

NOTABLES

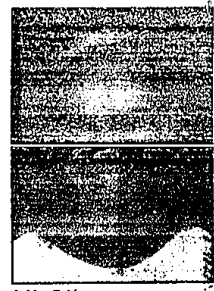
M. Catherine Switnick was promoted to branch manager of Peoples State Bank in Farmington Hills. Previously she was assistant branch manager at the bank's Warren office. Switnick, a resident of Roseville, holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Oakland University. Peoples State Bank has been an independent, locally owned community bank since 1909. The bank currently serves the tri-county area with 12 offices including Farmington Hills.

'Winning Kid' contest for epileptics

More than 30,000 children are affected by epilepsy in Michigan. The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan would like to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of many of these children by sponsoring the annual "Winning Kid" Contest. The winning Michigan candidate will serve as a shining example for children and families dealing with this disorder to relate to and look for hope and inspiration. "All of us have been touched by a special child in our lives," said Arlene Gorelick, president of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. "This program gives us the chance to acknowledge some remarkable kids and their enduring courage and spirit."

Each year, the local and national affiliates of the Epilepsy Foundation choose "Winning Kids" to represent children with epilepsy and the many challenges they face and accomplishments they have made. Many of these children live normal lives with the help of medications that control seizures. Unfortunately, some must struggle with frequent seizures despite treatment. All children with epilepsy need public acceptance and understanding to reach their potential and to attain happiness. About 60 to 70 percent of children with epilepsy can achieve complete control of their seizures. Another 20 to 25 percent achieve partial control, and the remainder are still hoping that research will one day produce a cure. Any boy or girl with epilepsy between the ages of 5 and 9 is eligible for the contest. The Foundation will announce the winner in March. All "Winning Kid" finalists will be recognized at the foundation's annual "Carnival of Hope" Gala, which will be held in May. Entry forms for the contest may be obtained by calling the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan at 1-800-377-6226. Founded in 1948, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is the state's only non-profit organization focusing solely on epilepsy. The Foundation provides epilepsy management, employment guidance, advocacy, epilepsy awareness, information and referral, and individual and family support services to people with epilepsy, their families and the general public.

'All of us have been touched by a special child.' Arlene Gorelick - president, Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan



Ashley Eckler Headed for competition

Ashley Eckler, the 13-year-old daughter of Brian and Janice Eckler, recently won the title of Miss Junior Farmington Hills and will be competing for the title of Miss Junior Michigan on Feb. 26 and 27. The winner of the state title will travel to New Jersey in July to compete for the national title of Miss Junior America. Ashley attends O.E. Dunckel Middle School and is also active in Irish dance and loves music. Sponsoring Ashley in the state pageant are her parents, grandparents and several aunts and uncles. The Miss Junior America Pageant has been in existence for 16 years. Some previous pageant winners, like Tiffany Amber Wiessen on "Bevery Hills 90210" have been discovered in the Miss Junior America Pageant by agents, managers and casting directors who judge competitions. For more information on the Miss Junior America Pageant, call (1-800) 783-1115.

Take courage quiz

In this month's tradition of honoring the courage shown by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, let's explore courage with our own children. Courage may often be simpler and more commonplace than we realize. Winston Churchill summarizes it as follows: "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." This description suggests that there are many opportunities to act courageously for both young and old alike. To help clarify courage, you and your children can complete the following series of sentences: Who is someone I know (personally or I heard about) who has shown courage? When have I been courageous? How did I demonstrate courage? Whom did it help, including myself? If no personal courage comes to mind, could I ever do something courageous? I've taken risks that weren't courageous when I... In the future, I can be more courageous by...

Busy schedule Last year's winner, Danielle Therese Marisol Papiu, of Clinton Township, appeared on the cover of the agency's brochure, participated in several of the foundation's annual events, met Governor Engler and attended the Epilepsy Foundation's national conference held in Seattle, Wash. "Being a Winning Kid was a huge boost to Danielle's self-esteem and a very positive reward that helped to motivate her to continue with the Ketogenic Diet," said Susan Papiu, her mother.

St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center seeks new foster, adoptive parents

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is looking for dedicated individuals who live in southeast Michigan to serve as foster and adoptive parents for infants, children and teens who have been victims of abuse, have emotional difficulties or other special needs. Interested families are encouraged to attend one of the center's monthly orientations scheduled on Wednesdays. Upcoming orientations will be held on Feb. 16, March 15, April 12, and May 17,

at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m. in the center's foster care and adoption building located at 29475 Inkster, between 12 Mile and Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. The hour-and-a-half sessions will provide valuable information about the center's programs, training schedules and the requirements and qualifications of foster and adoptive parents. Guests will also have the opportunity to ask specific questions. Your commitment has the potential to change a child's life. Call the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's foster care and adoption department at (248) 626-7527, ext. 3326, to learn how

Upcoming orientations are scheduled on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 16.

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