

County offers well child care

Oakland County health Division's Child Health Conference provides free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry.

Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible and clinics are offered at 14 locations throughout Oakland County.

Services include heights and weights, complete physical examination, immunizations, vision, hearing, lab testing, growth and developmental screening, counseling and more.

To schedule an appointment, call (North Oakland areas) 810-858-1311 or 858-4001; or (South Oakland areas) 810-424-7066 or 810-424-7067.

Court ends Thompson's legal challenges

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Supreme Court split along gender lines in freeing Teresa L. Nix from a first-degree murder charge in a grisly Pontiac case.

The high court's 4-3 ruling came Dec. 30, a day before Oakland Prosecutor Richard Thompson left office, and it took a slap at Thompson.

Thompson, who appealed more cases than any of Michigan's 83 county prosecutors, wanted to try Nix on an accomplice in the car trunk murder of Pamela Bundy.

Oakland Circuit Judge Fred Mester issued a directed verdict at the end of her 1991 jury trial, freeing Nix of the murder charge. But Thompson sought a

second trial, arguing that Nix knew Bundy was in the trunk and owed her a legal duty to attempt to free her. Bundy died of dehydration and methanol poisoning from drinking windshield washer fluid.

The four male justices agreed another trial of Nix would amount to "double jeopardy," a second trial for the same crime, prohibited by the U.S. Constitution.

Justice Michael Cavanagh said Thompson was attempting "revisionist history of the principles underlying the double jeopardy clause."

Justice, considering all that evidence, the trial court (Judge Mester) ruled that it was legally insufficient to support a conviction of the charges brought against defendant.

"This ruling by the trial court is completely dispositive (ends proceedings) of this case for purposes of the double jeopardy clause," said Cavanagh. He was joined by Chief Justice James Brickley, outgoing Justice Charles Levin and Justice Conrad Mallett Jr.

"The trial court's July 19, 1991, order was a binding legal resolution," Cavanagh wrote. "The fact of this ruling precludes appellate inquiry into its legal correctness."

Dissenting were Justices Patricia Boyle, Elizabeth Weaver and Dorothy Constock Riley. It was a familiar pattern on the Michigan high court where the women justices have, tended to support prosecutors.

"I... would hold that defendant's retrial and conviction

was not barred by the double jeopardy clause of the fifth amendment of the United States Constitution," said Boyle.

Boyle found a distinction between "dismissals based on determinations of facts and dismissals based on legal conclusions."

Cavanagh's reply indicated the case had been hotly debated in the high court's inner sanctum. He accused Boyle of "strained reasoning" and said her dissent "obfuscates" the clear standard for determining double jeopardy.

Nix's boyfriend, Robert Hogans, has been in prison since mid-1991 for first-degree murder, kidnapping, raping, stripping and confining Bundy in the trunk of a car and driving

five or six days through the streets until Bundy died.

After a Court of Appeals reversed Mester, another jury in mid-1992 convicted Nix of involuntary manslaughter, and she began serving a 7-15 years sentence. She appealed.

A second Court of Appeals panel reversed her conviction. Prosecutor Thompson appealed, and the case was argued Oct. 8. Thompson lost his August Republican primary bid for a third term.

As of Jan. 1, women will have a 4-3 majority on the Supreme Court as former appellate Judge Marilyn Kelly of Bloomfield Hills joins the bench. She replaces Levin, who could not run again because he has reached age 70.

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, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-3344.

CHARITY EVENT

The Detroit Boat Show is kicking off this year's event with "A Reason to Celebrate," a preview party for charity from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31. The party offers a sneak preview of one of the top boating shows in the country and the latest boating innovations before the show opens to the public Feb. 1-9. Proceeds benefit the Lighthouse of Oakland County, a non-profit human services agency offering a continuum of services to low-income residents through Light-House Emergency Services Centers in Pontiac and Clarkston, Pontiac Area Transitional Housing and Unity Park.

Among the honorary chairpersons are Gov. and Mrs. John Engler; Sen. and Mrs. E. Spencer Abraham; Sen. and Mrs. Carl Levin; Sen. and Mrs. Gary Peters; Mayor and Mrs. Walter Moore; Mayor Ruth Canfield; and Oakland County Executive and Mrs. L. Brooke Patterson. The preview party is being sponsored by the Michigan Boating Industries Association, also a sponsor of the Boat Show. It is being organized by charity representatives and community volunteers.

The evening begins with a reception in the Cobo Center main lobby. Guests dressed in yachting attire will be regaled with live entertainment, a dig for sunken treasures and other nautical surprises, including a guided maritime serenade onto the show floor. Tickets are \$100 per person. To order, call (810) 253-3717.

For more information about the preview party or the 39th annual Detroit Boat Show, call MBIA at (800) 224-3308.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Oakland County Youth Assistance is seeking volunteers to be positive adult role models for a child, age 5 to 16, in need of a one-to-one mentor. A training session will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. For information, call (810) 858-0041.

COLLEGE SEMINAR

The Princeton Review will hold free college admissions seminars to discuss different aspects of the college admissions process and to teach several effective strategies for approaching standardized tests, such as the SAT and the ACT.

Seminars will be held at Birmingham Marian High School, 7225 Lahser, Birmingham, from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 9, Feb. 27, and April 10. A seminar will be offered from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, at Borders Books and Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

The Princeton Review is the nation's most popular standardized test preparation service across four channels of distribution: courses, books, software and on-line services. Anyone

interested in attending the admissions seminar can reserve a place by calling The Princeton Review at 1-(800) 2-Review. Walk-ins are welcome.

NEED VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to help the Oakland Literacy Council stay in touch with tutors and students. The Council offers a friendly work environment, free coffee and an occasional donut. To volunteer, call Linda at (810) 338-8840.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Oakland County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program seeks volunteers 55 years and older to become involved with community agencies that need assistance.

Varied opportunities are available at schools, hospitals, libraries, human service agencies and cultural institutions throughout Oakland County. Benefits include supplemental accident and liability insurance, mileage reimbursement and the chance to make a difference. Call Linda Kaniewski at (810) 559-1147.

Cranbrook Hospice Care in Bloomfield Hills seeks caring volunteers in Oakland County to

provide in-home support to terminally ill patients and their families. Winter training sessions begin in Jan. For details, call Sharon Doyle or Gerry Gold at (810) 334-6700.

HOT FAMILIES

Academic Year in America is looking for families in Oakland County to open their hearts and homes to an international student from Brazil, Germany or Argentina. Host families benefit by learning about another culture, making a friend, and earning scholarships toward design-ated international travel-study programs.

Exchange students have the opportunity to participate in the American way of life, something many of them only dream about. Students, who are 16 to 18 years old, arrive with their own medical insurance and spending money.

Academic Year in America, sponsored by the non-profit American Institute For Foreign Study, has been bringing foreign students and American families together for 15 years. To find out how you can participate, call AYA Placing Regional Director Amy Mullen at (800) 322-4878, ext. 5423.

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