

## table talk

### Mardi Gras

A Cajun and Creole buffet is featured at the "Taste of Mardi Gras" celebration, which goes into its fourth week at the Novi Hilton. The Friday night party in the hotel's Orchard Cafe offers a buffet with blackened red fish, jambalaya, spiky rib eye of beef, chicken gumbo and crawfish, and green rice salad. Desserts include flaming Bananas Foster. Doug Jacobs and the Red Garter Band play many of Bourbon Street's favorite tunes. Cost is \$17.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children and \$15.95 for seniors.

Royal Oak. The cafe also has a new menu. Entrees range from linguini with fresh sauce provencale and Parmesan cheese, at \$6.95, to grilled choice filet mignon, at \$15.95. Other specialties include sauteed rock shrimp with tomato pasta and a green peppercorn, dill mustard sauce, at \$11.95, and grilled breast of chicken "Metropolitan," with a warm roasted, black peppercorn and brandy vinaigrette. There also are a la carte appetizers, soups and salads, as well as sandwiches.

### At Roadhouse

A Superbowl party is planned for 3-9 p.m. Sunday at the Roadhouse Restaurant and Tavern at Oak Pointe near Brighton. Pitcher specials and a "munchie buffet" will accompany wide-screen-TV viewing of the football game. Reservations are required. On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, the restaurant will offer a specially prepared "Dish for Two" — Chateaubriand Bouquetiere and a Seafood Platter. Tom Souliere is the new manager of the Roadhouse.

### Clown around

Rainbow the Clown entertains from noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 3:30-6:30 p.m. Sundays through January at Zehnder's in Frankenhuth. Children 11 years of age and under receive a free children's family-style chicken dinner with the purchase of an adult meal during January.

### Music cafe

Steve Wren, former sous chef at the Beverly Hills Grill, is the new chef at the Metropolitan Music Cafe in

# Guitarist cooks up alligator chili

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

What do you say to an artist who puts a recipe for alligator chili on his album? For starters, you might offer him a breath mint.

"You ought to try it sometime," said guitarist and chef Leslie West, who performs Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Ritz in Roseville.

Well, we'll pass. Besides, musical palates are geared more to West's latest release on I.R.S. Records, aptly titled "Alligator."

For West, the new LP is a challenge, mainly because he first thought he was doing an instrumental project.

West joined other guitar legends like Robbie Krieger on I.R.S.'s "Guitar Speak" project this past summer. I.R.S. president Miles Copeland asked West to do a solo album — with vocals.

No problem. The former member of Mountain ("Mississippi Queen") jumped into the studio with the likes of Concrete Blonde's Johnette Napolitano and world-renowned bassist Stanley Clarke.

Along with his own material, West puts his touch on classics such as Bobby Darin's "Dream Lover" and Screamin' Jay Hawkins' "I Put a Spell on You."

"It sounds pretty good to me," West said about the album. "I wanted to do something with different tones, hard, heavy and soft. So each could stand on its own."

EACH NUMBER stands on its own for other reasons, primarily through the help of Clarke. It was a "thrill" to work with the bassist.

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West said West has worked with a few, including Jack Bruce and the late Felix Pappalardi.

"He's brilliant," West said about Clarke. "He's one of many great bass players I've been able to play with."

It's probably done more good for me than them."

After his Mountain days, West got together with Mick Jones to form the Leslie West Band. He eventually "fired" Jones, who went on to form Foreigner.

West then got his act together, getting off drugs. He tried to reform Mountain with little luck. Lately, he has been the musical director for the seagulls-and-offend crowd of Sam Kinison and former Detroit disc jockey Howard Stern.

West is contracted to do four LPs with I.R.S. With one done, there's three to go. He's not sure what the next one will sound like.

"I'll probably play guitar," West said.

Leslie West will perform Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Ritz, 1530 Frisco, Roseville. For information, call 778-8150.



Leslie West's new album is called "Alligator."

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