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Legislator looks ahead

Broomfield seeks balanced budget

By Sandra Ambruster
staff writer

If re-elected to another term in Congress, U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, expects to become chairman of the House Foreign Affairs committee.

Currently Broomfield is the second ranking House Republican and expects to assume the top spot when John Rhodes of Arizona retires.

"In all my years in Congress, Republicans haven't had control since 1952. If we are in control, I'll become chairman of the foreign affairs committee," explained Broomfield in a telephone interview. "I would enjoy being chairman of the foreign affairs committee. In this business, you have to be an optimist."

Broomfield, 60, said he expected to spend most of the last two weeks before the election in Washington because of pressing affairs there.

IN THE Aug. 10 primary, Broomfield faces challenger Roger Hall in his first bid for public office (see separate story). Winner of the GOP nomination for the newly drawn 18th Congressional District will face Democrat Allen

Sipher of Farmington in the November general election. Sipher is unopposed in the primary.

The 18th District includes Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills and the townships of Avon, Pontiac, West Bloomfield and part of Southfield.

Broomfield bills himself as a Reagan spokesman in Congress, although he

Endorsements 18A

said he doesn't agree with the President in every aspect.

"I generally approve of what he's trying to do," he added. "I'm supporting the administration in its work with ambassador Phil Habib in trying to find

areas where the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) can go."

He said that the PLO had been "a thorn in the side" of the Lebanese for more than 12 years.

Broomfield said he favors the sale of grain to the Soviets because it is a cash sale but said he has reservations about the administration's position on the Soviet pipeline to Europe.

"Boycoits have never been very successful," he said. "The Carter administration tried to use grain sales to force the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan, but Argentina, Australia and Canada picked up the slack."

"We ended up hurting our own farmers," he continued.

"With the sale of equipment, some people are going to be hurt. I understand what they feel — that these are long-term credits and that the Soviets will use cash money to build up their arms."

THE KEY TO economic recovery lies in bringing down interest rates, according to Broomfield.

Unemployment is the "tragic part" of the nation's economic problems.

Challenger admits he bit off big chunk

By Sandra Ambruster
staff writer

Roger Hall, a six-year Troy resident who bills himself as "the underdog," is challenging incumbent William Broomfield in his bid for the Republican nomination in the new 18th Congressional District. (See separate Broomfield story.)

Although he admits he has a lack of credentials in his first bid for public

office, Hall thinks he would make a good congressman because of his business experience and his maturity.

He said that he chose this race, initially thinking that it was Jim Blanchard's old district and wouldn't have an incumbent, because "it's (the House of Representatives) the only branch of government that really represents the people."

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Robbers pull 4th gem job

For the fourth time in five months, Wilson Jewelers in downtown Farmington was robbed Saturday morning. The most recent incident, which occurred at about 6 a.m., was a smash-and-grab operation in which a few items were taken. Store owner Don Wilson of Northville reports that two pearl drop necklaces were stolen along with a ring with a pearl in the middle and a ladies yellow gold ruby ring. A copper-colored pipe lighter and a yellow gold cigarette lighter were also taken.

A similar break-in took place at the store July 28 between 4:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. In that break-in, three Wittnauer watches were taken.

The store was also the victim of two grab-and-run robberies that occurred while the store was open for business. One of the robberies occurred in June and the other was in April. A combined total of close to \$18,000 in merchandise was taken, Wilson says, when suspects grabbed trays of jewelry and ran.

"It's getting to be a bad area for crime, I'd say," said Wilson. "I've been here for 16 years, but am I thinking about moving? Yes. Four robberies in four or five months is too much."

Wilson says his lease expires a year from September and he hopes to sell his business to another person by that time. There are no suspects in any of the break-ins.

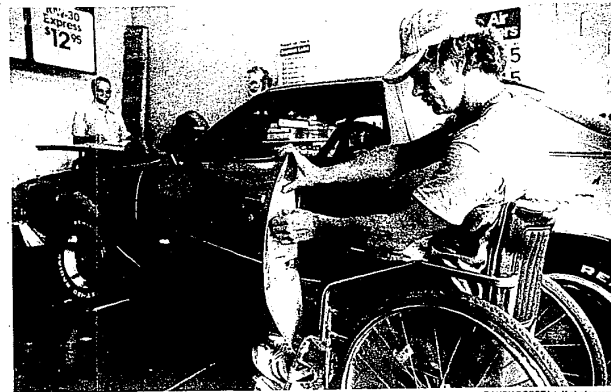
All of the fortune hunters who were interviewed said they'd return the diamond to its owner if they found it to claim the reward rather than keeping the diamond for themselves or trying to sell it.

first ball diamond west of Power Road facing Shawwassee, according to police, and hasn't been reported found yet.

When news of the lost diamond and the \$1,000 reward was printed in the Farmington Observer Monday, crowds started to gather on their hands and knees in the park.

All of the fortune hunters who were interviewed said they'd return the diamond to its owner if they found it to claim the reward rather than keeping the diamond for themselves or trying to sell it.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Confinement to a wheelchair is no deterrent for Dennis Geer, 29, who works at Ray's Mobil gas station at Eight Mile and Farmington Rds. Station owner Ray Keller (left) offers handicappers a 10 percent discount on gas.

Handicappers get help at self-serve gas pump

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

The task of pumping your own gas is regarded as an inconvenience by many, but it's an impossible job for some persons confined to a wheelchair.

As more and more stations switch to self-serve-only operations, it's becoming

a real problem for handicapped drivers unable to reach the handle of the pump.

Ray Keller, owner of Ray's Mobil at the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Farmington Road, is aware of this obstacle for the handicapped. An employee at the station who happens to be handicapped, Dennis Geer, 29, of

Waterford filled him on the problem.

As a good-faith gesture, the gas station owner will pump gas for handicapped customers confined to wheelchairs at self-serve prices and offer them a 10-percent discount on auto repair work.

"We do it because a lot of them (handicapped persons) don't have jobs," Keller, of Farmington, said. "They're on a fixed income. On the self-serve island we'll pump their gas for them, but if they want their tires checked, go to the full-service island and pay full price."

Geer said the way gas pumps are situated on top of concrete islands makes pumps almost impossible to reach for persons in wheelchairs.

"It's too far away because of the island," Geer said. "But if it was any closer they would be the chance of people hitting the pump with their car."

THE PROBLEM has been addressed in proposed state legislation by state Rep. Thomas H. Brown, who introduced House Bill 4442 March 25. The bill attempts to make it mandatory for service stations to pump gas for handicapped persons. The bill was referred to the committee on public safety, where it sits.

Rube Levy, handicapped coordinator for the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), a public advocacy group, backs the bill and commends Keller for taking the initiative on his own.

Levy said its refreshing to be in the position of "praising somebody for doing something" for the handicapped instead of just pointing out another obstacle impeding their progress.

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Festival 'spokesman'

The Farmington Founders' Festival was cause for contentment for this clown — it didn't rain on his parade. For more festival photographs, please turn to Page 10B in the Suburban Life section.

Treasure hunt is on in park

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Dozens of persons have been combing the grass at Farmington City Park for a lost diamond worth between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

A \$2,000 reward has been offered for the uninsured gem, which was lost July 27 at Kid's Day festivities in the park by Julie DuQuet of Novi.

She reportedly lost the diamond, just shy of two karats with approximately 80 points, while reaching into the pocket of her jeans. The diamond dropped out of its setting in the outfield of the

what's inside

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Vets' votes close

how they voted

Income tax hike
workers' compensation
cigarette tax
open meetings
utility rate hikes
prayer in schools
MADD bills
Christmas tree bill

	Faxon	Wilson
Income tax hike	yes	yes
workers' compensation	opposed	yes
cigarette tax	yes	no
open meetings	yes	yes
utility rate hikes	opposed	opposed
prayer in schools	opposed	yes
MADD bills	yes	yes
Christmas tree bill	yes	yes

This table shows the votes of the two incumbents in the 15th District senate race, Sen. Dana Wilson, D-Hazel Park, and Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Detroit, on key issues acted on by the Legislature during the past year.

INCOME TAX HIKE — provided for the six-month, one percent increase voted in last May.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION bills — This series of 12 bills attempted to improve the business climate by combining benefits and decreasing payments.

THE CIGARETTE TAX increase —

would have provided funds for public education by imposing an 11-cent tax hike on cigarettes.

THE OPEN MEETINGS Act amendment — would have allowed more closed meetings and secret evaluations of city managers and college presidents.

UTILITY RATE pass-throughs — would have allowed automatic rate increases for utility companies.

PRAYER IN the schools — This bill was voted on in 1979 when Sen. Wilson was a member of the House of Representatives. It died in the Senate in Fax-

on's committee.

MADD BILL package — This series of three bills stiffened penalties for drunk drivers. Mothers Against Drunk Driving was instrumental in drafting of the legislation.

CHRISTMAS TREE BILL — was so named because it lumped together subsidies for the Pontiac Silverdome, Detroit Institute of Arts and Detroit Public Library.

In instances where the senators did not vote, or a bill died in committee, their positions are indicated by "opposed" or "favored."