

table talk

barbecue

Southern-style barbecue cooking is the main attraction at the Blue Sky Bar-B-Que in Southfield. Owner Al Mitchell, who opened the restaurant in May, missed the kind of barbecue he used to find in southern Maryland, not far from Washington, D.C., where he used to work as associate director of Ted Koppel's "Nightline" on ABC-TV.

The Blue Sky's all-day menu includes original, mesquite or cajun-style barbecue. The hearty portions may be ordered several ways — rib plate, half slab and full slab, to name a few. Mesquite-broiled grazing combos include ribs and chicken breast at \$8.50 and ribs and shrimp at \$5.95. Everything, including the hand-cut homestyle fries and bread, are especially tasty.

Other offerings are seafood dishes, mesquite-grilled selections including ground rounds, "Frattiatas" made with three eggs, soups, salads, deli and other sandwiches, sides and desserts.

The Blue Sky is awaiting a liquor license.

Wine tasting

Wine experts Ray and Eleanor Heald will teach a five-week course, "Tasting French Wines," 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 20 to Feb. 10 and Feb. 24, at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. Sessions will be devoted to several French wine regions: Bordeaux, Champagne, Alsace, Cotes du Rhone and Burgundy. Six wines will be tasted each evening. Cost including materials fee is \$30. For registration information, phone the OCC campus at 471-7561.

Dinners to go

Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills is offering "Dinners to Go," prepared by the Kingsley's chefs and ready to take home. Choices are a prime rib dinner for eight-10 or a roast turkey

dinner, which serves up to 15 people. Side dishes, dinner rolls and apple pie are included. Prime rib dinner is \$99.95, turkey dinner \$75. To order, call 644-1400. Dinners will be ready for pickup between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24. The dining rooms will be closed Christmas Day.

Holiday buffet

A buffet featuring more than 30 items is being served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays through Wednesday at the Top of the Pontiac at the Hotel Pontchartrain in Detroit. The buffet also features a carving station with strip sirloin of beef, roast duckling, fillet of Canadian perch, roast leg of lamb, pastries, cookies and eggnog, for \$14.95. For reservations, call 965-0209, Ext. 3767 or 3768.

Rocko's Pizza

Homemade, stone-baked gourmet pizza is a specialty at Rocko's Pizza 'n' Stuff in the 12th Mile Plaza at 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway, Southfield. There's deep-dish pizza with a choice of meats, vegetables, fruits and crusts. The specialty pizza includes special, super, veggie and Hawaiian. Gourmet submarines, garden salads, croissant sandwiches and soups also are available. Rocko's is individually owned.

Let's pretend

Karen McMahon of Pox's in Rochester is fourth-place winner in competition for non-alcoholic drinks to be included in "The Great Pretenders Party Guide" offered by AAA Michigan. Her recipe for "Iola Day Magic" combines vanilla ice

cream, cinnamon ice cream, pumpkin pie spice, ripe banana and eggnog. Among other drink recipes included in the booklet are ones from Mary Beth Bergeron of D. Donison's in Farmington Hills, who created "Heart Warmer"; Richard Brown of Maches Red Fox, "Wish Upon a Star"; and Gloria Stokes of Troy, "Mistletoe Chill." The 20-page guide is available free from all AAA Michigan offices.

Free beverages

The Michigan Restaurant Association is encouraging restaurants across the state to offer free non-alcoholic beverages to patrons who agree to abstain from drinking in order to drive home guests in their party. The "designated driver" should identify him or herself to the server. For a list of participating restaurants, along with non-alcoholic drink recipes, write the MRA at 215 S. Washington Square, Suite D, Lansing 48933.

Christmas Day

Traditional holiday fare items will be on the menu, in addition to char-broiled steaks, seafood and chicken, from noon to 8 p.m. Christmas Day at the Summit Restaurant in the Wean Hotel at Detroit's Renaissance Center. Entrees are \$21.95-\$38.95 for adults, \$12-\$15.75 for children. Free parking is available in Lot A. Reservations are recommended.

Culinary team

The 1988 Michigan Culinary Team

will travel to the Singapore World Trade Center in April to compete in the sixth FIA International Salon Culinaire. Master Chef Milos Chelka of the Golden Mushroom in Southfield is Michigan Culinary team manager. An area chef on the team is Mark Kuzma from the Somerset Inn in Troy. Several Michigan Culinary Team receptions are planned next year. The team of chefs will display their culinary creations and talk to guests about their work and the world contest. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Among locations for the receptions are one June 6 at the Somerset Inn. The first reception will be held Monday, Jan. 18, at the Renaissance Club in Detroit. Tickets at \$30 per person are tax deductible. A book of four tickets, valid for any event or events, is \$100. Proceeds will help send Michigan's Culinary Team to the 1988 World Culinary Art Salon. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Reid Ashton at the Golden Mushroom, phone 559-4230.

Novi village

A gingerbread village erected by Novi Hilton's Chef Dave Wilson and his staff is on display in the hotel lobby through December. Each gingerbread house was individually designed and took approximately 30-60 hours to construct. The confectionary village is complete with a Novi Train depot with a locomotive train that circles the village. A church, chalet, toy shop with teddy bears, and Santa's house with gingerbread reindeer, and a mansion completed the village.



'Auntie Mame'

Marilyn Mays and 12-year-old Matt Hess of Windsor co-star as Mame and young Patrick in the Hilberry Theatre production of "Auntie Mame," in repertory through Saturday, Jan. 30, on the Wayne State University campus in Detroit. For tickets call the box office at 577-2972.

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