

## Fun event carries message

People who like to walk and are sensitive to the plight of others are encouraged to join the party on Sunday, June 23. Music, magic and an auction are all part of the 12:30 p.m. Walk and Auction for Scleroderma in Royal Oak. The event, held during Scleroderma Awareness Month, is planned to raise both awareness of this disease and funds to support patient services and medical research.

Scleroderma, or hardening of the skin, is a disease of the vascular and immune systems. The result is hardening of the skin and multiple organs. The effects of the disease range from a minor lesion to death. T-shirts, sweatshirts and other awards will be given to persons raising money. Lunch is provided for all participants. Music, a magic show, games for children and both a silent and live auctions will be featured. For more information, call 810-443-0858.

## Run/walk aids cancer research, education

The Lathrup Village Homeowners' Association, the City of Lathrup Village and the Motor City Striders will take to the streets June 22 for the second annual Andrea McClure Cancer Run/Walk event to raise money for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute (formerly known as the Michigan Cancer Foundation).

During the 1980s, Andrea McClure began her fight with cancer. She touched so many people with the work that she did that there are a lot of people

volunteering to continue to carry the torch. McClure founded the WAVE (Women Achieving Victory and Esteem) support Group especially for African American women cancer survivors, and she fought diligently for a woman's right to have the bone marrow transplant paid for by insurance companies. She was an inspiration to all who knew

her, according to a cancer institute press release. The run/walk takes place at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 22, with persons from throughout the tri-county area on a three-mile course along beautiful, tree-lined streets. Women and men of all ages and athletic abilities are encouraged to participate. Registration is now taking

place. Please call the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute at (810) 443-5320 for a registration form. Early entry fee is \$18 with a t-shirt by June 10 and \$21 on race day. Proceeds from the event will benefit the institute's basic research effort into the causes and treatments of cancer, patient services and education.

## State gets tough on juvenile crime

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan is moving on three fronts toward more severe punishment of juveniles who commit serious crimes. An appellate court upheld a life sentence for a 15-year-old killer. Gov. John Engler signed a 21-bill package making adult sentences mandatory in some cases. And the state Senate approved a "punch prison" bill and sent it to the House.

"For too long," said Engler, "violent juveniles have taken advantage of the leniency of the juvenile system, making a mockery of justice. Those days are over. Juveniles who murder, rape and commit armed robbery will be sentenced as adults."

### Court of Appeals

A state Court of Appeals panel upheld a life prison sentence for 15-year-old Clinton Checks, convicted in a 1993 Inkster murder case. The sentence was handed down by Detroit Recorder's Judge Warfield Moore Jr. under a previous law granting the judge the option.

"After the jury convicted (Checks), the trial court held a juvenile sentence hearing as required... to determine whether to sentence defendant as a juvenile or as an adult," said Judge William B. Murphy's opinion.

Checks' lawyer argued that Judge Moore abused his discretion. The appellate panel, however,

found that while Checks didn't have a "significant" prior record, his actions were repetitive because he "had a fascination with guns and had been involved with guns in the past..."

"The trial court noted that defendant was emotionless and arrogant during the trial. The trial court characterized defendant as mean and vicious. Finally, the trial court described defendant's pattern of living as 'something fierce'... with little regard for others."

Checks shot David Pasley, father of a four-year-old girl, 11 times - including five times at close range as the victim lay on the floor of his house - and then removed a gold chain from the victim's neck.

The appellate court found Moore had gone through a check list of factors before making his finding. The 3rd opinion was also signed May 7 by judges Richard A. Griffin and Edward R. Post.

### No judicial option

The new laws signed June 11 by Engler will remove the necessity for the trial judge to hold a separate hearing on sentencing the juvenile as an adult.

Once the prosecutor decides to charge the juvenile as an adult, the judge will have no option but to sentence the juvenile as an adult.

Engler said other parts of the 21-bill package will:

- Lower to 14 the age at which a prosecutor may bypass the juvenile system and directly file charges in criminal court for capital offenses. It means the

prosecutor won't have to ask a probate judge to waive the youngster into adult criminal court.

- Expand sentencing options for judges.

- Make escape from a juvenile facility a new felony offense. Livingston County residents living near the W.J. Maxey training school sought this law.

- Require a juvenile using a gun during commission of a crime to serve a specific period of time in a detention center. (Persons charged as adults must serve at least two years in prison for using a gun in a crime.)

### Boot camp hailed

Sen. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, hailed Senate passage of his Senate Bill 696 that amends the juvenile code to add boot camp placement as a sentencing option for juvenile offenders.

A companion bill, House Bill 4723, requires the Family Independence Agency (formerly Department of Social Services) to establish one or more juvenile boot camps and develop training programs for them.

"Boot camp programs resemble military basic training, and I know first-hand how such a program promotes a sense of teamwork and discipline," said Rogers, who served in the Army. "Moreover, boot camps have been demonstrated to be more cost-efficient than other forms of incarceration."

Rogers' bill cleared the Senate in its June 6-7 marathon session.

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