

March prep:
Katrena
Langdon
(left), Wendy
Cline and
Kristen Sar-
rauh limber
up at Oak-
land Com-
munity Col-
lege prior to
beginning
the Farm-
ington Hills
leg of
WalkAmeri-
ca on Sun-
day morn-
ing.



March from page A1

and have made a visible pres-
ence in town.

"I don't think people would
be out here on a day like this if
it wasn't important to them."

The bad weather might have
forced some walkers to retreat
early, including the Blacks.
But that wasn't the case with
the Wrights, who live in
Brighton.

Maggie said the rain actually
increased their enthusiasm for
the cause.

"A lot of people said there were
fewer participants" than last
year, Maggie said. "But those
who were here had just as much
spirit."

Whenever they felt like getting
on the bus, some of the volun-
teers at each checkpoint encour-
aged them to keep walking.

"They said, 'Come on, keep
going,'" said Rosalie Wright.

Because they did, the Wrights
met a new friend at the fourth
checkpoint, which was operated
by Farmington's Page's Food &
Spirits. The pair and 73-year-old
Roland Walt of Farmington
Hills bumped into each other
while waiting at a traffic stop.

"They finished the walk togeth-
er and plan on continuing their
new friendship. "That is, if my
wife lets me and her husband
lets her," said Walt with a wink
and a smile.

Walt said a little rain wasn't
going to keep him from showing

up for his 28th WalkAmerica
appearance. "I've raised thou-
sands of dollars for the March of
Dimes over the years and I want
to keep it going."

Event goes on

Although the rain fell hard
and the wind blew cold Sunday,
at least the event wasn't halted.
Walt recalled one year when a
thunderstorm forced a cancella-
tion of WalkAmerica.

The weather did make an
impact, however. Back in the
nearly empty H Building gymna-
sium by 12:30 p.m., volunteer
workers were already breaking
down tables and chairs. Despite
the lack of an audience, the band
Two Steps Higher kept cranking
hits by Sheryl Crow and Joe
Jackson.

Spokeswoman Maggie Cham-
pagne of the March of Dimes still
called the event successful.

"I really have to admire the
walkers' tenacity," she said.
"They were all in good spirits
when they came back, although
all of their clothes were wet."

"More than one of them told
me it was for a good cause, it
was fun and they'd do it every
year, rain or shine."

The March of Dimes expects to
meet its \$1.5 million goal for the
15 southeast Michigan walks,
Axtell said. About \$50,000 of
that is from the Farmington
Hills walk.

FCC reverses self: Cable rate was OK

When it comes to change, the
Federal Communications Com-
mission has taken the jingle out of
the pockets of Farmington
area cable subscribers.

The FCC overturned its pre-
vious ruling, which would've
required Time Warner to refund
customers 45 cents it over-
charged them in 1997 and part
of 1998. Time Warner didn't
refund the money, filing an

appeal instead.

New the Southwestern Oak-
land Cable Commission is con-
sidering an appeal.

"I think that's another example
of the lobbyists and their strangle-
hold on the FCC," said Farming-
ton Hills Mayor Aldo Vagazzini.
"They came to the conclusion
there was an overcharge and
customers were entitled to a
refund. And, lo and behold,

behind closed doors the industry
lobbyists were able to get that
reversed."

"I think that's a sad commen-
tary in (SWOCC's) ability to
have some modicum of influence
on even the basic rates."

In the decision, the FCC ruled
Time Warner's "methodology
acceptable" in how it calculated
its basic rate of \$16.12. The FCC
subsequently OK'd the cable

operator's rate of \$18.62, noting
that the maximum permitted
rate is \$21.31.

The FCC's initial ruling came
in June 1997. Tom Bjorklund,
vice president of Time Warner,
said the FCC now ruling reaffirms
the company's calculating
procedures.

SWOCC is the regulatory
authority for Novi, plus Farm-
ington and Farmington Hills.

Defense delays to see police interview tape Bond stays on fake kidnap charge

A preliminary exam has
been adjourned until Friday
for a man accused of faking
the kidnapping of his 12-year-
old son in order to extort
money to pay a gambling debt.
His \$100,000 cash bond will
remain the same.

The postponement allows
the defense attorney to review
a videotape where Marko Ivezic
is interviewed by Farmington
Hills police about the fake
abduction April 18.

Ivezic, 37, is charged with
filing a false report of a felony,
inducing a minor to commit a
felony and attempted false
pretenses more than \$100 in
connection with the incident.

Police found the Farmington
Hills man's son, Zoran, hand-
cuffed to a sink at a Farming-
ton Hills hotel. Ivezic told
police his son was abducted at
gunpoint near Gill Elementary
the night of April 17.

"I cannot comment until I
know what is on the tape,"
said Martin Mattes, Ivezic's
attorney after the preliminary
was adjourned.

At Monday's hearing, 47th
District Court Judge Fred
Harris granted the delay but
refused Ivezic's request to
reduce bail to \$50,000. Many
of Ivezic's family attended

Monday's

hearing

The family

cannot

afford the

\$100,000

cash bail,

the attor-

ney said.

Ivezic

remains in

Oakland

County

Jail.

"They just do not have those

type of assets," said Martin

Mattes, attorney.

Judge Maria Parker set bail

because of Ivezic's potential for

harming his family. His

estranged wife had a protection

order against him, which

expired April 13.

If he posts bail, Ivezic will

have to wear an electronic

tether. He is also required to

surrender his passport.

Mattes asked Judge Harris

if a priest, the Rev. Primus

Frenek Ndrevashev, could

speak in support of reducing

Ivezic's bail.

"I'm not inclined to even

touch the bond ... until I have

all the facts of the case," said

Harris, who did not preside

during Ivezic's arraignment

April 20.



Marko Ivezic

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