

HAITI

FROM PAGE A1

better ways to care for farm animals. The Carrs and Doremus are members of Covenant Baptist Church in West Bloomfield.

Doremus compared the lifestyle he has here with the one to which he hopes to return in about a year. His plan is to make life a little better in his homeland.

"When you grow up there and you see so many people suffering, you always think that one day, you can go and do something good for people," Doremus said.

In addition to his education in Haiti, he has learned much from his experiences and schooling in the U.S.

His parents sacrificed to send him to school in Limbe in northern Haiti. He became fluent in French, Spanish and English before enrolling at the Christian University of Northern Haiti to study theology. There he was assistant pastor of the Haitian Missionary Baptist Church in La Romana, in the Dominican Republic, for two years.

TO THE U.S.

A group from the North Packersburg Baptist Church in West Virginia brought him to their town, and he completed his bachelor of arts degree at Ohio Valley College in 2001.

Ashland Theological Seminary awarded him a two-year presidential scholarship, which covered most of his tuition.

He's held a part-time job in a warehouse and completed a six-month internship with the South Oakland Shelter in Royal Oak, which helps homeless people.

Last year, Doremus was part of the Southfield Madrigal Choral's presentation with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and he's also part of the Langford Singers of Wayne State University.

While the U.S. economy has taken a downturn, Haiti's cost of living has doubled in about six months. His par-



Langin students enjoyed Jean-Woolly Doremus' presentation on life in Haiti.

ents have urged him to stay a bit longer in the United States; he still has another year on his educational visa.

The per capita income there equals less than \$1 per day in U.S. funds. "It's like when somebody gets a cold, somebody else gets pneumonia," Carr said. "Down there, it hurts twice as much when somebody has so very little to begin with."

Some children can't go to school because their parents can't afford to pay for it.

"We don't have much work or many jobs," Doremus said. "Many children would like to go to school but they can't. They are very bright. Children learn a lot from their parents."

Haitian schools are very different from Langin Elementary. There, two or three grades are crowded into one room.

"Most of the children have no books at all," Doremus said. "It makes it hard."

Children grow up speaking Creole. A kind of broken French, he said. Temperatures are warm.

"It was 80 yesterday," Doremus said. "You don't need to buy a coat, because you won't use it. You grow up and you learn to work when you are very young. Young boys and girls know how to cook and they cook good."

Haitians don't have anything like a Big Mac and people are happy," said Doremus.

"They don't have TV or movies. They occupy your time with something else."

Few own a car. "If you have 100 people, one might have a car," Doremus said. "Because of that, we don't have many accidents. People walk where they want to go."

Children walk to school every day. Langin students eagerly asked Doremus about Haiti. Students wanted to know about the animals.

"People have dogs and let them go everywhere," Doremus said. "In Haiti we have no lions or tigers or squirrels."

"Can you sing a song?" some children asked. Doremus sang "Happy Birthday" in French.

One child asked if Haitian people have nice clothes. Clothing donations help with that, Carr said.

"One thing that ends up happening is children wear clothes that they have no idea where they are from," he explained. "One shirt may have the name of a school in Alabama and another shirt may have the name of a school in Texas."

About 97 percent of trees have been cut down from the mountain-side in Haiti for cooking fuel and making charcoal, Carr said. This has not happened in neighboring Dominican Republic.

"They are trying to restore topsoil when most of it has been washed away," Carr said. "There's stronger control over land use in the Dominican Republic and it is not as densely populated."

While he has enjoyed his stay in the U.S., Doremus is anxious to get back to his home. He told the children, "Haiti is in my heart day and night."

Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer

EXHIBIT

FROM PAGE A1

Among the dozens of local artists displaying more than 100 pieces for exhibit and sale will be longtime club member Jim Patterson. The West Bloomfield resident's watercolor pieces were recently displayed at city halls in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

His detailed and colorful landscapes have won him spots and awards in dozens of Juried arts shows around the state and several one-person viewings.

Patterson, who spent most of his career as a graphic artist with General Motors Corp., said the Spring Art Exhibit is an excellent opportunity to buy original artwork from some of the area's most talented artists.

"If you're serious about being an artist and enjoy learning, it's an important club to join," Patterson said. "You get help and assistance."

Patterson is also a member of the Michigan Watercolor Society, Livonia Artists Club, Plain Air Society, and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. The artist said he's especially pleased to head the committee to have members' artwork displayed in the hallways of the Costick on a routine basis.

"We have a lot of teachers and workshops," he said of the group, which also helps area seniors learn to paint and show their work.

Patterson and other artists will also be showing young students how they paint. The Spring Art Exhibit and Sale hours are:

■ Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 27

■ Noon to 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 28-30.

■ 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1 and May 2.

■ Noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 3.

■ Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4.

The club recently held its jury selection for the exhibit. The winners from first to fourth place in order are: Jeri Fellwock of Farmington Hills; Regina Dunne of Livonia; Nancy Hurd of Livonia; and Sue Bauman of Bloomfield Township. The Grumbacher Award went to Regina Dunne. The Costick Activities Center is located on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

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**SHOOTING**

FROM PAGE A1

cers would shoot an animal unless someone was in jeopardy. "This needs to be addressed," Brewer said at the April 21 Farmington City Council meeting. Councilwoman Mary Bush asked if Public Safety Director Gary Goss knew about the incident.

He did and explained it has been the department's policy to put an animal out of its misery if it is sick and suffering. The department is the animal control authority for the city.

"We've done that successfully as long as the city has been in existence," Goss said. "We try to do it as humane a fashion as we can. Each round discharged by an officer must be accounted for. Before they discharge a weapon, they have to assure there is a proper backdrop so the round can be accounted for afterwards.

This raccoon had distemper,

Goss said. "It's not uncommon in the springtime for raccoons to have distemper. We get a half-dozen of these calls throughout the springtime."

Brewer said he could understand this policy when Farmington was rural farmland. "My home is approximately 10 feet from the home next to me," Brewer said. "The home where the weapon was discharged is 10 feet from the home next to them." Goss explained after the meeting a police officer closely and carefully positions himself to discharge the weapon.

Brewer thought there could be more humane ways than shooting an animal in the head or body.

"When it comes to public safety, you or I couldn't discharge a firearm in our back yards," Brewer told council.

"Why would we want to?" Brewer said Van Buren Township officials told him they have tranquilizers. "The only animal they shot in the past couple of years is a horse that was impeding traffic," Brewer said. Administering tranquilizers requires a veterinarian's knowledge, Goss said.

In other council business:

■ Bush wants the Web sites of the city of Farmington and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority to be more current. She said the city's Web site has items dated from October through December 2002.

"In my opinion, they need to be updated on a monthly basis," Bush said. "This is possibly the very first thing the public sees and knows about us. This isn't putting our best foot forward."

Farmington Assistant City Manager Bill Richards had earlier explained to Bush the Web site is only updated quarterly and there's a cost involved.

There's a cost to get the Web site online, but Councilman Mike Harrison said the cost to update is nominal. He's also interested in knowing the number of "hits," or how often the public visits the sites.

■ Councilwoman JoAnne McShane noted some time ago council discussed interviews with applicants to boards and commissions. It never concluded how it would do those interviews nor further talked about having attendance reports.

This is something which could be discussed at the 6 p.m. budget discussion Monday, October 28, said Councilman Arnold Campbell.

Farmington City Manager Vice Pastue has attendance reports available.

■ In reference to the January 1 through March 31 water and sewer report, department of public services Director Kevin Gushman said water repairs accounted for a 700 percent increase compared to the previous year.

"We've had quite a severe winter and mild ones in the past," Gushman said. "You can see the amount of effort and expense which has gone into maintaining water mains."

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