

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...** Salem Lutheran Church celebrates 75th..... see page 3

**NATION'S BEST...** Watervliet student wins DAR Essay Contest..... see page 5

**CLIP & SAVE...** this handy directory of Watervliet & Coloma businesses..... see page 10

NEWS & ADVERTISING FOR THE WATERVLIET RECORD, COLOMA COURIER & HARTFORD NEWS

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# THE TRI-CITY RECORD

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**DEADLINE**  
for news and advertising in next week's Record is noon Monday. Call the Record at 463-N-E-W-S. Fax the Record at 463-U-F-A-X.

## Dave DeFields to be next superintendent of Coloma Schools

By Marion Leedy  
Dave DeFields, Coloma's Assistant Superintendent, became Coloma's new Superintendent on Wednesday, April 6, by a unanimous vote of the Board of Education. He submitted his application to the Board on March 21, 1994. He was one of two district employees interviewed Monday night for the post.



Dave DeFields

The other candidate was Coloma High School teacher Paul Foss. DeFields, 51, will replace Clifford Tallman, who is retiring after eight years in the position.

He will begin with an annual \$69,500 salary. DeFields now earns \$60,000 per year.

"I feel he has the leadership to tackle the low morale and division in the school district," Board member Lois Jordan said.

In his application, DeFields wrote: "Integrity, loyalty and trust are key to effective relations whether they are with student, staff, Board or community members. I believe I have demonstrated these characteristics consistently at all levels in positions of teacher, coach, counselor, assistant principal, principal, director of instruction and assistant superintendent... I have been involved in decision-making roles in the military, business and education. I have also taken a leadership roll in teaching, recruitment, collective bargaining, curriculum development, and school improvement. I have demonstrated my desire to remain current in my profession by earning

See DeFIELDS continued on page 9



DAVE AND SANDY GEARHART...are shown presenting a check for \$1,425 at Monday's Watervliet School Board meeting. The check represents 1% of the total from Watervliet Harding's Friendly Market receipts collected at the Watervliet school libraries and Watervliet District Library.

The donation is made as part of Watervliet Harding's owners Dave and Sandy Gearhart's participation in a "Good Neighbor Policy" program. It will be divided equally between Watervliet school libraries and Watervliet District Library. Pictured are: (from the left) School Board President George Shane, Sandy and Dave Gearhart, and Watervliet District Library Board President Don Young. (Lori Harris Cramer photo)

## Coloma potholes panned by residents at meeting

By Melissa Polfus

The Coloma City Commission fell under the fire of two young women at Monday night's meeting complaining of potholes in the roads.

Laura McCarley and Amy Baes went before the Board with complaints of potholes "as big as a child's wading pool." McCarley claimed she had received a bent rim which cost her \$191 to fix after hitting a pothole on South Church Street in February. She inquired if the City had insurance that would reimburse her for the damage.

Mayor Beezley apologized to her

for the damage done to her car but said the City's insurance would not reimburse McCarley.

"All I can say is I'm sorry," said Mayor Beezley, "but that doesn't put any money back in your pocket."

Commissioner Chuck Owens explained that the streets are always bad this time of year and that this year they were exceptionally bad.

The mayor also announced that a closed meeting would be held con-

See COLOMA continued on page 9

## New Township Hall committee appointed by Watervliet Twp. Board

By Melissa Polfus

The Watervliet Township Board Monday night approved the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the working conditions of the Township Hall and make recommendations as to whether a new hall should be considered. The Township has been considering the need for a new hall for some time and will base the decision on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. No appointments have been made yet.

Three appointments for Emergency Preparedness coordinators were made at the meeting. Reappointed were: Ralph Thurston as Municipal Emergency Coordinator and Robert Morlock as second Assistant Municipal Coordinator. Bob Lohr was appointed first Assistant Municipal Coordinator, replacing Dan Ruple.

The Board also approved the Federal Family Leave Act for Township employees. This will allow Township employees to take leaves of absence for family-related

matters.

The Board also announced that the cards allowing Township residents one free trip to Orchard Hill Landfill will soon be in the mail.

The transfer of ownership of the

See WATERVLIET cont. on page 9

## Fix it or close it \$90,230 approved to repair WHS's track

By Lori Harris Cramer

The Watervliet School Board, at its meeting held Monday, April 11, approved a \$90,230 track reconstruction project.

The 400-meter, six-lane running track, now 25 years old, has deteriorated to the point of either discontinuing use and completely letting it go or fixing it.

It has been a matter of many discussions by the School Board and school officials and is an expense which has been put on hold repeatedly, due to financial conditions and other more pressing concerns. However, facing the total loss of track facilities, the Board felt it too valuable an asset to let go.

It was pointed out by Athletic Director Andy Saetre it might be prudent to set aside each year an amount toward keeping the track in good condition, so that in future years when repairs are needed it will not be such a large sum to come up with all at once.

The job of reconstruction goes to Klett Construction, with a payment plan of \$50,000 to be paid upon completion of the project and with the balance to be paid within twelve months of the completion date with no interest charged.

## Two Candidates For School Board

Upon last month's decision by Board member Dennis Churchill not to seek another term in office, Ivan Winkel Jr. and Robert Sloan have filed with the School Board their intent to vie for the position.

The selection will be made by public vote on June 13.

The owners of Harding's Friendly Market in Watervliet, Dave and Sandy Gearhart, presented a check for \$1,425 to the School Board as part of the "Good Neighbor Policy" program.



THE WATERVLIET SCHOOL BOARD...gave thanks to the "generous and supportive" efforts of the PTO, Music Boosters, and Athletic Boosters during the School Board meeting held Monday, April 11. Pictured are (from the left) Music Boosters President Diane Camfferman, PTO President Cindy McLaughlin, School Board member Kay Britenfeld, and Athletic Boosters President Pat Iliff.

(Lori Harris Cramer photo)

## PTO & Boosters Clubs Thanked

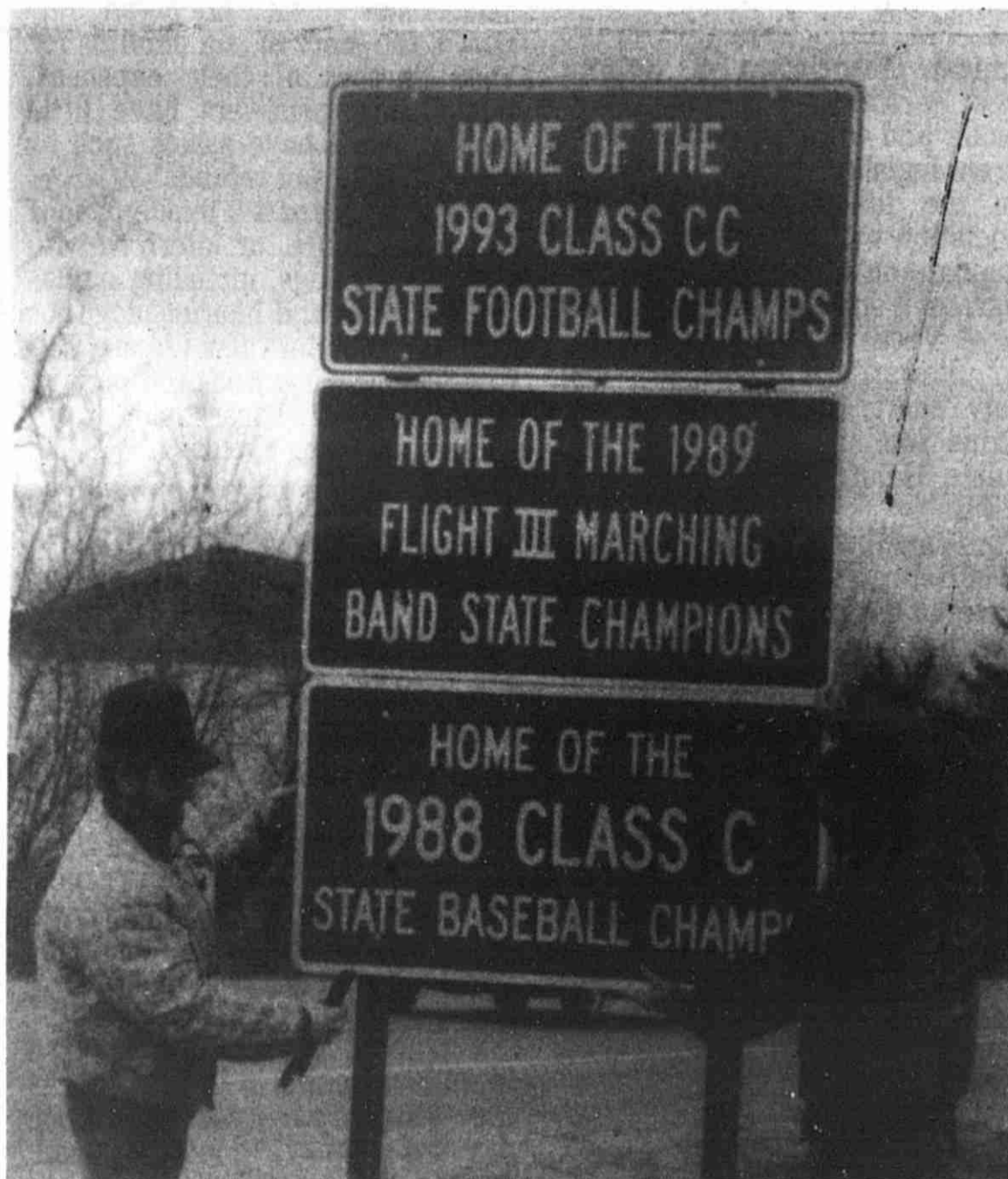
The Board made a formal and heartfelt thank you to the PTO, Music Boosters, and Athletic Boosters in recognition of the "generous and supportive" work and countless volunteer hours each of these groups contribute, without which many of the extras which the students enjoy would not be possible. Present for the presentation were PTO President Cindy McLaughlin, Music Boosters President Diane Camfferman, and Athletic Boosters President Pat Iliff.

According to High School Principal Kevin Harness, a National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

Also according to Harness, the High School spring play, a comedy entitled "The Mummy's Claw," will be held Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, at 8 p.m.

The PTO Variety Show will be held at the High School auditorium on Saturday, April 23, at 7 p.m.

Junior High Principal Judy Burns said the Jr. High Variety Show will be held in the auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.



CITY OF CHAMPIONS...Curt Sanders (left) and Mike Anchor from the Hartford Department of Public Works are pictured as they install a sign declaring Hartford as the Home of the 1993 State Class CC Football Champions. The signpost also proclaims Hartford as the 1988 Class C State Baseball Champions as well as 1989 Flight III Marching Band State Champions. (Joe Cheshire photo)

## Tri-City Talk...

We asked customers at Watervliet Harding's Market the following question: "Do you think professional athletics should be paid such high salaries?"



Debbie Craig of Watervliet: "Yes, because they make so much and do so little."



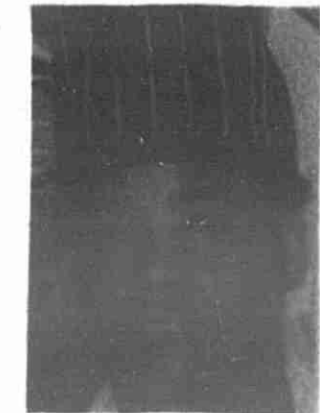
Bob Fishburn of Watervliet: "Sure, because you go watch them play. It's their abilities, not the owners."



Barbara Fries of Hartford: "Yes. How much schooling is involved to get there?"



Gus Karasus of Watervliet: "Not really. If they want to pay them that much, get what they can while they're young."



Gerald Lloyd of Covert: "No, it's hard work to be in athletics. They work hard to stay in shape."



Linda Stuard of Watervliet: "Yes. They're playing a game, not helping anybody."



Carolyn Thames of Covert: "No. They make way too much money."



Bill Thompson of Watervliet: "Not paid as much but should relate pay so all players are paid equal."



Ron Ward of Baroda: "No. They have greatly turned sports into advertising just to draw more people to get more money."