

Pringle

from page 11A

resting or watching television. On a recent morning, she was dressed in a flowered blouse and pastel slacks and her white hair was neatly styled in curls.

"I used to read a lot, but my eyes aren't so good anymore," she said.

Pringle is the oldest resident at Grand River Village.

JCC panel: black, Jewish relations

BY ERIKA M. HIRSCHMAN
STAFF WRITER

At month's end, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Metropolitan Detroit will hold a first-time ever panel discussion in West Bloomfield where organizers hope to make strides in Jewish and African American relations.

According to JCC organizers, "Building Bridges to Understanding: Jewish-African American Relations is an effort to get families and young adults to come out and join a discussion about each community — their differences, and similarities and cultures.

"There's been a long history between the two communities," said Eileen Polk, Director of Adult and Family Enrichment at the West Bloomfield JCC.

"And we just want to give each community a chance to learn more about each other."

Polk said the history involving both cultures dates back to the 1960s Civil Rights movement and the struggles for equality and opportunity.

During the six-person panel discussion, which will be moderated by WDIV Channel 4 news anchor Emory King, community leaders, teachers and students will discuss how to improve relations and to try to learn about each culture.

Girl Scout cookies available

The Michigan Metro Girl Scouts are taking orders for Girl Scout cookies until March 31.

The proceeds from this sale will benefit a variety of programs for more than 36,500 girls in Wayne and Oakland counties. Cookies are priced at \$3 a box.

This year, eight varieties are offered, including two reduced fat cookies, Snaps and Chalet

Cremes. Other flavors include Thin Mints, Samoas (featuring coconut and chocolate stripes), Trefoils (shortbread), Tagalongs (peanut butter patties), Do-Si-Dos (oatmeal peanut butter cremes) and Juliettes (caramel pecan).

Girl Scout cookies are an American tradition and are available for only a short time each year. Call the cookie sale hot line at

313-964-4475, ext. 297, or 1-800-326-0309, ext. 297, to order your cookies.

Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council provides leadership, cultural and personal development opportunities for girls in Wayne and Oakland counties. With more than 36,500 girls and 11,000 adult volunteers, it is the fourth largest council in the U.S.

Aps taken for Miss Teen Pageant

Saturday, Feb. 3 is the deadline for applications to the 1996 Miss Michigan Teen Pageant to be staged in Romulus on March 18 and 17.

The Miss Michigan Teen Pageant is an official America's Perfect Teen contest.

There is no performing talent requirement, all judging is based on poise, personality and beauty.

Contestants compete in sportswear, poise and personality and evening gown competition. Entrants who qualify must be between 13 and 19 years of age and never married. All girls interested in the fun, glamour and excitement of competing in a pageant should write to: Michigan Teen Pageant, regional headquarters — Dept. N, 347 Locust Ave.,

Washington PA 15301-3399 by Feb. 3.

Letters must include a recent snapshot, a brief biography, address and a phone number.

The state winner will receive an expense paid trip to the 16th annual national America's Perfect Teen pageant this July in Orlando, Florida, a \$1,000 cash scholarship and other prizes.

Blum from page 11A

to send their children here." With the 'choice' provision, the state funding allocation would follow the student as long as space were available.

"By March first of each year a school board would have to adopt and publish the open enrollment policy for non-resident school age children that would be in place in the school district for the next school year.

"The policy would have to include the open enrollment availability that would be offered in each school and grade of the district. The policy could provide that there would be no open enrollment available in one or more grades in a particular school.

"A school board also could refuse to enroll a non-resident school-age child who had been expelled from another school district or public school or who had documented behavioral problems while enrolled in another district or public school."

Increasing the required number of pupil instruction days in a school year to 195 and increasing the minimum number of instruction hours to 1,170 by the 2002-2003 school year are both important provisions.

As a teacher there are several ideas I see as controversial among educators.

1) Allowing individuals to be certified to teach grades 9-12 if they hold a bachelor's degree, have five years of job experience related to the area they wish to teach, and pass the appropriate state exams. This would open up education and provide some much needed competition. Students would receive another perspective. Wouldn't it be exciting for someone who has worked outside of educa-

tion to teach a ready group of high school students?

2) Requiring a school board to ensure that a parent or legal guardian could review a district's curriculum and textbooks as well as be present in a classroom to observe and record instructional activity.

If more parents availed themselves of this, both students and teachers would benefit. Only when the school and parents work together, do we see wonderful gains made by our children.

3) Dealing the provision that the state Board of Education propose rules establishing a required core academic curriculum.

In my opinion, it is better that school districts adopt a local curriculum and the state provide a comprehensive model which local districts can utilize.

Realistically the MEAP and the new High School Proficiency Exam, steer the curriculum for all schools in the state. Ernest A. Bauer, Ph.D., is a consultant for Research Evaluation and Testing with Oakland Schools and believes strongly in this idea. Right or wrong, school districts are judged on their test scores and will be judged on the percentage of students who receive a state endorsed diploma based on the High School Proficiency Exam.

'Choice,' increased hours of student instruction, allowing non-education degree individuals to teach at the high schools, and more parents input and participation are positive changes in the proposed Michigan School Code.

Eleanor Blum is a Farmington Hills resident.

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