

Fire from page 1A

There have been seemingly-doused fires that have spread into walls or roofs, or have smoldered and re-ignited, Marinucci said.

"It'd say the fire was intense to turn on the sprinklers," he added.

Also, once the sprinklers are turned off for the cleanup, the building is vulnerable to fire and firefighters should be alerted, Marinucci said.

"It also sends a message to kids who were there not to bother with the fire department," he said.

The chief said that, with more than 1,000 students, there are bound to be problems like arson from time to time. They "should

English from page 1A

They represent many diverse cultures and hail from different continents, trying to grasp a language that is ripe with contradictions, exceptions to the rule and odd expressions. They lean on one another; they laugh and learn together.

"It's difficult learning the language," said Yumi Kohari, who is Japanese. "The grammar and pronunciation are so different."

"In my country everyone has to learn English for six years. It's just grammar. We don't learn conversation."

English as a Second Language, or ESL as it's known, is a three-tiered program. Classes were expanded to four hours, four days a week this year.

Beginners work on the basics, colors, shapes and sounds and simple sentences. Intermediate students concentrate on basic reading and discussions on current events.

Those in the advanced class read newspapers, converse and engage in debates.

Fined for wrong tongue

In some classes, people caught

'If you learn in Brazil and you don't practice it, it's difficult because everyone speaks very fast.'

speaking their native tongue are fined 25 cents. The money goes into a fund for a party at the end of the year. Teachers are happy to report there's not going to be a lot of hoopla.

Some languages bear similarities to English. For example, German has the same type of pauses.

But for some there are many differences. "The different alphabet is tough," Shari Wiesbaum said. "If they come from a place where the language and alphabet are different it's a big transition."

Beate Kilgenstein learned English in her native Germany. She moved to Farmington Hills 10 months ago when her husband was transferred to Bosch Corp. She thought the move would be a good chance for her two sons, Marcel, 7, and Yves, 5, to learn two languages.

It's always better to be safe than to take a chance on a fire, Marinucci said.

"You can always cancel, and we can always turn back," he said. "It doesn't cost (the schools) anything."

By Michigan law and as part of the insurance contract, a report of the fire must be made, Cowan said.

The fire was the second arson case at the school in three weeks. A ticket booth was torched Oct. 15, which completely destroyed it and melted part of the metal fence next to it.

Horn said he thought that the

Confidence boosters

"If you learn in Brazil and you don't practice it, it's difficult because everyone speaks very fast," said Donatini, whose husband works for General Motors.

The classes give them confidence, they said. More than learn-

Questions from page 1A

services, and an administrative assistant for personnel and employee benefits for the Bay City district. He also served as an assistant principal for St. John's High School in St. John's, Mich. Has a doctorate in education from Wayne State University.

■ 8-9:30 p.m. Youssef Yomtoob — Superintendent of Ypsilanti Willow Run Community Schools since 1988. He served as an assistant superintendent for Albion Public Schools. He worked 22 years for Niles Community Schools in various positions, including as executive director of personnel, labor relations, and research and evaluation. Has a postdoctoral degree in school finance and administration from Michigan State University.

On Thursday:

■ 6-7:30 p.m. C. Robert Maxfield — Superintendent of Berkley School District since 1988, he was assistant superintendent with the district 1984-88. He also was principal at Clawson High 1978-84 and an assistant principal at Berkley High 1973-78. He has a

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Farmington Observer
(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI. 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 644-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year (12 issues)	\$36.00
Three months (3 issues)	\$12.00
One year (12 issues) outside Michigan	\$50.00
One year (12 issues) outside U.S. & Canada	\$60.00

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If you have arthritis, now is not too soon to consider the holiday season.

If you give it no thought, you may find it difficult to manage the activities associated with Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

No one needs to tell you that having fun and being joyful takes work; the good time comes only after effort and attention to detail. If you are to avoid joint strain, and take on responsibilities you can discharge, you must prepare with organization and follow with resolve.

Questions that call for answers at this time include: Will you entertain or take the role of guest, will you be visiting out of your house or even out of state. Who needs gifts, and what is appropriate, given not only your finances but your mobility in a holiday shopping crowd?

Will you host a party or supper and if so, who is available to help buy food, set the table, or even bring a dish for the meal? Can you drive without apprehension in winter conditions and for how long. If you have a flare is there someone available to take the role of chauffeur?

Once you have answered these questions, and likely a number more, set your schedule and stick to it.

As you see, treating arthritis is as much a mental discipline as it is of one's medical choice.

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