

## Drilling from page A1

in December, citing health and safety concerns — mainly the unknown quantity of hydrogen sulfide that might be released into the atmosphere. Small amounts of the gas are not harmful, but large quantities can be deadly.

The fact the proposed drilling is near I-275 should also sound alarm, Barnett said.

"If we have a problem, I don't how we're going to evacuate close to 100,000 people when a major two-way thoroughfare is closed," said Barnett, who spoke before the House committee March 17 and 24. "This is dangerous. This isn't a case where 12 cows die where there is no one around for miles."

There's also an issue of local control. Under state law, townships have no authority to regulate oil drilling, Barnett said. That means West Bloomfield Township, for instance, adheres to the residential setback of 300 feet.

State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, signed on as co-sponsor of the bill but believes it still needs work.

"I'm going to be an advocate of at least discussing and having a discussion between the industry and the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality)," said Raczowski, who called the proposed bill a good start. "I'm on the side of the citizens having the right to basically say 'yeh or nay.'"

The bill, if passed, might not come in time for residents opposed to the drilling, Raczowski said. They have to reach those residents who signed mineral rights leases, which expire in a year.

"In this situation we have to educate people in that area ... to either permit or reject oil and gas drilling," Raczowski said.

### Football lighting issue aired April 2

Farmington Public Schools will hold an open meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2, to discuss issues regarding the proposed lighting of football fields.

The district's lighting committee will answer questions and concerns during the session, to take place in rooms 1 and 2 of the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street in downtown Farmington.

### OK corral



Oklahoma! Eighth-grader Tim Shaw as Jud, senior Fawn Foucha as Aunt Eller and junior Steve Shaw as Curley take the stage in the musical "Oklahoma!," which will be performed at Clarenceville High School. The cast of 80 students from grades one to 12 in the Clarenceville schools will entertain family, friends and visitors at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 2-4. Call (248) 476-2532 for information.

### Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY  
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### WALKING ON MARBLES REVISITED

In 1986, this column discussed arthritis of the foot under the above title. Arthritis particularly rheumatoid arthritis, weakens the ligaments that hold the forefoot bones together. This change, and the accumulated strain from the weight of the body cause a loss in the arch of the foot. The individual walks on the heads of the metatarsal bones which results in the feeling that gravel, stones, or marbles are under the foot at each step.

In 1990, treatment consisted of placing padding under the forefoot bones and wearing wide shoes with thick soles to cushion, as much as possible, the impact of foot to floor. If these measures failed, then the only alternative was foot surgery. Such surgery means removing the heads of the metatarsal bone and realigning the toes to a straight position and any shift in the digits was present. This represented major surgery for the foot and was recommended only as a last resort.

Such was the state of foot pain and treatment 12 years ago. With the technology developed since that time you would think that therapy had improved and that surgical technique had developed a better operation. The answer is no. New treatment for arthritis has not overcome the problem that wear and weight places on the foot.

The problem of treating foot pain in arthritis remains, and the simple solutions of padding and comfortable shoes continue as the mainstay of therapy.

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