

OAKLAND JOURNAL

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Please write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314.

BUICK CLUB SWAP MEET

The Southeastern Michigan Buick Club's 17th annual swap meet and flea market from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at Jim Friesard Buick-Pontiac, 490 N. Main in Royal Oak. Admission is \$3. For more information, call (248) 649-2396 or Gary at (248) 477-2565.

WRITERS LIVE SERIES

Oakland Community College professor Art Higgins reads excerpts from his latest book, The Five Biggest Ideas in Science at the second program in the Writers Live Series at OCC's Royal Oak Campus, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25. Discussion, an afterglow and book signing follow in the lobby of the campus' Lila Jones-Johnson Theater, 739 S. Washington Avenue at the corner of Lincoln. Admission is free.

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford, is inviting crafters to participate in the Twigs & Sprigs Country Craft Show scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 28.

ANCIENT AFRICAN CONTRIBUTIONS

In celebration of African American History Month, the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College presents OCC professor Dr. Schavi Ali speaking on "Ancient African Contributions to the Modern World." The program will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26, in the campus' Student Center Arena, 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. Admission is \$10. Call (248) 360-3186 for more information.

BLOODMOBILES FOR MARCH

The following is a list of bloodmobiles for the month of March:

- March 1 — Auburn Hills: St. John's Fisher Chapel, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (248) 376-2624.
- March 2 — Southfield: Providence Hospital on W. Nine Mile, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., (248) 424-3380.
- March 3 — Southfield: Providence Hospital on Greenfield, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., (248) 424-3272.
- March 6 — West Bloomfield: Paychex, Inc., 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (248) 855-6898.
- March 7 — Troy: First United Methodist Church, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (248) 689-0982.
- March 7 — Rochester: Elks of Rochester #2225, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., (248) 649-9413.
- March 9 — Troy: Central Woodward Christian Church, 2-8 p.m., (248) 265-6235.
- March 9 — Troy: St. Stephen Episcopal Church, 2-8 p.m., (248) 652-7979.
- March 10 — Southfield: Specs Howard School of Broadcasting Art, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (248) 358-9006.
- March 10 — Troy: Troy High School, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 689-0742.
- March 13 — Southfield: Blue Care Network, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 709-6458.
- March 13 — Troy: MedMax Superstore, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., (248) 683-6871.
- March 14 — Troy: First Pres-

Sheriff helicopter plan questioned

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Plans for a helicopter within the Oakland County Sheriff's Department continue to draw flack — in the form of questions about the cost and operations. "Nobody really doubts that a helicopter would be an asset within the sheriff's department," said county commissioner Frank H. Millard of Clarkston. "But when it comes to raising the money to finance it, there are some real questions." The latest questions came from the county executive's office Thursday at the caucus of Republican commissioners prior to the regular meeting of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. At that caucus, Robert J. Daddow, management and budget director, presented a list of questions he said must be answered before the executive could make any recommendation on the proposal from John P. Nichols to add an aviation unit, initially one helicopter. Daddow is part of an ad hoc committee assigned to analyze

QUEEN APPLICANTS WANTED

The Michigan Beekeepers Association is looking for applicants for the 1998 Michigan Honey Queen. To qualify, entrants must be a single woman between 17 and 21 years of age. The pageant will be held March 13 at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. Prizes include a \$500 scholarship and a trip to Nashville, Tenn. in January 1999 to compete for the national title. For applications, call Judy Schmalz at (248) 627-4558.

QUILT CELEBRATION

The Oakland County Quilt Guild presents its 1998 Quilt Celebration. A quilt exhibit and contest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 17 at Lutheran High School Northwest, located on Livernois, south of M-59. A merchants mall, refreshments, workshops and lectures will also be featured. Admission is \$5.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Heartland Hospice in Southfield is looking for volunteers to provide services to terminally ill patients and their families. Tasks include home visits, phone calls, errands, companionship and general office work. Those interested will receive training in areas of death and grief, communication skills, care and comfort measures, stress management and understanding the disease process. To learn more or volunteer for this rewarding experience, call Volunteer Coordinator Kim Davida, at (248) 948-1019.

PHOTO EXHIBIT HOSTS NEEDED

Host the Oakland County Parks photo exhibit and bring the excitement and natural beauty of 11 county parks to businesses, community centers, schools and other locations. The free-standing, color display is available free of charge, set up by parks staff and comes with brochures outlining the offerings of the Oakland County Parks. For more information or to reserve the photo exhibit, call (248) 858-1086.

byterian Church, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (248) 689-0112.

- March 16 — West Bloomfield: Temple Israel, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (248) 681-5700.
- March 17 — Southfield: EDS Travelers Tower, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (248) 649-7046.
- March 20 — Rochester: Rochester High School, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 651-6590.
- March 21 — Birmingham: Holy Name Catholic School, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 645-2244.
- March 22 — Bloomfield Hills: Temple Beth El, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 354-2500.
- March 23 — Rochester: First Congregational Church, 2:30-8:30 p.m., (248) 745-0454.
- March 23 — Troy: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 3-9 p.m., (248) 679-1248.
- March 24 — Andover High School, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 776-7086.
- March 29 — Orchard Lake: Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (248) 681-3369.
- March 31 — Beverly Hills: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, 2-8 p.m., (248) 545-7712.
- March 31 — Lathrup Village: Southfield-Lathrup High School, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., (248) 746-7200.
- March 31 — Southfield: Jewish War Memorial, 2-8 p.m., (248) 968-7239.

the cost of a helicopter and present findings — along with the executive's recommendation — to the board of commissioners. The helicopter would be available to augment local police departments, according to Sgt. Kerry Krusky, himself a pilot, who is in charge of presenting the sheriff's proposal to commissioners. A tentative report submitted earlier this month estimated start up costs at nearly \$2 million, and annual operational costs of about \$600,000. "Nobody expected a helicopter to be cheap," said Millard, a former police officer. "But the actual figures are discouraging. That's a lot of money, and people want to know what the county would get for that kind of money." Millard said initial plans call for the helicopter to fly an average of two hours daily. "Obviously it wouldn't fly on some days because of bad weather, or because it wasn't needed," he said. "But it would be very valuable in car chases, locating missing people or hostage situations." As the helicopter proves its value, said Millard, "we may want to expand operations."

Prosecutor wants 'teen courts'

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Oakland Prosecutor Dave Gorycka's plan to use "teen courts" is one of many new options in the battle against juvenile crime.

"Teens are the prosecutor, judge and jury," Gorycka said at a Feb. 24 bipartisan, multi-level conference on how states are dealing with juvenile justice.

"It has two advantages. Teens accept it, and there is less recidivism," the first-term prosecutor said, adding he hopes to have the program going by December. Jackson County reportedly has used the idea for 10 years.

And what happens if a youngster thumbs his nose at the program? "He goes before the juvenile court," Gorycka replied.

The Oakland conference was sponsored by state Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township. A member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Peters said, "I worked on the get-tough package of new juvenile bills. But we need to do more with early intervention."

Michigan's new laws allow more juveniles to be tried and

sentenced as adults. Meanwhile, Peters noted, Gov. John Engler has called for new prison space for 5,420 inmates. Currently, the state has 42,000 men and women behind bars and expects that population to grow in 10 years to 70,000.

The local conference included representatives of churches, city halls, probate court, police, public schools, and social service agencies.

Meeting in the Oakland Intermediate School District Office, the group watched a teleconference and heard legislators from Colorado, Connecticut and Texas discuss options to locking up more kids and throwing away the keys.

States reform

Guiding the hunt for new options is the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Driving it is the fact that arrest rates for violent juvenile crime grew steadily from 1985-94 and, despite two year of decline, still are above the base year's level.

A dozen states have passed major juvenile justice reforms. They have groped toward what the NCSL calls "a continuum

that bridges child welfare and criminal justice" as well as "get tough" measures. Examples:

- Research to predict delinquency, based on such factors as child abuse, domestic violence, neighborhood violence, physical and mental health problems.

- Early childhood programs, such as Head Start (schools), Health Start (a home visit program for new parents pioneered by Hawaii) and "crisis nurseries" (Minnesota).

- Graduated sanctions. These range from local diversion and day treatment for first-time non-violent offenders; to intermediate sanctions, such as residential programs and electronic monitoring and boot camps; to prison-type facilities for juveniles who have committed serious and violent crimes; to "after-care" programs of surveillance and family treatment.

- Restorative justice. Maine, Maryland and Minnesota have work programs to bring restitution to victims of juvenile crime.

- "Get tough" programs, the most popular kind among law-

makers and the public as horror stories of 11-year-old murderers circulate. Large training schools are considered ineffective.

Other tough options are treating the most violent and chronic young offenders as adults; "third tier" or youth tracks within the adult system; "last chance" programs where a juvenile faces an adult prison sentence if he offends; and "reverse waivers" that allow young offenders convicted in adult courts to be returned to the juvenile system for treatment.

Staffs ignored

Among Oakland Probate Court youth workers, there was a feeling that Michigan's laws are designed exclusively by police, prosecutors and judges with little attention to prevention programs.

"We're good at dealing with petty larceny and vandalism," said Pamela Howitt of the probate court staff. "We're not good at dealing with status offenders (runaways), truants, welfare needs and kids with multiple problems (physical and mental health)."

Peters promised a continued series of meetings on juvenile justice.



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