

Community colleges meeting 21st century goal: job training

See complete Cable Connection, B7

Many workers are finding that to retain their positions or to advance in their careers, they must update basic math and literacy skills or receive training in more advanced technologies. And a great number of single parents and women whose children are grown need training in order to re-enter the job market.

Many of these people are finding help from a source close to home — their local community college.

"In 1984, the Commission on Higher Education said the No. 1 role of community colleges in the future would be job training and retraining," said Richard Calkins, Michigan Community College Association president.

Calkins, Grand Rapids Junior College president, added: "We hope an increasing partnership will evolve between local industry and local community colleges."

"I like to think of a community college as a people's college, where even people with baccalaureate degrees can come back for specific types of training," said Phillip Runkel, Northwestern Michigan College president in Traverse City and for-

mer state superintendent for Michigan public schools.

"Education will occur most effectively at the community college level because these schools have the flexibility and the delivery system to adjust to the needs of business, labor and industry," he added.

RUNKEL and Calkins are among a group of educators discussing community colleges on the next two editions of the weekly cable television program, "The Job Show," airing at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 16 and 23 on Metrovision Channel 12.

Runkel says in the future "there will be less emphasis on going through the degree grind. Instead, community colleges are going to have to meet the needs, on the job, of specific kinds of people."

Gunder Myran, Washtenaw Community College president in Ann Arbor, said nearly all community colleges do customized training for specific employee groups, during which college instructors often work with the company's training staff.

Community colleges "are not hung-up on whether courses are credit or non-credit," Runkel said. "We're hung-up on getting the job done for the employer and employee."

But going back to school can be nerve-racking for older students, some of whom may not have enjoyed or felt successful in previous school experiences. Most community colleges have a variety of procedures to ease the older student into college life.

FOR INSTANCE, colleges often work with community agencies to help single parents and displaced homemakers with financial aid, child care assistance and transportation arrangements, according to Geraldine Verilowe-Barber, director of the Student Learning Center at St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron.

Community colleges are also still meeting the needs of the "traditional" college students, recent high school graduates and older adults who will transfer to four-year institutions. In fact, when those transfer students go to four-year institutions they do as well or better than students who attend these schools for all four years, according to Calkins.

recreation news

Each week, the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Recreation Division presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information about programs, call the recreation office: 473-8372. For matters regarding city council agenda items, call our Newsline at 476-3838.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Registration is being accepted for new teams interested in participating in men's, women's or coed slow pitch softball leagues. Teams play a 14-game schedule, coed 10 games. A double elimination play-off tournament will be held for qualifying teams. Team registration fee is \$370 for open leagues, \$330 for industrial and residential leagues and \$295 for co-ed leagues. Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

PARKEY'S EASTER

Parkey, the Recreation Division's mascot, has planned a special day, Saturday, March 25, for children to join him in games, arts and crafts

and, of course, an Easter egg hunt. Children ages 3 to 5 are scheduled 9:30-11 a.m. and ages 6 to 8 from 10:30 to noon. The activity will be in the Spicer House in Heritage Park. A pre-registration fee of \$5 per child is required.

NATURE STUDY

Identifying a wildflower is no problem, even at this time of a year. Close and informative inspections of the plant in its dormant stage can provide you with enough information to identify it. You'll learn why flowers can only grow in certain areas. Class is held Saturday, March 18, 8 a.m. to noon at Spicer House in Heritage Park. Fee is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Preregistration is required.

YOUTH SOCCER

Registration will be accepted until March 24 for children in kindergarten through third grade. There will be a six-game schedule played on Saturdays beginning April 22. Divisions are kindergarten/first grade and second/third grades. Fee is \$16 per participant.

AFTER-SCHOOL REC

Registration is now open on a

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first-come, first-serve basis for after-school registration classes. Classes begin the week of May 22 and include dance, cheerleading, pom pom, baton, gymnastics and art at seven sites throughout the Farmington area. Dance class ends with a spring recital on June 3.

SENIOR BAZAAR

A spring theme bazaar sponsored by the Senior Adult Division will be at the Senior Adult Center, 28600 11 Mile, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 7. Featured will be crafts, bake and white elephant sale. Rental space for senior crafters is available at \$3 per booth. Call 473-9575 for further information.

SWIM LESSONS

Swimming instruction for beginner through advanced swimmers is offered at North Farmington High School beginning Saturday, April 15. A \$20 fee is required for the six-lesson program. Participants must be 38 inches tall at their chin height.

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IGA Taberite Boneless Beef Chuck Roast
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Fame • 12 oz.
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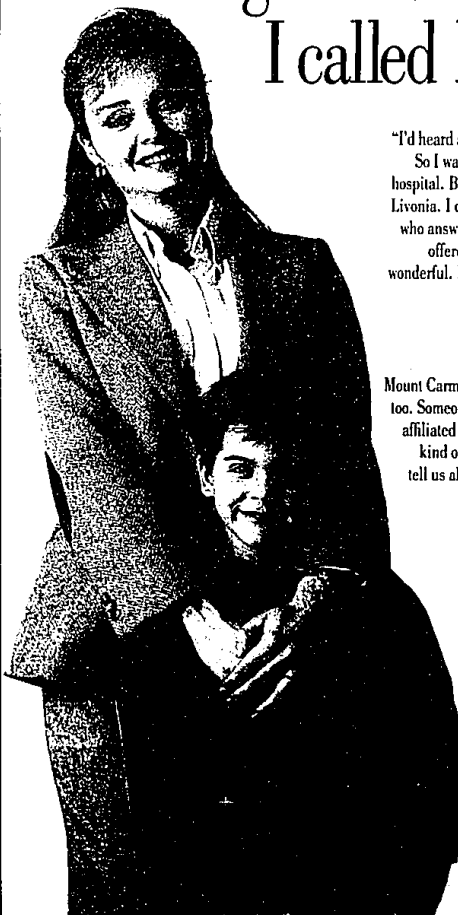
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