

OAKLAND JOURNAL

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

SWAP MEET

The Southeast Michigan Buick Club is holding its 16th annual Swap Meet-Flea Market from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at Jim Fesard Buick-Pontiac, 400 N. Main, just north of 11 Mile, in Royal Oak. Admission is \$3, and there's ample free parking at the dealership and in city lots at Main and 11 Mile. All vendors are welcome. For information, call John at (810) 649-2396 or Gary at (810) 477-2566, from 7 to 10 p.m.

FIGHTING BLINDNESS

The Michigan Affiliate of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, based in Harper Woods, is hosting, "A Night of Magic," at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, at the Southfield Marriott Hotel. The fund-raising dinner and silent auction will feature award-winning magician Jonathan Haglund, who will entertain guests with his blend of magic, comedy and juggling. The celebrity hostess is Channel 7 investigative reporter Shellee Smith. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds benefit the Foundation Fighting Blindness, a non-profit organization devoted to finding a cure for devastating eye diseases such as Retinitis Pigmentosa, Usher Syndrome (deaf-blindness) and Macular Degeneration. RP and related disorders affect six-million Americans, many of whom are children with deteriorating vision. The National Health Council has consistently rated the Foundation Fighting Blindness as number one among large health charities for the percentage of program dollars spent on research. Money raised by the Foundation funds laboratory and clinical research at 40 prominent institutions in the United States and foreign countries, including the University of Michigan.

To buy tickets or donate tax-deductible auction items, call Joan Wright at (313) 882-1697, or Len Handler at (810) 356-7647.

EDUCATOR EVALUATION

Alita Cyrin and Cecilia Ginger of Farmington Hills-based Hill Day School are among 130 physical educators from across the state selected to use and evaluate lessons from Michigan's Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum. The project completed 163 carefully designed lessons covering grades K-2. MI-EPEC is the new curriculum sponsored by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, the Michigan Fitness Foundation and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Public health and medical communities agree that effective physical education programs provide the greatest hope for having a positive impact on the long-term health and well-being of our citizens. They advocate strong educational programs that enable young people to understand the importance of physical activity and to obtain the fitness, knowledge, skills and attitudes to be active for life.

The MI-EPEC curriculum is designed to focus instruction on high priority objectives, link teaching activities to these objectives and provide evidence of student achievement of the intended outcomes. Lessons help children develop competencies in physical fitness, motor skills, activity-related knowledge and activity-related personal and social skills. Revised K-2 lessons are scheduled for release in the fall, with lessons for grades 3-5 to follow later this year.

FUNDING CHANGES

Oakland Schools is presenting information on changes in the funding of Special Education programs in Oakland County during two open forums. Parents of students with disabilities, school personnel and interested parties are invited to attend either of the two sessions on the Oakland County Special Education Public Act 18 millage. The first session will be hosted at the Pontiac School District Special Education Department from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on March 11, at the

Whitmer Human Resource Center. The second session, hosted by the Southfield Public Schools Special Education Department, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Southfield Education Center. For more information, call Greg Gwiadala, senior project manager, Oakland Schools, at (810) 858-2089.

DISCOUNT TICKETS

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit's partnership with the Detroit Pistons and Vipers organizations should prove beneficial

to youth and families across southeast Michigan. The inaugural venture will be "YMCA Night at the Palace of Auburn Hills" beginning at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, when the Pistons take on the Seattle SuperSonics. The YMCA will profit from the sale of discounted tickets priced at \$23 and \$14.

The Detroit Vipers are the source of another fund-raiser beginning at noon on Saturday, March 29, when they host the Grand Rapids Griffins. Tickets

are \$12, \$7 and \$4.50. Discounted tickets are available to anyone interested in supporting the efforts of any YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit branch, including Birmingham, South Oakland and Farmington. Tickets are available while supplies last. Funds raised through the Detroit Pistons and Vipers campaign will help subsidize YMCA services, which are dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. For ticket orders, call Mary Rogers at (810) 377-8768.

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