

Test scores to remain on transcripts

**BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER**

High school graduating classes of '98 will see their state proficiency test scores on their transcripts — but not the hated words "novice" and "not a novice" — under a bill passed 99-1 by the state House of Representatives.

"We have bipartisan, bicameral agreement on this bill," said House Education Committee chair Sharon Giv. D-Macomb County, adding that Gov. John Engler also agrees to it.

The House shot down attempts to halt High School Proficiency Tests entirely for two years by conservatives who argued that educators, parents and students

don't want them. HSPTs are given to 11th graders in four subject areas: reading, writing, math and science; in the year 2000, a social studies test is due to be added.

Parents and students in Birmingham, Troy and two outstate districts had boycotted the tests in droves this year, expressing unhappiness with the terms placed on their diplomas and transcripts.

"What are those Birmingham kids afraid of?" asked Rep. Jessie Dalman, R-Holland, minority vice chair of the Education Committee.

Giv, Dalman and others said the HSPTs will stimulate students by their committee during public

■ 'What are those Birmingham kids afraid of?'

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—Minority vice chair education committee

hearings this spring. One in southeastern Michigan is scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday, June 9, in Ann Arbor, Mich. 20629 Annapolis, Dearborn Heights. A Senate committee also intends to schedule hearings.

Art Ellis, state superintendent of public instruction, insists the HSPTs are here to stay and are a key tool in checking whether a

core curriculum is being taught. The House then sent HB 4492 to the Senate, where passage is expected. It amends the school code by adding a single section requiring that raw test scores be reported on transcripts.

Attacks beaten

Attacks on the HSPTs came from Republicans Alan Croysey of DeWitt and Harold Voorhees of Wyoming.

"Who wants this test?" said Croysey. "The colleges don't. Do educators trust it? They say 'it's a waste.' Do parents like it? Do kids want it? The very intelligent people don't want it." Defenders said the tests are in

the process of being improved and shouldn't be junked now. Voorhees' amendment to place a two-year moratorium on giving the HSPTs sank on a vote of 15-89. All area members voted no except Republicans Greg Kazo of Rochester Hills, Gerald Law of Plymouth and Deborah Whyman of Canton.

A second amendment, by Democrat Howard Wetters of Kalamazoo, would have required local schools to inform parents of their right to have their students "opt out" of the HSPTs. It lost 53-41. Here is how area members voted:

Yes — Tom Middleton, R-Ortonville, Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills.

No — Panny Crisman, R-Rochester, Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake, Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak.

Not voting — Greg Kazo, R-Rochester Hills, Nancy Quarles, D-Southfield.

Results June 3

The state will release High School Proficiency Test results mid-June Tuesday, June 3, state superintendent Ellis announced.

Some time this week, the state Department of Education will forward to local districts the percentage of test takers for the class of 1998 who achieved proficiency on each of the four tests.

Detour signs and slow drives are ahead for motorists traveling Oakland County roadways in the following areas:



- **Birmingham** — Brown Street (also known as Ring Road) between Chester and Pierce is being reconstructed due to the addition of new sewers and new pavement. The work is expected to continue until mid-July, with a detour for eastbound Brown Street traffic to Maple Road. A resurfacing project is planned to begin in late June on streets as early as this week: Pierce between Brown and Lincoln, Adams between the northern city limits and Madison Avenue, and Derby between Adams and Koolidge.
- **Bloomfield Township** — Resurfacing work is scheduled to begin this month on Square Lake Road, between Bloomfield Crossing and Adams Road. The project is set to be completed by mid-summer.
- **Farmington** — Deteriorated concrete in Elizabeth Court, Mary Court and Twin Valley Court is being removed and replaced. Work is being done by First Willow, Depet, Church, Powell, Mill, East, Hovey and Louw. Work should be completed June 12, and in Elizabeth Court, work is expected to be completed June 13.
- **Farmington Hills** — The 1996 widening project along Eight Mile, between Halsted and Farmington roads, to five lanes, is continuing. The remaining one and a quarter miles through the Farmington Road Intersection is expected to be completed Aug. 22. Intermittent lane closures are possible. Expansion of the Hagerty Connector (M-6) has closed 13 Mile Road, between Hagerty and Meadowbrook, until July. Fourteen Mile, between Hagerty and Welch, will have intermittent flagging for water main work until May 30. When 13 Mile reopens, 14 Mile will be closed until July 1998. Beam repair work has started on the 10 Mile bridge over I-96I-276 with an expected completion of late October. There will be hourly closures on I-96I-276 and a permanent lane closure on the east and westbound 10 Mile during construction. The gravel roads of Forestbrook and Duke, off the Inlander Road and west of I-96I-276, are being paved. Detours may be used within subdivisions. Rhonawood, a gravel road off of Gill Road and south of 9 Mile, is planned to be paved in late May with a new layer of asphalt being added in early June. Construction underneath the Farmington Road bridge over I-96I-276 is under way with the east to bridge planned to be shut down for about 10 days in mid-June and reopened Aug. 19. Traffic will be detoured along 11 Mile, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads and there will be intermittent lane closures on I-96I-276 during the late evening hours. A traffic signal is being installed at Halsted Road just south of I-96I-276 at the Amerisure insurance company business entrance. The work is expected to be completed in mid-June.
- **Independence Township** — White Lake Road near Andersonville Road is closed to through traffic for the resurfacing of the roadway with Nelson Road and the widening to three lanes. Detour signs will be placed for drivers down Dixie Highway to Andersonville until the expected completion in November when the southern portion of White Lake Road will be turned into a cul-de-sac instead of intersecting Andersonville Road.
- **Novi** — Expansion of the Hagerty Connector (M-6) has closed 13 Mile Road, between Hagerty and Meadowbrook, until July. Fourteen Mile, between Hagerty and Welch, will have intermittent flagging for water main work until May 30. When 13 Mile reopens, 14 Mile will be closed until July 1998. Beam repair work has

- started on the 10 Mile bridge over I-96I-276 with an expected completion of late October. There will be hourly closures on I-96I-276 and a permanent lane closure on the east and westbound 10 Mile during construction.
 - **Orchard Lake** — Lakeview, Pine Tree, and Sun-bear between the R.C. Bangers Sandy Boeck Subdivision will be paved during the first two weeks in June.
 - **Orion Township** — The bridge on Baldwin Road, between Lake Angulus Road and Morgan north of I-76, are being resurfaced with an expected completion date of June 15.
 - **Oxford** — Continuation of the 1996 paving project is ongoing with the final layer of roadway being laid on the east and westbound 24 Mile, between the Lodge Freeway (I-76) and the city of Rochester. The half-mile stretch of two-lane roadway to be constructed from east Second Street to Parkdale. The roadway will be east of Miller and is expected to be open for traffic in July.
 - **Rochester Hills** — The reconstruction of Hamlin Road to a four-lane boulevard from M-59 to Crooks Road is under way and is expected to be completed by the spring of 1998. The project will include the completion of the east-west link from the new M-59 ramp to various business facilities. The roadway is closed with detours across M-59 and Avon Road. The remaining 13 miles of 48 miles of roadway in the following subdivisions are receiving pavement overlays this month: Groesse Place, Fairview Farms, North Fairview Farms, Brookdale Woods No. 2, Bellarmine Hills and Hunters Creek. Work should be complete.
 - **Southfield** — Twelve Mile Road at Telegraph is being widened to include a right-turn lane from eastbound 12 Mile to southbound Telegraph. There will be intermittent lane closures, but during each hour from 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekly, all lanes will remain open. Construction is set to be completed in May with final cleanup by June 15. The project will include the widening of the roadway under construction for deck replacement with northbound Greenfield closed and traffic detoured along Pembroke. Lanes are expected to reopen Oct. 30, 1997. Deteriorated residential roadways on the western border of Lathrup Villages, east of Berkshire between Telegraph and 11 Mile, are being replaced with an expected completion in mid-September. Concrete sawing has begun on residential roads which will undergo spot concrete replacement, east of Lasher and west of Arlington between Winchester and 11 Mile. Removal and replacement of roadways is expected in late May.
 - **Westland** — Genesee Street, at the main entrance to the Tri-A subdivision and Marshall Taylor Park, is closed for reconstruction and widening to three lanes through June 7. Access to businesses will be maintained throughout the project, but subdivision residents are encouraged to use Omega Street.
- NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, detours are unknown or not available.*
- Sources: Local, county, city and village road officials.
—Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto

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TEN TALK

Wayne State Department of Family Medicine is presenting the next in its series of family health nights at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, at the DMC Family Practice Center, 505 South Woodward in Royal Oak. "Can I survive living with a teenager?" will be the topic of discussion. The speaker, Dr. Merton Shill, assistant professor of family medicine at Wayne State, will discuss the psychosocial development of teenagers and how to base parenting techniques on an understanding of "teen" specific developmental needs. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (248) 543-7770.

CANCER BENEFIT

Admission buttons are now being sold for A Night of Good Taste, a fund raising event that will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. The event is scheduled from 7-10 p.m. Friday, May 30, in the Pontiac Arts and Entertainment district by calling 1-800-KARMANOS or by stopping in one of the Oakland regional offices located at either 18831 W. 12 Mile Road in Lathrup Village, 153 S. Tele-

graph Road in Pontiac or 41935 W. 12 Mile at the DMC Health Care Center in Novi. Buttons are \$30 each prior to May 21 and \$35 after. Participants will be able to save the tastes of fine wines provided by Majestic Markets and eat hors d'oeuvres and desserts supplied by area restaurants. Tasters can wander among works of art and listen to the music of Graystone Jazz Quartet. Proceeds will support the Institute's cancer research, patient care and education outreach programs.

TRUSTEES NAMED

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees has appointed two new members to the governing board of the Detroit College of Law at MSU. Tracy Yokich, vice president of Martha R. Lucille Taylor, legal counsel to Gov. John Engler, will also serve a two-year term. Yokich served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1991 to 1996. Before joining Engler's staff, Taylor was Michigan Senate Majority counsel for four years.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Oakland Family Services, a private, non-profit human service agency serving Oakland County, is seeking volunteers to work with children in some of its innovative parent-child interactive programs. These programs represent the mission of Oakland Family Services, which is to provide quality treatment, education and prevention services to meet human service needs in the community. Interested individu-

als should call Barb Hoffman at (248) 858-7215, ext. 229 for information on the volunteer training scheduled from 6-8:30 p.m. June 3 and June 6.

RECRUITS NEEDED

AmeriCorps, the national service program, is recruiting thousands of men and women to serve in community-based programs and help fulfill the goals of the recent President's Summit for America's Future. The deadline for most applications is June 15. AmeriCorps offers citizens age 18 and older opportunities to serve full-time for one or two years with local non-profits and national organizations throughout the country — programs that will work toward the Summit's goal of providing two million at-risk youth with basic conditions they need for success by the year 2000. Anyone interested in serving in AmeriCorps may call toll free 1-800-942-2377 or visit AmeriCorps worldwide web site at www.cns.gov.

STUDENTS HONORED

The Oakland County Community Assistive Technology Council recently honored 18 visually impaired Oakland County students who were about to receive assistive technology. The following students were awarded \$25 each for their entries during an awards ceremony May 21: Southfield Public Schools student Cheryl Stahl, Farmington Public Schools student Jared Stofflet, and Troy School District student Susan D'Mello. —Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto

OCC at global crossroads, say roundtable attendees

**BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER**

Foreign students, a new breed of public safety officers, workers who understand their own investment options — business leaders say these are the opportunities and challenges for Oakland Community College.

Already Oakland County is an ethnic crossroads in a global economy, everyone agreed during OCC's second Business and Community Alliance recently on the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

"We have the largest ESL (English as a second language) program in the state," said OCC Chancellor Richard Thompson in response to a question from William Salata of the Arab-American Chaldean Council.

"Orchard Ridge has an international center," said campus President George Keith. "We have conversed with Nissan and foreign corporations where spouses of foreign workers need education and social connections. We can serve resident aliens."

"We have a foreign student advisor on every campus," said Martha Smydra, president of OCC's Southfield-Royal Oak campuses.

Smydra said OCC should continue planning for a center to train police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service crews.

"There's no place where field simulations (such as burning buildings with security problems) can be practiced. There's no place in North America but Vancouver where all train together, though in practice they

all work together," Smydra said. "Site development is taking place. Next will be engineering drawings and a call on partners to support it" — that is, help with the construction cost.

An earlier session of the roundtable had brought out the fact that almost anyone dialing the 9-1-1 emergency phone number would be aided by a graduate of OCC. This time, college and community leaders concentrated on the need for cross-training.

"Many municipalities are consolidating their fire and police departments," said Chancellor Thompson.

Janice Simmons, OCC board vice chair and a health professional, said hospitals need a "unified-type worker" who can draw blood, bathe and take the temperature of a patient.

"It improves patient outcomes to develop a relationship with one staff worker," Simmons said.

Judith Wisor, OCC board chair, said new employees often lack knowledge of their pension rights and investment options for their savings. Other conferees agreed.

"They don't have that much background," said Lynn Dietrich of Prudential Securities.

"An outstanding idea!" said David Spencer, president and CEO of Walsh College, a private business college in Troy which is breaking ground for a new facility in Novi.

"It's great for a prospective employee to understand what the options are. We're talking about small businesses. These students will become not only the employees but the employers of the future. The earlier they

get it (grasp of investments), the better," Spencer said.

Thompson said OCC already has several courses for new and small business owners covering such areas as accounting and taxes. "We need to market that," the chancellor said.

Again there was strong agreement that graduates, whatever their specialty, need to have good work habits and be lifelong learners.

"At least 30 or 35 percent of our incoming students need at least one course in remediation," said Gordon May, director of OCC's Pontiac Center. Reason: Many come back to college years after leaving high school, after raising a family or after being on welfare.

College officials agreed that high schools couldn't be blamed because graduates of the same high schools tested out in OCC's reading assessments ranging from sixth grade to 10th (college level).

Greg Sander, vice president of Ring Screw Works with 14 plants from Ann Arbor to Warren, said employees need to be punctual and have at least a basic grasp of accounting — such as knowing the difference between revenues and earnings.

OCC's board of trustees was unable to act on the one business item on the May 12 agenda — a \$174,200 design and construction contract to replace the roof of Building on the Auburn Hills Campus.

Reason: Just three of the seven trustees — less than a quorum — showed up for the special meeting.

Cigarettes target of bills

State Capitol capsules:

Plates for all vets

A bill allowing any U.S. military veteran to buy a Michigan vehicle license plate is on its way to Gov. John Engler's desk for signing.

House Bill 4202, which would become law as soon as it is signed, would apply to 200,000 peace-time veterans. Currently, Michigan sells commemorative plates to veterans of various wars, including National Guard members.

"So many of our soldiers, such as those in Bosnia, are serving peace-time roles. These soldiers deserve the same recognition every other soldier receives for their services to the nation," said Rep. Paul Baade, D-Muskegon, the sponsor.

A veteran seeking a special plate would pay a \$5 service charge. The application would be accompanied by any proof that he or she was in any branch of the armed services.

An amendment to provide entirely free plate to wounded veterans who had received the Purple Heart was removed in the Senate.

Tax cut bill

Sen. Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford, said he will introduce a bill to exempt more businesses from the single business tax (SBT).

Current law exempts businesses with gross receipts of \$250,000 or less and applies to about 40,000 businesses. Bullard, who chairs the Senate

Taxation Committee, would raise that limit to \$500,000. There was no estimate of how many more businesses would be exempted by the increase in revenue to the state treasury.

No to hybrids

State legislators drop 3,000 bills into the hopper in a two-year session of the Michigan Legislature, but few have received the fanfare given to Rep. Gerald Law's three-bill package to ban private ownership of wolf-dogs and other exotic pets.

Sen. Robert Genke, R-Berkeley Springs, Michigan Wolf Society chair, said "Ticorino." Both (the Wolf Lady) Duman, actress Tippi Hedren, the mother of a 5-year-old who was killed in 1989 by a hybrid-wolf and others crowded a Capitol conference room to launch the bills sponsored by Law, R-Plymouth.

Hybrid wolf-dogs are more dangerous than wolves because they are more unpredictable and have less fear of humans, according to the Michigan and American Veterinary Medical associations.

"Eleven children have already been killed nationally by wolf-type pets," said Duman, a Howell resident and formerly of White Lake Township. In the 1970s she toured many schools with her timber wolf, Nahaani.

She now runs the Michigan Wolf Society for the North American Wildlife Park Foundation of Battle Ground, Ind.

Law said his bill would allow persons who already own an exotic animal to keep them, providing minimum standards of care and housing are met and licenses paid for.

The bills also will apply to exotic and native wild cats, bears and primates.

No to cigarettes

Both chambers of the Legislature are considering bills restricting cigarettes:

- Senate Bills 341, 445-455 and 461 would ban billboard advertising for cigarettes. SB 341 is sponsored by Loren Bonk, R-Canton. It is part of a package aimed at removing billboards from "scene" and "heritage" routes.
- "A parent cannot control their child's exposure to a five-story high camel or cowboy exploring them to indulge in the No. 1 cancer-causing habit," said Rick Jameson of Michigan United Conservation Clubs told a Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs.
- MUCU endorsed the bills as "reasonable and moderate" growing out of the large amount of pollution from billboard signs.
- Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Rep. has sponsored a bill to require cigarette manufacturers to disclose their ingredients. Manufacturers would file a form with the state Department of Community Health listing ingredients in descending order according to weight, measure or numerical count.