

OCC'S Orchard Ridge campus hosts events

Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills will host the following upcoming events:

Great Lakes Great Wine Walk Around Tasting - 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14. The public will be able to sip, swirl, and savor such products as Canada's famous Ice Wines, and sample food from top area restaurants. Medals will be awarded by professional judges to the best of the 500 wine

entries. Call (248) 522-3700.
Health Professions Connection: Exploring Career Options - 4-8 p.m. Thursday, May 15. The program will showcase OCC's many health career programs including nuclear medicine, dental hygiene, respiratory therapy and surgical technology. Call (248) 544-2228.
International Festival of World Music and Dance - Friday, May 9 at OCC's Smith Theater. For information call (248) 544-3667.

HERSCHER

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coar from my mysterious inner floor.

"The warden deposits me inside a cardboard box and I'm scared, but glad to get away from the ferocious barking that echoes throughout the building. After a lengthy drive, I'm being carried out of the car and into a house - creating extreme anxiety and I can no longer contain this sorrowful yowl.

Scrumching fearfully in the corner, I see large hands reaching inside the box. A big man is now holding me gently and really like him. Oh, joy! He is enticing me to play with colorful bird-like feathers on the end of a string. What fun to leap into the air and chase around the room so freely. I'm suddenly very tired and sneezing, so I think I'll curl up to take a nap.

It's good waking up in my new home on a bright morning, but I don't feel like eating or drinking. The lady is talking on the telephone, showing obvious concern about my well-being. She's coming toward me with that cardboard box and I'm terrified, so I'll hide under the chair. The lady drags me out, places me inside the box, and now we're going for a ride.

This is awful. We've returned to that horrible noisy building. Another needle stabs me in the neck before I am put back inside the box and I'm again riding in the car. We're back at the house where the big man and nice lady live. All I want to do is sleep, but they just wake and try squirting horrible tasting liquid down my throat. Sometimes, I can spit most of it out, and I frantically claw and bite to let them know that this is an agonizing experience.

FEELING BETTER

Ten days have gone by and I'm feeling great! All that horrible-testing medicine must have worked, because I'm not sneezing anymore. What a super house to explore, for I can run up and down stairs and all around from one room

through another and back, getting plenty of exercise. I love to claw the big man's chair, but the nice lady carries me away whenever she sees me doing that and the man is building me a rope-covered post to keep me away from his chair.

The cuckoo clock is striking five times and I'm ready to play. Someday I'm going to catch that bird, but it's difficult climbing up the chains. It's my self-delegated duty to awaken the household, so I'll scramble as fast as I can up the stairs, skid around the corner and leap onto their bed. That should bring them to a semi-conscious state. If I sit across the man's body a couple times, while he snores like a bear - much like loud purring. My voracious appetite urges me to roam the house all night in search of vermin. That spider was only an appetizer and I am salivating at the thought of treats.

Perching on the man's chest while staring incessantly into his face rarely fails to awaken him, but if that doesn't work, I swat purposefully at his mustache, while purring even louder and rubbing the side of my head against his cheek. My persistent pestering will have him out of bed long before the alarm clock sounds.

The big man is pouring food in my dish and mumbling about getting up too early, but he isn't angry with me. He's patting me on the back while I'm crunching on crispy kitten food. It didn't take long for me to finish my breakfast and the nice lady is in the kitchen making tea. I feel like the luckiest cat in the whole world to have been adopted by these kind-hearted people!

I have written this story from the perspective of a stray cat with the hope that some of you will consider adopting a pet from your local animal shelter. The Humane Society does a great service for stray animals, on a limited budget. Many animals are in desperate need of loving homes and will provide you and your family with hours of amusement and unconditional love.

Ellen Herscher is a Farmington Hills resident and regular contributor to the Observer.

Norwegian independence celebrated

A gala day marking the anniversary of Norwegian independence is being planned for the Detroit area.

The festivities will include a parade, music, singing, speeches, games, special foods, and wearing of the national costume, the Norwegian bunad.

The family-oriented celebration will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills. The Sons



Lou Amundsen of Farmington Hills, president of Nordkap Lodge, the Sons of Norway, addresses last year's Norwegian Constitution Day celebration, as Howard Skovlund of Farmington displays the flag of the United States between those of Norway (on the left) and Canada.



Maria Fossbakk (19) of Novi, on the right, models her ornately embroidered "bunad," the national costume of Norway, to be worn at the Norwegian Constitution Day celebration on May 17 at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills. With her are her brother Michael (12), on the left, and sister Sara (9).

of Norway, hosts of the event, invite the public to join them in commemorating Norwegian Constitution Day, one of Norway's most significant holidays.

Parade participants will march to the music of the Scandinavian-American Spelmanslag led by Karin Arneson of Dearborn. Dennis Flessland of Huntington Woods, Honorary Consul of Norway in the State of Michigan, will be the featured speaker.

Coffee and delicious Norwegian desserts will be available. Children will be treated to ice cream on a stick after competing in the

traditional games.

Inside the clubhouse, the Sons of Norway's Nordkap Lodge will sell typical Norwegian products, flags to wave in the parade and packaged foods.

Carol Jehle of West Bloomfield, Nordkap's financial secretary and coordinator of the event, encourages families to bring their own flags, noisemakers and lawn chairs.

The Constitution Day celebration, called Sytennde Mai (17th of May) in Norway, commemorates the day in 1814 when the new

Norwegian Constitution was signed.

The constitution established Norway as a sovereign state and constitutional monarchy. When a subsequent union with Sweden was dissolved in 1905, the constitution became the foundation of modern Norway.

Membership in the Sons of Norway is open to all who are interested in the preservation of Norwegian culture and heritage.

For more information, call (248) 398-5976.

HALL

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he may need to during the next two months - the duration of the construction projects.

"The company has been very supportive so far, but whether or not we have to make the decision to decrease our workforce depends on how long this drop in sales sustains," Perkins said. "I hope this is as bad as it's going to get."

When asked how the construction projects are slowing the ring of the register, store managers offer a look of

disbelief and some frustrated words. "Just look around," said Judith Gray, an employee at Hodgspodge. "There's no one in here."

Although Gray believes the store will survive the construction season, she's not certain.

"I don't know," she said when asked. "The holiday season is of course our best season but it can't carry you through the whole year."

Still, she thinks if the shoppers return after construction, the store will recover.

"I think we'll hang in there; we're holding our own for now," she said. Although the construction-related drop in

sales is only temporary, the real danger is losing shoppers for good, Gelman said.

"Sixty days is a long time," she said. "Consumer habits can change in that time, and the fear is we could lose those shoppers for good."

Mail management is currently developing incentives to entice customers to brave the orange barrels and traffic slowdowns.

"The shoppers that keep coming here, even if it's inconvenient - they're my heroes right now," Gelman said.

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'Women on Wednesdays' returns

The Detroit Tigers have announced the return of "Women on Wednesdays" to Comerica Park in Detroit for the 2003 season. A unique monthly pre-game program focusing on the achievements of women throughout Major League Baseball and sports, "Women on Wednesdays" is presented by Henry Ford Health Systems, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and FOX 2.

WXYZ & WWJ Operations Manager Georgeann Herbert will be the first featured guest of the new season on Wednesday, May 14 prior to the Tigers game with the Oakland Athletics. Herbert was named the operations manager for WXYZ & WWJ in November of 2000 and 2003 marks her 30th year in radio. She has received awards for news coverage from the Associated Press, UPI and the Radio Television News Directors Association, including the Edward R. Murrow Award twice. Additionally, Herbert has received the National Headliner Award.

The "Women on Wednesdays" program will take place in the Upper Deck Lounge, located on the 300-level of Comerica Park, from 5:30-7 p.m., and each program is scheduled to feature an interview with a current Tigers player and coaches.

New to the "Women on Wednesdays" program this season is a pre- and post-event networking segment, providing all guests the opportunity to meet the featured guest, as well as members of the Tigers front office. Additionally, numerous door prizes will be awarded to Tigers fans in attendance, including a day at Visage Spa in Bloomfield Hills.

This event provides a unique, fun opportunity for Metro Detroit professional women to enjoy Tigers baseball and meet others in an affiliated or similar industry to theirs," said Tigers executive assistant to the senior vice president's Tamara Mithin.

Admission to "Women on Wednesdays" is free with a ticket to the game on May 14 against Oakland. Tickets may be purchased by calling (248) 251-1100, or by visiting www.detroittigers.com, the box office at Comerica Park or any Ticketmaster outlet.

The upcoming schedule (with guests):
 June 18 - Lucinda A. Treat - chief legal officer, Boston Red Sox
 July 9 - Wendy Lewis - vice president of recruitment & diversity, Major League Baseball

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