salon," said McNamara.

While painting "La Debacle" (the version on loan from the Kunstmuseum in Switzerland) Monet wrote to friends and told them that conditions were changing so fast that he couldn't paint on site, McNamara said.

Research

Dixon and McNamara visited Vetheuil and Paris last spring to research archives for insight to this period of Monet's life, and for background to write essays for the catalog, which examines the historical and biographical

events surrounding the Vetheuil paintings.

Charles Stuckey, Monet scholar and curator of the Monet exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1995, also wrote one of the catalog's essays. Both Dixon and McNamara are looking forward to returning to Vetheuil as guides for a tour, "From Delacroix to Monet," in France May 16-24. The deadline for reserving a place on the trip is Jan. 30. Highlights include walking tours of sites where Monet painted and special exhibits at Musee des Beaux-Arts in Rouen and Grand Palais, Paris in honor of the bicentennial of Delacroix's birth.

"The trip was necessary to put us in touch with scholars and the town," said McNamara. "Vetheuil is still a little town across the river and fairly unchanged, unlike Giverny which has become a tourist trap and Argenteuil, swallowed by a heavily industrialized city," said McNamara. "The letters are very important because they reveal how Monet feels. We also took a look at accounts of the Debacle

in Paris, where barges were being crushed against the piers, to show how the press in Paris portrayed this."

One of the most memorable experiences took place while researching Monet's account books where he recorded sold paintings with titles as simple as "Summer Landscape."

"That was wonderful to hold his ledgers and have access to rare articles and exhibition catalogs," said McNamara. "That was really a treasured moment. You feel like you're moving inside his brain."

The stories behind the paintings such as "Vetheuil in the Fog" from the Musee Marmottan in Paris illuminate Monet not only as a painter but as a man.

"It's one of the sketchiest paintings," said Dixon. "Monet offered it to opera star Jean Baptiste Faure, he refused to purchase it, years later Faure saw it again and wanted to purchase it but Monet wouldn't sell it to him. It became one of his favorite paintings and never left Monet's hands during his lifetime."

Tours from page C1

Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia on Feb. 27. She originally called to book a tour in October. Spaces are still available for art lovers age 55 and over in the community. For more information, call (313) 422-1150.

"I think it's something the group would enjoy and not usually available. It's a unique and privileged thing," said Wold. "I'm personally interested in Monet and saw his work on a 1992 trip to France and Giverny and the 1995 Chicago exhibit."

Kay VanDusen, travel director of The Community House in Birmingham called to arrange a

tour after reading the story in the Arts & Leisure section of The Eccentric in February. The Community House regularly hosts trips to museums, theater performances and symphony concerts as far away as Toronto.

In 1995, when the Monet exhibit ran in Chicago, three groups made the trip.

"There's been a tremendous response," said VanDusen of Bloomfield Hills. "This particular exhibition is centered around one of our own paintings and having all his works together for the first time in a century is very exciting. Plus smaller exhibi-

tions are comfortable and you absorb more and it's going to be so wonderful having seen the haystacks and the lilies in Chicago."

Sharon Herman, a Detroit Institute of the Arts docent for the Art to the Schools Program, will join a group of friends, also Arts to the Schools docents, for a trip to the Monet exhibition. Herman booked the tour two weeks ago. Several of the docents saw the Chicago exhibit in 1995.

"We go to the art galleries and special museum exhibitions whenever we can for our own

personal enrichment," said Herman, a West Bloomfield resident. "We're all involved with the art world, studying it. The thirst for Monet is insatiable, and the fact that these pieces haven't been shown together before is the reason we want to see the exhibition."

Jennifer Tobin, executive director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council "can't wait" to see the exhibition.

"I think, it's a fabulous opportunity to have the exhibit this close to us," said Tobin.

Chief from page C1

characteristics: creativity, high energy and an innovative approach to marketing.

"We'll work on the way we communicate and market the activities of the DSO," he said.

"We'll be a little more experi-

mental. We'll mix it up, try to present more events in the hall, broaden our jazz and family programming as well."

During his 10-year stint as chief executive at the Pacific Symphony, Spisto "blended

artistic savvy, street smarts and indefatigable persistence in fund-raising and building relationships," according to the Orange County Register.

In practical terms, Spisto's relentlessness translated into

more than doubling the Pacific Orchestra's budget to \$7.5 million, leading a \$5 million fund-raising campaign that erased a \$658,000 deficit ahead of schedule, and established an endowment.

"It's bittersweet to leave," he said. "I spent my 30s here, and for me, this is where I grew up."

Indeed, Spisto's maturity in leading a symphony gained national attention, especially since Pacific Orchestra emerged during a decade where other orchestras were folding and finding it difficult to subsist.

While Spisto - like all other directors of symphonies - will attempt to find new ways to raise funds, he'll inherit the DSO in sound financial condition with a \$23 million budget, nearly triple the size of the Pacific Orchestra's.

In moving to the Midwest, Spisto is half a continent closer to his hometown of Brooklyn. And just down the Ohio Turnpike from Pittsburgh, where he spent three years as director of marketing for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

At a watershed in its history, the DSO has an ideal opportunity to redefine itself as Orchestra Place nears completion, said Spisto.

Among his top priorities over the next five years, he said, will be to increase ticket sales, appeal to younger audiences, get orchestra members more involved in music education programs around the area and develop more corporate partnerships.

"I was overwhelmed by the development projects, and the 'can do' attitude in Detroit," said Spisto, who flew into Detroit at the end of September and November.

"For me, this role is all about building relationships with the board, the orchestra and the community."

Reportedly, Spisto was at the top of the DSO's top 20-candidate list. After Volpe resigned in August, DSO Board Chair Al Glancy contacted Spisto and encouraged him to apply.

"I was impressed with the no-nonsense style of the board, and they immediately engaged me," said Spisto. "The board is a 'Who's who' (in Detroit). The only thing that'll take some getting used to is the weather."

Initially, it seems that Spisto will focus on elevating his profile as a player in the metro area cultural scene.

"I'm going to live this job every waking moment," he said. "It's like being a minister of a parish. Your work is never done."

Advertisement for Farwell Friends restaurant, located at 8051 Middlebelt. Features a Super Dinner Special with Alaskan King Crab Legs for \$13.95 and a Lunch Special with 10 oz. New York Strip Steak for \$5.95.

Advertisement for Ernie Live! featuring the character Ernie from Sesame Street. Includes the text 'SING WITH ERNIE LIVE!' and 'OPENS THIS WEDNESDAY!'.

Advertisement for Sesame Street Live! '123... IMAGINE!' production. Shows a schedule of performances from January 21 to February 1 at the Fox Theatre, including 24 Fun, Educational Shows.

Large advertisement for TigerFest '98. Features a photo of Brian Hunter, 1997 M.L. Stolen Base Leader. Text includes 'Heat up your winter at TIGERFEST '98' and 'FUN FOR ENTIRE FAMILY' with a list of activities like autograph opportunities, baseball video arcade, and kids activity area.

Vertical sidebar of small advertisements including 'ACCOMMODATIONS', 'AUDIOPHILES', 'KARAOKE JAM', 'MICHIGAN ACCO...', 'NAT'L JURIED APPLIES AT PCC', 'PLYMOUTH OR...', '17TH ANNUAL COMPETITION', 'ANN ARBOR...', 'SCHOOLCRA...', 'LIVONIA CI...', 'FOUNDATIO...', 'HEARTLAN...', and 'PAINT CR...'.

'Sly Fox' offers non-stop laughs

Players Guild of Dearborn presents "Sly Fox," a comedy by Larry Gelbart, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 23-24 at the theater, 2330 Madison (off Monroe, between Outer Drive and Van Buren), Dearborn. Tickets \$10, \$8 for students younger than age 18 for the Sunday show only. (313) 562-TKTS.

BY SUB SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

Director Kim Donovan of the Players Guild of Dearborn added excellent acting and impeccable timing to the clever dialogue and double entendres of author Larry Gelbart to create an outstanding evening of entertainment and sharp-edge humor with the Guild's current comedy offering, "Sly Fox."

Set in San Francisco in the late 1800s, "Sly Fox" is the tale of Foxwell J. Sly who uses the greed and selfishness of others to enrich his own coffers. He and sidekick Simon Able allow their

victims to do themselves in with their own avarice.

Veteran actor Ron Deihl's return to the Guild stage, after more than a decade's absence, is a performance playgoers won't want to miss. Deihl captures the delightful villainy of Foxwell Sly, master con artist and likable liar, with finesse and skillful timing.

As the con man Sly, Deihl plays many roles beyond his character, from a deathbed lecher to a righteous judge. His delivery, timing, and physical humor are right on target.

Sergio Mautone turned in a strong performance as Simon Able, Sly's shady sidekick and servant. Simon Able carries out Sly's schemes, juggling numerous cons simultaneously. Mautone deftly handled his character's mounting anxiety as complications increased and their house of cards threatened to fold.

Among the trio of sheep waiting to be fleeced, Bill Rumley as

Lisa Andres produced side-splitting laughter as the pious woman accosted by the supposedly near death Sly.

Jethro Crouch and Paul Helmstetter as Abner Truckle turned in performances oozing with believable greed but still human enough to be sympathetic despite the characters' despicable natures.

Tina Gloss perfected Miss Merrilee Fancy, the proverbial hooker with a heart of gold. She delighted audiences as much as her willing on-stage victims.

Lisa Andres produced side-splitting laughter as the pious woman accosted by the supposedly near death Sly. The physical comedy in her scene with Sly was fast-paced and hysterically funny.

The supporting cast was generally strong, with the exception of Christian Fernholtz as Captain Crouch, whose failure to

enunciate detracted from his performance, and Dan Dobrovich, who tried to enlarge his small parts by mugging too much.

The sets were well dressed and cleverly done with different drops staggered behind each other. However, the first backdrop in Sly's bedroom swung wildly whenever the window was opened, and the wall of Crouch's office had pictures wildly askew - perhaps San Francisco was experiencing another earthquake.

The show offers non-stop laughter from the opening scene to the creative curtain call. However, there is plenty of adult humor which may not be appropriate for preteens.



Comedy: Abner Truckle (Paul Helmstetter) accuses his wife (Lisa Andres) of showing too much of her body in "Sly Fox."

Meadow Brook's blusey 'Thunder Knocking' searches for a key

"Thunder Knocking on the Door," a musical written by Keith Glover and directed by Gary Anderson with original music by Keb' Mo', Anderson Edwards and Glover continues through Sunday, Feb. 1, at Meadow Brook Theatre, Wilson Hall on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills. Performances 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday at. Tickets \$18-\$26.50, (248) 377-3300, group sales, (248) 370-3316.

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER

There's a reason that the best way to appreciate the blues is to sing about the blues. Talking about how a wrenching melodic

catharsis can soothe the soulful despondency just isn't half as much fun or nearly as evocative as wailing to the heavens.

In a story about the redemptive power of the blues, "Thunder Knocking at the Door" at Meadow Brook Theatre is a play in search of the right key. As an out-of-tune "blusical" - part musical, part drama - the production suffers from dramatic ambivalence.

The result is that "Thunder" is a hit and miss effort that is both promising and disappointing.

What's good about "Thunder" is very good. Like Keb' Mo's bluesy compositions, and performances by the velvety smooth Luray Cooper (Thunder), the irrepressible Keesha Fleth

(Glory), and Marlon Bailey's (Jaguar) comical rendition of "Big Money."

What's not as intriguing, however, are the gaps in the script and the occasional overreaching by a talented cast trying to wring entertainment from a patchwork plot suffering from a lack of focus.

The play about a slick-talking supernatural, Marvel Thunder, who challenges mere mortals to lick him at playin' blues on a six-string, is disguised as a series of love stories.

But genuine love gets bogged down in maudlin and predictable dialogue.

Ironically, the play, written by Alabaman Keith Glover and co-produced by Meadow Brook and

Plowshares Theatre Company, draws on some fertile ingredients - mythology, love and music.

But at times, the mixture is pure confusion. The hope is that the play will reveal that the genius of the blues lies in a barebones simplicity and tear-the-heart-open emotion.

That revelation, however, is lost in a production that reaches for easy answers and commercial appeal.

Besides an agonizingly sophomoric opening whereby the cast basically introduces their characters, it takes nearly half of the first act before the devilish Marvel Thunder makes his appearance. Meanwhile, the onstage actors talk and talk and talk.

Only the music saves the day.

Leading up to the end of the first act feels like sheer randomness whereby critical time is spent rehashing the back story and setting up action, rather than moving the story ahead.

Then, shortly after the opening of the second act, the play skitters to a "place where the roads cross" for the pivotal, end-all blues-guitar battles.

On a platform above the stage, a four-piece blues band lays down the groove. Unfortunately, they also serve as a reminder of the "staged performance" below. The mere sight of actors playing at playing the blues is an unfortunate reminder that this is all make-believe.

To say the climax is anti-climatic is like calling the blues "just a lowdown feeling." In a rush to tie a happy bow on the play, the story rushes to a resolution that might feel right for a TV movie, but not for something as genuine as the blues.

Perhaps more Keb' Mo' music and a story with a stronger main plot, and less competing subplots would help distill the truth behind Glover's clever tale.

Until then, this production of "Thunder" manages to make an ethereal subject like the blues into an implausible path toward salvation.

That's too bad for anyone who loves the blues. But perhaps proof that when you've got to talk about the blues, then maybe the feeling just isn't there.

ART BEAT

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

FINAL DAY

Meet Italian artist Littorio Del Signore during an exhibition and sale of his works 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18 at Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. The exhibit continues to Feb. 5.

Park West Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, until 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (248) 354-2343 or (800) 521-9654.

CINDERELLA COMES TO CLARENCEVILLE

The Farmington Hills-based Contemporary Ballet Theatre will present the ballet "Cinderella" 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at

Clarenceville High School auditorium in Livonia.

Tickets are \$10 and available at the door or by calling Dance Electric at (248) 477-3830.

ART CLASSES

The Art Gallery/Studio is offering art classes in basic drawing and general art for the very young with Frances Fletcher Saturdays Feb. 21, 28, and Mar. 7, 14 in the studio, 29948 Ford Road between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt, Garden City.

Classes will run 10-11:30 a.m., 12:30-2 p.m. and 2:30-4 p.m. Cost is \$40 and includes supplies. Deadline for registration is Feb. 16.

Portrait and still life for adults will be taught by Lin Baum in student's choice of mediums 1-4 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost is \$50. Deadline for registration is Feb. 2.

To register or for more information on classes, call (313) 261-0379/513-4044.

Also of note: The Garden City

Fine Arts Association's meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month from September through June. Interesting guest speakers, lectures and demonstrations at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood, one-half block west of Merriman. The public is welcome. Call (313) 261-0379.

BOOK SIGNING

Marian Nelson, author of the children's book "Priscilla's Patch," will sign copies of the book 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 after storytime at the Northville District Library, 212 West Cady, Street. Plymouth artist Jennifer Riopelle, who illustrated the book, will also be on hand. Call (248) 349-3020.

Nelson will also be at a storytime and book signing 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 17111 Haggerty Road, Northville for a storytime and book signing. Call (248) 348-0696.

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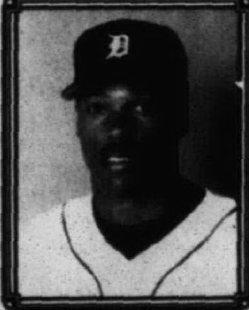
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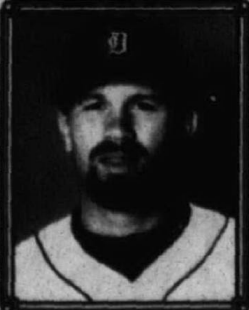
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TRAVEL

Death in the Afternoon is not a pretty sight

BY JOHN REDDY
STAFF WRITER

The Sunday Madrid siesta is over. Life returns slowly to the streets. We tourists from Oakland County gather in the long shadow of our hotel, eying anxiously the taxis that queue up in the narrow street. The cab drivers watch us furtively, knowing their fares are headed to Madrid's stadium to see the bullfights.

Outside the stadium, the brilliant afternoon sun welcomes us, carving shadows in flora, stone, concrete and all things that face west.

The price of seats in the stadium sun will be less than those in the shade.

Many in the group remain disturbingly uncertain about this event, succumbing to the argument that one cannot tell friends they visited Spain and did not see a bullfight. Still, a sense of festive excitement grows as tour buses and taxis fight for curb space. Foreigners from around the world alight with cameras, belt packs and hats of all type.

Our group entered the Spanish culture at Barcelona, where the architecture of Antoni Gaudi embraced nature's design, and Pablo Picasso as a youth produced works not much unlike art students anywhere; and where the French influence defined the Catalan culture.

We would later go south, through the cities of Toledo and Cordoba with the treasured paintings of El Greco and the often bloody cultural commingling of Islamic, Christian and Jewish history. We would see Granada where King Ferdinand

and Queen Isabella lived after they forced the Moors from the El Alhambra and the Iberian Peninsula. We would walk the beaches and harbors at Marbella, witnessing how the Arab influence reappears in the Spanish culture in the form of lavish yachts, homes and automobiles. There would be Gibraltar, Seville, called the most Spanish of all Spanish cities, the shrine at Fatima in Portugal, coastal villages and, finally, Lisbon.

Despite all the sidewalk cafes, the stimulating museums and cathedrals, the endless rolling hills of olive trees, Flamenco dancers and Fado singers, the event today would provoke for me and others in our group the most compelling post trip memories.

Ernest Hemingway has shaped our expectations and actors like Tyrone Power, who in the movie "Blood and Sand" would be idolized for flamboyance and bravery. This is to be man against the bull.

The opening pageantry is colorful, but small by comparison even with half-time shows at high school football games. Horses parade amid trumpet fanfare. Finely embroidered in football-style pants and waist jackets, toreros (they don't call them matadors anymore because the word means killers) strut before the VIP boxes with great flair.

Finally, the shiny-coated black bull rushes onto the sandy stadium floor, pausing, starting this way, then that - bewildered. He is the first of six that face a torero's killing sword this afternoon, I'm following the action through my telescope lens.

Four men emerge from behind



Toreros: A bull weakened by a picador's staves faces the taunts of toreros and banderillos.

their thick, wooden protective fences to join another riding a horse draped with huge, thick protective padding.

They wave their pink capes (it is the motion, not the color that attracts the color-blind bulls) and the bull charges. His horns wrestle violently with the padded horse. The mounted picador stabs a huge pole-like pick into the back of the bull at the base of the neck, urging his horse forward to add power to the poking and twisting of the pick. The clashing creates sounds and grunts that speak of great strength. The capes continue the distraction, confusing their prey as the horseman again and again thrusts the pick into the animal's shoulder. The bull now wears a collar of flowing blood and no longer lifts his head high.

Banderilleros taunt the weakening bull, gracefully plunging their staves near the picador's wounds.

I aim my telephoto lens instinctively to the right, shooting, then to the left, recording the expressions on the faces of my fellow travelers and others in the stands that are absorbed by action in the ring.

Now comes the principal torero. His graceful steps and sweeping red cape give life to

bullfighting posters. The bloodied bull remains a formidable opponent. But charge after charge into the elusive cape begins to tire the weakening bull, which at times staggers to its front knees. The bloody collar grows larger.

It is now that the torero receives a very long sword from an attendant. The drama builds as the yellow spangled matador aims his long sword at the spot on the bull's neck where the blade must enter to sever the spinal cord and aorta.

The bull claws the sand with one hoof, signaling his death charge. The sword misses its mark. A chorus of roaring gasps engulfs the stadium as the torero is tossed into the air. His lies curled in the sand as the bull seeks revenge. The four attendants rush from hiding to draw the black warrior away. The pink capes snap wildly. The matador pulls himself slowly from the sand, recomposes, arches his back in an arm-waving salute to the crowd and takes another sword.

This time the matador's aim is precise. The huge animal drops instantly, to be dragged from the ring by a team of horses as the groundskeepers refresh the bullring with rakes.

Some of the group leaves.



Charge: The principal torero waves his large red cape at the wounded but still dangerous bull.

Nearby, Japanese tourists file out. The second event provokes more vigorous stabbing of the animal by the mounted torero. The kill is quick. I leave with other from our group. Disillusioned by the shattering of a myth. It is not man against bull. It is men and crippling thrusts of

a huge pick against the bull. The sun is lower and the air bears a chill.

John Reddy is vice president of HomeTown Communications Network, publisher emeritus of The Eccentric Newspapers and a resident of Bloomfield Township.

Rooting for the bull

In reporting this story my cultural bias may show through. Certainly the Hemingway influence, the film portrayals such as "Blood and Sand" set the context for my experiences.

A traveling companion, Joe Tunac of Troy, may have a more balanced view. "I grew up in the Philippines," he said. "When I was 12, I raised roosters for cock fights. I used to rub elbows with the big guys. I used to tie the razor-sharp blades to the cocks' legs and let them fight."

"I went back five years ago and couldn't stand it. Yet I know it is part of the culture. Maybe it's the result of modern

civilization, feeling the value of life. Even in Spain I sensed we were experiencing something in another culture."

He said, "I was curious to see what Hemingway wrote about. I thought it was this cultural thing. It's one on one. But it's a bunch of guys attacking one bull."

"But when I was in Ronda, I had different thoughts," he added. "I went down into the bullring, the oldest in Spain. 'I tried to imagine myself facing a bull. At that time I felt utterly vulnerable."

"But when the torero in Spain got tossed, I said to myself, 'Way to go, bull!'"

John Reddy



DRAWING BY JOHN REDDY

Elegance: The flamenco dancers of Spain show the style and grace of Spanish culture.

GREAT ESCAPES

Great Escapes features various travel news items. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, assistant managing editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

TELL US YOUR STORY

We want to hear from you? Have you been someplace interesting this past year? Have you had a special adventure? Is there a quiet island you'd like to recommend or a highly promoted place you'd like to warn against? Do you have special tips for other travelers to make their journeys easier? Have you met some interesting people in other countries that you'd like others to know about? We want to share your stories and your color pictures on our travel page. Call Hugh Gallagher at 734-953-2118, or fax him at 734-591-

7279.

FREE COMPANION FARES

Amtrak is offering free companion fares on several popular routes from now through Feb. 28, 1998.

The special offer is available on the daily Chicago-Pittsburgh-New York Three Rivers service; the daily Pittsburgh-New York Pennsylvania service; the six daily trains operating in the Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac, Mich., corridor; the daily International service between Chicago and Port Huron, Mich.; the six daily trains in the Chicago-St. Louis corridor; the two daily trains operating in the St. Louis-Kansas City corridor; the daily Chicago-Carbondale, Ill., Illini service; and the daily Chicago-Quincy, Ill., Illinois Zephyr service.

The Winter Companion Fare promotion is also available on

the Chicago-St. Louis-San Antonio Texas Eagle, which operates three-days-weekly through Feb. 6, when a fourth Texas Eagle will begin operating weekly between Chicago and Los Angeles, via San Antonio.

The tickets are valid for one-way or round-trip coach travel through Feb. 28, 1998, and reservations are required. The offer applies to coach fares and children's fares for up to two children (ages 2-15) per adult. Customers can purchase an upgrade to Custom Class or sleeping accommodations, subject to availability.

The offer is good for passengers traveling on an identical itinerary. Seats are limited, are subject to certain blackout days and are based on availability. The fare is non-refundable and is subject to change fees for both tickets. Other restrictions apply.

Customers should visit a staffed Amtrak station, call 1-800-USA-RAIL or see an authorized Amtrak travel agent, for details on this offer or any other Amtrak service. Ticketing, schedule and service information is also available at the Amtrak site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.amtrak.com>.

DRIVING TIPS

AAA Michigan has released some driving tips to start the New Year off safely:

- Don't tailgate. Tailgating is the number one cause of most rear-end crashes, representing 13 percent of all crashes in Michigan. AAA recommends striving for a "safety buffer" of at least four seconds between you and the vehicle ahead, with an extended following distance in inclement weather.
- Use your signals when stop-

ping or turning. Signaling is not only courteous, it's the law.

■ Use your horn to warn, not to punish. Your horn is a safety device, not a weapon to punish other drivers.

■ Observe posted speed limits. One a 30-mile trip, driving five miles over the speed limit saves less than three minutes.

■ Apologize if you make a driving error. If your driving mistake involves others, offer an "I'm sorry" gesture. In a recent AAA survey, the favorite driver's apology sign is the "tap on the head," as in "What was I thinking?"

■ Don't drive drowsy. If you doze off while driving, you have lost control of your vehicle.

■ Don't run red lights. Ignoring a red light is not worth the increased risk of injury and fines just to save an extra second. The law in Michigan for amber lights

is, "Stop before entering the intersection. If you cannot stop safely, do not speed up, but drive cautiously through the intersection."

■ Pull over for emergency vehicles. If you block an emergency vehicle, you are interfering in a crisis. When you hear approaching sirens or see flashing lights, the law requires you to "yield the right of way and pull as close to the right edge of the road as possible, clear of an intersection and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed."

■ Give pedestrians the right of way.

■ Share the road safely with bike riders. Bicyclists are not out of place on the roadway, they are part of the traffic and share the road with motorists.

■ Give road construction work zones a "brake." Slow down and use caution in work areas.

Winter GET-A-WAY Sale!

CANCUN 7 Nights, Round Trip Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7 from \$149 ⁹⁹	ORLANDO, MI MEYERS, SARASOTA, ST. PETE & W. PALM BEACH 7 Nights, Round Trip from \$99 ⁹⁹
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Tickets available for all shows January 21-February 1 at the Fox Theatre Box Office and all TicketMaster Outlets, or charge by phone at (248) 433-1515.

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C.J. Risak, Editor 313 953 2108

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Sunday, January 18, 1998

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Platter hits stride

It was an effort that made her return for a fifth year seem worthwhile. Unfortunately, it didn't change the outcome of the game.

Cyndi Platter, a Plymouth Salem graduate, posted season and career highs for points scored and rebounds Thursday night. Unfortunately, her Oakland University women's basketball team didn't benefit from her performance; the Lady Pioneers lost, 83-71, at Hillsdale College.

Platter, a fifth-year senior who red-shirted last year after suffering a serious knee injury, connected on 5-of-10 floor shots (including 1-of-2 three-pointers) and 7-of-8 free throws to score 18 points. She also grabbed 12 rebounds in 32 minutes of action.

For the season, Platter is averaging 7.9 points and 4.1 rebounds. She has started every game for OU, which slipped to 12-3.

Track standouts

University of Michigan's women's indoor track season opened at home Jan. 10 with the Michigan Open, and a pair of local products turned in superb performances.

In the 600-meter run, sophomore Sarah Hamilton (from Plymouth Salem HS) led a parade of Wolverines to the finish, placing first in 1:33.36.

Taking second in the 600 was sophomore Olive Ikeh (Plymouth Canton HS) in 1:35.47. Ikeh also posted Michigan's second fastest time in the 55-meter hurdles (8.48).

Gymnastics hopeful

The men's gymnastics season opened for University of Michigan last Saturday, and one of those hoping to make an early impression for the Wolverines was sophomore Jesse Coleman (Plymouth Canton HS).

Coleman will no doubt get his chances. He figures to compete in two events Michigan is hoping to improve upon — pommel horse, which U-M coach Kurt Golder is already calling the Wolverines' most improved event, and high bar, which has been termed the team's biggest challenge.

The Wolverines opened Saturday in Chicago at the Windy City Invitational. This Saturday they host Penn State and Iowa in a Big Ten double-dual meet.

Precision skaters

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club will be the host when the 1998 USFSA Midwestern Precision Team Sectional Championship comes on Feb. 6-8 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

The Sectional serves as a national qualifying for all precision teams in the midwest. Those teams placing highest at the Sectional advance to the USFSA National Precision Championships in March in San Diego.

Of the U.S.'s three geographical sections, the Midwestern is the largest. Some 145 teams and 3,000 skaters are expected to compete.

Precision team skating is expected to become an Olympic event in 2002, magnifying the importance of such championships.

Soccer sign-up

The city of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department will be conducting registration for spring youth soccer throughout January, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Parks and Rec offices, located in the Plymouth Cultural Center at 525 Farmer.

All registrants must have birth certificates. Cost is \$40 for city of Plymouth residents and \$60 for non-residents.

For more information, call (313) 455-6620.

LHA needs coaches

The Livonia Hockey Association is accepting travel coach applications for the 1998-99 season.

To obtain an application, call (313) 422-5172. All applications must be returned by Feb. 1, 1998.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (313) 591-7279.

Rocks wreck Harrison hopes, 66-51

Contenders or pretenders — that was the question facing both Salem and Harrison going into Friday's WLAA showdown. The winner gets the upper hand in the league; the loser must play catch-up, and hope.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The timing of it made Bob Brodie a happy coach. In an important, early-season game Friday, he saw what he believed to be the real Plymouth Salem boys basketball team.

So did Farmington Harrison, which saw its perfect record tarnished with its first loss after visiting Salem did

everything right and ran off with a 66-51 victory.

The Rocks, who have won six consecutive games since dropping their first two, are 8-2 overall and 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Hawks are 6-1 and 1-1.

"We played like we're capable of playing," Brodie said. "I knew if we did that we'd be OK. But I didn't know who

would show up — and we did!

"We beat a quality ballclub tonight. Harrison has some seasoned veterans and quality players. We were just better tonight."

Senior Jeff McKian dropped in a game-high 25 points to lead Salem. The Rocks found him open on the baseline for a lot of short, uncontested jumpers.

McKian scored 12 points in the second quarter as the Rocks extended a 13-10 lead to 33-22 at halftime.

He had another 13 in the second half, including six in the fourth quarter as Salem finished off Harrison with a 20-13 point advantage.

"Coach always tells us to bump

shoulders coming off the screen, and I was losing the defender that way," McKian said. "After awhile I felt I just wouldn't miss, so I kept shooting."

"We saw the potential we had in the summer. We had a slow start in the first two games and have really picked it up. We're looking better and better, but we still have to improve."

Besides running the Salem offense effectively at the point, senior guard Andy Power scored 11 points, including three three-point baskets.

He had two in the second quarter to help the Rocks extend a 19-13 lead to 29-15, which Harrison coach Mike

Please see SALEM HOOP, D3

Salem speeds past Canton

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

The arrow was pointed in the proper direction for both Plymouth Salem's and Plymouth Canton's swimmers in their annual dual meet last Thursday.

There was really never any doubt who would emerge with the victory. Salem is the five-time defending Western Lakes Activities Association champion, with a sixth title within sight. Canton, on the other hand, is retooling.

Which made the final outcome predictable: a 118-68 Salem victory in a meet swam at Canton.

"We actually tried not to make this a big meet to our kids," said Canton coach Kyle Lott. "But it's hard to talk them out of it, you know, Canton vs. Salem. To be honest, we're just not in the same league with the Salem kids yet."

Not many teams are. Rocks' coach Chuck Olson approached the meet much the same way as his counterpart did, especially with the task confronting him.

Canton was the second difficult dual meet for Salem in three days, and the second of three difficult challenges facing the Rocks. On Saturday, Salem hosted what has to be one of the premier invitationals of the season when Ann Arbor Pioneer, Birmingham Groves, Birmingham Seaholm, Livonia Stevenson and Canton all invaded its pool for the Rock Invitational.

By weeks' end, all but Canton could be ranked among the state's top 10 teams.

When Salem swam a bit lethargically in their dual-meet win over Ann Arbor Huron last Tuesday, Olson was a bit concerned. The Rocks showed more determination against Canton, however, lifting his confidence for Saturday's meet.

"I knew we'd swim better Thursday," said Olson. "For one thing, we're more accustomed to swimming meets on Thursdays."

"Basically, we swam really well."

In two events in particular, the Rocks sparked. Nick Corden trimmed four seconds off the time he clocked last Tuesday against Huron in the 100-yard backstroke, going 56.17 to get the win and better the state qualifying standard.

Corden also won the 200 individual medley (2:07.49), and he teamed with Jason Rebarchik, Tim Buchanan



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL

A pair of winners: Salem's Brent Mellis (above) made his first competition this season in the 100-yard butterfly a solid one, taking first place. And Matt Heiss (below) was one of two Canton swimmers to collect a victory, his coming in the 100 breaststroke.

and Andrew Locke to capture top honors in the 200 medley relay in 1:43.04, also bettering the state cut time.

Other individual-event winners for the Rocks were Brent Mellis in the 100 butterfly (58.38), an event he swam for the first time this season; Locke in the 50 free (22.97); Buchanan in the 100 free (50.03); Brian Mertens in the 500 free (5:03.06); and Chris Cameron in the diving with a season's best 223.00 points.

Rebarchik, Locke, Dan Jones and Mellis teamed in winning the 200 free relay (1:34.40), and Mellis, Locke, Buchanan and Corden were winners in the 400 free relay (3:23.72).

Canton had two winners: Jason Musson in the 200 free (1:53.35), an event in which he just touched out Mellis (1:53.37); and Matt Heiss in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.23).

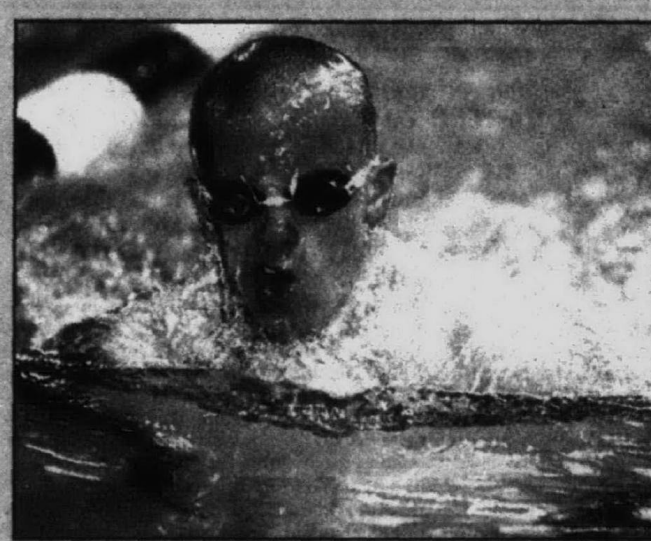
The Chiefs did manage some solid second-place clockings, such as Kurtis Hornick in both the 50 free (23.36) and 500 free (5:09.05); John Theisen in the 100 fly (1:00.47); Aaron Reeder in the 100 back (58.74); Justin Allen, Heiss, Theisen and Hornick in the

200 medley relay (1:44.82); John Cook, Chad Williams, Andy Schmidt and Musson in the 200 free relay (1:38.47); and Hornick, Cook, Reeder and Musson in the 400 free relay (3:34.18).

The win pushed Salem's record to 3-0; Canton is 0-3.

"I thought we swam pretty well," said Lott. "There were no real surprises, all of our guys swam well, but our 'B' kids were the ones who swam real well. They're all battling for spots on our conference meet team."

Perhaps the biggest positive to come out of the meet, in Lott's estimation, was that Canton's times were "actually faster than the times we



swam in this meet last year. I thought that was kind of interesting.

"This is a hard-working team, a great group of kids."

Olson would say the same about his Rocks. The difference: Salem ranks among the state's best teams, with state qualifying times already clocked in several events.

Don't count us out! Cortellini lifts Chiefs over Falcons

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Who says a good little man can't beat a good big man?

Plymouth Canton's Joe Cortellini outdueled Trevor Gaines by scoring 27 points to lead the Chiefs to a 56-52, home-court upset of Farmington Friday night.

It was a career-high for the 5-foot-11 junior guard. According to coach Dan Young, the victory couldn't have come at a better time for Canton (2-6).

"That was big for our team," he said. "We feel very good about it."

Gaines, a 6-6 center bound for the University of Vermont, poured in 25 for the Falcons (5-2). Coach Denny Mikel was proud of the senior's effort but disappointed with the loss.

"I thought we could come in here and win," he said. "I thought this was the year we'd do it."

Farmington missed its chance early in the third quarter.

The Falcons trailed 29-25 at halftime. But a 10-0 run, which included four Matt Orr points, put Farmington up 35-29 at the 4:30 mark of the third quarter.

BASKETBALL

Canton refused to fold, however.

A basket by Nathan Rau cut the visitors' lead to four points. Cortellini then nailed one of his four three-pointers to make it a 35-34 game with 2:08 remaining in the period.

The Chiefs took the lead back on another Cortellini hoop and pulled ahead 41-37 by the end of the quarter.

Poor ball handling hurt Farmington, according to Mikel.

"When we had the lead, we didn't protect the ball," he said. "We also didn't have good shot selection. Those things let them back in the game."

Young said it was a matter of his team not panicking after falling behind on Farmington's run.

"We just stayed calm," he added. "We knew we had prepared well and worked hard in practice. Things just went our way."

Canton stayed in front the rest of the game. But it

Please see CANTON HOOP, D3

WRESTLING

Salem topples league champion

For Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson, Thursday's dual meet between the two Western Lakes Activities Association wrestling powers was very likely the biggest of the season.

And Salem emerged with a 45-23 victory over the visiting, and defending league champion, Spartans.

"It's good that we have a team where we can have our lower weight kids get beat and our middle and upper weight kids can come through, or our upper weight kids get beat and our lower weight kids come through," Salem coach Ron Krueger said. "We've got a pretty balanced team."

This time, it was the higher weights that needed to come through if the Rocks were to get the victory. Three voids were costly for Stevenson, to be sure, especially after the Spartans had won the first three matches to build a 9-0 lead.

Please see WRESTLING, D3

Health News

Kim Mortson, 734-953-2111

on the web: <http://oconline.com>

MEDICAL BRIEFS

Volunteers needed

GranCare Hospice Services of Livonia invites caring people to join a very special team in providing hospice care to patients and their families in your area. Classes are held in convenient times and locations throughout the year. For more information, call Doreen Vivyan, manager of Volunteer Services, 1-800-932-5202.

Headache support

Henry Ford Medical Center - Fairlane will host a Jan. 28 headache support group meeting with Dr. Cara Rozell, D.O. and Lisa Norris R.N. addressing: "What's New in Migraine Treatment." The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the HF Medical Center (next to Fairlane Town Center Mall), 19401 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn. For more information, call Lisa Norris at (313) 876-3923.

Healthy hearts

Save the date for the American Heart Association's "Keeping Young Hearts Healthy," a special day for educators and parents to learn how to keep their children's hearts healthy. Featuring Bryan "Goose" Finnerty, the Detroit Rockers; Keith Levick, Center for Childhood Weight Management; and Dr. Michael Epstein, Children's Hospital. Topics of discussion will include eating disorders, MEAP and health equal higher scores and tobacco prevention. The event will be held at the University of Detroit-Mercy Ward Conference Center Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch provided free. Call (248) 557-9500, Ext. 539, for more information.

Annual health fair

You can have a free vision test, discover out how much of your body is made of fat and learn much more at Health Yourself 1998, the annual Schoolcraft College health fair, Wednesday, Jan. 21 in the Waterman Center. Exhibits include a health risk appraisal, information on chiropractic treatment, mini massages, free visual tests and free body fat screenings. Visitors can also receive a HealthThera-ma screening including blood pressure, height and weight. For fees ranging from \$15 to \$25, a blood screening profile, prostate and ovarian cancer screening and peptic ulcer disease screening will be available. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, just east of I-275.

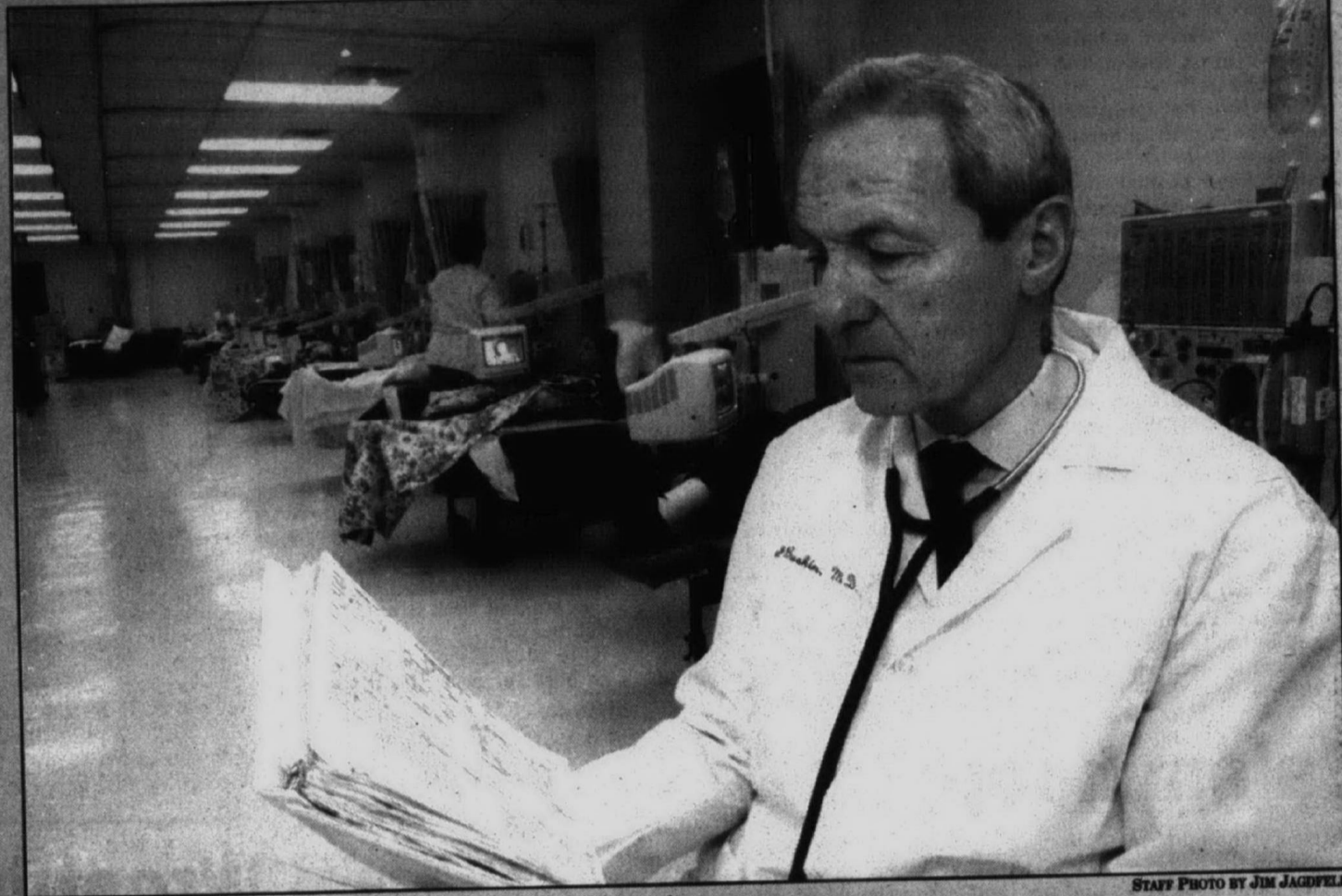
Free exercise class

Learn the benefits and components of a safe exercise program. Providence Hospital and Medical Centers is offering a free exercise session from 6-7:30 p.m. on Jan. 26 at Mission Health Medical Center, at 37595 Seven Mile Road, at Newburgh in Livonia. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes. To register, call 1-800-968-5595.

Red Cross blood drive

Schoolcraft College is sponsoring an American Red Cross Bloodmobile visit on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Waterman Campus Center. Donors will receive a free bowl of soup, courtesy of Schoolcraft's College Food Service. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5050. Walk-in donors are welcome. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, just east of I-275.

Progressive program: Dr. Sidney Baskin reads over patient information in the dialysis room of the Botsford Kidney Center in Livonia. The photograph shows only a fourth of the dialysis stations utilized by patients three times a week for several hours at a time. Baskin is hoping his Pre-ESRD program delays the need for chronic dialysis by up to 15 years for some eligible patients.



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBFIELD

PREVENTION

NEW PROGRAM HOPES TO DELAY DIALYSIS DEPENDENCE

By KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER

Patrick, a 45-year-old Redford father of two (who asked that his last name be withheld) has chronic, irreversible kidney failure. Three days a week for nearly three hours he undergoes kidney dialysis - the mechanical separation of impurities from blood - a bodily function his kidneys can no longer perform.

"I regret not having taken better care of myself," said Patrick. "Dialysis keeps me going and I do it because I want to see my kids grow up but I wish I had kept my blood pressure under control and taken my medication more seriously. I'm paying for it now."

Diagnosed in his late 20s with hypertension, the Redford father says he irregularly took his prescriptions, didn't maintain a diet low in sodium and rarely did much of any physical activity.

"I would watch my boys play football, hockey and basketball but I never got off my duff and ran around with them. An increase in my weight didn't help my high blood pressure any," said Patrick.

As a result of years of neglect, Patrick was briefly hospitalized for abnormally high blood pressure which led to a diagnosis of End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) - described as "chronic, progressive and irreversible kidney failure characterized by the loss of at least 90 percent of kidney function."

A new program at the Botsford Kidney Center of Livonia aims to reduce the number of people requiring chronic dialysis with early screening, aggressive treatment and long-term follow up for patients who are candidates for ESRD as a result of diabetes or hypertension.

Under the direction of Sidney

Baskin, M.D., medical director of the Botsford Kidney Center, a new program was initiated six months ago in hopes of preventing or delaying progression of chronic kidney failure and the future need for chronic dialysis therapy.

"We want to have the opportunity to intervene early in the treatment of patients at high risk for chronic kidney failure. Recent medical research has shown that this approach may prevent or delay the progression to End-Stage Renal Disease by as much as 10-15 years," said Baskin.

Baskin, who began his medical career in nephrology and hypertension completed a fellowship at the University of Michigan Hospital - Ann Arbor in 1961 and began a private practice the following year in the same field.

Today, after more than 40 years of patient care and research in nephrology, the branch of medicine dealing with the kidney, Baskin says he aspires to diminish the number of ESRD patients with an intensive program that focuses on early detection, diet, education, counseling and social service intervention.

"Some physicians fall into a pattern of seeing patients, biding their time with treatments and going along their merry way," said Baskin. "With the longevity I've had in this profession I began to see more and more patients with the same symptoms who were facing a future of chronic dialysis and almost all of them had high blood pressure or diabetes."

Baskin said he began to "feel it was a failure in the system" and could "not all be the patients' fault."

Two clinical cases from his private practice weren't the catalyst, for the Pre-ESRD program, but a good illustration of the "frustration of failure and the potential for success" that serve as valid argument for Baskin's

opinion that "chronic dialysis can be delayed by up to 15 years with aggressive treatment and early detection."

In a brief summary, *Patient A* was first evaluated in 1965 with high blood pressure and normal renal functions. He was treated with anti-hypertensive therapy and in six months reported good blood pressure control. Over the next 30 years he was lost for long periods of time without medical supervision and failed to maintain a constant compliance of the necessary medications.

As a result, the patient currently receives chronic hemodialysis three times a week with borderline blood pressure control and faces potential long-term complications.

In comparison, *Patient B* was diagnosed in 1979 with hypertensive crisis, a blood pressure reading of 300/150 and Acute Renal Failure. The 42-year-old male was treated with acute hemodialysis for four weeks which returned kidney functions and he was weaned to oral medications.

Baskin, said it's of "great importance" to note that the man (*Patient B*) never misses an appointment and is "rigidly compliant regarding his anti-hypertensive medication."

Thanks to his compliance, today, the 60-year-old male continues oral medications and free of hemodialysis treatment unlike *Patient A*.

The Livonia physician says the two cases don't constitute a valid study but bring attention to the future benefits of obedience to medication, regular treatment, dietary instruction and long-term follow up care.

"Dialysis is old hat," said Baskin, "but I view this program as the next step in the progressive change of dialysis treatment."

Of the approximately 30 Pre-ESRD patients that Baskin sees at the Botsford Kidney Center, a high percent-

age have show kidney function stabilization since mid-summer when the program was first launched.

Program members are required to actively participate in a partnership with their primary care physician and a team of individuals that include a dietitian, renal social worker, nephrologist and renal staff nurse. Baskin said patients referred for this program through their primary care physicians, receive "state-of-the-art nephrology medical care, appropriate dietary instruction, social service intervention, educational materials, support program access and peer counseling."

Pre-ESRD programming also includes early screening opportunities, medical treatment and long-term follow up for patients with high blood pressure.

"Maybe if I had better taken care of myself and took my pills regularly I could have avoided being on dialysis for the rest of my life like I am now," said Patrick.

The intent of the Pre-ESRD program is to reach patients before they reach the point that they need hemodialysis.

Another benefit to reducing the number of persons on dialysis is the staggering costs associated with long-term renal care. Baskin estimates more than 250,000 people are currently on chronic dialysis in the U.S. at a cost greater than \$10 billion per year to the Medicare system which began reimbursing treatment for all ESRD patients in 1973.

"The economic significance of preventing or delaying the need for chronic dialysis is self-evident. However, the implications relative to the physical and emotional human toll are staggering," Baskin said.

The Botsford Kidney Center is located at 28425 W. Eight Mile Road in Livonia. For more information, call (248) 442-7901.

When hearing aids aren't enough

An increasing number of adults in the U.S. suffer from severe-to-profound hearing loss and obtain limited or no benefit from even the most powerful and sophisticated hearing aids. Cochlear implants are a proven medical option that may help these individuals better communicate and interact with others.

The public can learn about cochlear implants at a free seminar presented by Personalized Hearing Care and the Garden City Hospital Audiology Department at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at MedMax in Westland.

"Cochlear Implants: When Hearing Aids Aren't Enough" features audiologist Paulette Daniels, M.A., CCC-A, of the Michigan Ear Institute. Daniels will explain how cochlear implants work, their benefits, what implant wearers can expect and who is a potential candidate for implantation.

Cochlear implants bypass damaged parts of the inner ear and electronically stimulate the hearing nerve to provide information about pitch, which is essential for understanding speech.

They have become increasingly sophisticated since first being introduced in France in 1967.

Today's cochlear implant system consists of internal components (a receiver and an electrode array) that are surgically implanted, and external components (microphone, speech processor and transmitting coil) that are worn by the individual.

Over the past 20 years, more than 17,000 adults and children around the world have received cochlear implants. While the procedure does not restore normal hearing, for some individuals it can provide the ability to hear medium to soft sounds and understand speech. An estimated 800,000 adults in the U.S. could benefit from today's cochlear implant technology.

This seminar is part of an ongoing series presented as a community service to promote better hearing care, familiarize the public with available hearing services, and provide information on common hearing concerns.

Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling MedMax at (734) 458-7100.

Give the gift of life

This holiday season many of you went out to the shopping malls and toy stores on a mission to find the perfect gift which made that special child in your life smile. But there are many children in Michigan whose perfect gift could not be found in a store. The only wish of 2,400 Michigan residents is to receive a life saving organ transplant.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of organs for those in need. You can help relieve this problem by becoming an organ donor. Just call 800-452-1455 to receive your free organ donor card. You also need to discuss your wishes to become an organ donor with your family. So this year, give a gift that is in the true spirit of the season - make the pledge to give the gift of hope.

According to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan more than 50,000 Americans are waiting for life-saving organ transplants, and nine to ten people each day die while waiting for a donor organ. If more organs were available, people in need would spend less time on the waiting list and more lives would be saved each day.

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is committed to ensuring that every American who needs a transplant receives one.

Items for Medical Briefs are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer-area medical community. Items should be typed or legibly written and sent to:

Medical Briefs
c/o The Observer Newspapers
38221 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Or faxed to (248) 965-7375
on the web: <http://www.oconline.com>
on the web: <http://www.oconline.com>



Cust

PC TALK



MIKE WENDLAND

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Customized startup pages

PC TALK



MIKE WENDLAND

The biggest problem with the Internet is its size. It is too big and the information it offers is overwhelming. What's needed is a Gatekeeper. What we have are personal agents - geek speak for Internet applications that allow us to customize the news and information we receive on our Web startup pages. There are dozens available, with more being released every day.

Two of the easiest to use come with Netscape Communicator and Internet Explorer. By default, when you open up each browser, it goes to the home page of either Netscape Communications or Microsoft.

Don't settle for blah

The solution is another start page. You do not have to settle for what they provide. You can choose to begin your Web sessions with any site you want.

Here's how to change the startup page, assuming you're working with the latest version (4.0) of either respective product. Older versions work pretty much the same, though, so if you're still using version 3.0, you should be able to figure out my instructions.

In Communicator, go to Options, then General Preferences. Click on the Navigation tab. See where it says Startup? In that box is a place for a URL, or Internet address. Just type in the URL of whatever page you want to begin with, click OK and, next time you start Communicator, it will open with your new selection.

It's the same thing with Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Go to View, then Options and then click the Navigation tab. Type in the URL under the space for the

Start Page, click OK and you've got your own favorite start page, instead of Bill Gates' favorite.

But maybe you don't have a page you like that much but you would like something a bit more useful than the standard offerings served up by Communicator and Explorer. That's where these Personal Agents come into the picture.

Personal Agents allow you to customize your own start page with specific, personally-selected material. Once again, Communicator and Explorer are head-to-head in competing for you to choose their Personal Agent.

In Netscape, go to the home page (www.netscape.com) and look for a hyperlink to something called Powerstart. Click on it and you'll be led to a template. You fill in the things you want to see on your own start page. You can have a localized weather report, movie listings and start times for the theaters in your neighborhood, a stock ticker that scrolls across your screen listing only the companies you're interested in, and headline news and sports.

Be creative

You can even have your own to-do list pop up, as well as current information about your favorite stocks. Microsoft Explorer will let you do the same thing from the Microsoft network home page (www.msn.com). Explorer uses your zip code to call up the movie schedule for what's playing in your neighborhood theater. It also has local TV listings and, my favorite, a direct link to the daily Dilbert comic strip.

You don't have to stick with just the so-called "Browser Big Two."

Just about every major presence on the Net these days is offering users the opportunity to customize their Web startup pages. CNN (www.cnn.com), MSNBC (www.msnbc.com), Pointcast (www.pointcast.com)

and Lycos (www.lycos.com) are among the most popular.

Make pages personal

My current favorite is from Excite, which is known for its very fast and reliable search engine. But it also has a custom start page, called Excite Live! (live.excite.com), and I think it is the slickest on the Net. It opens with a very easy to follow look at the top news headlines of the hour. The headlines are all hyperlinked. Click on the one, and you get the full story.

Excite Live! really shines when it comes to displaying business news and information, especially stock prices. Most of the other custom start pages limit you to only a few stocks and funds to monitor. Excite lets you fill in a virtual portfolio. It couldn't be simpler.

It all works with fill-in-the-blank forms. On screen instructions with check-boxes to click off permit you to display everything from high and low tides to the market's trading volume for the day. Excite Live! has numerous stocks or funds or indexes. You can choose to display just their current or closing prices, or you can enter in the number of shares you hold in each issue and when the program updates, it automatically totals and displays your portfolio value.

Because this is obviously highly personal information, I would not suggest entering in your shares and asking Excite Live! to display your portfolio value on the computer you access from work.

So... don't settle for a blah start-up screen. Personalize your pages.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV Newschannel stations across the country and can be seen locally on WDIV-TV4, Detroit. You can reach him through his Web site at <http://www.pcmike.com>

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Business-related calendar items are welcome from the Observer area and should be sent to Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is (313) 591-7279.

TUE, JAN. 20

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
The membership annual dinner meeting of the League of Women Voters will meet from 6-9 p.m. at Mountain Jack's Restaurant in Schoolcraft and Merriman. The program will be to discuss and make recommendations to the national level in regards to current positions on national public policy issues. Call Paula Bowman, (734) 455-4726, for information.

ASQ MEMBERSHIP MEETING
The Greater Detroit Section of the American Society for Quality will meet at the Sterling Inn (Van Dyke & 15 Mile in Sterling Heights) where Dr. Jeff Lowenthal will speak on "How to Become a Successful Entrepreneur." Fax your confirmation for the event to Greg Smith, (248) 352-2142. The program begins at 5:45 p.m. with registration and includes dinner and the main speaker who will lecture at 7:15 p.m.

NATIONAL ASSOC. CAREER WOMEN
The National Association of Career Women West Suburban Chapter continues to build a

strong networking environment by scheduling the 1998 season with both creative and dynamic programming. All meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Ernesto's Restaurant, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For further information call Judie at 453-7272, Ext. 223. Programs include Jan. 20: Making the Tax Law Changes Work for You - (Jim Palazzolo, CPA).

WED, JAN. 21

WIN-HELP/HTML HELP
The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is a professional organization whose membership comes from all over Southeastern Michigan. It would like to invite any interested parties to attend the 6:30 program featuring Laurie Kantner of TecEd who will speak on "Comparing Usability in WinHelp and HTML Help." The program will be at the Holiday Inn Livonia West, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive in Livonia. Contact Ellen Burgett, (313) 913-3074 or e-mail ellen_burgett@medstat.com

BUSINESS NETWORK INT'L
Business Network International will host a regular meeting of the Laurel Park Chapter from 7:30 a.m. at Richards Restaurant, Plymouth Road & Newburgh. For more information, call BNI regional offices at (734) 397-9939.

THUR, JAN. 22

SUBURBAN REPUBLICAN WOMEN
The monthly meeting of the Suburban Republican Women's Club will be held at Bobby's Country House, 35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia at 11 a.m. The speaker will be city assessor, Judy Nagy. The charge of \$11 includes lunch. For reservations please call (248) 471-5659 by Monday, Jan. 19.

FITTING IN FITNESS

The University of Michigan Alumni Association will host a workshop entitled "Fitting in Fitness For Busy Women." This workshop is designed to show participants how fitness and feeling good can fit into the rest of their lives. This workshop takes place from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Public Safety and Security Building Room 2043, 1239 Kipke in Ann Arbor (across from Crisler Arena). To register, contact Chanel DeGuzman at 800-847-4764

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Rick Bloom, attorney and CPA, will address investment strategies at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road in Livonia. There is no registration fee and the public is welcome. The program will be hosted in the Livonia Library auditorium. For more information call (734) 466-2469.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Items for Medical Datebook are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer area medical community.

MON, JAN. 19

MEDICAL THERMOLOGY
Among non-invasive techniques, thermology, has been demonstrated to be the most reliable having little or no risk of complications. Attend SANT's Jan. 19 lecture when Dr. Philip Hoekstra will speak on medical thermology. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Sinnett Holistic Health Center in Livonia, located at 29200 Vassar in the Livonia Pavilion, Suite 140, across the street (Middlebelt) from Sears at Livonia Mall. Admission is \$5. For more information call, (313) 274-4971 or (313) 837-2647.

WOMEN'S RECOVERY GROUP
St. Mary Hospital in Livonia is establishing a Women's Recovery Group for recovering alcoholics. The group will be limited to seven women and will meet in the Center for Counseling Services on Mondays, beginning Jan. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Participants are required to have experienced at least one year of sobriety. Most insurances accepted. For more information, call the Center for Counseling Services at (734) 655-2441 or 800-494-1654.

TUE, JAN. 20

LA LECHE LEAGUE
La Leche League of Livonia meets at 7 p.m. to provide breastfeeding support and information. Babies and children are always welcome. Please call for location/and or additional information. Theresa (734) 261-6814, Vicki (313) 937-3011 or Michele (734) 591-7071.

EATING DISORDER THERAPY
St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will offer a 12-week intensive therapy group for people with eating disorders. The sessions will meet from 7:30-9 p.m. each Tuesday in the Center for Counseling Services. The group is limited to six adults. Most insurances accepted. For more information, call (734) 655-2441 or 800-494-1654.

LYME DISEASE SUPPORT
Lyme Disease Support Group of Western Wayne County will

meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, 3 Towne Square, Wayne. Everyone is welcome. For information, call (734) 326-3502.

FREE SPINAL SCREENINGS

A complimentary spinal analysis will be given using the Paraspinal EMG. It will provide a vivid illustration of one's back, showing problem areas and any nerve interference in the spine from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 35600 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 458-7100 to register.

SMART FOOD SHOPPING

Participants visit a supermarket to learn about food label reading, nutrition, food safety and the challenge of cooking for 1-2 people at the Kroger Westland from 10-11:30 a.m. Cost is free. Contact 800-543-WELL.

STROKE/ANEURYSM SUPPORT

For those who have had or have a cerebral aneurysm or stroke. Family members/friends welcome. Group will meet at Garden City Hospital for a presentation and to promote a sharing interaction free of charge. Call 458-4396. For more information call (734) 458-4396.

BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

Marketplace features a glimpse of suburban business news and notes. Marketplace items should be submitted to Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. The fax number is (313) 591-7279.

Cleaning company doubles revenue

Tina Ruark, owner of the Livonia-based New Horizon Cleaning Company, recently announced the commercial cleaning company more than doubled their revenues from 1996 to 1997 by more than 2.5 percent over the previous year.

"I attribute our success to the way we do our work, the quality of the work and the referrals we receive from other clients," said Ruark, a Livonia resident.

Launched in the fall of 1995, New Horizon

Cleaning was established with a client base of approximately 15 commercial accounts (construction, office, remodeling jobs) managed by 10 employees.

Today, the company employs 20 staffers and two field supervisors who monitor more than 35 accounts on a daily basis to guarantee quality.

"I'm already projecting we're going to double last years income this year and we're well on our way," said Ruark.

For more information regarding New Horizon Cleaning Company, call (734) 421-3361.



Ruark

are you **On-Line** yet?

<http://oeonline.com>

Maybe you're using your computer to write the great American novel, or play cool games, or keep track of your inventory, or tackle some spread sheets.
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