North wrestler shares inspiring banners

BY PAUL R. PACE STASS WRITER

Eric Shapiro always admired a wrestling banner from North Farmington High School that that hung in his older brother Brian's room.

"It was something I could look up to when I was a freshman," he said.

Eric, now a senior, captains the wrestling team and wanted do something special for his wrestling team and wanted on the working team and wanted his more than the wrestling teammates, many of whom are freshmen this season.

Since the banner that hung on his brother's wall inspired him to continue wrestling all four years and showcased his pins for each season, he thought he'd share that positive feeling.

So along with his mom Judy's help, Eric came up with an idea to make personalized banners.

But Eric's idea needed help. So he went to Phil Hall of Philip's Sewing and Vacuum Center at 29576 Orchard Lake and got some advice.

Hall handles the high schools' sewing machines.

To make the hanners extra



Phil Hall helps Eric Shapiro operate a special sewing machine that uses a computer program to embroider fabric.

special, Eric wanted each one embroidered, with the school's mascot on top, each player's name and their four years on the team to showcase pins.

For several afternoons and some weekends, Hall let Eric use a \$7,000 Bernina sewing machine in the store. Via

computer program, the machine embroiders fabric

machine emorotoers tabric automatically. Despite the advanced tech-nology, each banner took about 45 minutes to make, Eric said, There are 27 mem-

hers on the team.

He surprised his teammates with the gift at their banquet



Eric Shapiro also made personalized shirts for the wrestling team

Thursday night.

Just for good measure, Eric also embroidered personalized shirts for the wrestling team's coaches, James Steuf and Thomas Scremet.

Phil was great, Eric said.

He let me do all this .1 don't know how I would have done it otherwise.

Hall said helping out was no problem, and Eric kept him company at the store.

Eric's mom, Judy, also had words of praise for Hall.

"I really like Phil's generosity, she said. "He was so willing to help."

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With the help of local business owner Phil Hall, Eric Shapiro made special banners for all his wrestling teammates.

Officials respond to out-of-district comments

Farmington Public Schools officials say they're trying to respond to questions and concerns residents expressed last week during discussions about opening to out of district enrollments.

About 40 people who either ooke at the March 4 school spoke at the March 4 school board meeting or sent in post-cards concerning the Out of District Schools of Choice Plan

eards concerning the Out of District Schools of Choice Plan received letters this week. The Board of Education is expected to vote on the plan, which would open district doors to about 20 students in grades K-0, at the 7:30 p.m. March 18 meeting.

The district expects to pilot the program at William Grace and Flanders Elementary Schools this fail.

The post eards veren't circulated by a specific group or organization, said Debie McCracken, administrative assistant to Farmington Public McCracken, administrative sastiant to Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxifield.

"We don't know who originated it," she said. 'It wasn't authorized by anyone.

Titled "Cillizen Opinion Regarding Out-of-District

BUSINESS NEWS

Metrobank promotes
Metrobank announces the recent promotion of John
Guarini of Gross Pointe to
Second Vice President of Loans
and Mary Smith of Walled Lake
to Branch Officer. John Guarini
has been employed at the Bank
since 1992. A knowledgeable
lender with over 17 year of banking experience, Guarini works at
the benkk Main Office located in
Farmington Hills. He also serves
as treasurer for the Rotary Club
of Farmington.
Mary Smith has been with the
Farmington.
Mary Smith has been with the
such size of the serves
and the solicitation of new business. She will continue to be
responsible for overseeing the
Maple and Haggerty Office
located in West Bloomfield, in
conjunction with Carole
McDougall, Branch Officer.
Both Guarini and Smith have
played a large part in the success
of Metrobank by growth and prof-

norm Guarini and Smith have played a large part in the success of Metrobank's growth and prof-iability. The Bank is colebrating its 40th anniversary serving



School of Choice," the response cards allowed people to check two selections; express con-cerns regarding the plan or urge the members of the board

urge the members of the board to vote no. There was no option to show support for the plan. Farmington School Board President Linda Enberg sent letters March 12 to community members and enclosed two question-and-answer pieces that address many of the issues of concern.

that address many of the issues of concern.
"I hope they will answer many of the questions that you might have as well and perhaps, address some of the misconceptions which are prevalent in the community." Enberg wrote.

lent in the community, cause, wrote.
School officials said opening enrollments reflects a preactive approach to dealing with a declining student population. They're also concerned about being at a competitive disadvantage, because 17 of 28 Oakland County districts have the school of choice plan.

COMMITTEE STUDY

Though the district considers this issue annually, officials appointed a committee last fall to research it in-depth. District officials didn't rely

District efficials didn't rely only on its own analysis in predicting declining curollments, it also used two independent firms which use common accepted accounting projections and prognostication, according to Maxield. The firms are used annually and the studies cost about \$1,000 each, Maxield said. When the district goes out for a bond issue, for example, it needs to document dollars to

enrollment information to the Michigan Department of Treasury, he said.

The district expects to lose 350-500 students in the next five years which translates to a \$4-87 million revenue loss, said board member Cathy Webb.

"If we don't do this, we will be looking at cutting programming, closing one or two elementary schools and redistricting our entire boundaries," she said.

Comparing Farmington to other districts like Royal Oak and Madison Heights mentioned at a March 4 public hearing is comparing apples to oranges, Webb said.

"West Bloomfield is currently in a push this course."

hearing is Company, oranges, Webb said. "West Bloomfield is currently in a marketing campaign which will bring their students up to 1,000 from other districts," Webb said. "Farmington Public Schools will never, ever look at these numbers in five years or

the next 10 years.

The district will rely on word-of-mouth to get the word out that it is open in 2003-04.

Maxfield said at a March 10 PTA Council meeting held at the Farmington Training

the Farmington Framing Center. "At any time during a given hour on WWJ they have these incredibly aggressive West Bloomfield ads," he said. "We're not going to compete on that level."
The plan would allow stu-

The plan would allow stu-dents from other districts in Oakland County or the Oakland County Internediate

Oakmid County International School District to apply for a limited number of slots in Farmington Public Schools.
Enrollments have declined because the Farmington area is experiencing little growth.

Farmington's foundation grant is \$10,067. The district will receive a maximum of \$8,000 per out-of-district pupil; officials have pointed out that leaving those seats cupty would result in no revenue at

all.
"We like these small elementary schools and we want to hang onto them as long as we can," he said.

can, he said.
Seventeen of 28 districts in the Caldand Schools intermediate district have an out-of-district schools of choice program. Farmington lost 84 students last year to other programs.

gram. Farmington lost 84 students hat year to other programs.
The committee is chaired by Mary Joyce Readler, principal of Flanders Elementary, and Mark Morawski, principal of William Grace and includes Duma Reuter, a student information technician in the central office and a Farmington High School parent; Kelly Zulby, a Flanders piarent; Am William Grace paraprofession-studies and the students of the students who enter a students who enter a students who enter the program in elementary school can remain in the district through their senior year, Morawski at Moramsport of the provided.
For more information, to make comments or ask questions, contact Morawski at (248) 489–3673, or write the school board at 32500 Shiawassee, Farmington 48336-2363.

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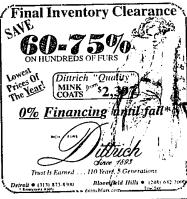
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You will be paid for your time.

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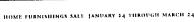
Please call us at 800-559-5954 Monday thru Friday between 9 a.m. & 5 p.in. and ask for Chris.







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