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If dogs eat grass, Granny predicts rain

Long before either Sony Eilat or Marilyn Turner was born, my grandmother was predicting the weather. These are some of the signs she went by. You may like to test their accuracy for yourself. Grandmother's sure signs of rain:

- Dogs eating grass
- A cat sneezing
- Sheep with their backs to the wind
- Gulls flying inland
- Fishscale clouds meant rain within 24 hours

- A rooster crowing at night
- If the rooster crows when he goes to bed, he's sure to wake up with a wet head
- Mosquitoes flying in a swarm
- The sun rising red
- Red at night
- The sailors delight.

But red in the morning. To the sailors' warning, this old piece of weather wisdom comes from St. Matthew 16:23. He answered and said unto the Lord, When it is evening, ye say it will be fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today; for the sky is red and lowering.

- A ring around the moon means a storm is on its way. The number of stars inside the ring will tell you how many days will pass before the rains come.
- The humming of table salt
- The warping of a braided rug
- Dead branches falling when there is no wind
- The unusual creaking of chairs.

GRANDMA ALBO could predict rain by feeling it in her bones. She used to say that if it rained on Monday, rain would fall at least three days that week, and Friday was always the fairest or foulest day of the week.

Rain on the first day of the month always means at least 30 days of rain that month. If a crescent moon rides on its back with



its horns up, it is said to be a 'moon that holds water' and one can expect good weather. But when it tips so that one horn is higher than the other, the water spills out and you can look for rain.

GRANDMA BELIEVED that if it rained on July 1, everything would be fine for the rest of the summer. But no rain on that day meant a bad drought either later in July or in August. Snow on Christmas was healthy, but a green Christmas meant a full graveyard. Grandmothers could tell the length of a coming winter by the amount of orange on the orange and black woolly caterpillars in the fall.

Thick skins on the onion meant a hard winter, she said. And by watching how many nuts the squirrels stored away, she could predict whether we would have a mild winter or a severe one.

To determine the temperature (Fahrenheit) on a summer evening, listen to the crickets chirp. Count the chirps sounded in 15 seconds and add 40.

You may write Gabriella at Box 434, Garden City 02133. For a personal reply, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Murphy says

Master switch needed for county weather alerts

The U.S. Weather Bureau at Metropolitan Airport would control the master switch in a countywide tornado siren plan recommended this week by Oakland County Executive Daniel J. Murphy.

Under the plan, the county would use the 72 air raid and fire alarms located in the 61 communities in the county. Additional sirens would be installed to cover areas not within hearing distance of the present ones.

Murphy's proposal calls for the weather station to sound a three-minute steady blast when a tornado has been sighted in or near Oakland County.

"All sirens would sound instantaneously at the time the weather bureau issues a tornado warning," said Murphy. They would be activated every quarter hour the tornado conditions existed.

An all-clear would be sounded when the danger has passed. The all-clear sound hasn't been determined yet.

A TIMETABLE FOR implementation hasn't been set, Murphy said. "But, we'll move ahead as rapidly as possible." The conditions of existing sirens, cost estimates and available federal and state financing are being studied, he added.

Murphy's plan is his response to a drive launched by Sue Kuhn of Beverly Hills shortly after a devastating tornado hit West Bloomfield in March without advance warning.

Mrs. Kuhn has pleaded before local, county, state and federal officials to use

the existing sirens in an early weather alert system.

"I'M SO HAPPY to see things moving ahead," said Mrs. Kuhn. "I hope it can be done right away, before it's too late."

Under an interim plan, local municipalities have established individual guidelines for sounding the sirens within their own jurisdictions. Some communities have taken no action at all.

"The lack of coordination limits the sirens' effectiveness and increases the chances of error," added Murphy.

Murphy's staff and the Oakland County Civil Defense Division, in cooperation with state and federal officials, are working to determine the number of sirens that need repair, additional sirens and their proper locations.

"At the same time we are examining the technology which would enable the weather bureau to sound a warning inside theaters, shopping centers and other areas where outdoor sirens might not be heard," Murphy added.



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2 women take high OCC votes

The only two women candidates and one incumbent man were elected Monday to the board of Oakland Community College. Two candidates had sought three positions. Barbara Jane Willing, 23, a former OCC Student Senate member, defeated two-term board member Robert C. Kennedy, 62, and Charles J. Skinner, both of Royal Oak, for a four-year post.

Ms. Willing, of Pontiac, campaigned strongly in favor of collective bargaining for all college employees. She collected 19,122 votes, Kennedy, 18,725, and Skinner, 15,693.

FULL SIX-YEAR TERMS were won by Suzanne Reynolds, 25, of Pontiac, and incumbent Carl M. Anderson, 62, of Madison Heights.

A former high school and college teacher, Mrs. Reynolds outdistanced the field with 23,303 votes. Anderson got 15,980.

Others in order of finish were Dennis C. Rogers of Troy, 12,332; Philip Hampton of Pontiac, 12,044; Sheldon Ahernson of Farmington Hills, 11,741; Ernest Gifford of Bloomfield Hills, 9,806; and Douglas Sprinkle of Troy, 7,977.

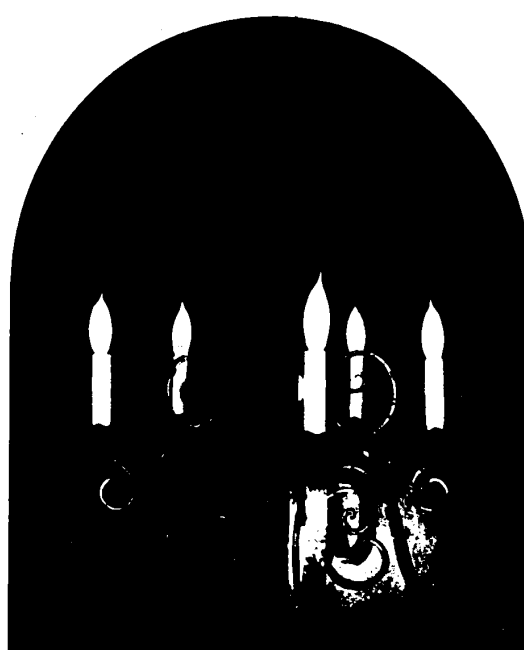
THE OCC board will hold its regular meeting tonight in the college office at 2400 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills.

Balloting for OCC board seats was conducted in conjunction with annual elections in K-12 school districts.

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