

Schools help homeless

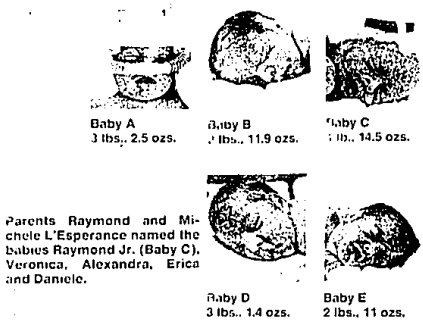
Record low temperatures last week sent hundreds of homeless people to shelters throughout the area, and sent a call for help to the community due to a shortage of clothing.

Families at Forest Elementary in Farmington Hills responded. One-hundred families — more than one third of the school's population — donated items to help the Detroit Rescue Mission on Detroit's east side, a facility which cares for the homeless, according to Forest PTO co-chairwoman Nikki Westberg.

Each Forest family was contacted through the school's "phone fan-out," normally used when emergency situations occur at the school," Westberg said. Clothes were taken to the home of Farmington Hills resident Lynne Strachan, who helped deliver them to the downtown area last week.

The Forest PTO is expected to discuss the situation this week, and decide whether to make regular donations or begin a program.

"This came up as more of an emergency situation," Westberg added.



Baby A
3 lbs., 2.5 ozs.

Baby B
11 lbs., 11.9 ozs.

Baby C
11 lbs., 14.5 ozs.

Baby D
3 lbs., 1.4 ozs.

Baby E
2 lbs., 11 ozs.

Parents Raymond and Michele L'Esperance named the babies Raymond Jr. (Baby C), Veronica, Alexandra, Erica and Daniele.

Brotherton won't seek re-election



Continued from Page 1

health issues to the legislative forefront.

Many bills were prompted by suggestions from constituents and city leaders, he said, something that has not changed during his seven terms.

WHAT HAS changed is the pressure from special interest groups, making it even more difficult to hear directly from constituents.

Pressure from lobbyists has "gotten a lot worse," he said. "It's to the point where it's becoming extremely difficult to know who to deal with. Sometimes, we're listening to special interest groups and not the people."

Because of these lobbying increases, state legislatures in Michigan and other industrial states are "starting to pattern themselves after the U.S. Congress" in staffing and other areas, he added.

The hugeness of the state and federal government machine has been a problem at times for the legislator, who says he felt he had accomplished more politically working at the local level in Farmington. Although it sometimes seems too large to be efficient, he said, "the system is working. We're always looking for more efficient ways to do things."

AS HE completes his term,

Brotherton has several pet projects he would like to bring to fruition.

One involves legislation requiring health facilities to obtain a state Certificate of Need and another, legislation requiring health care facilities to provide data to the state for comparative purposes. Thirty states currently have legislation requiring such data gathering, he said.

He has no specific plans after retirement, but is thinking about volunteer work, will spend time working on the family's Roscommon cottage and continue his regular regimen of exercise.

"I've always been a dabbler," Brotherton added.

Hills doctor delivers quintuplets

Continued from Page 1

there are now 15 sets of living quintuplets in the United States.

But the L'Esperance quintuplets are the first to be conceived through in vitro fertilization in the nation, and the second in the world, according to statistics from Medical Research International, based in Lexington, Mass. (The first set of "test tube" quintuplets was born in London, England, in March 1986.)

"They are real fighters," Hutton said of the infants. "And so are their parents. It took a lot of guts and a lot of determination for Michele to maintain that pregnancy."

THE L'ESPERANCES, who have three sons, ages 3, 5, and 7, from pre-

vious marriages, were unable to have children together following Michele L'Esperance's partial salpingectomy, which is surgical removal of both fallopian tubes.

After a decision to participate in Beaumont's in vitro fertilization program, her pregnancy resulted after the first procedure. Within six weeks, the couple knew there would be a multiple birth of either four or five babies.

Hutton was recommended as her attending physician because of his work with other women who became pregnant through that program.

Michigan's first quintuplets were conceived through a technique called TUDOR (Transvaginal Ultrasound Directed Oocyte Retrieval). Initially,

the woman receives oral and injectable hormonal medications to increase her egg production. In the second step, the eggs are harvested using an ultrasound-directed aspiration needle inserted through the vaginal wall into each ripe ovarian follicle.

Next, the mature eggs retrieved are inseminated with the husband's prepared sperm. Eggs that are fertilized are allowed to develop into four- to 12-cell embryos, which are implanted into the woman's uterus about three days following the egg retrieval.

Michele L'Esperance was hospitalized for 85 days of her pregnancy, monitored constantly, "and vigilant in her determination to do everything one could possibly do to see this to a successful end," Hutton said.

WHEN ASKED if she had ever contemplated selective abortion as an assurance that at least some of the five would survive, Michele L'Esperance answered, "I don't believe in abortion. That was not an option."

"This miracle took the coopera-



Dr. Lenny Hutton

tion of virtually every department in the hospital," Hutton said. "We even had a voluntary staff of OB nurses, neonatal staff, anesthetists, who put themselves on call to help. This was a team effort."

"The birth went as smooth as any single pregnancy could have gone," Hutton said.

Raymond L'Esperance, 27, is a corrections officer with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department. Michele L'Esperance, 34, is a former counselor for a Macomb County shelter for abused women.

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