

She'll join small business summit



Linda Jolicouer, president of Target Equipment Leasing located in Farmington Hills, has been appointed as a Michigan Delegate to the Small Business Congressional Summit to be held June 17-19 in Washington D.C.

Jolicouer was appointed by the Michigan Leadership Council of the National Federation of Independent Business at its January meeting.

"The summit aims to focus the attention of elected officials,

candidates for public office, regulators and the media on a small business agenda: regulatory reform, taxes, health care and legal reform.

Hamburger U grad

Jeffrey Shattuck, who works at the McDonald's restaurant located at 38400 West Ten Mile Road in Farmington Hills, has been awarded a bachelor of hamburgerology degree from McDonald's Hamburger University for graduating from the University's Advanced Operations Course.

New Hills bank

On Monday, March 30, Mid-

west Guaranty comes to Farmington Hills, with its newest branch office at 37900 Middlebelt Road.

Clarke B. Maxson, the bank's president and chief executive officer, said: "We are very excited about becoming part of the Farmington Hills community. As a smaller bank... we can provide a level of service that will be an attractive alternative for those people who would rather be known by their names than by their account numbers."

At the grand opening, Maxson will cut a ribbon of \$20 bills, to be donated to the Farmington Hills Family YMCA.

Farmington representative gets first bill passed through House

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, got his first bill passed by the state House of Representatives but only after it got a tongue-lashing from a fellow conservative.

His House Bill 5499 prevents out-of-state businesses from misleading Michiganders into thinking they are locally operated — and charging an extra \$9.

Farmington Florists, 33199 Grand River, brought the problem to his attention. It seems a firm calling itself Farmington Florist (no "s" on the end) from Bernardsville, N.J., advertised in the Ameritech telephone directory using a local number.

"All calls are then automatically forwarded to the out-of-state business without the customer's knowledge where a \$9 service charge is added," said Raczowski.

"Unfortunately, this is a widespread predatory practice that negatively affects many

state-florists," he said. "They're not even registered in Michigan. Local Michigan florists are put at a distinct disadvantage."

His bill and a Democratic companion measure, HB 5500, prohibit anyone from listing a business in a local directory with a local number that forwards calls out of state without disclosing the address receiving the call.

If passed by the Senate, the bills provide for fines up to \$10,000.

Raczowski's bill on March 3 sailed through the House on a vote of 102-6 with all area representatives voting yes except Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills.

"Businesses that have difficulty competing in the free market should rely on friendly persuasion, not government compulsion," Kaza said in a formal protest in the House Journal.

"If businesses object to competition from out-of-state sources, they should educate consumers, not look to Lansing to enact legislation putting their competitors out of business."

Kaza concluded, "When politi-

cally-connected small business — in this case a trade association of florists — uses a political power and the legislative process against a competitor, they should not be surprised when the day comes, as it inevitably must, when his business uses the same process against the small."

In conformity to House custom, Raczowski next day provided each member with a gift from his district — a flower from Farmington Florists — and a small box of candy.

Even Kaza got one. Refer to House Bills 5499 and 5500 when writing to your state senator, State Capitol, PO Box 30036, Lansing 48909.



Rep. Raczowski

Bills dive into safety for young boaters

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Young boat and personal watercraft operators will have to pass tests, be closely supervised and obey stricter safety laws under a package of bills heading to the House of Representatives.

Details aren't final. For example, Rep. Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, wants to clean up rules about operating boats in narrow channels where divers are at work.

The bills require 200-foot clearance on either side of a diving marker, said Brown, but what if the channel is narrower than 400 feet?

After a three-hour meeting in early March, the House Conservation Committee moved the bills to the House floor with the possibility that many amendments still could be made. Chairman Tom Alley, D-West Branch, explained why.

"We have an agreement with the Senate (committee). They won't let our bills go through unless there's action on theirs."

The bills are on the calendar and could be voted on this week.

Sharon Lyn Zagurny, an Oakland deputy representing Sheriff John Nichols, voiced strong support for "educating our students" on boat safety. Oakland has 450 lakes.

The Michigan Boating Industries Association opposed the bills, arguing that "the need to create a license for operation has never been statistically substantiated or proven to increase safety."

But Rep. Jessie Dalman, R-Holland, sponsor of two of the bills, prevailed when she argued: "Of the U.S. boating fatalities in 1992, 40 percent involved operators with no formal boating safety instruction." Her bills would require young motorboat operators to pass a course and carry a certificate.

Patrick McCullough, former state senator from Dearborn, said on behalf of boat manufacturers that the Michigan bills are "very close" to national model bills the industry is promoting.

McCullough also favored use of videotape instruction for youngsters in rural areas who can't get parental transportation to formal boat safety classes.

Motorboat rules

Dalman's House Bills 4247

and 4248 cover motorboats. Here are some main provisions as of March 4:

■ Effective this May 22, a person 19 or younger would have to pass a mandatory safety course. (The bill's earlier version placed the age at 30 and younger.)

■ No fee may be charged for the course or certificate. (McCullough argued for a small fee.)

■ A person under age 14 may not operate a motorboat without a boating safety certificate and supervision of someone 16 or older, and the motor is under 35 horsepower.

■ Persons 14-17 may operate a motorboat if they possess a boating safety certificate issued after taking a safety course. The operator must carry the certificate and present it on demand to a peace officer. Peace officers may stop an operator for "probable cause" but not just to check for safety certificates.

■ Youngsters 7 and under must wear type I or II life jackets that will hold their heads above water even if they are unconscious.

Jet ski rules

A separate bill, HB 5426, governs personal watercraft, or "jet skis," and is sponsored by Rep. William Callahan, D-St. Clair Shores. Its main provisions:

■ Persons 19 and under must complete a boating safety course and carry a certificate. Operators, passengers and persons they tow must wear life jackets.

■ Hours are confined to 9 a.m. to one hour before sunset.

■ PWC operators may not cross within 150 behind another vessel, operate in waters less than two feet deep, weave through traffic, jump the wake of another vessel, or play "chicken."

■ PWC operators must observe a "slow — no wake" speed limit within 100 feet of a dock or raft.

■ They may not operate within 200 feet of a submerged diver or

underwater diving activities that display the international diving insignia.

Refer to House Bills 4247, 4248 and 5426 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, PO Box 30014, Lansing 48909.



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