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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 14

IN THE PAPER **TODAY**

INSIDE

Dream house: A Davisburg man made his great-granddaughter's Christmas wishes come true by building her a three-story Victorian-style dollhouse with lights that work and windows that open and close. / A3

SPORTS

Hitting the hills: The Clarkston Wolves, one of the state's more successful ski teams, hits the slopes to try to live up to expectations as the 1999 ski season approaches. / C1

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**Middleton honored**

As Tom Middleton's time as a representative in the state House draws to a close, members adopted a resolution paying tribute to his service.

House Resolution No. 439 served as a formal "thank you" to Middleton for his legislative contributions. Elected in 1990, he has worked on the House Education, Forestry and Mineral Rights, Tax Policy, and Transportation committees. He is the former chairman of the Agriculture Committee. The resolution also noted his work in owning and operating his own farm.

In part, the resolution reads:

"Resolved by the House of Representatives, that we offer this expression of our gratitude to the Honorable Tom Middleton, as he completes his service to this legislative body after eight years of dedication; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Representative Middleton as evidence of our admiration and best wishes."

Job well done, Rep. Middleton.

No smoking on Deer Lake
Driving by Deer Lake Wednesday morning, motorists noticed massive amounts of smoke, or fog, appearing to rise above the water in Loch Ness fashion.

Was it caused by the extremely cold winter weather? Was an unusual sea creature taken over?

Or was the water simply warmer than the air above?

Just wondering.

Together again: Mary Alice Cook's annual mother-daughter tea gives old friends — in addition to mothers and daughters — a chance to spend time together over the holidays.

Tea time**Mothers and daughters ring in holiday at annual event**

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

They hugged and kissed. They mingled and chatted.

They nibbled and sipped — as ladies are prone to do.

And even the teenage girls who attended Mary Alice Cook's annual mother-daughter holiday tea in Clarkston on Wednesday enjoyed the fuss and the fiddle.

"I was, honestly, forced to come," said 14-year-old Laura Barnett, a student at Clarkston High School who attended this year's tea for the first time.

"But it's just like a normal party — mingling and eating, you know," Barnett said. "It's kinda nice — to see all the mothers and daughters together for Christmas. It's a holi-

day thing."

But perhaps the best reason behind Barnett's attendance was her willingness to abide a tradition of importance to her mother.

"She likes it, so I come for her," explained Barnett, as she and a friend, 18-year-old Jenna Lynn, huddled around a wood-burning stove in Cook's kitchen.

Lynn, who lives in Clarkston and has attended the tea since she was about 11, admitted that she, too, had to be dragged to the event initially.

"I like seeing people I haven't seen for a while," said Lynn, who attends Marian High School. "Besides, I'm so busy. It's nice to spend a day with my Mom."

With the exception of shopping and eating lunch,

Good eats: Roxanne Haight samples a few tea treats.

Local family anticipates holiday homecoming

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

For the Trowbridge family, the holiday will mark an unexpected, much-anticipated homecoming.

Their 23-year-old son, Scot, will return after six months overseas as a corporal with the U.S. Marines — where he was not too far from the recent bombings in Iraq.

Shelia and Art Trowbridge, of Independence Township, had put their holiday plans on hold, waiting to find out if their son would be allowed to come home for Christmas. After a telephone call on Tuesday assuring them of his

approved leave of absence, they made arrangements to meet Scot at the airport Thursday morning.

"We're just anxious to see him and give him a big hug," said Art Trowbridge.

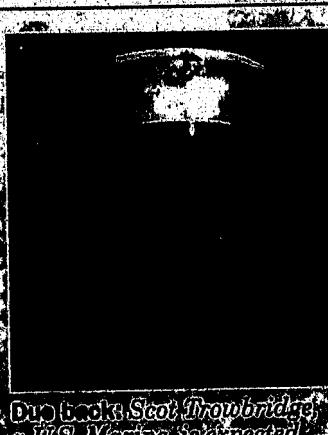
Holiday plans involve visiting grandparents in Adrian, spending time with childhood friends, and spending time with his girlfriend. He will be home until Sunday. His parents said Scot is excited to see his friends and family.

Since his return to the United States on Dec. 8, Scot Trowbridge has remained on a carrier ship in Jacksonville, N.C. In a way, he's still "on call."

"I watched the bombings on T.V.," said Art Trowbridge. "Having a son in the military, there's a kinship with the families (who also have children in the military). It was a twist of fate that he got called back just before (the bombing) started."

Working as an electronics technician, Trowbridge has been in the Marines for the past four years, and has taken classes to continue his education. His father said that after high school, Scot sought the discipline that joining the military would provide.

"I thought it was a very wise choice



Our boy: Scot Trowbridge, a U.S. Marine, is expected home soon.

Please see HOMECOMING, A2

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Sunday
December 27, 1998

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Developer: Sports center project still alive

The movers and shakers behind a sports complex intended for Independence Township dismiss rumors that their project is being "gobbled up" by a controversial warehouse proposed for a nearby location.

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

Plans to build a multiple-use sports complex in Independence Township continue on track, despite rumors that a proposed auto parts warehouse is jeopardizing the project.

"We're still moving forward," said Jack Leech of Global Sports Management.

Global Sports Management Group, the company that has proposed building the roughly 200,000-square-foot sports center on the east side of Sashabaw Road north of Bow Pointe Drive.

The sports and recreation center, which has received conceptual site plan approval from the township's planning commission, would abut a proposed 450,000-square-foot warehouse that has generated significant opposition

from residents.

Leech himself heard rumors that the warehouse project, proposed by Ryder Dedicated Logistics, had "gobbled up" the property for which the sports center, known as the Independence SuperSportsplex, is proposed.

Although both building projects are being managed by the same company, Farmington Hills-based Cunningham-Limp Co., that rumor is "absolutely false," Leech said.

In fact, "we had known that Ryder had a facility planned when we bought the property," Leech said.

While Global Sports Management owns a portion of the sportsplex pro-

ject's 19-acre site, Cunningham-Limp owns 11.44 acres, which might help explain the rumors, Leech said. Global Sports has a purchase agreement for the property, which they do not currently own, Leech added.

Global Sports has also received planning commission approval for a rezoning of the property from industrial office park to planned unit development.

As planned, the sports center would include two ice rinks, an in-line skating rink, basketball courts, locker rooms, a pro shop, a health club and restaurant. Project officials have also applied for a

Please see COMPLEX, A2

ACHIEVERS

Daryl Bourne and Paul Talbot, both of Clarkson, have been accepted into the Honors Program at Albion College.

Talbot is a freshman. He is the son of Gary A. and Theresa J. Bourne of Clarkson and a graduate of Lake Orion High School.

Talbot is a freshman and a new member of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service. He is the son of Stephen P. and Elizabeth G. Talbot of Clarkson and a graduate of Clarkson High School.

The Honor Program at Albion College is designed for students interested in challenges and opportunities that go beyond the traditional lecture and laboratory courses. Honors students are required to enroll in four seminars: Great Issues in Humanities, Science, Social Science and Fine Arts.

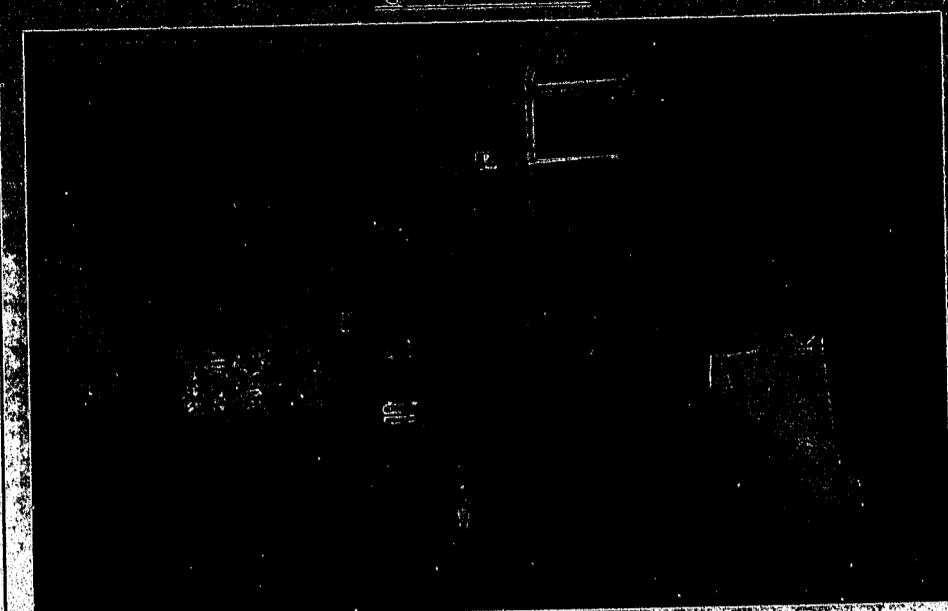
In addition to the seminars, Honor students must graduate with a 3.50 cumulative grade

point average and produce an Honors thesis. The Honors thesis itself presents a unique opportunity for the Honors students to develop their capacity for research of an independent and original nature.

The Ford Institute is designed to give exceptional students a chance to broaden their education through concentrated study in areas of government and public service, regardless of their major.

Students participate in a city government simulation and complete course work concerning political science, history and ethics. Their education is continued through speakers brought to campus and a public relations internship in an area of their interest. The program encourages students to seek leadership roles on campus.

Albion College is a private liberal arts college in the south central Michigan town of the same name.

Quite a haul

Toys for Tots Employees of Coldwell Banker Professional in Clarkson collected a lobby full of toys this Christmas for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Coldwell worked with several area businesses and school partners in collecting the toys, which were picked up for distribution by representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Pontiac Urban League. Participants included (left to right): Gwen Gilbert, Coldwell; Gloria Carlisle, Pontiac Urban League, and Robin Hoffman and Sharyn Hill, Coldwell. This is the second year Coldwell participated in the program.

Tea *from page A1*

what other activity bring together mother and daughter?

In its 13th year, the event is also an opportunity to catch up on the activities and changes in the lives of their friends' daughters — a fact to which both Lynn and Barnett will attest.

"It's kind of like they show us off a little bit," said Barnett, adding, "And, that she actually wants me to be here — it's kind of her way of saying she wants me to be with her."

Adjacent to the Cook kitchen is the dining room where the charter surrounding a table of light snacks is prolific. Along with freshly-roasted ham and turkey, there are miniature muffins, fresh fruit and three or four tortes, as well as coffee and tea.

At least five conversations are in the process. Some between daughters and mothers; friends.

"How's school?" inquires one mother's friend.

"Good. Ah, it's good," replies the friend's daughter.

"Are you enjoying Arizona?"

"It's nice."

The conversation continues, touching upon such matters as boyfriends, career goals, Christmas shopping and gift wish lists.

Some conversations, like Lynn and Barnett's, are pure mother-bragging sessions.

Talking about their daughters

"that's usually what we do," said Charlotte Cooper, another longtime attendee of the informal tea.

"Especially when daughters are all going in different directions," she said, adding, "Kids get married. Kids get new jobs. Kids move."

And, since most of the mothers at the tea have grown daughters, they see one another less frequently than when they attended school events, Cooper said.

"It's fun — what can I say," said Betty Haran, who has brought her daughter Susan Haran, now 23, to the tea for several years.

A lot of the moms were

involved in school and community events," explained Betty. "We've kind of laid that particular burden down." Therefore, the tea has become an opportunity to get reacquainted and socialize, she said.

"I see people that I never see," commented Cooper, in agreement.

Interestingly, the Cook tea grew out of a now-defunct painting program in which several of the mother-attendees once participated.

Hoping to preserve the painting group's camaraderie, Cook decided to throw an annual tea party at Christmas time.

"But perhaps most interesting of all is the fact that Cook has two sons — Matt was hard at work boiling water and refilling tea pots all morning — but no daughters."

"My boys think I'm silly. I never had a daughter so it's kind of my wish to see how girls are," said Cook. "They are always my surrogate kids — the women."

Complex *from page A1*

liquor license for use in the center restaurant.

The proposed warehouse — which residents oppose out of concerns over environmental, traffic and local property value issues — would be located east and south of the sportsplex.

At present, Leech is ready to submit the final site plan for the sportsplex and is just waiting up to the project's investment details, Leech said.

"It's critically important to put together the right group of investors," he said, explaining that such difficulties are the cause of the project's current delay.

In regard to the warehouse proposal, Leech said that traffic congestion was the only matter that gave him cause for concern.

"But we don't perceive it as a conflict," he said.

Traffic to and from the recreation center will likely occur at times when warehouse traffic is light, Leech said. Also, the sportsplex has two entrance ways, he noted.

"We had hoped to be open in the spring of '99," Leech remarked.

The sports center's new target opening date is the fall of 1999. At the project's conception, the sports center was expected to open in the fall of 1998.

Homecoming *from page A1*

broadened his horizons, his parents said. But during the last 45 days, Art Trowbridge said, Scot remained on the carrier ship and took classes in chemistry and humanities.

"I don't think at this point, it's a career," said Art of his son's future in the Marines. Of course, he could tell us something different.

While he's been away, Scot's kept in touch with his family. He sent his 12-year-old sister Brooke postcards and letters telling her that he was thinking of her.

As for the situation in Iraq, Art Trowbridge holds his own strong opinions. He said that the United States is engaged in a "political chess game."

"They're using the lives of our young people, as well as the lives of the people over there, as pawns," said Art Trowbridge, emphasizing that these are his own sentiments, unrelated to his son's view of the current international situation. "Americans better wake up."

He said that he believes Amer-

icans are in a vulnerable position at this time. Art Trowbridge also said he would like to see the U.S. government act "morally correct," rather than "politically correct" at this time.

"What did we really accomplish?" asked Sheila Trowbridge, father of U.S. Marine Scot Trowbridge.

Sheila Trowbridge said he would like to see the U.S. government act "morally correct," rather than "politically correct" at this time.

For now, their son Scot is safe and in the United States. As they prepare for their son's homecoming, Sheila Trowbridge said, they have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season.

"We'll just be glad to have him home," she said.

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Labor of love fashions dollhouse masterpiece



Barbie palace: Bruce Morrison estimates that it took him about 6,000 hours to build this large-scale dollhouse for his 4-year-old great granddaughter.

BY BARB PERT TEMPLETON
STAFF WRITER

It's a big beautiful home fit for a queen. Yet this three-story Victorian dollhouse won't house royalty. Instead, it will be home to Sarah's best-loved dolls.

When Bruce Morrison of Davisburg first agreed to build a huge dollhouse for his great granddaughter, Sarah Yow, 4, he didn't realize how big a task it would be.

"It's taken me a year and about three or four months now and probably more than 6,000 hours," Morrison said. "It's going to be a surprise for Sarah this Christmas."

A longtime model building enthusiast, Morrison has constructed elaborate replicas of all kinds of planes, boats and cars, but the dollhouse project has proved a special labor of love.

"He works hard on anything he does," offered Morrison's wife, Betty Morrison. "He built a ship and the knots on it were so small you wouldn't believe it. It's amazing; he's really got a gift."

Gathering materials for the house from a specialty doll shop in Birmingham, the Doll Hospital in Royal Oak and several catalogs, Morrison had an idea about the layout but was flexible with the pattern he found.

The eight-room Victorian-style Dollhouse boasts a kitchen, living room, bathroom, bedroom, study and attic. After constructing the frame and individual rooms, Morrison painted the house and put in porch railings, windows and doors.

"The house has two flights of stairs and all the windows open

and close," Morrison said. "I put in electric lights and cedar shingles. There are 200 and each was put on individually. Doing this has not been the easiest thing to do, I found out."

Despite occasional setbacks and the tedious nature of some of the tasks, Morrison kept plugging along, keeping Sarah in mind.

"It's 4 feet tall and I think it's going to be a little more than she anticipated," Morrison said, smiling. "It's 2 feet deep, so she'll be looking up to see the top of it."

The size of the project kept things pretty cozy at the Morrisons' home along White Lake. The couple actually added an extra room onto the home to accommodate all of the building projects Morrison takes on in his spare time.

"This used to be our cottage and now we've put on a room for my husband's toys," said Betty, smiling.

As Morrison puts the final touches on the tower that sits atop the house roof, he's eager to see Sarah's reaction to the special gift.

"We decided we're going to have her mother furnish it," Morrison said. "It'll be a project that she and Sarah do together over the years so that will be nice."

"And Sarah's going to find the dollhouse under her tree at home on Christmas morning, but she's going to know that Papa Bruce built it for her," Betty added.

As the years pass, that fact will likely make the gift that much more special.

There's no better place to steal a kiss than the dimly-lit Japanese galleries at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The low lighting (to keep tapestries from fading) and sensual lotus blossom drawings create a visual garden in the exhibition space.

Marcereau suggests a stop nearby at The Whitney restaurant for dessert after gallery browsing.

CATCH THESE GREAT ACTS!

Steve King and the Dittilites
Midnight Celebration

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Concert Pianist

Nickelodeon
Game lab

Village Players Theater
Cinderella

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POLICE NEWS

The following incidents were reported to police and fire agencies in Independence Township Dec. 20-24.

Independence Police

Vandalism
On Dec. 22, a garage was

reported damaged on Mattawa Drive.

Police reports showed the door was knocked off its track.

Theft

On Dec. 22, approximately \$87 in cash was reported stolen from a gas station cash drawer on

Sashabaw Road.
Independence Fire

Between Dec. 20-24, firefighters responded to 13 calls.

Among the calls were one fuel spill, six personal-injury accidents, and three medical runs, reports indicate.

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Sunday, December 27, 1998

Plan a quiet fireside New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, I'd much rather stay at home with my husband and daughter, and possibly have a few friends over, than go to a hall party or out for a night on the town.

It's just easier and safer. We don't have to worry about getting a baby sitter or crossing a drunk driver's path, or being too tired to drive home.

SHOPPING CENTERED
DONNA MULCAHY

If you plan on having a quiet New Year's Eve at home, too, with your family or maybe a few friends, then here are some ideas to make the evening special.

You could order a pizza, but why not do something a little more extravagant, like order a takeout steak or lobster dinner?

The Outback Steakhouse, Steak & Ale, Red Lobster and the Olive Garden, for example, offer carry-out service at some of their locations (you phone in your order and pick up your food).

Call the location nearest you to make sure it offers takeout and to find out what hours the service will be available on New Year's Eve. Then stop by the restaurant a day or two in advance to pick up a takeout menu. Because restaurants get very busy on Dec. 31, you might want to place your order a little early.

For something extra special, you might want to consult a caterer. While it's not economically feasible for most caterers to cater intimate gatherings on New Year's Eve (when they're in demand for bigger parties and the availability of wait-staff is somewhat low), some caterers may be able to work something out with you.

Florence Halpern, owner of Amaryllis catering in Birmingham, said it would be difficult for her to offer full catering services (catering food, wait-staff) for a small gathering on New Year's Eve. However, she said she might be able to prepare a meal for such an event and, depending on the circumstances, deliver it or have the customer pick it up. Phone (248) 645-1770.

TOAST THE NEW YEAR

When midnight arrives, break out the bubbly or some non-alcoholic version.

Lou Haden, a buyer for Merchant of Vino Whole Foods Market in Rochester Hills, recommends the following champagnes: Veuve Clicquot, a non-vintage French champagne, \$30; Iron Horse, a California champagne, upper \$20s; California Shramberg champagne, upper \$20s; Chandon, a French champagne, \$19.99; and Dom Perignon, \$30 to \$100 a bottle.

"All of them have nice, small bubbles, which is desirable in champagne," Haden said. "The California champagnes are a little less yeasty and more fruity than the French champagnes he added."

For non-alcoholic bubbly, he recommends Sutter Home or California Firecracker, (\$9.99); Julian Very Sparkling Cider, (\$9.99); and Arielle sparkling cranberry juice, \$6.99 a bottle.

He also recommends the following appetizers and entrees, which are available at his store: Shady Dog California crab cakes, lobster cakes, shrimp cakes, corn chips and salmon cakes, \$4.99 a dozen (you bake them in the oven); a chimp bowl with chicken wings, meatballs, Goya, chocolates and a "chocofita" decadent chocolate cake.

A TUNE TO CELEBRATE

Every party needs music, right? How about the conga (from "I've got to go party like it's 1960") from the album "1000" by Prince (when he still wrote his own music)? "New York City" (from "The Way You Make Me Feel") from the album "Baby, I'm Yours" by Prince; "I Want You" from "The Best of Garth" by Garth Royal (check it out at the new Barnes & Noble's New York City, 16000 Long Beach Rd., Livonia); "I'm Gonna Be (I'm Gonna Be)" from "I'm Gonna Be" by Hall & Oates.

For a more traditional approach, how about "Auld Lang Syne" (from "1000") from the album "1000" by Hall & Oates; "I'm Gonna Be (I'm Gonna Be)" from "I'm Gonna Be" by Hall & Oates.

Back to basics: A venture into the age-old art of bread baking



BY LINDA BACHRACK

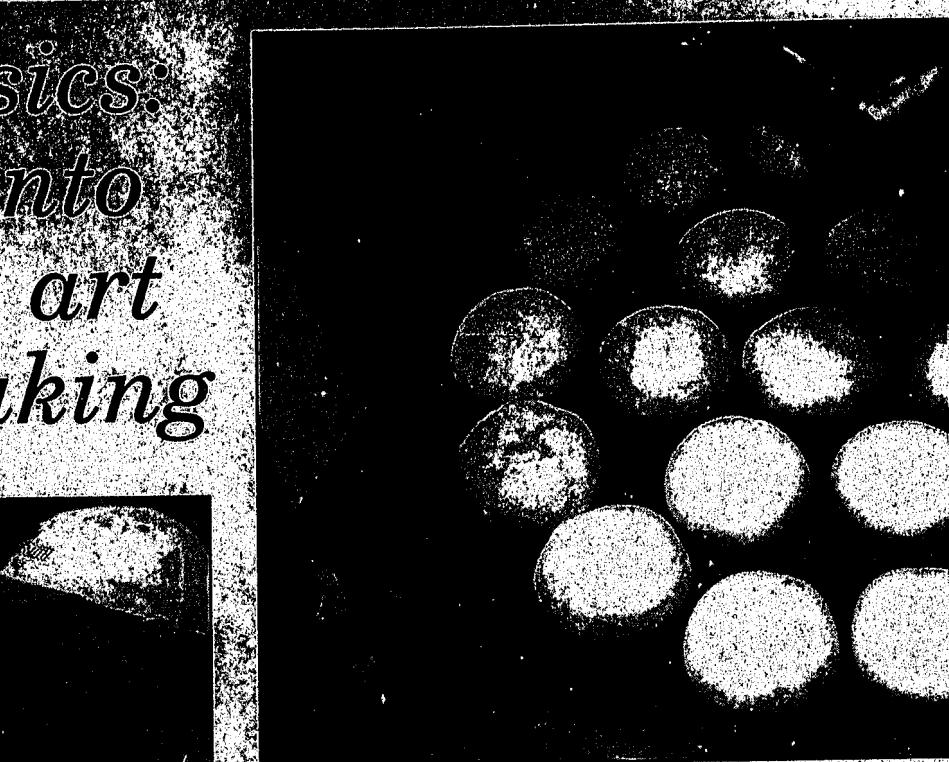
At 5 a.m. on a Wednesday morning, Natalie Merchant's smooth vocals pierced the pre-dawn silence. As I drove to my bread-baking shift at the neighborhood Breadsmith, I was somewhat surprised by the number of illuminated windows down my block. What possessed folks to start the day when the moon still shone in the sky? Early risers seemed the norm on my sleepy little suburban street.

My dad was a baker. Well, maybe his accountant's hands never kneaded dough or wielded a rolling pin, but he owned a string of Tasty Bakeries down South, and I grew up knowing the price of huge vats of butter and chocolate. I remember pressing my nose to the glass partition as Mabel deftly squeezed the cone-shaped wax paper through which she forced pink icing to make the perfect rosebuds that crowned birthday cakes.

In the summers, I donned a white apron and hairnet to sell fudge fancies, chocolate layer cakes, doughnuts and bear claws to the neighborhood clientele. But I never got the real flavor of the bakery because I never rose in the middle of the night to mix dough and watch Roy, the baker in the tall white hat, man the ovens. I was always there after the drama, sampling warm French bread and cinnamon rolls, oblivious to the wee-hour toil and sweat that put the bread on the table.

So when I met Jill Hockman who, with her husband Geoff, owns Breadsmith in Bloomfield Hills and Farmington Hills, I expressed an interest in experiencing the art of baking first-hand. Thus, the grand drive to work.

Naturally, I was dressed all wrong. Who walks into a room dominated by an eight-ton steam injection oven in jeans, a long-sleeve T-shirt and a fleece pullover? "But it's cold outside," I whined to the short- and short-sleeved crew who had already put in three hours of work on their way to baking 450 loaves of bread for the day. Geoff Hockman introduced me around, pointed to the hand-washing sink and positioned me at one end of the huge butcher-



Rollin' in the dough: Writer Linda Bachrack samples some fresh-baked bread with her mentor, Breadsmith owner Geoff Hockman. (Above) Bachrack operates Erika, the ingenious French roll press.

PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLINSKY

block worktable to cut and weigh mounds of French bread dough.

As quiet and peaceful as the outside world was, the atmosphere was electrifying inside the Breadsmith. Beneath glaring lights, the bakers shared stories while shaping and slinging dough, establishing a rhythm that kept the process moving like a well-oiled machine. Squirrel Nut Zippers blasted from the CD player, providing additional energy and stimulation. Soon we'd hear everything from

Nirvana and Metallica to Miles Davis.

The guys, Geoff, Rob, Dave, John and Steve, seemed to share a special bond that can only come from a fraternity of odd-hour workers. They've adapted well to the graveyard shift, complaining only of having to readjust on the weekends. They spoke of waking up the Mobil station attendant to buy mugs of coffee, ducking into the Embers deli next door at 8 a.m. for a corned beef sandwich (breakfast and lunch often get confused), and they spoke of daytime jobs. Yes, John and Steve both leave the bakery and go straight to a country club where they work until 4 p.m. Fourteen-hour work days and they were still smiling. "Our personal lives are limited to between 4 and 6 p.m.," sighed John.

The from-scratch baking practices at Breadsmith date back centuries. Settlers to the American colonies brought from Europe the wild yeast starters they used to leaven bread. These starters were carefully guarded by the settlers, and on cold nights many would sleep with the mixtures to prevent them from freezing. Breadsmith's sourdough starter was made in Milwaukee in 1993, using organic flour and no commercial yeasts.

As opposed to most bakeries, which are totally automated, Breadsmith gets back to the basics, using no additives or preservatives, and allowing long, slow rising times of up to 24 hours. Each loaf is hand-kneaded and shaped, then proofed for up to an hour. The stone hearth ovens replicate the brick and stone ovens used thousands of years ago, and most of the breads are baked directly on the hearth. While slow and labor intensive, these traditional

baking methods impart the human element crucial to restoring bread baking to an art form.

And an art form it is — quite a sensual one at that. Besides the all-pervasive aroma of fresh-baked bread and the magic of seeing your precisely shaped blobs of dough metamorphose into crispy, golden loaves, there's the tactile experience of molding and kneading. Fingertips on yielding dough is akin to palms on wet clay or cool sand. It's the sexy idea of creating something with your bare hands, from raw material to finished product.

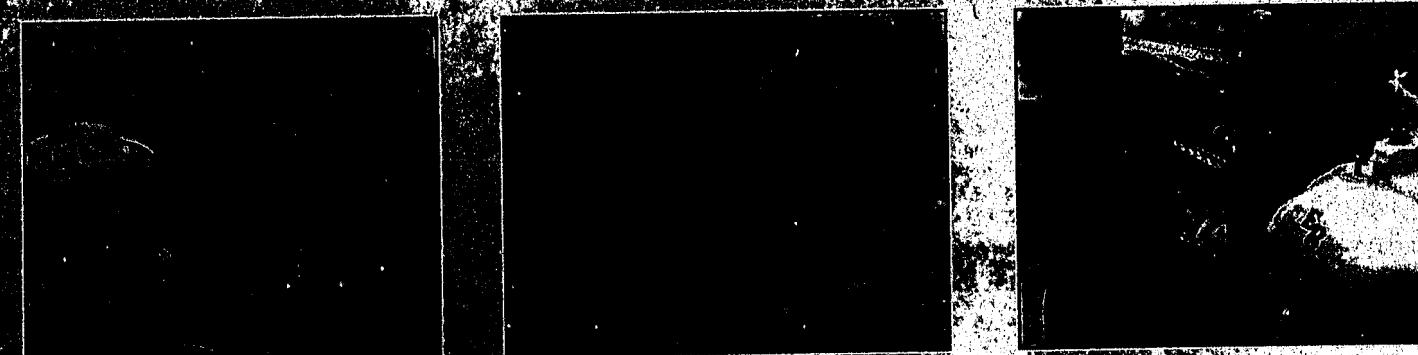
But I digress. Back to work — after cutting and weighing the dough, I made rolls. Or rather, Erika, the Queen of rolls, turned round dough pancakes into perfect little French rolls. All I had to do was lay the dough on top of a roll mold and Erika, a remarkable little mechanical wonder, did the rest. After I stripped to my white T-shirt and pushed up my sleeves, I was ready to tackle the ovens. With giant paddles, I unloaded loaves and carefully delivered them to wire racks. By the time I was through, the white tee was peppered with toasty brown crust dust.

When all the loaves, from ciabatta to French boule and sourdough cheddar, were safely tucked inside the ovens, we washed down the work surfaces and scraped away the glue-like flour mixture. Then we sliced and bagged breads for special orders and shipment to the Farmington Hills store. By 7 a.m., the first customer came through the door, just as the last loaves were cooling. Mary Oderman is a substitute teacher who stops by almost every morning. Soon the "breakfast club" wandered in on their way to their Wednesday morning get-together at the Embers restaurant next door.

"I stop and get French bread and English muffin bread every week before we meet," said Linzi Sackeyio. "The breads remind me of my native Scottish bread." Addie Ford and Donna Miller also are regulars at Breadsmith. They praised the lemon poppy seed and pumpkin quick breads, as well as the cookies. "And it's just such a pleasant neighborhood bakery," added Ford. "Such nice, personable people."

For me, it added a new dimension to my bakery heritage. Baking may have been in my blood; now it's in my heart. And I'll never take for granted the time-honored traditions of master bakers or the one-of-a-kind products they create from scratch — all before the sun comes up.

Breadsmith, 3593 West Maple, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 540-8001; and 32990 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 855-5808.



Time-honored tradition: (Left to right) Bachrak and Hockman weigh the dough, then knead and shape it into loaves. The roll machine prepares the dough for individual French rolls. (Inset) Jeremy Cohen supervises the removal of loaves from the ovens. Huge wooden paddles are used to move the bread.

Where can I find?

405-505

Salada Tea 100 count regular tea bags (not decaffeinated).

Delores wants Revlon Moon Drop lipstick in Million Dollar Red (same as in green shell).

Deb is looking for the Luster Rose china pattern by Ancrest (sold through grocery stores).

Anna is looking for the book Temptations by Otis Williams from 1989 (a large paperback).

Sonya is looking for a 100% men's wool Shaker sweater.

Jeff is looking for Sasaki dinner plates in Metropolis Grey dated 1986 by David Ehrenreich.

Dawn is looking for Almay Hypo-Allergenic water cold cream and a lilac/lavender toilet seat.

Mary wants a Rubix Cube (with four squares across the top), and a game from Avalon Hills about commercial airlines.

Michele wants a child's toy from six years ago called Picture Peg by Discovery Toys, produced by Ravensburger.

Jan is looking for someone who sells CALORAD and a children's book Fairy Doll by Rumer Godden.

Nancy is looking for the Snowman cookie jar holding a candle from Jacobson's this year.

Eileen is looking for a doll by Ideal from the '60s called "Kisssey."

Mary is looking for Days of the Week underwear for women.

Carol wants the card game O'No 99 by Uno and Santa Bears.

Margaret is looking for Hydro One eye cream and gel by Simplicitye from Hudson's.

Kim is looking for the card game Charge It, new/used.

Stu is looking for an AM/FM shower radio with a TV band.

Angie wants the Mr. Peanut ornament from Planters Peanuts.

Danielle is looking for Almay translucent luxury finish loose powder.

Colleen wants Kathy's Cheese cake, used to be able to mail order it. They were located on Eight Mile in Livonia and Six Mile in Detroit.

Judy of Canton wants a place that repairs snap-on strollers.

Dotte is looking for Jeri Redding non-aerosol Flash Freeze hair spray.

Lillian is looking for Counter Parts Slacks in petite.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas.

This feature is dedicated to helping readers locate sources for hard-to-find merchandise. If you've seen any of the items in your retail travels (or basement) please call Where Can I Find? (248) 901-2566. Slowly and clearly leave your name, number and message. You should see your input in a few weeks. If you have not seen a response or heard from us, we were unable to locate the item.

WHAT WE FOUND:

Found directions for the ice cream maker, a Power Ranger poster, Evening In Paris perfume and the Fisher Price Alligator Flash-light.

St. Ives mint/aloë facial toner and St. Ives collagen moisture hydra-gel has been discontinued, as per a St. Ives representative.

Zoya nail polish can be found at Troy Beauty Supply on Rochester Road. The color Coretta has been discontinued.

For Jerry, Parfumelle, in Fort Worth, Texas, carries Woodhue cologne, (817) 731-6633.

Lisa can find the man's black eel wallet through Handsome Rewards, (909) 943-2023, 19465 Brennan Avenue in Perris, Cal.

WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR:

Larry is looking for a metal lid for his fountain straw holder.

Sharon is looking for M.J. Carroll hose from Winkelman's and Chic black washable leather tennis shoes from Kmart.

Kristin is looking for one, five-piece place setting of Mikasa's Gotham Gold.

Mary wants the game Skittle, a wooden flying top.

Barbara wants a 3D puzzle of the Titanic.

Steve wants the video "A Year Without Santa."

Vivian wants a pattern for a full-size canopy bed.

Sue is looking for a 1984 Wilton sports car cake pan and a 1982 and 1984 Wilton cake decorating pattern book, and a 9-inch round zippered pouch with emergency jumper cables, used to find a Eddie Bauer in 1986.

Marcie is looking for "No more lumps" sifter for gravy, Meijer used to carry.

John wants small model race cars with gasoline motors from the

1950s.

Colleen wants Kathy's Cheese cake, used to be able to mail order it. They were located on Eight Mile in Livonia and Six Mile in Detroit.

Judy of Canton wants a place that repairs snap-on strollers.

Dotte is looking for Jeri Redding non-aerosol Flash Freeze hair spray.

Lillian is looking for Counter Parts Slacks in petite.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Neiman Marcus recently launched the Chantecaille cosmetics collection. Sylvie Chantecaille (the brains behind Prescriptives for 20 years), focuses on the unexpected: a cosmetics collection that understands your feelings are far more important than the colors on your face. She understands life goes beyond aesthetics and believes that before a woman can enhance herself with makeup, she has to have a true understanding of who she is. Sure she'd like you to try her technologically advanced, beautifully shaded products, but her goal is to share her experiences - as an industry expert, a baby boomer, a spiritually connected individual, a wife and a mother of three children.

The Chantecaille collection uses a technology that allows the products to mesh with the skin. The powder and pigments are coated with vegetable protein, so only real, natural substances touch the face.

"I want everything simple," says Chantecaille. "I want to put on my makeup in two seconds and head out the door." Prices range from \$20-\$47.



CELEBRATE!

The Grand Ballroom of the Kingsley Inn and Suites comes alive New Year's Eve with a gala dinner and dance cele-

RETAIL DETAILS

boration featuring exquisite cuisine from the Unique Restaurant Corporation and the big-brass sound of the Bugs Beddow Band. The bash kicks off at 8 p.m. The URC menu includes wild mushroom bisque, fire-roasted tenderloin and Salmon Wellington. Chocolate passion provides the perfect ending.

After a night of partying and a complimentary champagne toast, revelers can retreat to luxurious rooms at the Kingsley to enjoy a good night's sleep and reenergize with a continental breakfast served until noon.

The cost is \$289 per couple, including gala with drink tickets, hotel room, breakfast, tax and gratuity. A gala package without a guest room also can be purchased for \$199, including tax and gratuity.

Call for reservations, (248) 644-1400. The Kingsley Inn is located at 1475 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.

CHEZ CHANEL

Mark your calendar now for the American Lung Association of Michigan's Breakfast With Chanel at Saks Fifth Avenue. The presentation of the Chanel spring/summer 1999 ready-to-wear collection will be held Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. in the Designer Salon at the Somerset Collection store. RSVP by Friday, Jan. 15, (248) 359-5864. Patrons, \$35; benefactors, \$50; sponsors, \$75.

WAY COOL

The Board of Directors of the 17th annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular Inc. proudly announces the 1999 event dates: Wednesday, Jan. 13 through Monday, Jan. 18.

The Plymouth festival is the oldest and largest ice carving event in North America. Each year, more than 500,000 visitors travel to this quaint town to see hundreds of professional, amateur, college and high school students transform 400,000 pounds of block ice into dazzling works of art.

The competitions for the 1999 festival will be sanctioned by the prestigious American Culinary Federation. Over \$10,000 in prize monies and scholarships will be awarded.

Other activities of special interest include the Farmer Jack Fantasyland presented in conjunction with First of America Bank and Media One. This year's theme is "Insects Inside," and will feature displays of wild and crazy bugs. Also, see the Bud Light 24 Light Show, the Ford Ice Carving Competitions and the Community Federal Credit Union Student Carving Competitions.

The event is open 24 hours a day, and the sculptures are lighted at night. Event hotline number is (734) 459-0157.

V.I.P.

For Sherry Moore of Livonia, this holiday shopping season was less stressful even enjoyable, thanks to Wonderland Mall and AirTouch Cellular.

On Nov. 29, Moore was randomly selected as Wonderland's "Very Important Shopper." In addition to free unlimited local use of cellular phone courtesy of AirTouch Cellular and a special VIS parking spot through Jan. 3, Moore also won a \$100 Wonderland Mall shopping spree.

With her gift certificate, Moore bought a University of Michigan Barbie doll and donated it to the AAA Crisis Center in Livonia, where she works.



Cathy Young, assistant marketing director for Wonderland Mall, hands Sherry Moore of Livonia her VIS prizes.

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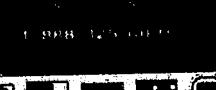
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Late-session bills affect taxes on horse racing

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
www.home.com/michigan

Michigan will cut its taxes on horse racing at out-of-state tracks, though it won't help Hazel Park Raceway.

The Legislature passed House Bill 5400, sponsored by Mike Griffin, D-Jackson, in the closing days of the 1998 session. It cuts the tax on simulcasting from 3.5 to 2.5 percent for holders of racing licenses whose average simulcast wagering is less than \$55,000 a day. The tax is on all wagers on interstate and intertrack simulcast races.

It will affect harness racing tracks in Jackson, Saginaw and Mount Pleasant. The Muskegon harness track closed in 1997.

Revenue loss will be \$630,000 a year, said the racing commission's office. The racing office opposed the bill, as did the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, the Michigan Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association, the Service Employees International Union Local 79 and a representative of Hazel Park Raceway.

The Senate passed the bill overwhelmingly, but the House vote was a tighter 67-28.

Here is how Eccentric area representatives voted:

YES — Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, Tom Middle-

ton, R-Ortonville, Nancy Quarles, D-Southfield.

NO — Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham; Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills.

ABSENT — Penny Crissman, R-Rochester.

A bigger cut

Race tracks would get a bigger cut of unclaimed winnings under a bill passed by the Legislature.

Instead of turning all unclaimed winnings back to the state, operators of standardbred programs could retain half and turn back half to the Michigan Agriculture Equine Fund.

Senate Bill 1314, when signed by the governor, will reduce state revenue by about \$3.5 million per year. Sponsor was Sen. George McManus, R-Traverse City. It required a two-thirds vote in each chamber because, under the constitution, the bill was an appropriation to private parties.

The bill sailed through the Senate on a 36-1 vote.

The House vote was 79-15.

Here is how Eccentric area lawmakers voted:

YES — Penny Crissman, R-Rochester, Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake, Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, Tom Middle-

ton, R-Ortonville, Nancy Quarles, D-Southfield.

NO — Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills.

Buffa, Bouchard top candidates for sheriff

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
www.home.com/michigan

As the campaign to select a successor to the late John F. Nichols begins in earnest, two front runners are emerging — State Sen. Michael Bouchard of Birmingham and Undersheriff Henry Buffa of Rochester Hills.

Neither has publicly acknowledged wanting to succeed Nichols. Each has deferred comments until after Wednesday's funeral, at which Nichols was eulogized and his family comforted.

But Bouchard and Buffa are clearly far ahead of the other candidates — including Thomas E. Quisenberry, chief of staff within the sheriff's department.

Bouchard, a former police officer, has had his name mentioned so frequently that candidates are already lining up to run in the special election that would be needed to fill his senate seat in the 13th District if he is tapped as the new sheriff.

If Bouchard's successor hap-

pened to be a state representative — say Patricia Godchaux of Birmingham — another special election would be needed to fill that vacancy. Some business executives, including Edward Hamilton of Troy, are mentioned as possible candidates.

While Buffa hasn't said he wants to be Oakland's next sheriff, But if he does, he will have the support of Rudy Lozano, a Clarkston businessman who was a friend of the late John Nichols.

Hank Buffa has the qualifications," Lozano said Wednesday. "But John Nichols told me he wanted Buffa to succeed him.

"I promised the sheriff I'd give him (Buffa) my political and financial support," said Lozano, who is also a road commissioner and a fund raiser for county executive L. Brooks Patterson.

The process of selecting a new sheriff won't officially begin until 10 a.m. Monday, when the committee charged with appointing a successor meets to discuss proce-

dure and protocol. That committee is composed of County Clerk G. William Caddell, Prosecutor David Gorecya and Probate Judge Eugene Arthur Moore.

But each has already received numerous calls on behalf of prospective candidates. "I'd say I've had at least a dozen calls," Caddell said. "And I tell everybody the same thing, we're not ready to talk about candidates yet."

Caddell himself was appointed to his position. That was two months ago when then-Clerk Lynn Allen retired and endorsed Caddell. Other outgoing officials have made similar endorsements. When Patterson stepped down as Oakland prosecutor, he recommended his chief assistant, Richard Thompson, as his successor.

Caddell, Gorecya and Moore could, in theory, appoint Nichols' successor Monday. Caddell said he has researched the topic and the constitution requires that the county clerk, prosecutor and chief probate judge appoint a successor.

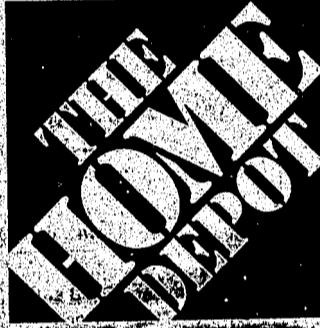
"It (the constitution) doesn't specify a time frame, nor does it require that we interview candidates."

"But there's little doubt we'll take our time and go about picking a successor with a deliberate and suitable process," said Caddell.

Caddell emphasized that he could only speak for himself, not the entire committee. Under the Michigan Open Meetings Act, any meeting between two of the three members on the committee constitutes a quorum, and therefore must be advertised and open to the public, according to the clerk. "So, if I see one of those other committee members (Gorecya or Moore) in the hallway, I turn and go the other way."

If, however, the process of selecting a new sheriff goes as Caddell envisions, there will be a cutoff date for prospective candidates to submit resumes after which the most qualified candidates will likely be interviewed. "The process could take a month or longer," according to Caddell.

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Observer & Eccentric

INSIDE:
Taste

Page 1, Section B

Sunday, December 27, 1998

ARTICLE EXPRESSIONS

LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Counting down the days till '99

Why is it I never remember to buy a calendar for the new year until Jan. 1 is almost on the doorstep?

After searching for an Irish Wolfhound calendar to no avail, I found the next best thing - the 1999 "Days of Detroit."

The Detroit Historical Museum's calendar is a fun and educational way to keep track of time. Developed by Livonia resident Jim McConnell, who co-chaired the project with wife Annette, the calendar marks each day of the new year with a historical event.

Did you know Paderewski performed at the Detroit Opera House on Jan. 12, 1892, or that a meeting was held at that same location March 17, 1875, to send relief to Grasshopper Suffers in Nebraska? Or that on this day in 1979, the Red Wings played their first game at Joe Louis Arena?

In keeping with the historical theme, all of the calendar's art features scenes from the past, including Troy artist Doug Parrish's painting of businessmen carrying out transactions on busy Woodward Avenue in 1899. Originally commissioned by R. L. Polk for its executive offices, the Detroit street scene is featured on the cover. Underwritten by R. L. Polk (headquartered in Southfield), the calendar benefits the Society which provides major funding to the Detroit Historical Museums, including the Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Historic Fort Wayne and the Historic Moros House.

Woodward Avenue 1899: D.M. Parrish of Troy created this Detroit street scene for the 1999 Detroit Historical Museum calendar.

A day at a time

The idea for the calendar to record Detroit history day-by-day came naturally to McConnell. He's a longtime history teacher for Dearborn Public Schools and annually takes 2,400 fourth and eighth graders to tour the Detroit Historical Museum. For 1999, he's planning a bus trip for the kids to visit historic sites in Detroit.

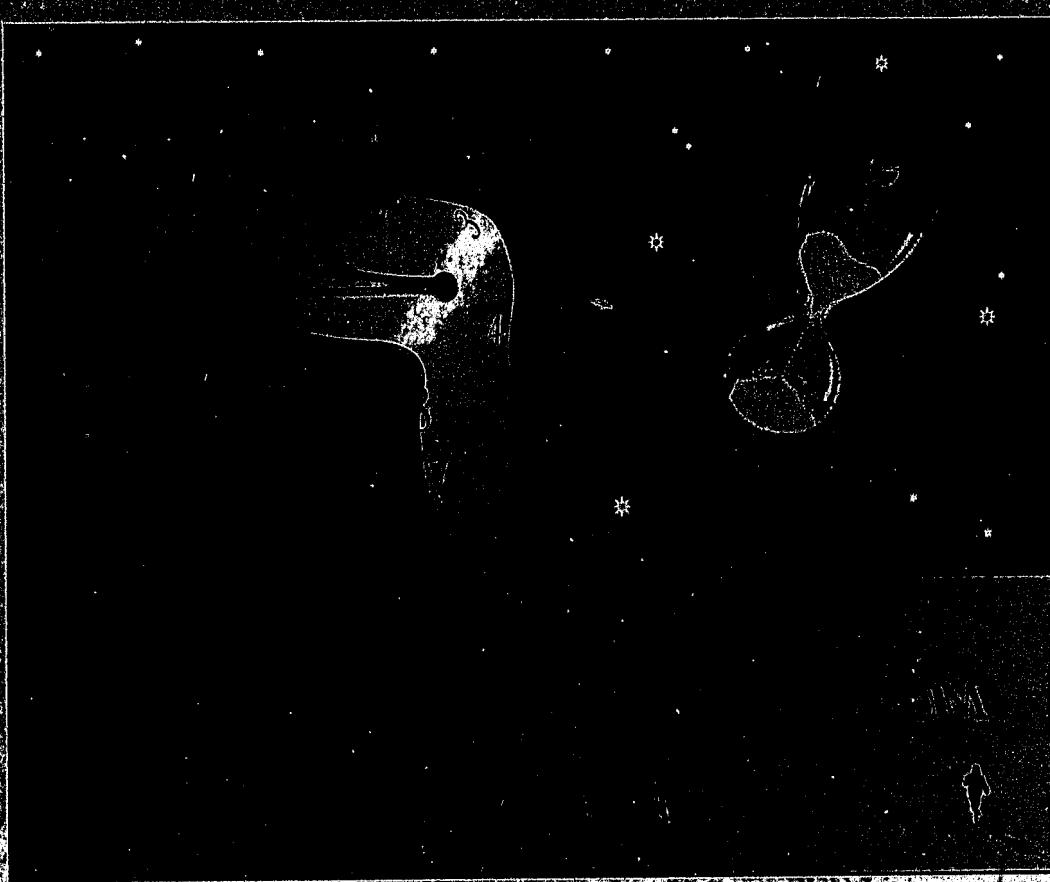
Since first mentioning the project to the Detroit Historical Society to identify each day of the year with a historical event two and one-half years ago, McConnell has spent hundreds of hours researching the State Archives in Lansing, materials at the Burton Historical Society, and reading the Detroit Public Library's 1953 history, "Detroit in Its World Setting, a 250-Year Chronology, 1701-1922." He's read more than a few books, including biographies of key personalities, and newspapers and visited websites.

Annette created most of the data base for the calendar's events. The Detroit Historical Society originally began volunteering their time at the Detroit Historical Museum's year.

"I'm learning some of the minutiae of Detroit history when the last horse-drawn vehicles were used," said McConnell. "What impressed me was the famine in Ireland in the 1800s. Detroiters were helping people in dire straits then. I know about our helping other countries, but didn't know it started so early."

Parade Detroit Street Scene painting appears not only on the cover but also for the month of May. The artist, local teacher and painter, Robert Thom, formerly of

NEW YEAR INSPIRES REFLECTION THROUGHOUT ARTS COMMUNITY



HOPES AND RESOLUTIONS

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN AND
FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITERS

Chill the champagne. Cue the song of the moment - "1999" by the artist formerly known as Prince. And watch in the rearview mirror as the 20th century slips over millennium's edge. For now, it's time for that end-of-the-year personal-improvement ritual known as a New Year's Resolution.

For some of us, a resolution is a pragmatic exercise like trying on a coat - merely a case of finding something that fits.

But there are many people in the arts community whose hopes for the new year will shape the future culture of our metropolis. The following is a random sample of some of those resolutions. So, shake off the holiday slumber and follow along.

It's a good time as any to lift a glass, appreciate family and friends, and hope for peace.

I'm hoping for a renewed awareness of the value of the arts to the fabric of our lives.

And I hope support for not-for-profit organizations will be more forthcoming in terms of volunteer time and monetary contributions.

— Janet P. Torno, executive director, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center

I hope the good, positive feelings in the city of Detroit continue. And as the economy continues to boom for the area for many of us to participate in that growth.

Finally, my hope is for the museum to become more connected to

the communities throughout the region.

— Maurice D. Parrish, interim director, Detroit Institute of Arts

My hope is to reach our youth through art education and entertainment. And through the arts, help us understand the various cultures by uniting us in a common appreciation and respect for our neighbors.

— Marilou Belanger, manager, Southfield Centre for the Arts

We're about to unfold our most exciting year, from "Weird Science" in winter to contemporary Cuban art in summer to a hot British artist in the fall. My goal is to make sure that even more people know what we're doing, and possibly to increase our attendance by 25 percent.

— Gregor Wittenberg, director, Cranbrook Art Museum

My hope is to get this facility renovated, search for a larger space, and to broaden the scope of what art is.

— Ann Blatte, executive director, Paint Creek Center for the Arts

I'm resolved to work harder in getting publicity and reviews on my artists.

— David Klein, owner, David Klein Gallery

Our resolution is to move the Detroit Artist Market in a more prominent location within the Cultural Center.

— Marialuisa Belmonie, executive director, Detroit Artists' Market

(NOTE: A building at the corner of Forest and Wood Ward is likely the new home of DAM, which is located at Storch Place in Ferndale.)

In the upcoming year, we hope to become a place where families make repeat visits because of diverse and thought-provoking exhibits and activities.

— Staff of Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

Our resolution is to continue to let people - all over the metro area - know that they're welcome at Cranbrook.

— Elaine Gurian, interim director, Cranbrook Institute of Science

We're going to celebrate 30 years in 1999. We hope to continue to provide wonderful arts experiences for all ages while expanding our audiences and the visibility of our local artists.

— Jennifer Tobin, executive director, Plymouth Community Arts Council

Our hope is to attract talented students, to secure funding for special projects such as visiting artists, to restore the faculty studio and to look for partnerships with the community.

— Doug Serman, newly appointed art dept. chair, Madonna University

We're resolved to continue to try to improve our attendance by bringing orchestral programs to our audience that they feel comfortable with and to raise enough money to stay in the black.

— Robert Bennett, president, Livonia Symphony Orchestra

Our hope is to hire a PR person for the Livonia arts festival; to install a new piece of sculpture in the civic center complex; to continue the scholarship program for youth; and to provide artists with opportunities to exhibit their

work.

— Bob Sheridan, president, Livonia Arts Commission

To resolve to become involved with the education programs in the schools and to develop a close relationship between the community and the educational process in the schools.

— Russell Reed, conductor, Plymouth Symphony Orchestra

"My resolution is to spend more time with my music, and to continue to raise funds for the Detroit Opera House's many projects."

— David DiChiera, general director, Michigan Opera Theatre

I'm hoping to get back to writing and spend more time with my family.

— Geoffrey Sherman, artistic director, Meadow Brook Theatre

I hope that the sometimes hostile differences between countries, political parties, races and religions will diminish so that we can work together to create a better tomorrow.

— Chuck Forbes, real estate developer, owner, The Gem Theatre

For a healthy new year for "At Home" reporter Mary Klemic, currently on extended medical leave. May 1999 bring Mary back to her coworkers at the Observer & Eccentric.

For the record, we miss you, Mary.

— Observer & Eccentric staff

EXHIBITION

Three artists shed skin to expose their art

Acrobatic:
The wooden
and fabric
sculptures of
Italian artist
Elena
Berniolo are
highly ani-
mated yet
formal.



BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
provenzano@home.com.mn.net

Drawing a line between the literal and metaphorical has never been an easy task for reviewers of contemporary art. Especially when "art" can be considered as whatever you think it is.

The meaning of contemporary art, for some, lies with the vagaries of the interpreters, thus making "art" one long, self-absorbed argument. (The popular Broadway play "Art," dramatically makes this point.)

Actually, a label such as minimalism, abstractionism, expressionism or any other "ism" can be the knell for originality.

Perhaps that's why Paul Kotula steps lightly around any steadfast descriptions of the three distinct exhibits currently at Revolution, an airy streetside gallery along Woodward Avenue in Ferndale.

But make no mistake, Kotula, director at the radically urbane gallery that shows a mix of international, New York-based and local artists, isn't without his own interpretation.

"These are three women artists dealing with issues of sexuality and sensuality that gets quite abstract," he said.

Actually, the works of Elena Berniolo, Jae Won Lee and Gina

Three Solo Exhibits
at Revolution

- Etched Gardens - fabric and wooden sculptures by Elena Berniolo
 - Adam's Other Clothing Line by Jae Won Lee
 - Human Works on Paper by Gina Kotula
- WHEN: Through Jan. 10.
WHERE: 23257 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale (248) 577-2511.
OPENING: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27.

Please see REVIEWS, E3

Skin from page B1

form start abstract, head for more rounded air and become an exercise in objectiveness.

Then finally, there is no easily allowed to "tame" the nearly describe the breadth of their elegant expression. Rather, there's a more earthy feeling that ties together the three dissimilar exhibits in a word: skin-like. Layers and layers.

Beneath the surface

Beneath, Berriolo's silk damasks and brocades are shaped wooden structures. The effect is a highly animated, richly textured sculpture that reflects an acrobatic sensibility that is both playful and formal.

Using distinctively ornate Italian fabrics together with her

strongly implied gestures, Berriolo's sculptures offer a parting nod to the decorative arts while focusing on the relationship between human forms and its cloth dressing.

Whereas Berriolo's sculptures nearly bounce around Revolution, Jae Won Lee's restrained ceramic sculptures in the middle gallery possess a serene, yet stirring quality.

The rectangular boxes are infused with Lee's interpretations of patterns found on traditional Korean porcelain. Through the use of glazes and a delicate crystallization process, the dense ceramic boxes have the translucent effect of looking into a passing stream.

Born and raised in Korea and now living in the United States

Lee is an artist straddling cultures with distinctly different currents. Kotula claims that Lee's choice of imagery and form reveals the painful path of cultural assimilation.

In her subtlest sculptures, the integration of traditional Korean patterns merge with fundamental geometric shapes. The result is a serene reconciliation of utility and identity.

An obsession

In contrast to Lee's restrained monochromes, the drawings on

paper by Ferrari reveal an artist relentlessly pursuing an idea, or repeating an idea.

"There are things Gina is doing that no one else is hitting on," said Kotula.

Now would argue. Over the last two years, Ferrari's installations have been provocative, awe-inspiring and always challenging.

Last January, she created a chandelier sculpture of 700 paper cast impressions of her feet.

And in the fall of 1996, Ferrari

exhibit "Gagged" included two

of plastic casts of her chin with a cork inserted in her mouth.

mark, now just mass produced.

Yet there's this amazing repetitive quality.

Like her compelling large-scale sculptures, Ferrari succeeds at demonstrating the transition where rebus an obsession becomes a beautiful form worth contemplating and talking about.

But the meaning of Berriolo, Lee and Ferrari's work, of course, is strictly open to interpretation.

And that's probably the way it should be.

Expressions from page B1

The Scottish Settlement School near Dearborn Where Henry Ford once attended, Thom went in and visited the class and took photographs of the class and teacher. We're now giving his painting a second life.

Jim McConnell
of Livonia

ical Society calendar and one of several to come as Detroit builds toward the celebration of its 300th birthday in 2001. Look for artist William Moss' paintings of Detroit in the year 2000. For 2001, McConnell, an educator at heart, is "working on an idea to use college students to create paintings for the calendar." He is also seeking information about historical events to fill the days. Local historical societies, corporations, labor unions, civic groups, and other organizations are encouraged to share their stories with the "Days of Detroit" committee. McConnell can be reached at (313) 833-7937.

P.S. Thanks Alicia for your voice mail to wish me a Merry Christmas. It was really nice to hear that you enjoy reading the Arts & Leisure section, and are a fellow wolfhound lover who doesn't mind hearing about the antics of Shamrock, my 3-year old Irish Wolfhound. I hope you eventually find a wolfhound as sweet as the late Molly.

If you have an interesting idea for a story involving the visual or performing arts or simply want to share your thoughts, call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin, (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

A history of its own

R. L. Polk, named after its founder Ralph Lane Polk, has been based in Detroit since 1870 when it produced a directory listing the residents, professionals and tradespeople living and working in towns along the Detroit and Milwaukee Railway. Today, about to enter its third century under the leadership of the Polk family, the international company still publishes city directories, but also compiles statistics and interprets motor vehicle resources, provides direct marketing, database marketing and other information services.

"Polk prints 40 million calendars a year," said McConnell. "I was on the Sesquicentennial committee when I learned about the paintings by Robert Thom. They belonged to Ameritech and slides still existed for the paintings used 30 years ago. Thom originally created the 'History of

Michigan' series for Michigan Bell in the 1960s."

Cover artist

Parrish began illustrating for art studios in the Detroit area in 1945. He originally studied commercial art at Cass Technical High School. At age 75, he's

retired from commercial art but continues to paint portraits.

Resources are important to Parrish no matter what the medium.

He researches subject matter for the oil painting for Polk at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

"The man holding the book is the founder of R. L. Polk and taken from a photo of him at the turn-of-the-century," said Parrish. "Those businesses really did exist there on Woodward at that time."

When McConnell and the Society began the calendar project they had no idea that the artists they'd chosen were mentors.

Overwhelmed by commissions for historical art, Thom asked Parrish to help him paint two series on Illinois and printing. They remained friends through life.

"I used to work for Bob who used to have an art studio in Detroit," said Parrish. "He was doing a series for Parke-Davis on the history of Michigan and the history of pharmacy. He became so busy he asked me to paint some of them."

That taste of historical art instilled a love in Parrish so that when R. L. Polk approached him about painting the Detroit street scene, he jumped at the chance.

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ART BEAT

TOURS
The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center will host a tour of Florence, Siena and Rome from April 22 to May 2.

Joining the tour will be downtown photographer Brithazar Korab, who is currently working on a photography book of Roman doctors.

The tour of Italy will be led by art historian Deborah Kavvay and BBAC's Executive Director Janet Torno.

Participants will visit the Uffizi, Sistine Chapel, Davanzati Palace in Florence and the Villa Farnesina in Rome.

Estimate tour price of \$3,079 is based on double occupancy.

Includes airfare, hotels, admissions, transfers and most meals. A \$500 deposit is required to reserve space. Deadline for final payment is Jan. 22.

Winter classes on Italian art and architecture will be offered at the BBAC.

For more information call (248) 644-0836.

OAKLAND COUNTY ARTISTS**RECEIVE GRANTS**

ArtServe Michigan named five Oakland County artists as recipients for their annual Creative Artist Grants.

The artists include:

Sheila Landis of Rochester Hills to create a series of jazz

tions.

■ Robert Scheiman of West Bloomfield to create a large diptych oil painting entitled "Utopia."

■ Barbara Schlinger of Farmington Hills to create and produce "Virtual Voices," a multi-media dance interwoven with video and still photography.

■ Russell Mayer of Bathrup Village to create a body of sculpture based on rural imagery in the Saginaw River Valley.

■ Mark Gottlieb of Royal Oak for the composition of a song cycle for chamber orchestra, traditional Latin American instruments and soloists.

ArtServe Michigan supports and advocates for the arts and cultural education in Michigan.

MEADOW BROOK NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Douglas W. Coon has been named Meadow Brook Theatre's first ever director of marketing and sales.

Coon, a native of Gaylord, comes to Meadow Brook from Duke University where he served as a marketing/publicity associate.

Coon holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in arts administration from Virginia Tech where he studied under nationally renowned arts consultant George Thorn.

SOUTHFIELD CALENDAR**AVAILABLE**

The city of Southfield's annual calendar, "The Tapestry of Southfield," depicts the vast multicultural spirit of the community.

The 1999 calendar showcases distinctive features of the city's African American, Armenian, Chaldean, Jewish and Russian cultures.

Residents of Southfield are mailed the calendars. Anyone interested in purchasing the 1999 edition should call (248) 354-4884.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT BBAC

Nine new trustees have been elected to the Birmingham

Bloomfield Art Center.

New appointees include:

Meredith Thompson, president of Habitat Galleries in Pontiac.

Debbie Jerome, assistant director of human resources for Saks Fifth Avenue, Sombrer.

Kimberly Johnson of Kimberly Group.

Lynn Liddle, vice president of corporate communications and investor relations, Valassis Communications, Livonia.

Bill Murcko, owner/president of Communication Associates.

Cheryl Noonan, art educator and artist.

Steven Pope, publisher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc.

Julia Richardson-Pate, art educator and artist.

Linda Truxell, attorney.

HOLIDAY ART PROGRAMS

Puppet shows, animal sculpture and puppet workshops, and a tour of the "Beastly Delights for Children: Animals in Ancient Art" exhibit are sure to delight the whole family Saturday, Thursday, Dec. 26-31, at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue.

Programs are free with recommended museum admission of \$4 for adults, \$1 children, Founders Society Members free.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26-31. For more information, call (313) 833-4249 or (313) 833-7900.

GOLD MEDAL SHOW

The Scarab Club's Gold Medal Show continues to Jan. 24 at the historic club, 217 Farnsworth, behind the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Observer & Eccentric artists, Jack Olds, Eileen Bibby and Elbert Weber of Livonia, John Tabb, John Dixon and Barbara Abel, Birmingham, William Rostick, Huntington Woods, and Nancy Piel made a strong showing. Christopher Melikian judged the competition based on the overall feel and mood of a piece, skill level and technique, and presentation.

"We have some real good artists," said Greg Stephens, club manager. "The computerized Mona Lisa is very interesting as is the 24 by 24 Polaroid.

Another artwork not to be missed are Leo Granovsky's colorful abstract in oil and John Osler's "Back of Church." Osler won the Gold Medal award for another painting titled "Dignity." Joseph Maniscalco, an Orchard Lake portrait artist, received an Honorable Mention.

Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. For more information, call the historic club (313) 831-1250.

ENTRIES SOUGHT

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, in cooperation with the Italian American Cultural Society, holds its fifth annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan high school students.

Ten finalists will be selected from cassette audiotape auditions. Deadline for entry is Feb. 13.

The goal of the competition is to encourage and help develop young amateur vocal talent and to promote appreciation for Italian music and the Italian language. Each of the 10 finalists receive a cash prize ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, in addition to the opportunity to perform before a live audience at the finale concert 4 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at the Italian American Cultural Center in Warren. Taped selections from prize winners will also be broadcast on the Verdi Opera program aired weekly on radio station WCAR 1090 AM.

For an entry form or more information, call John Zaretti at (734) 455-8895.

Neeme Jarvi to autograph DSO CD's

Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director, Neeme Jarvi, will autograph compact discs at Borders Books & Music in Rochester Hills 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9. The store is in the Winchester Mall, 1122 Rochester Road (at Avon Road).

This will be Jarvi's first signing appearance since the summer release of the new DSO recording on the Chandos label featuring Richard Strauss' Suite from the ballet "Schlagobers" ("Swingin' Cram").

The disc includes nine short dances and waltzes, and "Munchen-ein Gedachtswaltzer" (the "Memorial Waltz").

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CHEERS FOR BEER:



CHEF JOSEPH STYKE

Put your new homebrewing kit to good use

How many of you got a homebrew kit for Christmas? Yikes! That many?

Here's how I got hooked.

In 1978 I had my first homebrew, and it was, well, if you mixed it with a Moosehead, half and half it was tolerable. Two years later I had one from the same guy, and you could actually drink it like a real beer.

I have been drinking imported beer for 22 years now. I started with a dark Heineken and went "wow! This is great." Then I started working my way through Germany, then England, then Belgium, and then back to a long sojourn in England being fortunate enough to have a store nearby that stocked about 140 beers.

In 1990, one fine Sunday afternoon after work, I was at Chef Frank O'Donnell's house and he said his neighbor Mike made some of the best ale he ever had. By now my palate was pretty good so I told him to bring it on.

Best ale

Mike brought over three pints and proceeded to pour me one outstanding ale. It was everything you could want from an ale, soft at the start with a great maltiness and perfect balance of hops. Mike said he was shooting for a Fullers London Pride, and boy did he come close - hmmm. Something clicked in my mind, and I filed it away as I finished my pint.

In July of 1995 my best friend Tom Stawarz and I made plans for lunch. Of course the restaurant was closed, so we were driving around trying to think of somewhere else to go. Tom looked at me and said "have you ever thought of making beer?" I replied, "yes," so we drove to the local hardware store and bought two copies of the new complete "Joy of Homebrewing," a plastic fermenter, airlock, racking cane, bottle filler, bag of caps, one pound of dry malt, and a one can kit for brown ale. Armed with a bunch of Hacker-Pschorr's (hey, we needed empty bottles), and two pizzas, we set out for Tommy's house with high hopes.

The directions on the can were followed, the Hackers enjoyed, and the pizza was great. Two days into fermentation Tom's air conditioning went down and it was in the 90s in his house for three days. This is not good for the beer. To prime (to create carbonation), the hardware store man told us to pour 1 teaspoon of dry malt into each bottle then fill and wait two weeks. What he neglected to tell us was that when the bag of powder is opened in a humid house it gets sticky and there is no way you will be able to measure and pour it into a bottle without making a mess. The bottles that did turn out were not too bad, they were way better than the Moosehead mix. We read the book, and I remembered an ad I heard for a place in Livonia called Brew & Grow, and one day we headed over there.

Good advice

Owner Scott Day and Todd Warren were working that day and are two of the most helpful guys there are. They told us to use the plastic bucket for bottling and buy two glass carboys for fermenting and secondary, to use liquid yeast all the time.

Since then we have been buying everything from them and Scott Day has taken over the right hand spot from Todd. The first beer we made from them was an ale, kinda like a Fullers. Next was a bitter, then a porter, then a brown ale. We made another ale and an imperial stout. The first contest we entered we won the Stout Category, and second place in Best of Show. The best part was

Please see CHEERS, B6

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:
Focus on Wine
Living Better Sensibly

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Donna Alfield of Rochester Hills is a regional finalist in the AAA Michigan Zero Proof Mix-Off contest, adding her juice topping to create her "20/20 Nuts and Berries Flat White Smoothie."

People are more inclined to drink alcohol during the winter months, she said.

She works as a business development manager for a pharmaceutical company. Now she works as a career counselor, camping in the 500 drink bar.

James, who has lived in Southfield for about 26 years, has been a bartender since he was 18.

"I really will be excited to see how they do," he said.

"The older I get, the more good seems to stay on top," he said.

Donna, a Rochester Hills pitcher, has a passion for working with people and helping them.

"I feel very fortunate to be able to do what I do," she said. "It's a great job and I'm very grateful for it."

She said she has been involved in the "20/20 Nuts and Berries Flat White Smoothie," named for the television show "20/20" which first aired in 1978. She said she came up with the idea for the smoothie after watching the show.

She said she used to gather with her coworkers after work to see what kind of concoctions they could make from this experiment. She and her partner for strawberry smoothie made with mint leaves, banana, cream, her drink of choice.

The butter pecan smoothie, with chopped pecans, give her drink a "fuzzy" texture, which makes it especially good, according to Alfield.

She plans to enter New Year's with immediate family and friends who have children who are similar age to her own. She is looking forward to the AAA Michigan Zero Proof Mix-Off competition, but she is also looking forward to the annual event.

"For the children, we try to do something fun during the year," she said.

The yearly AAA Michigan Zero Proof Mix-Off contest, by Michigan residents, who were selected as finalists in four regional Zero Proof Mix-Off contests held in October, as well as recipes from professionals, judges, and food critics.

Cookers will prepare their drink recipes in front of a panel of judges. Cities in which the regional contests were held include Cadillac, Kalamazoo, Marquette and Sterling Heights. The participants are asked to give a little speech about

Nutty drink. Donna Alfield of Rochester Hills, a regional finalist in the AAA Michigan Zero Proof Mix-Off contest, adds her juice topping to create her "20/20 Nuts and Berries Flat White Smoothie."

how they should be served.

The Bee Gees tune "Stayin' Alive" was popular in 1978—the same year AAA Michigan launched its first alcohol-free non-alcoholic drink program.

For 20 years, the auto club has provided free Great Pretenders Party Guide brochures to residents to help make the holiday season more than 60,000 copies of the guide are distributed each holiday season through AAA Michigan branches, training safety organizations, in the corporate office and phone requests.

"Stayin' Alive" is one theme we take to heart," said Jerry Borch, community safety services manager for AAA Michigan. "That was our goal in 1978 to help make the roads safer during the holidays when people tend to drink and drive. That's still our goal today."

See recipes inside.

Some facts about drunken driving:

- Alcohol was a factor in 37.5 percent of fatal crashes in Michigan in 1997, an increase of 1.1 percentage points from 1996.
- There were 544 persons killed and 13,461 injured in alcohol-related crashes in 1997.
- Drivers age 21 through 44 were involved in 62 percent of the alcohol-related fatal crashes.
- The annual cost of alcohol-related crashes in Michigan is \$2.75 billion.
- Out of 10,000 Michigan residents, 61 were arrested for drinking and driving during 1997.
- The percentage of fatalities in crashes involving drinking is seven times higher than non-drinking crashes.
- The highest proportion of alcohol-related crashes occurred on Saturday and Sunday.
- Of the 658 reported drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes, 536 (81.5 percent) were male and 122 (18.5 percent) were female.
- About 37 people are injured each day in alcohol-related crashes.

—AAA Michigan

Bring an easy-to-make side dish to the party

BY KEELY WYGONIK

STAFF WRITER

kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Holiday cooking and baking is a lot of work, and now that all the presents are unwrapped, it's time to unwind and relax a little. If you're planning to go to a friend or relative's house for New Year's Eve, here are two delicious dishes to pass.

Jennifer J. Peters of Canton shared a Glorified Potatoes recipe, and Linda Hall of West Bloomfield shared her Corn Casserole recipe.

"This is one of my favorites because it is very simple to make and it is very delicious," said Peters. "I am often asked to make it for special occasions."

Hall's Corn Casserole is a recipe she has used over the years for Thanksgiving, but since it's easy to

prepare in advance, it's also a good choice to make if you are invited out and have to bring a side dish. "It transports easily," she said.

Both of the recipes can be made with ingredients you can keep on hand such as frozen hash browns and corn muffin mix.

GLORIFIED POTATOES

- 2 pounds frozen hash brown potatoes
- 1/8 cup diced onion
- 16 ounces sour cream
- 1 can (10 1/4 ounces) cream of chicken soup
- 1 stick butter
- 8 ounces grated Sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 1 cup corn flake crumbs

Thaw potatoes. Preheat oven to 375°F. Mix all ingredients together except for corn flake crumbs.

Place ingredients in a 9- by 13-inch glass dish.

Bake at 375°F for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle corn flake crumbs over entire top. Bake an additional 30 minutes.

Recipe compliments of Jennifer J. Peters.

CORN CASSEROLE

- 1 can (13.25 ounces) Freshlike Cream Style Corn
- 1 can (11 ounces) Freshlike Whole Kernel Corn
- 1 stick margarine, melted
- 2 eggs

Mix all ingredients one at a time in casserole. Bake 35-45 minutes at 350°F uncovered. Serves 6.

8 ounces sour cream
1 (8 1/2 ounce) box corn muffin mix such as Jiffy

Butter a 1 1/2 quart casserole. Mix all ingredients one at a time in casserole. Bake 35-45 minutes at 350°F uncovered.

Serves 6.

Recipe compliments of Linda Hall.

The best recipes are ones you share. Send us your favorite recipe, and if it's chosen to be featured in Taste on the fourth Sunday of the month, we'll send you a cookbook along with our thanks.

Send recipes for consideration to Keely Wygonik, Taste editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net.

Make some Happy Tail Ale

See related beer column on Taste front.

If you're interested in learning more about homebrewing, check out these websites: www.beerpage.com, www.beerpage.com/beer/, www.beerpage.com/real_beer.html or www.beerpage.com/real_beer.html.

Recipe compliments of Chef Joseph Styke. Visit Brew & Grow, 33523 Eight Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 442-7939 for complete instructions on how to make Happy Tail Ale, the first and only homebrewing page for real beer. Chef Joseph and his friend Tommy, ever made.

HAPPY TAIL ALE

1 pound medium British Crystal
2 ounces roasted barley
6 ounces Belgian Carapils
6 pounds extra-light dry malt
2 ounces Goldings (5.4 percent)
1 ounce Goldings (5.4 percent)
20 minutes
2 teaspoons Irish Moss 20 minutes
1 ounce Goldings 5 minutes
WYEAST #1028 London Dry yeast
1 quart starter

Prime with 3/4 cup of Dextrose or 1 1/4 cups dry malt per 5 gallons

Cheers! from page B5

bearing - "Good job boys. Lilkens Eight Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 442-7939. They have tons of malt grain, hops and yeast, and

Now we are hooked bad. Many contestants after your best effort so far is a silver medal for a I.P.A. in the 1997 A.H.A. National Championships and first place in the Midwest with A.I.P.A. and German Wheat in the 1998 Nationals.

The great thing about homebrewing is that you are not locked into anything. If something excites your fancy, go for it. It probably will work, but to be on the safe side, if your idea sounds too wild, ask somebody because there is nothing worse than five gallons beer that you or nobody else wants to drink.

There's a good quote from Zmurgy Magazine, a good thing to get. "It does not have to be rocket science unless you want it to be," and if you know Tommy and I, you know we tend toward Rocket Science.

Visit Brew & Grow, 33523

Toast New Year' with Great Pretenders

See related story on Taste front.

"THE PANAMA SPECIAL"

Named for treaty signed in 1978 that cedes the canal to Panama.

Recipe by Darryl James, Southfield - Golden Stirrer Award winner
1 ounce lime juice
2 ounces tamarind nectar or guava nectar
1 ounce ruby red and mango juice
1 ounce non-alcoholic triple sec
1 teaspoon grenadine

Combine ingredients in cocktail shaker with crushed ice. Cap and shake hard until frost appears on outside of shaker. Strain into chilled double martini glass. Serves 1.

The following recipe came from a finalist in one of the four regional contests and was a \$500 winner.

"20/20 NUTS AND BERRIES HOT FUDGE SHAKE"

Named for "20/20," which first aired in 1978.

Recipe by Donna Affeldt, Rochester Hills
2 1/2 cups butter pecan ice cream
1/2 cup milk
3/4 cup fresh strawberries
3/4 cup hot fudge topping
1 tablespoon chopped pecans

In blender, combine ice cream

and milk until thick and creamy. Blend in strawberries slightly so they're still chunky. Pour into tall glass. Pour slightly heated hot fudge over drink and swirl in with straw. Sprinkle pecans over top. Drink with a straw, but have a spoon handy for the goodies. Serves 1.

The following four 1978-themed drinks were first-place winners in four regional non-alcoholic drink mixing contests sponsored by AAA Michigan. All are single-serving. These contest winners won \$500 each.

"MILLIKEN'S MOMOSA"

(Named for William Milliken, who was Michigan's governor in 1978.)

Recipe by Rosemary DeHut, Ontonagon

1 ounce peach juice from canned peaches
1 ounce pear juice from canned pears
3 ounces ginger ale

Fresh or frozen raspberries and peach slices for garnish.

Place two fresh or frozen raspberries in champagne flute or tall wine glass. Add fruit juice and ginger ale. Place thin slice of fresh peach on rim. Serves 1.

Can be served in bowl as punch using 3-1 combination of each fruit juice and ginger ale.

"POLYESTER LEISURE SUIT SMOOTHIE"

Named for popular men's outfit.

Can be served in bowl as punch using 3-1 combination of each fruit juice and ginger ale.

and milk until thick and creamy. Blend in strawberries slightly so they're still chunky. Pour into tall glass. Pour slightly heated hot fudge over drink and swirl in with straw. Sprinkle pecans over top. Drink with a straw, but have a spoon handy for the goodies. Serves 1.

Recipe by Betsy Thapkes, Rothbury

6 ounces Haagen-Dazs Irish cream (ice cream)

4 ounces praline pecan crunch (ice cream)

6 ounces Irish cream-flavored coffee (cooled)

2 ounces vanilla nut creamer

2 ounces cream soda

Garnish: sliced almonds, melted white chocolate, whipped cream

Combine first five ingredients. Blend on high speed until mixture is thick and smooth. Pour into prepared glass and top with whipped cream. Garnish with a few extra nuts, if desired. Serves 1.

"STAYIN' ALIVE FRAPPE"

Named for song in "Saturday Night Fever."

Recipe by Marilyn Seats, Kalamazoo

1/2 cup vanilla ice cream

1/2 cup lemonade

1/4 cup strawberry jam

1 tablespoon honey

2 tablespoons tonic water

1 tablespoon whipped cream

1 pinch nutmeg

Put ice cream, lemonade, jam, honey and tonic water in blender.

Blend on low speed until smooth.

fits of the '70s.

approximately 10 to 15 seconds.

Pour into stemmed goblet. Top with whipped cream and nutmeg. Serves 1.

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Page 1, Section C

Sunday, December 27, 1998

Streaking Clarkston shuts down Troy, 2-0

By MIKE SCOTT

SPECIAL WRITER

Clarkston used a suffocating defense and outstanding goaltending to down Troy 2-0 Tuesday night at Cranbrook Kingswood High School in Bloomfield Hills.

Senior co-captain Adam Leech finished with a goal and an assist and goalie Steve Badger made 19 saves to pace the Wolves (8-1-1), who have not lost in a month. Troy (7-2-1) had their four-game winning streak snapped.

With the second-half schedule about to be more difficult for the Wolves, head coach Bryan Kriger likes what he is seeing in recent games from his blue-liners.

"Defensively we're starting to tighten up in the zone and when the defense breaks down, (Badger) came through for us," he said. "We can't afford to go down by two or three goals, especially against the better teams because everything will shut down on offense."

After a close, tight-checking first period, Clarkston opened the scoring

just over two minutes into the second period when Leech found junior forward Jason Stoecker perched just to the side of Black Hawk goalie Paul Kidder.

Leech's pass hit Stoecker on the stick and he buried it in the net for an easy goal and a 1-0 lead. Minutes later Troy head coach Todd Whitelaw put backup goalie Jeff Schweitzer into the game and Leech

greeted him with a goal off a scramble in front of the net with 4:19 remaining in the period.

Other than that, the Troy goalies stopped 25 Clarkston shots, but the damage was done.

The Wolves seemed just a step quicker in the third period and they were successful at holding the puck in Troy's zone at the point.

The Wolves were whistled for an interference call early in the third peri-

Please see HOCKEY, C2

BILL PARKER

For the first time in years, a letter to Santa Claus

My two daughters were busy pecking away on our home computer recently typing up their Christmas wish lists. I admit it's been years since I've made such a list, but I decided it was time to write to the Big Guy with the white beard and red pants and send in my own Christmas list. I know there must be a Santa because so many songs tell me he's real: "grandma got run over by a reindeer," "I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus," "Santa Claus is coming to town."

I sure hope he can help me with some of these gifts. Here goes:

Dear Santa,

I haven't written in years, but I hope you still remember me. The last time I wrote you brought me a neat little Remington semi-automatic .22 and a good pair of hunting boot. I got many years of use out of both. Thanks again.

If you would be so kind please give me the following gifts for Christmas this year:

Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus and have a happy New Year.

All I want for Christmas is...

1. A healthy, TB-free deer herd. The tuberculosis problem in the whitetailed deer herd in northeastern Michigan is a terrible calamity and threatens not only the state's wildlife populations but the cattle industry as well. The DNR and the Department of Agriculture are hoping to quell the problem by increasing the antlerless harvest in the area, but I think we need your help to really turn things around.

2. An injury-free deer hunting season. Please knock some sense into the careless and reckless hunters that make bonehead decisions. There is no room in the woods for someone who would mistake a human for a deer. That's not an accident, it's a crime. Unfortunately, there is no law in the books to keep people like this out of the woods, even after they've made such a mistake, so please knock some sense into them.

3. A combined Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality, or at least a solid working relationship between the two. When Governor John Engler split the DNR and formed the DEQ our natural resources took a big hit. The DNR was left understaffed and the DEQ seems more interested in keeping bureaucrats and developers happy than managing and preserving our valuable natural resources.

4. An end to the bickering between hunter groups. It does no good when one group whines and complains that another group has a longer season, or is shown a preference in permit allocations. To sit down together and work out these differences is much more productive than back-stabbing and bickering. If we work together we can accomplish good things (remember the bear hunting ballot proposal in 1996?). Remember, united we stand, divided we fall. Please Santa, unite these groups and help them to work together.

5. Clean water. The Great Lakes and the thousands of inland lakes in Michigan remain polluted with mercury, dioxins and other chemicals despite years of cleanup and pages of regulations to attain and maintain clean water. Unfortunately, most of the damage has already been done. We're working hard to continue the cleansing effort, but a little intervention here would be greatly appreciated.

6. A healthy perch population in Lake Michigan. The perch population in lake Michigan has been on a slide for several years and there is no simple solution to the problem. If you could intervene and bring the population back up to where it was just a few short years ago it sure would be great for the anglers of the state.

7. A few million alewives. The decline of the once-abundant alewives has raised concerns about the possible trash of the salmon fishery in lakes Michigan and Huron. The decline is so great fisheries managers in states surrounding these lakes have agreed

Please see PARKER, C3

Hitting the slopes

Wolves count on strength in numbers



By MIKE SCOTT

SPECIAL WRITER

The boys and girls ski teams at Clarkston have established themselves as one of the top programs in Southeastern Michigan. The challenge now is to live up to those expectations.

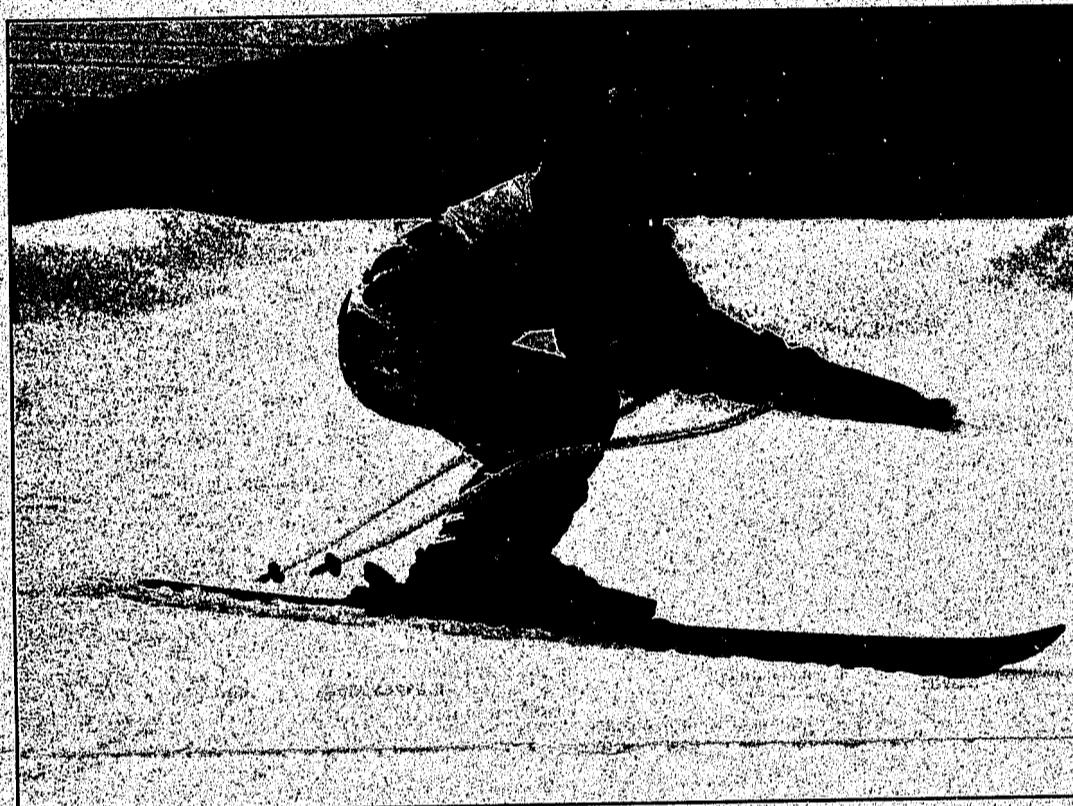
Head coach Bruce Rosengren is confident the Wolves will meet those challenges and he is excited about the upcoming season after both squads finished sixth in the state finals last year.

The Wolves lost four boys and girls to graduation but remain one of the teams to beat. In particular, the girls squad returns four of its top five skiers.

Despite losing Gretchen Pitzer to graduation, the girls have Kristen Atkinson coming back for her senior year, junior Megan Whipp and sophomores Kelly Morton and Nicole Villici. Atkinson will compete at the varsity level for her fourth season and is fully recovered from a knee injury she has struggled with the past 18 months.

The girls won the Oakland Activities Association and Pine Knob divisional championships last season and placed first at regionals at Mt. Holly a year ago.

"There have been plenty of other girls knocking at the door," said Rosengren, referring to the depth he enjoys on the girls squad. "There are



Speed racer: Clarkston's Megan Whipp is one of several returning Wolves who hope to help live up to the standards the successful program has already set.

a number of girls who would be starting on other teams, but it's so competitive here."

During a meet, six racers compete and the top four scores of each squad count toward the team standings.

Rosengren also says he has good balance among racers who are stronger in the Super G and Slalom events.

"Quite a few of the girls are better at one than the other and can pick each other's score up in that way," Rosengren said. "Of course, we won't know about some of the younger girls until we hit the hills."

Practices formally started on Nov. 16 and the Wolves have been working on dry land agility drills, including soccer and calisthenics, which help

with lateral movement in the wake of all the warm weather.

Rosengren said whatever the athletes can do to help their balance is good practice for what they will be experiencing on the slopes.

A number of the girls, including Morton, Jenny and Carrie Lenenger, Lauren Benner, Lauren Hill and

Please see WOLVES, C2

Dragons ready for breakout ski season

By MIKE SCOTT

SPECIAL WRITER

This may be the breakout season for both the boys and girls ski teams at Lake Orion.

Following regular season dual meet records of 4-2, both squads have three of their top four skiers returning and hope to contend for championships in both the Oakland Activities Association (OAA) and Southeastern Michigan Ski League (SEMSL).

Head coach Norm McKee just returned from Colorado with eight of his skiers, who participated in an individual ski camp for nine days.

Those Dragon athletes who attended were able to train in the same practice lanes as a handful of world cup teams such as Spain.

This is one example of why the Dragons may be ready to take over as one of the area's powers in high school skiing and it is because of dedicated athletes like these that McKee is excited.

"I couldn't be happier with what we've got right now," said McKee. He received a number of compliments on the abilities of the eight Lake Orion skiers — Grant Smith, Ryan Thulin, Brian Popelier and Justin McKee on the boys team; and Cristin Popelier, Stephanie Gekiere, Beth Cordes and Tiffany McKee on the girls squad — from other coaches at the camp.

"I feel confident for the first time in saying that we'll be right in the middle of the (conference championship) races."

Last season, the only squad both the boys and girls lost to was Clark-

ston, and Lake Orion may return more starters than anyone in the area.

Joining Smith, Thulin, Brian Popelier and Justin McKee on the boys team is junior Craig Marchand and sophomore Jesse Tarr. They along with Smith, the senior captain, were all-OAA performers last year.

Cristin Popelier was a state finalist in the individual event in 1998 and along with Gekiere and Tiffany McKee may comprise the best 1-2-3 punch for any girls team in the lower peninsula.

McKee is confident his boys team will be deep and will have a number of varsity athletes who will excel in both the Super G and Slalom events. In fact, the Dragons are so deep, some racers may be able to concentrate on one of the events more heavily.

The boys team will be strengthened with the addition of freshman Justin McKee, who has spent the last four years with the United States Ski Association. His father and coach said Justin's experience and talent will allow him to give Smith more latitude in competing for individual awards.

"That's what team skiing is all about," said McKee of his squad. "It's the seniors' time to win and we hope (Grant) can take advantage."

Although the girls team won't be as deep, their strength at the top should carry them to success. Cordes, who competed on junior varsity last season, showed significant improvement during the off-season.

The biggest hurdles to Lake Orion's

Please see DRAGONS, C2



Dragon's Cristin Popelier is one of the sisters the Dragons will depend on to help bring success this season.

Dragons from page C1

hopes of conference championships are Rochester Adams and Clarkston. The Highlanders, who have perhaps one of the best three or four boys squads in the state, come to Pine Knob for a

dual meet with the Dragons in the regular season opener on Jan. 5.

In fact, Lake Orion's schedule in the first six dual matches is

going to be extremely challenging for both the boys and girls.

McKee said he expects five of the schools — Adams, Clarkston, Bloomfield Lakes, Birmingham

Detroit Country Day and Bloom-

field Hills Cranbrook — to be

ranked among the top 10 schools in the country and December. One in their respective classes.

"Last year, we went out there and hoped to compete and this year we are expecting to win all the time," McKee said. "That first meet (with Adams) is really going to be a test and it's going to show us how far we've come."

"The good news is all those teams are ranked and our job is to try and knock them off. We would be expected to win," he added.

Informal practices began on November 19 with intense conditioning, highlighted by practicing for gates by using in-line skates in the high school parking lot. Those first few weeks the Dragons stressed tactical work.

McKee had been hoping to hit the slopes on Nov. 30, but without snow, they are pointing in the past couple of seasons.

The

sophomores who will continue to improve."

"The future looks very strong," Rosengren said.

Regionals will be held this year at Pine Knob and are hosted by Brandon, another school whose ski program continues to improve. The junior varsity teams will be invited to the Don Thomas meet at the end of their regular season, a meet Clarkston teams have won championships in the past couple of seasons.

The varsity teams will also compete in an invitational tournament in Traverse City at Sugarloaf in mid-January which will pit the state's top Class A and Class B-C-D teams in a competitive, yet friendly tournament.

Sugarloaf's course is much longer and more challenging than hills such as Pine Knob, Mt. Holly and Mt. Brighton.

"That'll give us a chance to see where we are in the state," Rosengren said. "It's a wonderful race and very well-run. We're going to see many of the top racers around up there but I know we'll do fine."

The Wolves varsity teams will also compete in a tournament Jan. 27-28 at Pine Knob with Adams, Lake Orion and other schools. They begin their regular season with a dual meet Jan. 5 at Pine Knob against Rochester.

Whitelaw praised Krygier and his coaching staff, saying he had not seen a team break out on offense as well as the Wolves all season. But he was pleased with the performance of his team.

"They got their goals because we were slower on defensive zone coverage," said Whitelaw.

"It was a good, tight-checking game. It was a case of who was

going to blink first and unfortunately we were the team which ended up blinking first."

Whitelaw said he was happier with the Black Hawks play

Tuesday than their previous game, a 12-2 victory over Waterford Mott.

"I'm not upset with our team at all. I'm just disappointed we lost," he said. "We didn't play as individuals this game."

In the final few minutes, both teams became overly aggressive as a few elbows and crosschecks were thrown but it was the smaller, quicker Wolves which kept their cool.

Badger said he was fortunate to come up with a handful of saves he made, and praised his teammates.

"I made a few mistakes, but our defense covered well," said Badger, who was the beneficiary

of having two pucks hit the goal post in the second period.

"Coach emphasized moving the puck. Right now, we're doing a good job of building up our system."

The Wolves are off for the remainder of 1998 and won't play again until Jan. 9 at Lakeland Ice Arena against Waterford Kettering.

Coming home for Krygier, Playing at Wallace Ice Arena on the Cranbrook campus in Bloomfield Hills was a coming home for Krygier, who spent some time coaching there before coming to Clarkston this year.

After the game, former players he coached from Cranbrook visited with Krygier, congratulating him on the win.

Clarkston plays Cranbrook, the 1997 state Class B-C-D champion, later in the season in a tough, non-conference battle.

The Cranes benefit from their status as a border school, which allows them to have students from all over the country attend the high school. As a result of their numerous out-of-state students, Cranbrook is off for approximately three weeks over the holidays.

Wolves from page C1

Jenny Haladik each attended a ski camp over the Thanksgiving holiday in Colorado to help with their training.

Rosengren said the biggest competition the Wolves girls will face in this area will come from Rochester, Adams and an improving Lake Orion program.

"There are going to be some very good, very competitive races there," he said.

The boys team graduated some of their top racers but do return seniors Russ and Jeremy Parrott, Rob Allyn and sophomore Michael Atkinson. Rosengren is confident a number of the freshmen and sophomores on the team will also step up their performances.

Adams will also be the team to beat in the area on the boys side with the majority of its team returning. Lake Orion will once again be playing a major role along with Cranbrook.

John Arcello, Aaron Caldwell, Kent Morton, Bobby Olson and David Pierce joined Atkinson and Allyn at the Colorado camp along with representatives from the girls team. Rosengren, who attended the camp and worked closely with the squad from Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, said that ski camp gave those who attended valuable experience on long, challenging hills, the type the Wolves would see in the

northern part of Michigan such as Boyne Mountain.

Those kids (who attended the camp) will be more used to steeper, longer courses plus they had about a week of extensive training which hasn't been possible around here," he said.

Unfortunately Pierce suffered a compound leg fracture in Colorado and will be out for the year, which hurts the depth on the boys team.

Rosengren also said the athletes had to pay for their own way to the camp, which shows a level of commitment he is looking for this season.

That commitment is important in distinguishing skiers from each other in such a large group. A total of 53 athletes tried out for the boys and girls varsity and junior varsity teams and Rosengren would prefer to keep no more than 40. However, final cuts can't fairly be made until the athletes can show their talent on the slopes.

"Ideally I won't make any cuts until we're on the snow because it's not fair to make cuts after only seeing the athletes on dry land," he said, adding 53 is the largest number of athletes he has ever coached at one time.

What is encouraging for the future of Clarkston skiing is the fact a large percentage of the athletes are freshmen and

sophomores who will continue to improve."

The future looks very strong,

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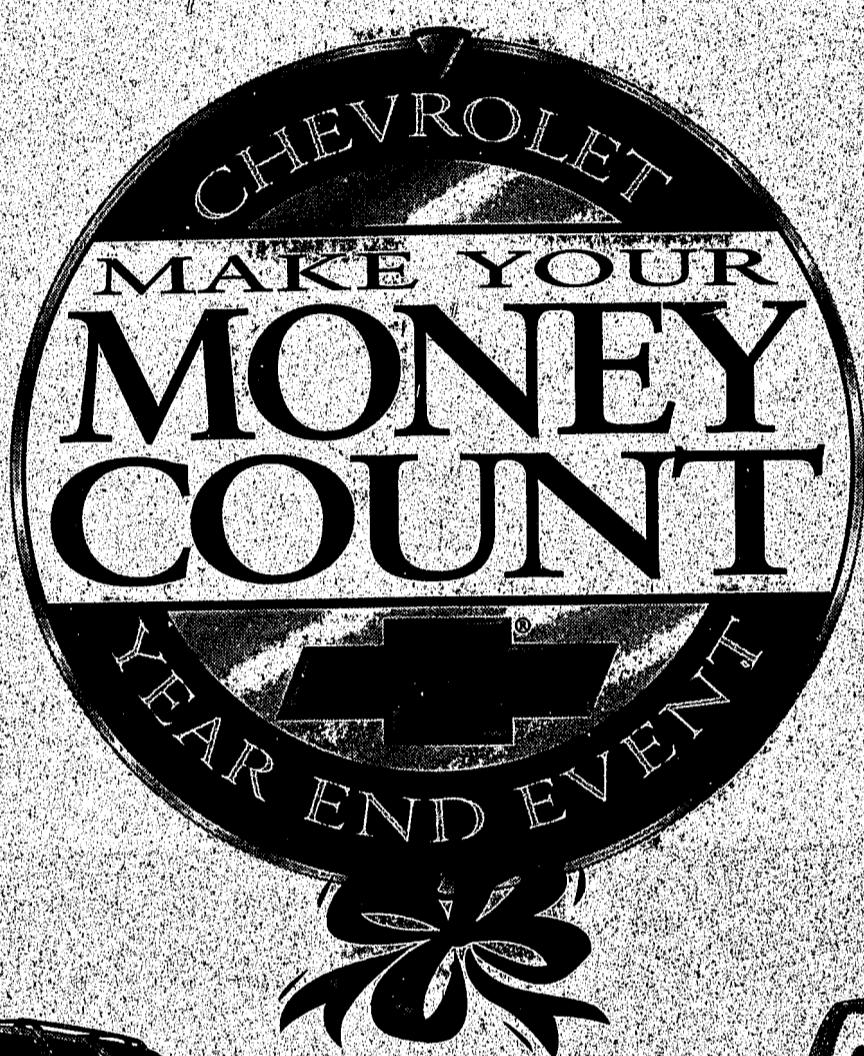
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