

Amy's Angels ride to find diabetes cure

BY SUZ BUCK
STAFF WRITER

A team of cyclists from Farmington Hills led by a six-year-old girl will raise funds for diabetes research by cycling in the Tour de Cure, the American Diabetes Association annual cycling event held Sunday, June 22 in Brighton.

"Our long term goal is to help find a cure which can only be done through research," said Doug Laskosky, team spokesman for Amy's Angels, in a press release. "This is why we ride."

His daughter, Amy, was

diagnosed with diabetes at the age of four.

The team will ride several routes including the 14-mile mountain bike trail and receives sponsorship from friends, family members, co-workers and local companies and organizations.

Members of the team include the Laskosky Family of Farmington Hills — Judy, Doug, Amy and Brad — as well as people from Macomb Township, South Lyon, Commerce and Ulster.

This team is one of about 1,800 teams who ride in Tour de Cure events are sponsored

nationally by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Schvinn and Performance Bicycles and locally around the country. Local sponsors are Auburn Pharmaceuticals, Outback Steakhouse of Brighton, Channel 95.5, Hitachi, Michigan Sports & Fitness Magazine, Outdoor Athlete.com and several local bike shops.

The 2003 Tour de Cure is held in 72 sites across the nation.

To learn more about teams or for more information visit the Internet at www.diabetes.org/tour



The Laskosky family: Brad, an East Middle School student, Doug, Judy and Amy, who attends Lanigan Elementary.

RAISE

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compensated their superintendents in the 2002-03 school year.

Last year, the board also did a comparative analysis of 12 districts and found Maxfield was "below market." Maxfield received a total package increase of more than \$26,000 in 2001-02, up from \$152,918. The package includes a base salary and benefits, incentives and bonuses.

In the meantime, Maxfield has for some time been wrestling with a decision of whether he will stay for one additional year or the two years, until June 30, 2005.

Among the adjustments made last year was the addition of a retention incentive payment, which will be paid only if Maxfield works to the end of the contract, June 30, 2005.

This will amount to about

\$44,000, Reid said.

Though salaries are considered public information, Reid identified the six other school districts only by letter in printed information to the board. He felt people are more forthcoming with information when it's used anonymously. He looked at information from the Michigan Association of School Boards and information from the district.

Reid's data showed the average compensation package of like districts he studied was \$194,824. Packages ranged from \$160,147 to \$225,000.

In past years, the superintendent evaluation committee met to discuss salary at an open committee meeting some time after a closed evaluation meeting, which is allowable under the Open Meetings Act. "I don't know if this will require a meeting (this year)," Reid said earlier. "It's a challenging job. Bob is at all community events."

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Masked robber takes money at gunpoint

A clerk at the 7-Eleven store on Middlebelt and Nine Mile told police a masked man, pointed a single barrel shotgun at him around 4:15 a.m. Monday demanding cash from the cash registers.

The clerk told police the man appeared very confident and that he knew what he was doing. After the clerk put money in the robber's plastic bag, the man also demanded several cartons of cigarettes be put in the bag. The suspect, described as black, 6-foot, 2-inches, around 200 pounds and in his late 30s, was not found.

Computers stolen

Four different business suites located in the 9100

block on Northwestern Highway suffered break-ins during the weekend. Computer equipment was stolen from each business.

Shoplifting

A 24-year-old Farmington Hills man was apprehended for tearing off a security sticker on a Sony Playstation II game cartridge and concealing it in his pants. He didn't pay for the item as he left with his girlfriend. The incident occurred around 12:50 p.m. Saturday.

Property destruction

At Putt-n-Games on Grand River, two 16-year-old Farmington Hills boys where apprehended for smashing a

battering cage coin box with metal bats around 10 p.m. Saturday. The boys told police they were trying to get free tokens from the machine.

Saturday night, someone entered the Cooper Creek golf course and damaged the sixth hole with numerous divots.

In the 30800 block of Country Ridge Circle, a van had three of its windows broken during Friday night.

Damage was \$1,200.

Game system stolen

In the 22700 block of Montclair, a Playstation II game system and four games were taken from a home during Saturday night. A neighborhood male teenager confessed to

taking the items as he knew the family was away for the evening.

Drunken driving

Police were dispatched to a possible drunken driver around 6:55 p.m. Sunday along List and Willow. The driver, a 32-year-old Livonia man, had a .27 blood/alcohol level.

Tools stolen

At the Novi Insulation on Industrial Park, someone broke three locks on a truck to gain entry. Several tools were taken from inside.

Compiled by staff writer Paul R. Pace from reports on file at the Farmington Hills Police Department.

LONGACRE

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issues such as coming up with a new membership team and electing a new board of directors.

In the meantime, Thywea appears to be working for free. She said she refuses to let down clients' special days booked at the Longacre, a historic mansion and grounds donated to the community to run as a self-supportive community center.

Ned Bostic, banquet and catering director at Longacre, said he is also putting in nearly 80 hours a week doing several

jobs, but only getting part-time pay since Thywea was fired. The board did not appoint her replacement.

Bostic, like Thywea, said he didn't want to disappoint clients who paid to use the Longacre for their special engagements. This weekend for example, a 60th wedding anniversary party is planned.

Thywea said she asked board members to meet Monday night to come up with an interim plan while so many questions about the house's future were up in the air.

The four people who voted to oust Thywea didn't show up

Monday, so the meeting was a disappointment, said Thywea.

Board Treasurer Ray Okonski has frozen the house's accounts, she said.

"I'm going to continue through the weekend to make sure events go on," Thywea said. "There is no reason for the clients to suffer."

Joni Hubred, board member of the Longacre and community editor of the Farmington Observer, said she was the only member to appear at Monday's meeting.

"I was told by May Arvo (board chairwoman) that she and board member Marge

Sayles didn't feel comfortable coming to the meeting without Okonski and his wife (Susan Sloat, also a board member), who were out of town."

Okonski and Arvo could not be reached for comment this week.

Hubred said Arvo told her that the board could meet at 2 p.m. June 23 to talk with Thywea. She added she was not invited to the late May board meeting where the four board members, Okonski, Sloat, Sayles and Arvo, voted to fire Thywea.

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SEAT BELTS

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Gary Goss, director of public safety for Farmington said the free car wash passes will be given out by officers on foot patrol or bike duty.

Drivers will not be pulled over for the reward. Colonial Car Wash owners are Mark and Holly Owen. The business is located at 33500 Nine Mile.

"I think it will be a nice, positive thing. It rewards good drivers," said Holly.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said the passes will make a great complement to the department's community policing program.

Goss said safety belt use in the state has jumped from 70 to 83.5 percent since the primary enforcement for seat belt use went into effect in March 2000.

"This is a way to set a good example," Goss said. "Our short-term goal has been 80 percent (usage) and the ultimate goal would be 90 percent."

He said California and Washington have 90 percent compliance of seat belt wearers. The goal is to save lives and keep medical expenses from injuries down.

Goss said in 2002, traffic fatalities dropped to the lowest level since 1945. Forty percent of the people who died in fatal crashes were unbelted.

Michigan's primary enforcement of seat belt use, meaning police can pull over a driver for not wearing a seat belt, has a sunset clause. Unless 80 percent of motorists use their belts during 2005, the law will revert to a secondary enforcement law, meaning police can ticket a person for not wearing a seat belt if that person has been pulled over for some other violation.

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