



BLUEWATER Thumb Youth For Christ Executive Director Rick Coleman has resigned after a 3-year tenure that saw a great deal of growth in Campus Life programs in the Thumb. Coleman and his wife, Melva, are planning to move closer to their children.

YFC Director Coleman leaving

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around him for his success as YFC director. "I had a tremendous board to work with - they've been very supportive, and this

group of staff that we have together is really on fire and motivated. It's not something I had to oversee every day," he said. "It's been a delight." The generosity of Thumb

residents and businesses has also left a big impression on Coleman, who said there have been times when he wasn't sure how YFC was going to make its payroll. He recalled praying on those

days as he drove to the office, and arriving to find enough financial donations in the mail to cover whatever was needed.

The same goes for the very successful YFC auctions held each year to fund campus life programs, he noted. Coleman is still considering his options for the future. Although he's leaving YFC, he said he would like to get involved in another ministry, probably an outreach geared towards helping police officers whose lives are falling apart because of alcohol abuse and other problems. "I was on that road years ago, and I would surely be divorced and drinking now if I hadn't gotten off that road to destruction," he said.

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independent testing firm, he added.

"These locations (Lapeer

School enrollment up, down

Continued from page one.

School a net enrollment increase of one student this year compared to a year ago. Micklash noted that Cass City Schools reached the minimum funding base for the first time last August when the state approved a \$50 increase per pupil, bumping Cass City's funding amount to \$5,700 for each student. That figure was increased by another \$300 this year.

Micklash said Michigan's Schools of Choice legislation continues to benefit the local school system, which has admitted 38 students through the program this year. "It's had a positive impact on our district, no doubt about it," he added.

and Caro) are closer to the manufacturers and their suppliers, which reduces travel time for test engineers and the cost of testing. They don't even have to worry about shipping; we pick up and deliver," Hartel said, adding his father, Lee Hartel, drives the company truck. "It kind of keeps it in the family."

TSG began with just 5 employees - the 5 principals of the company - and a 5,000-square foot building in Lapeer.

And a vision, to build a comprehensive portfolio of testing services that can be applied across multiple market areas.

3-PHASE PLAN

"TSG has just completed phase one of its 3-phase plan for the fuels testing labs... in Lapeer and Caro. Phase one and 2 will allow TSG to conduct testing for the automotive industry and their suppliers for a complete line of vehicle fuel components - such tests as fuel pump durability, fuel tank permeation and other design and validation testing for fuel components," Hartel said.

"Phase 3, which will be the

Caro lab, will be Michigan's first independent ECE fuel tank fire test facility, which will allow fuel tank burn testing to be conducted in a variety of test conditions."

Today, TSG employs about 20 people. The company is planning to break ground on a 14,000 square foot facility next to the existing TSG testing lab in Lapeer in 30 to 45 days. "We're projecting that expansion will be done in May of 2001, and we'll probably be hiring an additional 10 to 15 employees," Hartel said.

TSG is still using the TI Group test facility in Auburn Hills, but that work will eventually be moved to the new building in Lapeer. Hartel noted his company has continued to work with TI. "It's been a real friendly separation, and we want it to stay that way."

As for the Caro lab, Hartel said TSG hopes to break ground sometime next spring on a 4-acre parcel near the Caro area airport. The specialized facility, which will employ another 5 to 7 people, will enable the company to test the ability of plastic fuel tanks to withstand fire.

Hiring people to fill new

positions created by TSG's growth has been a real source of satisfaction for Hartel, who said Tuscola County's workforce offers a wealth of experience in automotive engineering and testing.

"Which has enabled TSG to

continue growing at a pace that has surprised even Hartel and his partners.

"Our sales today are a little over \$5 million and we're looking at between \$9 and \$10 million in sales next year," he said.

Car-deer crashes up

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lion is paid out in collision repair claims as a result of deer-car crashes. The average claim is \$2,000.

Crashes involving deer occur most frequently during the months of October, November and December. The highest risk time period is 6 to 9 p.m.

To reduce the chances of a collision, officials suggest that motorists:

*Look for deer, especially in the evening - and slow down if you see them.

*Watch for deer-crossing signs, a reminder to drive cautiously.

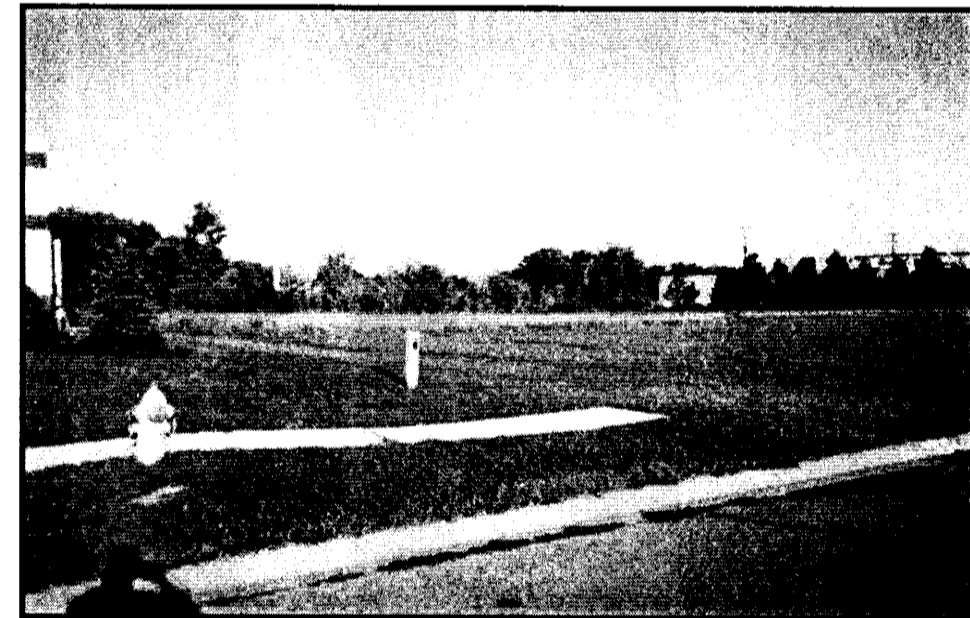
*Drive at lower speeds through a posted area any time of the day or night.

*Use common sense - wear safety belts, stay awake, alert and sober.

*If you can't stop, don't swerve out of your lane. It's generally safer to hit the deer than to run off the road or risk injuring another motorist.

*If you hit a deer, report the crash to local law enforcement.

According to the DNR, Michigan has white-tailed deer in every county in the state. Recently, the DNR has expanded deer-hunting season and issued more permits. During 1999, an estimated 550,000 deer were taken during the deer hunting seasons, slightly less than in 1998.



HARTEL AND HIS partners plan to break ground soon on a 14,000-square-foot test facility on a parcel located next to the company's existing 5,000-square-foot building in Lapeer.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

5th Annual Women's Heart Initiative

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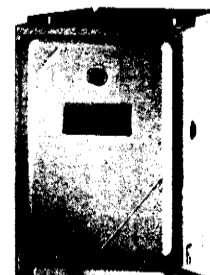
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The *Women's Heart Initiative* is a daylong women's health conference sponsored by Michigan CardioVascular Institute Foundation, dedicated to educating women about women's health issues. This year's target areas are cardiovascular disease in women, managing everyday stress, holistic medicine and tips on staying healthy. For more information on the *Women's Heart Initiative*, please contact Becky Felker, Michigan CardioVascular Institute Foundation, at (517) 792-7304 or info@m cvi.com.

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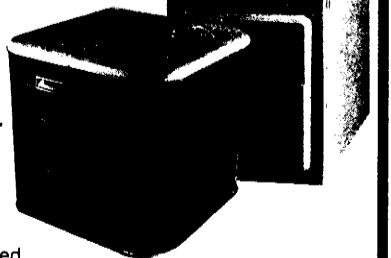
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