Best, brightest: *Among those being honored by WXYZ-TV are (left to right): Robyn Sackeyfio of Birmingham, Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills; Divesh Gupta of West Bloomfield, Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills; Mandeep Singh of West Bloomfield, West Bloomfield High School; WXYZ-TV news anchor Guy Gordon; Markus Boss of Bloomfield Hills, Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills; Katherine Huckaby of Beverly Hills, Groves High Schol in Birmingham; David Somand of Bloomfield Hills, University of Detroit Jesuit High School; and Sara Puzey of Birmingham, Roeper High School in Birmingham.*

Radio station honors those named best, brightest

WXYZ/Channel 7 will honor more than 200 high school students in its 16th annual "Brightest and Best" public service campaign, a tribute to Michigan high school seniors, who have demonstrated excellence in academic and community pursuits. The station has produced a series of public service announcements featuring the students, which will air on Channel 7 throughout the summer months.

WXYZ recently hosted the students on the grounds of Broadcast House in Southfield.

"Brightest and Best" is sponsored by Elias Brothers Restaurants, The Wellness Plan and Be True to Your School at Fairlane, Lakeside and Twelve Oaks Malls.

Feed the hungry and your thoughts

Southfield-based Forgotten Harvest is selling sweat shirts and t-shirts to help in the fight against hunger. The shirts are natural in color with a hunter green Forgotten Harvest logo, and are available in sizes M, L, and XL. Sweat shirts are $35 and t-shirts are $15. To order, call the Forgotten Harvest office at 559-0350. FOOD. Visa/MasterCard accepted.

Forgotten Harvest, Metro Detroit's only prepared and perishable food distribution program, collects surplus perishable food from wholesalers, bakeries, vending companies and other health-approved facilities for delivery to soup kitchens and shelters.

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

"Your Parents-Yourself: The Finances of Aging," will be presented at the regular monthly luncheon networking meeting of the National Association of Career Women-Metro Detroit Chapter.

The luncheon runs from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, at the Chianti Villa Italia Restaurant, 28565 Northwestern Highway, 1/2 mile south of 12 Mile Rd. Southfield. Patti Dillsman, LUTCF, LIC, Consultant, American Benefits Group, will present the program. The fee is $15 for members and $18 for guests. Call (810) 851-8130 for reservations.

Senate objects to judicial tax hikes

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

John Stoeffler was preaching to the converted.

A state Senate committee barely listened to the president of a Missouri anti-tax group before reporting out of committee a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting federal courts from raising state/local taxes.

Sponsor is Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton. "The states are pulling together this initiative in an effort to stop this dangerous precedent," said Bennett, whose SCR 278 was reported out of the Senate Government Operations Committee the same day (May 22) he introduced it.

Panel members, including Sen. George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn, darted in long enough to answer roll call and vote "yes" before heading off to other meetings, as did four other members. It is on this week's Senate calendar.

"There is custom and tradition going back 800 years," said Stoeffler, rattling off Magna Carta, the British Parliament, the Continental Congress and the Confederacy as institutions that jealously guarded the power of taxation and wouldn't let judges tinker with tax rates.

What precipitated Stoeffler's campaign was a 1990 Kansas City, Mo. desegregation case called Missouri vs. Jenkins. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 5-4, the power of a federal district judge to raise state and local taxes 260 percent to rectify an alleged shortage of school facilities for black children.

"That federal judge (Russell Harding, a Carter appointee) created a new school system," said Stoeffler, listing an air-conditioned art museum, world-class weight room, zoo, model United Nations wired for sound and a planetarium as budget-busting luxuries no legislative body would approve.

"The test scores didn't increase," he added.

This occurred despite Missouri's constitutional balanced budget and tax limitation requirements, which are similar to Michigan's.

Bennett agreed that federal judges need to be curbed. "A Supreme Court justice or any federal judge, once appointed, is appointed for life and, frankly, accountable to no one," said Bennett as he introduced a form resolution.

Stoeffler, president of a group called the Madison Forum, said 11 states have passed the resolution . Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Louisiana, South Dakota, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and Alaska. Also considering it are California, Delaware, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Kansas and Alabama.

The resolution memorializes the U.S. Congress to pass and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the U.S. Constitution saying:

"Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a state or political subdivision thereof, or an official of such state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes."

The U.S. Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of both chambers and ratified by a majority in the legislatures of three-fourths (38) of the states. So the Michigan Legislature would have to vote on it a second time.

Michigan saw an effort in the early 1990s to add a similar amendment to the state constitution. The so-called Patterson-Anderson amendment would have prohibited the raising of taxes to pay for the resolution of any lawsuit.

It was spawned by fear the state courts would order taxes to pay for equal financing of public schools. The Kentucky Supreme Court, for example, ordered refinancing of public schools at the cost of massive tax hikes.

OAKLAND KALEIDOSCOPE

Oakland Kaleidoscope is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Write: Oakland Kaleidoscope, County Editor, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

AGING SEMINAR

"Caring for Aging Parents" will be presented from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 8, in Room 308 of the J building at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd., just south of I-696 in Farmington Hills. Conducted by Diane Margolis-Baum, M.A., the women's seminar will address coping skills, management of difficult behaviors and situations, support and educational resources and an overview of normal vs. abnormal aging. The cost is $30. The program, sponsored by the OCC Womencenter, is open to the public. For more information, call (810) 471-7602.

MEDIATION TRAINING

The Bloomfield Hills-based Oakland Mediation Center, formerly The Settlement Center, will conduct a 40-hour mediation training session on June 20, 22, 23, 27 29, and 30. The training session follows the guidelines of the Michigan State Court Administrative Office and includes lectures, videos, audio tapes, simulations, role-plays and critiques. Oakland University Professor Burdick and Oakland County Bar attorney Mrs. N. Klein will instruct the session. The fee is $400. For more information and an application form, call the Oakland Mediation Center at (810) 338-4280.

DEFICIT DISORDER

Bethann Kalt, M.A., of Southfield Mental Health Associates, was among professionals throughout the world attending the National Attention Deficit Disorder Association conference in Pittsburgh.

The conference addressed current information on assessment, treatment and management of ADHD symptoms, which may include a difficulty to retrieve information, hyperactivity and a lack of control impulses. Those attending were introduced to a new instrument for assessing the presence of ADHD in adolescents and adults. The use of a combination of medications to treat individuals with attention difficulties was also discussed.

PHYSICIANS HONORED

The Michigan State Medical Society honored 115 physicians for 50 years of service to patients and the medical profession at its 131st annual House of Delegates session at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn.

Among those honored were Roy S. Hazen, M.D. of Beverly Hills; Frederick F. Shevin, M.D., of Bingham Farms; and Seymour Krevsky, M.D., Elmer J. Mueller, M.D. and George A. Roberts, M.D., all of Birmingham.

Physicians recognized from Bloomfield Hills include Russell P. Bolton, M.D., Eugene M. Brooks, M.D., Eli M. Brown, M.D., M. Colton Hutchins, M.D., Louis W. Kaufman, M.D., Roger F. Smith, M.D. and John H. Stunz, M.D.

Other honorees were Frank G. Talbot, M.D., of Clarkston; Charles Kessler, M.D. of Huntington Woods; Kenneth L. Krabbenhoft, M.D., of Pleasant Ridge and Willard E. House, M.D. of Rochester.

Also acknowledged at the ceremony were Mildred A. Axelrod, M.D., Bernard Krakauer, M.D., Morris J. Lipnik, M.D. and Katheryn L. O'Connor, M.D., all of Southfield; Harold W. Jaffe, M.D., of Troy and Richard S. Kamil, M.D. of West Bloomfield. Beginning their medical careers just as World War II was ending, these physicians assumed key roles in a medical generation distinguished for its unprecedented achievements in advancing and promoting human health care.

The Michigan State Medical Society, an association of 12,000 medical doctors, is the state branch of the American Medical Association.

PROJECT GRANTS

The Oakland County Cultural Council announces project grants of up to $2,000 for any Oakland County nonprofit organization, institution, school, association or local government agency through the Mini-Grant Program. No grants are awarded to individuals, but they are available to organizers of specific arts and culturally focused projects. The application deadline is June 14 for projects occurring between October 1996 and January 1997. Grant applications can be obtained by calling the Office of Arts, Culture and Film at (810) 858-0415.

VOLUNTEERS CITED

United Ways Community Services has honored four Oakland County residents as Heart of Gold Award winners for their personal contribution and commitment to making a significant difference in our community:

•David Klavons, of West Bloomfield has been a volunteer at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers for nearly 18 years, logging more than 15,500 hours of service in numerous areas of the hospital. He also helped create a special associate recognition program called, Providence Recognizes Individuals Dedicated To Excellence.

•Sandra Schwartz, of Franklin began volunteering with the Sinai Hospital Guild, installing LifeLine equipment in the homes of seniors. She has been an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery program for 13 years. Schwartz also established the Breast Cancer Woman to Woman Support Program at Sinai Hospital in 1993, and was elected to the Sinai Hospital Guild.

•Joanne Verbanic, of Farmingto, has been a volunteer with the Mental Health Association in Michigan since 1984, and has served on the board for the last eight years. She formed Schizophrenics Anonymous, a self-help support group that has benefited more than 1,600 people. Verbanic's mission to educate, give hope and erase the stigma associated with schizophrenia has taken her on nearly 200 speaking engagements throughout the country. She will be one of the Community Hero Olympic Torchbearers this June.

•Troy resident Theresa Joy McMurray, 17, won the Young Metro Volunteer Award for exceptional leadership, commitment and character in community service. The Bishop Foley High School honor student made yellow ribbons for Desert Storm, worked at soup kitchens, recycled yarn for retired seniors to make crib blankets and volunteered at summer camp. She solicited local merchants for supplies to make craft items, which she sold to purchase baby cribs and layette sets for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rochester. With the help of family, local florists and school children, McMurray also prepared and delivered floral arrangements to 120 patients at Cambridge Nursing Care Facility.

TEACHERS HONORED

Winners and nominees of the 1996 Newsweek/WDIV Outstanding Teachers for Oakland County Award were recognized on May 3.

Among this year's award winners were Ruth Duling of Clarkston Middle School, the Newsweek/WDIV Outstanding Middle School Teacher of Oakland County and Pamela Sue Ellis, of Flanders Elementary School in Farmington, the Newsweek/WDIV Outstanding Elementary Teacher for Oakland County.

Award nominees included Kathleen Joy Ruegsegger Anderson of Martell Elementary School in Troy; Linda Gay Denstaedt of Clarkston High School; Donna Guith of Troy High School; Kevin Wayne Kansman of Farmington High School and Janice Katz of Doherty Elementary School in West Bloomfield.

Other nominees were Rebecca Kiler, Greenfield Elementary School in Birmingham; Jacqueline Klugman of Orchard Lake Middle School in West Bloomfield; Michael Lalko of Boulan Park Middle School in Troy, Connie Peterson of Groves High School in Birmingham and Dyanne M. Sanders of Warner Middle School in Farmington.

SMART officials cite millage anniversary

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

This week marks the first anniversary of the SMART millage proposal approved in 20 communities raising property taxes by one-third of a mill to provide funds for improved mass transit.

During that year, SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) has undergone extensive reorganization, according to general manager Richard C. Kaufman.

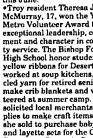
"We've redesigned the system," he said, "commerce doesn't just occur in Detroit, and we've changed our operations to recognize what's happening in Oakland, Macomb and western Wayne counties."

Kaufman touted the new SMART after some Republican county commissioners in Oakland County asked some critical questions at a recent GOP caucus. "We might seem sensitive," said the former Wayne Circuit judge. "But we've worked hard over the last year, and we want people to know what we've done."

SMART has added 100 miles of new routes, he said, including, for the first time, service on Telegraph from southern Wayne County to northern Oakland County. "And we have a route along Fifteen Mile Road from eastern Macomb through much of Oakland County."

SMART has added 86 new 29 foot buses, costing roughly $160,000 each, Kaufman said, with about 80 percent of the cost covered by a federal grant. Critics claim that the old, 40-foot buses – often running half empty – inefficient was on target, he said. "There was little need for the big buses, so we got smaller, more efficient ones," he said.

SMART is also more community oriented, Kaufman said. Thanks to input from local officials, the system has incorporated extensive service linking senior citizens to shopping, medical facilities.



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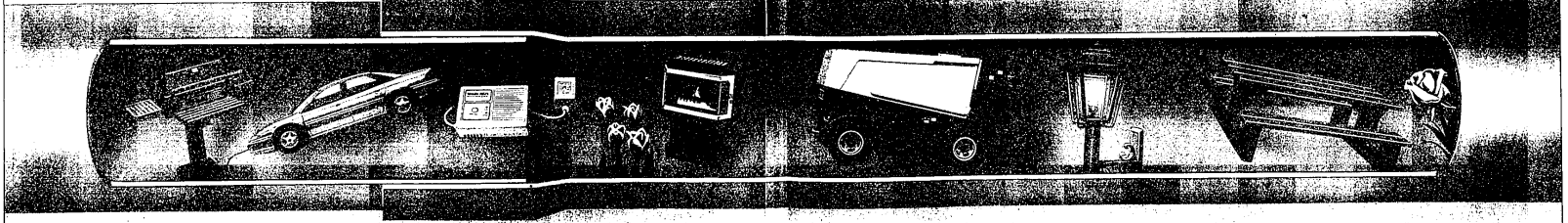

You get a lot more than natural gas from your natural gas company these days. For example, we've just introduced Home Protection Plus,* a new program to protect you against costly appliance repairs. To help you confidently purchase natural gas appliances such as grills and fireplaces, our Ideal Energy Dealer Network connects you, toll-free, to qualified dealers in your area. Then, too, we now offer helpful products ourselves, such as carbon-monoxide detectors and gaslights. Plus advanced technologies such as cogeneration that supplies cost-effective thermal and electrical energy in commercial/industrial applications. We're also putting natural-gas-powered vehicles on the road (and Zambonis on the ice) to protect the environment. We're even turning trash-bound plastic pipes into picnic tables as part of our Pipes 4 Parks program.

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