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Laetrile wins, but some object

By JACKIE KLEIN

Two local state legislators are adamantly opposing a bill that would legalize the cancer treatment laetrile in Michigan.

Rep. Joseph Forbes, an Oak Park Democrat, and Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, a Republican from Farmington, voted against the measure. The bill, however, passed in the House and is now in the Senate health and social services committee. If approved, the measure would allow laetrile to be manufactured, prescribed and dispensed in the state.

Although it has never been proven to be a cure for cancer and isn't accepted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, laetrile is taken by thousands of cancer patients in states where manufacture and use of the drug has been legalized, Forbes said.

Laetrile is a natural substance found in fruits and plants such as peach and apricot pits, apple seeds and lima beans. It can't be legally shipped between states, and the laetrile ban is being contested in the courts.

"I'm a legislator, not a scientist," Forbes said. "If and when the day comes that there's the slightest evidence laetrile may be an effective treatment for cancer, I'll support it."

"SOMEWHERE in the future, there may be a cure. But there's no scientific or medical evidence to prove that laetrile is that cure. Even worse, it gives false hope."

Brotherton calls the proposed measure a "lousy bill." He said he has sat through many sessions discussing the legislation, and he's not impressed with laetrile as an effective treatment and cure.

"If laetrile worked, it would have to be taken in conjunction with a strict health food diet," Brotherton said. "This shell of a bill to legalize laetrile was sponsored by legislators so doctors can get patients who don't want any other treatment off their backs."

"But the bill doesn't say doctors must also prescribe diets."

Under the bill, laetrile could be made only by companies licensed by the state Board of Pharmacy and

dispensed only by pharmacists with doctors' written prescriptions. Containers would have to be labeled as a substance not approved by the federal government or the state as a cure for cancer.

A patient would have to ask his or her physician for a prescription for laetrile. The patient would have to sign a consent agreement saying he or she is informed that laetrile hasn't been found by the Food and Drug Administration and other scientific experts to be of any value in treating cancer. The agreement would acknowledge that there are other recognized treatments for cancer.

"Cancer is a tragic disease," Forbes said. "It is the second leading cause of death in the United States, second only to heart ailments."

"IT'S ESTIMATED that one of every four individuals will develop cancer in their lifetime, and two out of every three families will have contact with the disease. These statistics are staggering, and many Americans are understandably fearful of the illness."

"The merit in the bill, Forbes said, is that by legalizing laetrile there will be some quality control of the product. Laetrile can now be obtained by the black market, he said.

Patients wouldn't have to risk receiving a contaminated dose of the drug and pay six or seven times its value in black market prices.

It's also argued, Forbes said, that cancer victims should be able to make their own choices of treatment.

"There are more than two dozen forms of cancer, and laetrile has been used in treating three or four," Brotherton said. "There's nothing in the poorly drafted bill requiring a medical examination to determine if the substance increases the patient's risk of dying when other treatments may be effective."

"I'm sympathetic with desperate people, but it's not good public policy to throw this kind of a bill at legislators. I'm sure representatives who support the measure will be putting pressure on the senate to pass it. I'm definitely against it."



Packing up for her hot meal run to senior citizens around the Oakland-Livingston counties area is Farmington resident June Pavlic. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Elderly laud friend who brings them joy

She's a slight, graying woman who has lost the last vestige of her hearing.

Each morning she sits by the door of her Farmington home and watches for the white car in which her hot meal is delivered.

But that's only part of the treat. The other half is communicating with the woman who delivers the meal from the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.

June Pavlic, a 48-year-old Farmington Hills housewife, brings food and a lively manner to those who await her. Instead of bringing with her an aura of an angel on a mercy mission, she has the air of a neighbor sharing a friendly conspiracy.

It's the manner which has brought her the attention of OLHSA. During recent hearings, Mrs. Pavlic's fans sent in notes saying, "Keep up the good work: Don't ever underestimate how important you are. We thank you and appreciate you."

Or, as another person simply wrote: "The delivery person is a beautiful person."

The attention flabbergasted Mrs. Pavlic.

"I had no idea. It's nice to know by her name that I must be doing a good job."

THE REMARK IS typical of her. Friendly but unassuming she just wants to make sure the persons on her route have something to eat.

The gray-haired woman was waiting for Mrs. Pavlic last Friday morning. She smiles at the driver and waves. Once inside, she gives her a big hug and a kiss as if Mrs. Pavlic was a relative or neighbor instead of a person delivering a state food basket.

Mrs. Pavlic returns it all with warmth. Once back inside her car, she waves one more time at the woman.

"I worry about missing someone," she said. "Before I took this job I

never thought there were this many people who were hungry."

She pulls up into a trailer park. Another woman sits in a nicely decorated trailer waiting for Mrs. Pavlic. She won't be home for the next meal delivery, a box lunch.

"I'll keep it for you if you're not home," said Mrs. Pavlic of the lunch comprised of canned foods. "I deliver it to you the next time, then."

"Isn't she nice?" asks the woman. "She always does things like that."

It's evident that the reason she took the job wasn't money.

WITH THE SUPPORT of her husband, John, she started working to get out of the house and enjoy people.

"I took the job because I enjoy senior citizens. We pay very, very high taxes in Farmington Hills. I wouldn't mind paying them if we knew that these taxes will be going to help seniors. We'll all be old some day."

Juvenile courts are being eyed

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

When her daughter came home late from a date, one mother called the police and complained the girl was out of control. The girl was placed in a juvenile detention center.

Children who run away from abusive parents often find themselves rather than their parents the subject of a court hearing and detention.

A child's problems are often rooted in family misunderstandings, divorce proceedings or parents with psychological problems, according to persons who work with troubled youth.

But in many states, including Michigan, each problem is discussed in a separate court.

This fragmented handling of children's problems and their families has been under fire for several years in the state.

Counselors and legislators have looked into ways of alleviating the fragmented system. Three years ago State Senator Jack Faxon, D-Detroit, and his aides began compiling a series of proposals which would consolidate these problems into a family court.

Now, the series of proposals have been introduced into the state senate for a second time and are being studied by the Committee on the Judiciary.

FAXON'S PROPOSAL would take juvenile court out of the jurisdiction of probate court and bring it into the family system which would operate within Circuit Court.

Persons such as Ed Overstreet of Boyville in Farmington Hills who work with juveniles, see Faxon's proposal as a chance to solve family conflict.

Overstreet sees a family court system as a means to negotiate the solution to conflicts with parents and children. It's a way to keep children out of detention centers.

It also keeps children's problems out of adult court.

"You have to look at the adult court. How successful is it? We're locking up more and more adults. They want more room to keep the prisoners in the jail system," Overstreet says.

He sees Faxon's proposal as a means of circumventing the possibility of turning juvenile proceedings into a version of adult court with all the problems intact.

Probate court, according to Faxon, isn't a court of record. Its judges aren't able to deal effectively with parents who refuse to cooperate with the court.

AND BECAUSE THERE AREN'T records kept of the proceedings, the inequities within the system go undocumented.

He cautions that many of the inequities are part of a system which incorporates good judges as well as poor ones.

Some judges who retain the law's early opinion that girls are more likely to continue to sink into trouble give girls longer sentences than boys for the same crime.

"That's a sexist approach," Faxon admits. "No one can uphold that approach — that bad girls should be locked up so they won't become pregnant."

At the circuit court level, the child would be able to obtain a court-appointed lawyer. Unsatisfactory decisions could be appealed.

But by making family court encompass such issues as divorce, guardianship of minors, commitment into mental institutions as well as behavior problems, Faxon hopes to avoid placing youngsters into the juvenile justice system.

If a child runs into problems which can be traced to family difficulties already handled in court, the family court judge could view the case that in light

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Public works is big item in Hills '79-80 budget

By MARY GNIEWEK

Identifying and remedying blight in southeast Farmington Hills was cited as a priority by the city council last week. Council also adopted City Manager Lawrence Savage's \$12 million budget last week for the 1979-1980 fiscal year.

The only major change council made in the manager's proposed \$11,666,325 budget was to add \$30,000 for the hiring of two zoning enforcement agents who will be centered in the southeast end of the city.

The budget represents a 20 percent (\$1.7 million) increase over last year. The biggest chunk will be spent for the Department of Public Works' (DPW) nine divisions, \$3,155,088. Law enforcement will get \$2,893,900; boards and commissions, \$1,003,160; and fire prevention, \$935,752.

Operation of 47th District Court and the library, because they are shared expenses with the city of Farmington, are categorized with boards and commissions.

Council approved a \$1,400 increase for DPW road maintenance over the city manager's recommendation of \$680,589. That figure was still \$50,000 below the department's request.

The rest of the appropriations city council approved were the same as the manager's recommendations.

"Any budget is a compromise to some extent," said Farmington Hills Mayor Earl Oppenheimer. "We are a service organization. There are more people this year and inflation is rising. I think we're keeping with those two factors."

REFUSE COLLECTION was separated from the road maintenance budget this year. Some \$685,700 was budgeted for refuse pick-up from residential

homes. Court cases are pending from apartment building owners who want the same service provided, according to one city aid.

Acting finance director Chuck Rosch said the city "would have trouble extending the service with current appropriations."

"We would be within our charter rights to levy a separate millage for refuse collection," he said. "If we were forced to offer that service (to apartments) we would have to increase our costs."

Currently, the city levies nine mills, which is more than a half mill under its city charter maximum of 9.685 mills.

The city has a \$1 million surplus carried over from previous budgets. City council will decide how that money will be spent.

Suggestions from residents, council members and the city manager include storm drainage improvement in the southeast end, more sidewalks, bike paths, refuse collection, major road improvements, more parks, and the purchase of Shiawassee school for recreation programs.

"It's new to me to have such a cushion," Savage said about the surplus. "Any improvements above what is needed for working capital should have long-enduring benefits for everyone."

"IT'S OBVIOUS TO me the southeast area is our primary problem. Surface drainage needs to be improved. We can't pave streets, put in curbs or sewers without it."

"There are also problems because of the water system. Better fire protection is needed. Upgrading this section of the city is essential."

Savage said the \$12 million represented "a bare bones budget strictly for operation."

"We are a growing community. One thousand building permits were issued last month. We may reach a peak soon. We have to maintain the same level of service."

Copies of the city budget are available at the library and at the city clerk's office.

Doctor is a delegate

Edward A. Loniewski, DO, of Farmington Hills, will be a delegate to the American Osteopathic Association's House of Delegates meeting in Orlando, Fla., in July.

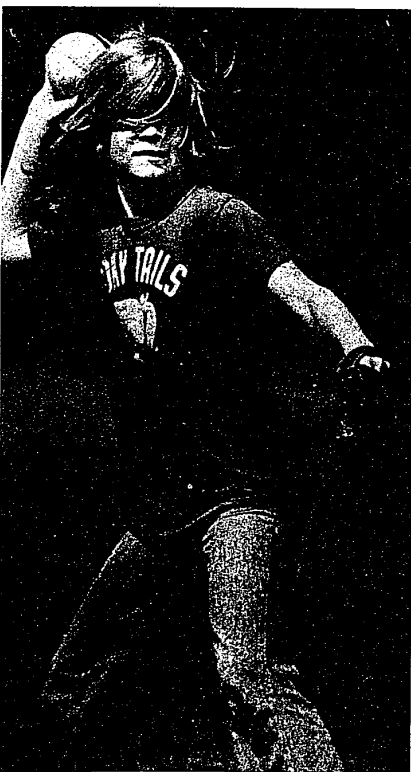
Dr. Loniewski, past president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, was also elected president of the Michigan Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons at the recent convention of MAOPAS at the Hyatt Regency, Dearborn in May.

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SUMMER FUN

That's what the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division is offering during the warm weather. To see what is offered by the department for young and old, alike, turn to Page 7A.



Eyeing the ball

At least that's what Jenny Dowd seems to be attempting despite the long locks in her eyes. To see more of what goes on in the Farmington City Park during the summer, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo)

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