



Cable show host sues SWOCC



BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills attorney is alleging that his First Amendment rights were violated when the public access television show he produces was yanked from the airwaves.

Todd Levitt, 36, has filed a lawsuit

against the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, and SWOCC's Executive Director Karen Collins, claiming his show was suspended due to content based discrimination – a violation of free speech.

Collins said Thursday that it was "inappropriate" for her to comment on the lawsuit at this time.

"This (SWOCC's action) is patently unfair," said Levitt's attorney Stephen Taylor.

Levitt produces "The Todd L. Levitt Show," a satirical comedy about the legal system. "It's the Saturday Night Live" of lawyer shows," said Taylor. "It is purely something



Todd Levitt

that is done as comedy."

Levitt has been airing his show on Channel 12 since 1999.

Taylor agrees that the content may not suit all tastes.

"You may question the quality of the comedy, but if you don't like what is on the air, change the channel."

Levitt apparently ran afoul of SWOCC when he held a wine tasting on his show.

"He was trying to raise money for Haven (a women's shelter)," Taylor said.

Please see SUIT, A6

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Hills Council: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at 31555 Eleven Mile Road.

TUESDAY

Water quality: Residents will have a chance to discuss issues about water quality, including the Rouge River. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., in the council chambers at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road.

WEDNESDAY

Empty Bowls: Soup will be served for a needy cause from 5:30-to-7:30 p.m. at Farmington High School.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Heartfelt helpers: The rescuers of a heart attack victim reconvene on a soccer field outside the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, where Wednesday's save took place. From left are Farmington Public Safety Officers Bob Schulz, Jim Madigan and Kyrston Miller, a Commerce Township nurse.

Right place, right time Nurse, officers act fast to save life

BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER

A strange twist of fate may have saved the life of a 43-year-old West Bloomfield Township man.

The man collapsed Wednesday from an apparent heart attack on the soccer field adjacent to the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, where a blood drive for the American Red Cross was taking place. Luckily, help was nearby – in the persons of a police officer and a nurse.

"Officer Jon 'Skip' Crump was donating blood at the arena when a citizen entered the door and said a man had had a heart attack," said Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill

Blood drive a success, page A5

Dwyer.

The man was not breathing and had no pulse when Crump arrived at his side and began administering CPR.

"I was the first link in the chain," Crump said. "I just got the ball rolling."

Kyrston Miller, a Commerce Township resident, was a spectator at her son's soccer game on the next field when she heard a player had collapsed.

"I just kind of had the feeling that I should go see if I could help," Miller is a neonatal transport nurse at North Oakland Medical Center. She said Officer Crump was per-

forming CPR when she arrived. "I asked if I could help."

"We started two-man CPR. I was doing the breathing part," Miller said.

Next on the scene were Farmington Public Safety officers Bob Schulz and Jim Madigan.

"We got cell phone calls for a cardiac arrest," Schulz said. "We were close and the officer had requested help. We responded to assist."

"We have external defibrillators in our vehicles and bag-valve masks. We knew that would help. You just can't pass on something like this," Schulz said.

The defibrillator was used four

Please see RESCUE, A6

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K-9 dogs show friendliness

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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Many people correctly assume the presence of dogs can be therapeutic for the sick, elderly and lonely. Usually, police dogs aren't connected with that assumption.

But members of the Pet-A-Pet Program Thursday night at the William Costick Activities Center found out

that maybe they were hasty to stereotype police dogs as vicious and unsociable.

More than 100 volunteers of the pet therapy program watched Gator, Smokey, Zeke and Bear show some techniques for obedience, narcotics detection and "aggression control" (when they help subdue a criminal), said Van Buren Township Special

Please see PET-A-PET, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Smoother: Pet-a-Pet program volunteer Don Calty gets to know Smokey.

SONIC instrumental in bust of drug-smuggling cartel

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington Hills officers who help supervise the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium together with the Detroit Police Department and other police agencies cooperated in an investigation which resulted in the seizure of a large amount of marijuana and cash this week.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer called it an international marijuana smuggling operation. "This is a major cartel with capabilities," he said.

No drugs were found in Farmington Hills, Dwyer said. Marijuana was found in a home on Grand River and Novi Road in Novi.

So far, four men were arrested in the case, two in Chicago.

The Detroit Police Department with SONIC, a consortium of police officers from Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield Township and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department worked a joint investigation for several weeks, Dwyer said.

"Those agencies eventually requested the help of the FBI and the Chicago Police Department," he said.

A total of 318 pounds of marijuana,

worth an estimated street value of \$883,000 and \$56,983 in cash was seized as a result of the police infiltration, he said.

SONIC and the Detroit Police Department arrested two men in Detroit May 7 with 10 pounds of marijuana. A search in Novi led to the seizure of 90 more pounds of marijuana.

Please see BUST, A3



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