

Specialty teachers must score higher

State Capitol capsule:

Teachers will need higher test scores to be certified in specialty areas, the State Board of Education has decided. New standards will take effect in the fall of 1994.

The state board approved the recommendation of a technical advisory committee to raise passing scores in the areas of political science, chemistry, home economics, library science, emotionally impaired and learning disabled education.

In March, the board raised standards for language arts, geology-earth science, early childhood education, art education and basic skills reading.

Schools slip in poll

Public confidence in Michigan schools slipped for the first time in five years, the Department of Education reported. The weighted average showed public schools got a 2.3 grade point average (C-plus) compared to the B-minus last year.

"The most dramatic decline in the grades given to public schools is among African Americans and Detroit residents," the State Board of Education reported.

"The subgroups with the most positive attitudes about changes in the quality of K-12 education are residents of small towns, northern Michigan residents and educators."

Go-cart legislation sparked by accident

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Three years of work to make go-cart amusement rides safer began to pay off last week for Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Redford. It will be a memorial to a Livonia teen-ager.

The House Transportation Committee Tuesday unanimously supported Bankes' bill to require that go-carts "be equipped with a roll bar, safety belt, seat and back rest."

It will prohibit more than one person from riding in a go-cart unless it's equipped for more. And it will require that a sign be posted "announcing the availability of crash helmets."

The bill, if adopted by both chambers, would take effect Jan. 1, 1995.

Bankes received petitions from Stevenson High School students after classmate Melanee Summers was killed in 1991 at a Houghton Lake recreation center.

Their petitions asked that helmets be mandatory.

Summers reportedly lost control of her go-cart, hit an embankment, and struck her head on the track. She died of massive head and neck injuries.

Bankes' bill amends the state Carnival-Amusement Safety Act, which was written in 1966, before go-carts came into use.

Her bill also shifts licensing power to the Department of Commerce. The law previously named the Department of Licensing and Regulation, which has been abolished by Gov. John Engler.

If the bill is adopted, Bankes will attempt to contact the girls who circulated the petitions and bring them to Lansing for a signing ceremony. "They may be in college by now," she said.

Refer to House Bill 5182 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

Cancer group needs help

The Michigan Cancer Foundation, Oakland Service Center at 18831 W. 12 Mile Road in Lathrup Village, needs volunteer drivers.

area cancer patients to treatment at local hospitals Monday through Friday.

Call Ivory Underwood at 443-5320, Ext. 768.



When it's love: Oakland University graduate David Martin wasn't begging for his diploma in this picture, but asking fellow graduate Anne Morin to be his lawful wedded wife. The proposition occurred at Oakland's graduation ceremony last Saturday. (She accepted.)

Ceremonies pause for a proposal

Oakland University recognized 1,551 graduating students Saturday, June 4, including 23-year-old David Martin of Lake Orion, who proposed to his girlfriend from atop the Baldwin Memorial Pavilion stage on campus.

Martin, while accepting the university's Wilson Award, asked long-time girlfriend

Anne Morin, who also graduated that day, to marry him. Speechless at the time, Morin, 22, was said to be "quite happy" in the aftermath.

Altogether, the graduating throng included 1,218 bachelor's degree recipients, 329 master's degree candidates and 13 doctoral students.

The Ph.D. degrees were

awarded in biomedical sciences (four), systems engineering (five) and reading education (four).

Following past practice, five separate ceremonies were held to allow the academic units to tailor individual ceremonies for graduates and parents.

Louis Ross, vice chairman and chief of technical opera-

tions of Ford Motor Co. was guest speaker for the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Judith Lanier, the director of the Michigan Partnership for New Education, spoke to the School of Education and Human Services graduates.

Phyllis D. Johnson, the program associate with the Kellogg Youth Initiative Program of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, spoke to the School of Nursing graduates.

And Brian Day, the director of Marketing and Training for Susan Peterson Productions, spoke to the School of Business Administration grads.



Yummy! Six-month-old Sarah Schulte, of Rochester Hills, nibbles on a program as her aunt, Stacy Pastewski of Shelby Township, graduates from Oakland University last weekend.

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