

TRAVEL

Kids win weekend at Sugar Loaf Resort

Megan Newhouse, 11 of Plymouth, and Spencer Franchi, 10 of Troy, were the grand prize winners of our "Learn to Ski Contest." To win, they drew a picture of their family skiing, and explained why their family should learn how to ski.

They won a Winter Weekend Getaway at Sugar Loaf Resort consisting of two nights resort lodging and lift tickets for a family of four.

In addition to lodging and lift tickets, their grand prize packages included Leelanau Sands Casino Super Gaming Player Passbooks worth \$50 each for mom and dad. Leelanau Sands Casino is in nearby Suttons Bay.

Ten runners-up won prizes consisting of one night midweek resort lodging and lift tickets for a family of four.

The runners-up were Jacob Granove, 7 (West Bloomfield); Derrick Pass, 5 (Farmington Hills); Morgan Harding, 3

(Bloomfield); Nikki Bieber, 6 (Redford); Miles Levin, 7 (Bloomfield Hills); Jim Albertus, 11 (Rochester Hills); April Loney, 9 (Livonia); Sarah Broder, 12 (Farmington Hills); Robert Lukofsky, 11 (Livonia); and Erin King, 8 (Redford).

Here are the winning stories. Megan Newhouse wrote — "I think my family should learn how to ski because it's a fun sport we can do together and we can take lessons so we won't hurt ourselves or anyone else on the slopes."

"I think my family should learn how to ski because I love my family and I want to have time off to have fun with my family," wrote Spencer Franchi.

Sugar Loaf Resort in Cedar, Mich. 1-(800)-968-0576, offers a variety of ski packages for the whole family. From the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain you can see Lake Michigan, Little Traverse Bay, and the Manitowish Islands. Upcoming events include: Nor-



Winner: Spencer Franchi of Troy, a grand prize winner in our "Learn to Ski" contest, drew this picture of his family on skis.

die Week — free cross country trail passes all week Jan. 15-21; "Just Kidding Weekends" Jan. 19-21 and Feb. 2-4 — weekend getaway with two nights resort lodging, lift tickets, two breakfasts, one dinner and one group lesson. Up to two children 18 and under sleep free (from \$209 per person, double occupancy), plus

up to two kids ski free all weekend, free "just for kids" pizza parties, and activities.

March "Spring Carnival" package \$129 per person (double occupancy) March 8-10;

Call for more information about midweek and weekend getaway packages.

GREAT ESCAPES

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160, or by fax (313) 991-7279.

Day & weekend trips

ADRIAN & BILLSFIELD RAIL ROAD COMPANY
The Old Road Dinner Train, 2 1/2 hour round trip train ride, dinner and murder mystery, 7 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, US-223 at Depot Street, east of downtown Bilsfield, near Adrian. (517) 486-5979

MACKINAC ISLAND
Cross country ski trails, many island businesses, hotels and bed and breakfasts are open. The Mackinac Island State Park Visitor's Center will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 23 to Jan. 2. Colonial Mackinac in Mackinac City will be open Jan. 19-20; Jan. 26-27; Feb. 2-4; and Feb. 19-18. (800) 542-8528 (toll) (800) 4-LILACS (toll-free)

SNOW TRAIN
Bluewater Michigan Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will offer a three day passenger train tour from the metro Detroit area Feb. 10-12. Motorcoaches will pick up passengers in Dearborn and Birmingham for the trip to Agawa Canyon. Lunch stop at the Sugar Bowl in Gaylord. Saturday and Sunday night buffet at the Ramada Inn in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. You'll ride the Algoma Central Snow Train on Sunday morning, and enjoy lunch in the dining car. Visitations Monday stop at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. Cost

\$299 per person (double occupancy), \$345 (single). First class luxury option available for an added \$250 per person. (610) 399-7963

Warm destinations

CURACAO
Hamilton, Miller, Hudson & Faye Travel Corporation is expanding their travel programs to include Curacao in the Caribbean beginning in February. Sun County Airlines leave metro Saturdays beginning Dec. 23 to Dec. 14, 1996. Air only prices start at \$459.00 per person, round trip. Customized packages including air and hotel start at \$919.00 round trip per person. Curacao is 35 miles off the northern coast of Venezuela, in the southern Caribbean in the Netherlands Antilles. The island is 36 miles long and offers white sand beaches, windsurfing, sailing, water skiing, golf, tennis and horseback riding. Call your travel agent for details.

TRIPS
PARIS IN SPRINGTIME
Music lovers' tour May 2-10 hosted by French travel specialist David Green and music specialist Shirley Hardin. The eight day "Une Petite Fete Musicale" includes performances of operas and ballets, walking tours, and other musical events. Call for information. (800) 674-6470

GREAT BRITAIN
Travel May 20-29 with Marty Fidler, Observer & Eccentric garden writer to Great Britain with stops in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh. You'll visit gardens, manor houses and castles, and the Chelsea Garden Show. (810) 644-2187 or 1-(800)-451-0637.

FINE ARTS

Award-winning artist's classes explore new technology

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Mary Klenic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

CLASSES PLANNED

Noted instructor and award-winning artist Karen Halpern of Bloomfield Hills offers two new courses, "Modern Art Through Mixed Media and Collage" and "Artists' Watercolor Class," at Millers Art Supply, 270 W. Nine Mile in Ferndale.

The store is planned with attention to the needs of the art student: good overhead lighting, convenient cabinet and sink space, adjustable easels and work tables and an expandable studio.

Both beginning and experienced artists will meet Fridays for 10 weeks, Jan. 5 to March 16 (no classes Jan. 19 and Feb. 16). The mixed media class will take place 9:30 a.m. to noon (fee is \$88) and the watercolor class 12:30-2:30 p.m. (fee is \$69). Pre-registration is encouraged and supply lists are available. Call (810) 414-7070 for information.

Halpern will introduce concepts and materials to stimulate creative thinking through new technology, provided by new acrylic products and their possibilities. Texture, impasto, adhesive qualities and palette knife painting are some areas to be explored. Collage and montage will play a vital role in the development of new works using printed media, fabric and embedded objects to explore a personal point

of view. The watercolor class will provide basic information about color theory, composition, varied subjects and the transparent, fluid effects of the medium.

Halpern owns Art Interior Systems at Michigan Design Center in Troy, through which she custom designs paintings and murals for residences, businesses and public spaces. A painter for 35 years, she is a frequent guest lecturer and juror of shows for area art organizations.

TO BEAD OR NOT TO BEAD

Registration begins Tuesday, Jan. 2, for beadworking classes offered by Birmingham Public Schools during its winter 1996 Community Education program. Instructor Gail Frederickson is a board member of the Great Lakes

Beadworkers Guild. The classes meet 7-9 p.m. at Seaholm High School in Birmingham. Call (810) 203-3800 to register or for more information.

In a class meeting four Wednesdays beginning Jan. 24 (no session Feb. 14), make a beautiful miniature purse necklace using seed beads enhanced with bugle beads and gemstones. Various known as charm bags, amulet pouches, treasure pouches or medicine bags, these miniature purses convey the traditional concept of carrying small, personally significant treasures or tokens along. Here, using a simple off-loum vertical netting technique, the purse is given a contemporary treatment. The \$44 fee includes materials.

Have fun making your own beautiful earrings with seed and

bugle beads enhanced with crystals and gemstones in sessions meeting three Thursdays beginning Jan. 25. Learn several basic techniques of construction including Comanche/brick stitch with dangles, Spanish lace and square stitch. A variety of earrings will be made and variations will be presented for further exploration. The \$30 fee includes materials.

ON TOUR

The studio of area artist Linda Zalla was selected by the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association to be the site of its monthly gallery tour in December.

AT THE PCCA

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts has scheduled three workshops for adults beginning next

month. For more information, call the PCCA at (810) 651-4110.

A six-session tile making workshop will take place 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to Feb. 20. Explore the design, firing and glazing of decorative and functional tile. Registration deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 9.

In a mat workshop, learn how to select mat colors to complement your art work or photographs, and how to measure and cut mats. The two sessions will meet 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17 and 24. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 10.

A press molds workshop will meet for four sessions, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to Feb. 7. Learn to make your own one- and two-part press molds. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 10.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

SHIRAZ MADNESS

Wednesday & Thursday Performances in January
BOX OFFICE 963-9800 GEM THEATRE 965-6866
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NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Holiday Inn of Southfield has Two Great Ways for You to Start Off The New Year in Style.

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• Party Favors
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SPECIAL LIVE PERFORMANCE BY DAVID SYME ON DECEMBER 29TH FROM 2:30-4:30 P.M.

AT HARMONY HOUSE BIRMINGHAM, 223 W. MAPLE (W. OF WOODWARD) (810) 433-1140

38 LOCATIONS • OPEN DAILY 10-10 • SUNDAYS 12-6 • NEW YEAR'S EVE 10-5