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Pizza entrepreneur bumps head with U.S. Labor Department

By MARY GNIEWEK

A Little Caesars pizza franchise, headquartered in Farmington Hills, has agreed to pay \$69,000 in back wages to hundreds of employees as a result of a confrontation with the U.S. Department of Labor, according to the Labor Department.

Little Caesars Enterprises, 38700 Grand River, and its president, Michael Ilitch, have been charged with failure to pay federal minimum wage (\$2.65 an hour last year; the minimum is now \$2.95) and time and one-half pay after 40 hours, a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The action came as a result of two complaints filed by the U.S. Department of Labor last September. It affects Little Caesar employees in Farm-

ington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Troy, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Southfield, Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth and a host of other communities in the tri-county area.

In a consent judgement before Federal District Court Judge Philip Pratt, Little Caesars Enterprises agreed to pay \$69,000 to 777 employees and Ilitch to pay \$10,500 to employees, according to the Labor Department.

Labor Department spokesman Brad Mitchell said his 40 page report of the case lists Ilitch and Little Caesars as two separate businesses with franchises in various locations. Employees may be covered by one or both of the judgements.

Ilitch was out of town at press time and unavailable for comment. But Little Caesars spokesman Rudy Palizzi

said the consent judgement was not an admission of liability. The settlement, he said, was reached a long court case.

Brian Smith, attorney for Little Caesars, said he was unable to comment on the case without consulting Ilitch. A press conference is tentatively scheduled today (Monday).

Although Smith was unable to give an exact number, he disputed that 931 employee figure quoted by Department of Labor officials.

"It was much less than that," he said. The complaints were filed against the franchise following an investigation by the Labor Department's wage-hour division office in Troy, under the supervision of area director Arthur Buch-

man. "We keep pretty busy here," Buch-

man said. "Most of the complaints

come from employees, sometimes they're anonymous.

"This suit is just against one owner's franchise. It has nothing to do with other Little Caesars that may be very law abiding.

"These people (Ilitch and Little Caesars Enterprises) may contest this. They can appeal these things."

John Mellett, U.S. Department of Labor spokesman in Chicago, said Little Caesars agreed to pay \$69,000. He said that wage abuse in franchises is common, but that the figure Little Caesars agreed to pay is a big settlement.

The pizza franchise was enjoined by Judge Pratt from further violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

"What that means is that if he (Ilitch) does it again, he may find himself in jail," said Mellett.

Shutdowns cause boundary shifts for high schools

By MARY GNIEWEK

More than 700 high school and junior high students in Farmington public schools will be attending different schools over the next two years if proposed boundary changes recommended by school administrators are approved by the Board of Education next week.

The new boundaries are intended to equalize students between shrinking east end and growing west end population shifts which have left some schools nearly vacant while others are at full capacity.

The new boundaries are also supposed to help the district accommodate its proposed middle school format that will be implemented in the 1980-81 school year.

The closing of Shiawassee elementary school in June and Highmeadow in June 1980 will spur a change in elementary school boundaries. Farmington administrative assistant Scott Bacon said that five other elementary schools will be affected by boundary changes. Those changes are being studied by a task force of school administrators. The board is expected to vote on them in April or May.

"Hundreds of homes are being built in the west. We're getting about 75 children for every 100 homes," Bacon said. "That leaves us with crowded schools in the west and vacant buildings in the more settled east."

"We can offer better programs when facilities are not jammed to capacity or down to a bare minimum."

DUNKEL AND POWER junior high need an immediate reduction," Bacon said. Middle school boundaries will follow elementary school boundaries wherever possible.

Students who will attend seventh grade in September will be transferred to the appropriate receiving junior high at that time so they won't have to transfer again when middle schools are implemented in 1980-81. Farmington's four junior highs will serve as middle schools.

The biggest change will affect section four: Thirteen Mile to Fourteen Mile between Drake and Farmington Road. Those students will be transferred from Dunkel to Warner.

Students south of Twelve Mile between Orchard Lake and Inkster north of I-96 will transfer from East to Warner. The changes will boost Warner's enrollment.

Section 35, south of Nine Mile and north of Grand River, will transfer students from Power to East. Students who live south of Ten Mile, north of Grand River between Power and Drake, will transfer from Power to Dunkel.

Current enrollments at the junior highs are Power, 721; Dunkel, 898; Warner, 580; and East, 965. The projections for 1980-81 are Power, 555; Dunkel, 575; Warner, 763; and East, 827. Bacon said that, ideally, middle school enrollments should fall between 500 and 800 students.

The district is prepared to spend \$2,000 next year for additional bus runs, since in some areas students will be attending two junior highs. The bus schedule will be back to normal in 1980-81 when the new boundaries are implemented districtwide.

In the high schools, we tried to affect as few students as possible. Once

these changes are made, we won't have to make any new ones for a few years," Bacon said.

North Farmington's boundary will not be changed. Students who will attend ninth grade in September will be transferred to their new high school in some sections of Farmington's and Harrison's territory.

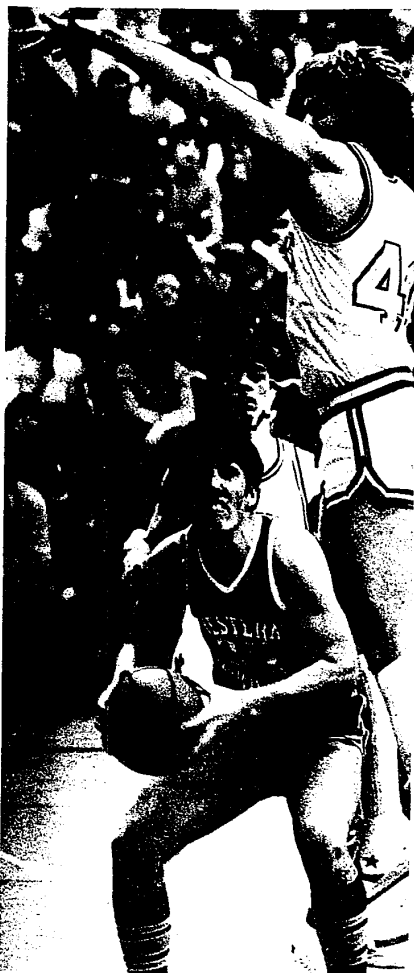
Allowances will be made for 84 students who have brothers or sisters at the old boundary high school. The district does not want to split families. But if the older sibling is in 12th grade this year or already a graduate of the old high school, no exceptions will be made.

Former Farmington High-bound students who live on Tuck or west of Tuck from Ten Mile to Shiawassee, or on Shiawassee west of Tuck, or on Purdue south of Nine Mile or west of Purdue on Middlebelt will be in the new Harrison boundary.

Students from Springbrook south of Ten Mile to Grand River and Tuck south of Shiawassee to Grand River will remain at Farmington High.

"At the high school level, those students being transferred attended either Larkshire or Wm. Grace, then East junior high. Now they'll attend Harrison together," Bacon said.

Parents with questions about the proposed boundary changes can call either their school principal or Bacon at the administrative offices, 477-1300.



Battling for victory

Farmington Harrison's Dave Turnquist (right) shows some of the eager action during the past week's State Class A district playoffs. Here he blocks a shot by Walled Lake Western's John Ropcek. Harrison went on to play North Farmington after beating Walled Lake. To read about all the action, turn to the sports section (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Dust control and pensions slated for tonight's meet

New Business

The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight at city hall, 31555 Eleven Mile, on the corner of Orchard Lake Road.

Public hearings
• Cost hearing for special assessment on sanitary sewer for Stockton.

• Cost hearing for special assessment on sanitary sewer for Randall, Folsom and River Glen.

City Managers report
• Recommendations budget amendments to reflect changed conditions.

• Recommendations approval of contract for managerial and professional services at the San Marino Municipal Golf Course.

• Recommendations green fees schedule for the 1979 season for the San Marino Municipal Golf Course.

• Informational report on the Orchard Lake Road widening project.

• Recommendations approval of Resolution No. 1 for establishing date for hearing on annual chloride-dust control program.

• Recommendations establishment of date for cost hearing for Lincolnshire Road Improvement S.A.D.

• Recommendations discussion with general city employees on proposed pension improvements.

Unfinished business
• Consideration of consent judgement: Rowenchuk vs. City of Farmington Hills.

• Consideration of consent judgement: Ravine Investment Company vs. City of Farmington Hills.

• Consideration of road vacation which was passed by the city council on Jan. 15 (contingent on approval of consent judgement). The alley that runs between Firwood and Ravine in the Glen Oaks Subdivision.

• Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C-3-79, Chapter 4, section 4.120(5) ("Police member" mean an employee of the city who is an employee of the police division of the department of public safety, with the rank of patrolman or above.

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GO RED, GO GREEN

No, we're not talking about a matchup between Michigan State and Nebraska. Rather, columnist Mary Gniwewek recalls the good old days at Rosary High School when the Poles and the Irish squared off on St. Patrick's Day which, by the way, happens to be St. Joseph's Day, also.

Immunization hunt in school district is contemplated

Measles, rubella and polio are among the diseases which once plagued childhood and emptied classrooms and playgrounds.

Vaccines put an end to the threat posed by many childhood diseases but that relief is being countered by failure of parents to immunize their children against diseases which they believe science has licked.

To ward off the possibility of an epidemic in Oakland County schools, Dr. Maurice Reizen, director of the Michigan Department of Public Health and John Porter, state superintendent of schools, have joined forces to combat childhood diseases.

A search of student records will be made in the coming year to find youngsters who aren't vaccinated for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, as well as hard measles, German measles and polio.

The Farmington School District will participate in the program designed to review the immunizations records of students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

School Superintendent Lewis Schulman is confident the search will show that most of the students in the district have been inoculated against the diseases.

HE ESTIMATES between 95-99 per cent of the students have received their vaccinations.

Janella Fralick, the public health supervisor in charge of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Clarencville backs up Schulman's confidence.

"There have been a few cases of measles in the Farmington schools last year, but you can count them on one hand," she said.

Problems with polio haven't oc-

curred for years, according to Ms. Fralick.

Schulman credits the district's adherence to state polio laws provides for compulsory checks on the health records of new students from other states.

But in spite of that requirement, Michigan ranks among the top 10 states for the most frequent cases of diseases such as measles. Last year, Michigan had about one-third of the reported 25,000 cases of measles in the nation.

One of the reasons for that statistic is that the state had become lax in its public inoculation programs. In the mid-'60s the department of health sponsored sugar cube Sundays during which persons could receive anti-polio vaccine.

WITH THE SUCCESS of such programs, vigilance lapsed into self-satisfaction, according to Ms. Fralick. But she refuses to place too much importance on figures reporting the incidence of measles in the state.

Some of the reported cases are viral rashes. Instead of confirmed measles cases, she said, doctors are reluctant to see suspected cases of measles in their offices after a rash has developed. Instead, some rely on phoned in descriptions from parents.

School districts have received permission from the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Office of the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) to disclose students' vaccination information to state and local health officials.

The process of sifting through the files and bringing them up to date will take the school district about one year, according to Schulman.