

## Schools get a nod

The Clarenceville School District has gone four-for-four during the recent North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation process.

The district's high school, middle school and two elementarys, Botsford and Grandview, received the stamp of approval for the 1999-2000 academic year from the Midwestern accreditation association during its meeting in Chicago April 4.

NCA is a non-profit organization, accrediting more than 8,000 schools divided into seven categories, including elementary, middle and secondary. Those 8,000 schools are spread out over 19 states and also include the Department of Defense Dependents' School overseas.

To become a member of NCA, a school must meet NCA's standards, conduct a self-study and adopt a model of continuous school improvement (also known as seeking an endorsement) that focuses on improving student performance.

## Moms from page A1

mouth, Troy, Auburn Hills, Dearborn and Royal Oak, was greeted by U.S. Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing.

Stabenow, locked in what is by most accounts a bitter, hotly contested battle with Republican Sen. Spencer Abraham, talked to the mothers individually, then addressed them as a group just before they left.

"This is one of those times when you're going to feel great about standing up and making a

statement," she told them. "One day you'll look back on this and see it as a defining moment."

It was a theme carried on at the march, by speakers ranging from talk show host Rosie O'Donnell to Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, who told the group there "are more federally licensed gun dealers in this country than there are McDonald's franchises."

Other speakers included Jim

### MARCH

Brady, Ronald Reagan's press secretary who was wounded in the attempted assassination of the president, and his wife, Sarah; actresses Susan Sarandon and Reese Witherspoon; several mothers of victims of gun violence, including Veronica McQueen, the mother of 6-year-old Kayla Rolland, shot by her 6-year-old Flint classmate; and

Dawn Anna, the mother of Lauren Townsend, who died in the Columbine shootings.

All of them expressed gratitude and amazement at the turnout, which was much larger than expected, and urged the mothers to leave Washington and carry on the cause in their own communities.

While the turnout for the march was "incredible," that kind of continuing effort is critical to the mission, according to one of

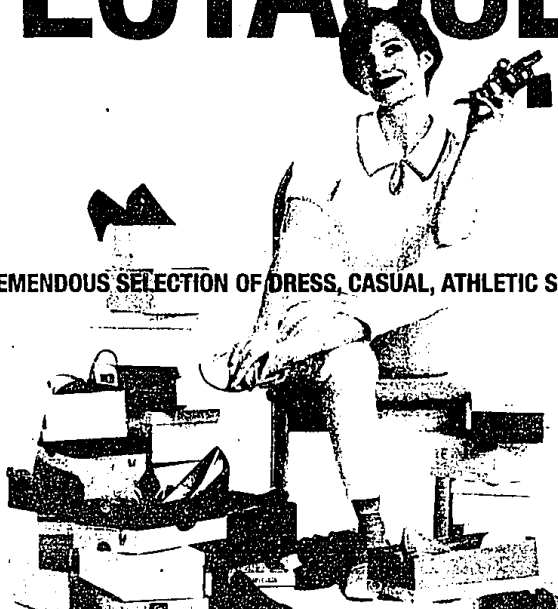
the local state coordinators.

"I was floored by the passion of those women, and astounded by the numbers," said Barb Case of Plymouth. "I found (the march) to be one of the most inspiring, awesome things I've ever seen. (But) from here we definitely have to work on educating people and identifying those (politicians) who support us and those who don't. I think we need to continue to recruit members and get our message out."

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### ELECTION NOTES

Beginning this week the Observer will run a column with election and candidate-related information in anticipation of the upcoming June Farmington Public Schools election and the November general election. If you have information to include here, contact Joanne Maliszewski, community editor. Please include a contact name and phone number. Fax information to 248-477-9722 or email: jmaliszewski@oe.homecomm.net

#### Highest awards

Former Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi has been given one of the Michigan Democratic Party's highest awards.

He was selected as the party's outstanding senior citizen worker in the 11th Congressional District, which includes the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. The presentation was made by party chairman Mark Brewer at the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner at Detroit's Cobo Hall.

"Everyone I talked to in Farmington Hills tells me that Vagnozzi was a great mayor and the best they had seen in any community," Brewer said.

Vagnozzi has been active in politics since 1948 when he worked on former Gov. G. Mennen Williams' first election campaign.

He has been a delegate or alternate delegate to three national presidential nominating conventions and served on the platform committee in 1968. He served on the Farmington Board of Education 1969-73. He has held a number of party posts, including chairman of the 19th Congressional District and vice chairman of the Oakland County Committee.

#### Endorsed

Sen. Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland) has been endorsed for the Republican nomination for Oakland County Drain Commissioner by Oakland County Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn.

"Since I served as state Senator in the late 1960s, I have had the opportunity to follow the distinguished career of Bill Bullard over his 22 years of public service as Highland Township supervisor, state representative, and now state senator, where he has rendered exemplary service not only to his constituents, but also to all the citizens of Michigan," Kuhn said.

"I know of no other legislator who has been as effective as Bill Bullard in introducing or sponsoring, and then obtaining enactment, of more than 80 state legislative acts," Kuhn continued.

Bullard also has been endorsed by U.S. Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Senate Majority Leader Dan DeGrow and Speaker of the House Chuck Pericone.

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