



Rodeo competitor

Tina Ringrose of Livonia, a bus driver for the Farmington Public Schools, competed June 18 in the ninth annual state championship School Bus Rodeo at Eaton Rapids. Ringrose was among 39 drivers who competed in the finals for the state crown. Drivers are tested on the ability to maneuver a standard school bus and on knowledge of safety regulations. AAA Michigan and the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation co-sponsored the competition.

Blanchard's record lauded

Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths, speaking June 22 at the annual Farmington Democratic dinner, said Gov. James Blanchard has "done a marvelous job, probably the best in my lifetime" during his first term in office.

She listed as major Blanchard accomplishments:

- Restoration of the credit of the state.
- Making more money available for other programs.
- Bringing in more new businesses than any other state.
- Carrying on the best affirmative action program in the nation.

Griffiths told the Botsford Inn audience that because of the restoration of the state's credit rating, it was possible to refinance an 11 percent interest loan for the construction of the new University of Michigan hospital to around 7 percent saving the taxpayers \$300 million.

"We have gone from the worst credit rating in America to the best," she said. "That means we're saving millions of dollars for the taxpayers."

Griffiths contrasted the present situation with January 1983, when she and Blanchard took office and found that the previous Republican

administration had left the state with a \$1.7 billion debt.

"The Michigan Constitution requires a balanced budget," she said. She charged that the previous administration used "voodoo economics" to show a balanced budget when there was none. "They balanced the budget by counting 14 months' income against 12 months' expenditures," she added.

Griffiths came down hard on U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese, calling him "the worst Attorney General we've ever had. If I were still in Congress, I would move to impeach Ed Meese."

"There has never been an attorney general, until Meese, who has not observed legal precedents," she charged.

Oakland County Democratic Party Chair Mary Ryan Taras led the tribute to more than 60 Farmington Democratic Club women members and activists who were honored at the dinner along with Griffiths.

Taras praised the Farmington Democratic Club as the most active in the county and a model that she uses when talking to other clubs. That praise was echoed by state Sen. Jack Faxon, the closing speaker.

'We have gone from the worst credit rating in America to the best. That means we're saving millions of dollars for the taxpayers.'

— Martha Griffiths, lieutenant governor



Faxon, who lives in Farmington Hills, said that what he likes about the Farmington Club is that the members have fun while doing political work.

Faxon reported on the passage of his anti-smoking bill in public places and his efforts to gain state funding for area programs.

Farmington Democratic Chair Mi-

chael Breshgold, a candidate for state representative, said the dinner theme honoring women members was appropriate because of their increasing importance to the party.

To underscore that point, Marian McCracken, president of the Michigan National Organization for Women and a Farmington Democratic Club member, introduced Griffiths.

Nursing home volunteers encouraged

An often-forgotten population lives outside the doors of almost every community. These people are generally in ill health or disabled, in wheelchairs or confined to their beds, disoriented or alone. They live in nursing homes.

Community volunteers in Farmington Hills took the first step to opening these closed doors at a CCA-

sponsored training workshop June 6.

During the all-day workshop, called "Volunteer Opportunities: Linking the Community and the Nursing Home," 42 participants interested in serving as volunteers in their local nursing homes as well as activities directors of several facilities, gained valuable communication skills and discovered real ways to

enrich the lives of nursing home residents.

Examining the "community council" concept volunteers found the diverse support group to be an effective planning and resource tool. Many volunteers entering the nursing home will become a member of a community council in order to more effectively serve the residents of

their nursing home.

Many nursing homes in the Farmington Hills area are interested in developing community-based volunteer programs at their own facility. Community members interested in more information can contact the Community Council Association, 1320 Baldwin, P.O. Box 8101, Ann Arbor 48107 (863-2395).

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