Aiello is ready to strike up the band...

By AMY HEIDEN

New Laker High School Band Director Vince Aiello has stepped into a mighty big pair of shoes, left by retired director Bill Dennebrough. He looks around the band room at the school, with all of the award plaques, and promises to "keep the tradition going."

But while he’ll try to keep the winning tradition alive, he’s got a few ideas of his own about the directions the Laker band might take in the future.

"I’d like for the band to travel a little bit. I don’t know that if something is possible, but when kids travel, they don’t come back the same person. Going to new places opens their eyes," Aiello says.

While travel for the group may be a few years off, he’s got a few immediate changes in mind.

He’s already got the plans for a new marching show on paper, ready for rehearsals, and the jazz band might get a few new members.

"I heard them once last year and there’s some real good players there," Aiello said. "I’d like to find a few players to fill in the holes."

Aiello comes to Laker High School from Wayne State University with a bachelor’s degree in music education, and is working on his master’s degree.

Aiello says his family isn’t especially musical, but his dad had a collection of records that first interested him in music.

"I wanted to play the drums, but Dad said I couldn’t play drums in the house," Aiello said. "So he taught me to play the trumpet instead, and has played in bands since the fifth grade."

He also enjoys playing percussion, and says he wants to write percussion and arrangements for the jazz band.

NEW LAKER BAND DIRECTOR VINCE AIELLO, center, gets help handing out scores for the upcoming concert from Wayne Elchler and Tim Richards.

Music is "magic," he says. "Your music is part of yourself, not just blowing air through a horn. I get emotional about music."

And that’s the attitude he hopes to pass on to his students.

While he has lessons to teach the students, he says he’ll listen to their suggestions.

Their input has a lot to do with the program. I like to know what they’re thinking," he said.

Aiello’s first public performance with the band will be at Piggon’s ballroom on Sat. Aug. 24, when they’ll open the show before the Steve Wood Quintet.

Saturday Band Shell Concert features Laker High Band, Steve Wood Quintet

“So Long, Summer” will be the theme of this Saturday’s outdoor concert planned at the Band Shell at the Piggon Recreation Park.

A special appearance by the Laker Marching Band, under the direction of new Band Director Vince Aiello is set for 7:30 p.m., followed by an 8 p.m. concert by the jazz group Steve Wood Quintet.

Parents are encouraged to come early for the best seating and parents with young children can use the playground equipment up until concert time.

Once the concert begins at 7:30 p.m., parents will be asked to bring their children with them to their seats so that the entire audience will be able to hear and enjoy the concert.

“Children who need extra attention are more than welcome to use the park area for quiet play, as long as they are supervised there by a parent,” explains Neal Bickler, a representative of the Piggon Village Council who also sits on the Band Shell Committee.

“We want to encourage families to come with their children, but hope that parents will bring their children to their seats once the concert actually starts.”

Refreshments will again be available at a special Band Shell Concession Stand, which will return all profits to the Band Shell Committee for future entertainment. A nominal donation will be accepted at the gate for concert-goers, according to the committee.

While this “So Long, Summer” concert marks the end of the Band Shell’s premier summer concert series, the Band Shell Committee is hoping to present at least one more fall concert featuring local talent. More details will be available as soon as a date and group have been set.

Laker High orientations set

Orientation meetings have been announced by Laker High School Principal Lisa DiCamillo, to help make the start of school better organized and smoother for students and parents.

All ninth and 11th graders are invited to an orientation meeting at 7 p.m. this Wednesday, Aug. 21 (tonight), at Laker High. Students will receive handbooks, schedules, locker assignments and other needed information. Questions will be answered at this time.

All 10th, 11th and 12th graders are asked to report to the high school between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 22 to have their pictures taken, receive schedules, get locker assignments and take care of forms. Dicamillo says...
Caseville grant 'on hold'

Several hundred Western Thumb residents learned construction of the area's two newest features, pending Senate's approval.

Several hundred Western Thumb residents learned construction of the area's two newest features, pending Senate's approval.

The Senate's approval of the estimated $9,000,000 construction of a new bridge and new community center in Caseville, Michigan, has been delayed due to recent legislative developments.

The Senate committee in charge of the project has been overwhelmed by the amount of work and the need to coordinate with various agencies and stakeholders. As a result, the construction of the new bridge and community center is currently on hold.

The new bridge is expected to provide much-needed infrastructure improvements to the area, while the new community center will offer a range of amenities and services to residents. However, until the Senate approves the funding, these projects will remain on hold.

In the meantime, the Caseville community is exploring alternative funding options and working with local and state officials to ensure that these projects will eventually come to fruition.

While the delay is disappointing for many in the community, it is not unexpected given the current political climate. Nevertheless, the community remains committed to pursuing these projects and making Caseville a better place to live and work.
Around The World...
With Brenda Buschen

The past few months of my life can easily be compared to that of a roller coaster ride. For the most part it was exhilarating and overwhelming, yet there were moments when I felt terrified or upset. My year as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student has, in a way, ended abruptly—almost giving me whiplash.

I must now take my seat on a brand new roller coaster ride and hold on tightly. If it's anything like my previous ride then I'm headed for a journey full of many unexpected surprises!

Upon returning from my three week tour of the country Nebaka on July 1, I only had 25 short days until my departure back to Michigan. This past month of July had to be one of the most terrible yet chaotic months I have ever lived through. I rushed around trying to fit in every possible activity which I could.

On top of that, there were also farewell speeches to be written, boxes to be packed, and seats to be sent, and places to visit before leaving for home.

In the back of my mind I had the count-down for my return home started, but the lower the numbers became the more nervous I got. SEVERAL times throughout my year I tried to visualize how it would be on my final day in South Africa.

A range of questions cluttered my mind: How would I feel? Would I be happy or sad to have finally completed my year? Would I rather stay in South Africa than return home? A part of me wanted to stay yet the other wanted to go home. I felt like I was in a tug-of-war contest and I was the rope. It was such a weird feeling when the day to leave came upon me. I had a tough time comprehending that my year in South Africa was coming to an end.

Don't get me wrong, I was excited to be coming back home. Right at the same time I was heartbroken to be leaving South Africa. When I first set off for South Africa a year ago I thought leaving my family, friends and country was one of the hardest things I've ever had to deal with. But now that I think about it, at least when I left I knew I'd come back. The year is now over. When I come home, I still plan on going back.

I refused to say goodbye to all of my loved ones and friends that I grew close to over my year, instead I said farewell or so long. Goodbye in my mind means forever and seems so final. I cried, and cried and cried until there were no more tears left in me. When I drove away from Fish Hoek I cried, when I got to the airport I cried, when the announcement to board my plane was read over the intercoms I cried. There was nothing else I could do.

For me to say that I was extremely sad to have left Fish Hoek and South Africa as a whole, then I think that proves that my year was a success and most worthwhile. I look forward to the day when I can hopefully return to what I now consider my second home-South Africa.

My flights home turned out to be hassle free which was a relief! I first had a two hour flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg. My last host dad was in Johannesburg on business, so he met and walked out my three hour layover with me. I then boarded my British Airways plane which flew me from South Africa to London.

I requested an aisle seat which I got. It turned out to be a good thing that I changed seats because when me and the plane took off I was thrilled to see the two seats beside me remained unoccupied.

Luck was on my side and I took full advantage of the vacant seats. I got a 1/2 hour flight went by remarkably quick as I stretched out and slept for eight of the hours! I had eight hours to waste in London and rather than sit in Heathrow Airport I opted to venture into the city of London. I mainly stayed near the Picadilly Circus and wandered through the various shops such as Harrods's and Selfridges.

It seemed to take forever to get to Chicago though. 7-1/2 hours sitting in a cramped seat was not my idea of having a good time. I was officially back on American ground when I reached Chicago O'Hare Airport. There was where I had to somehow locate all four pieces of my luggage. Not knowing what to do next I just kept walking. I tagged behind a group of people that were walking in the same direction. The line that everyone was flowing through was the green line—"the no declarers line."

I didn't think I really had anything to declare, I was a bit overweight with my seven pieces of baggage (I was only allowed three pieces in actual fact), but it made it this far—why stop me now?

Once I was in charge saw me with my overflowing trolley, she immediately told me to go directly to the "declare your items" line. I guess I didn't think either she would have let me go through without paying anything for my excess baggage.

I also discovered (by looking at the T-shirts and postcards) that the Chicago Bulls Basketball team were the World Champions—I almost felt sorry for not knowing that this bit of information. Finally after 37 hours of traveling I was now on my final part of my journey—in an hour I would be reunited with my family and loved ones. It was just before 12 p.m. when my plane landed for the last time at Tri-City Airport in Saginaw.

Because I was seated near the back of the plane it took me longer to unboard—but what was a few minutes more after waiting for a year? Once reunited there were tears, there was laughter, there were even balloons, flowers and all 14 people who were there to greet me had their own bright, yellow, fluorescent sign which read "Welcome Home Brenda"—How could I have not missed them?

Since being back home I've been asked several times, "Would you do it all over again?" My response, without hesitation, is "Yes, most definitely." I'm glad that I made the decision to become a Rotary Youth Exchange Student. I feel it's one of the best choices I've ever made! I'm already missing my loved ones and friends in South Africa but I look forward to returning someday—soon!

BRENDA (left) meets her family while coming home.

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE CONNECTION TO CINEMAX AND YOU'LL RECEIVE CINEMAX FREE THROUGH AUGUST 30 PLUS THE NEXT THREE MONTHS AT $4.95 PER MONTH!

Get Ready For A Spontaneously Combustible Movie Collection That's Ready to Ignite! • BLUES RED SURF • ANGEL TOWN • LETHAL WEAPON If You Like That, You'll Love CINEMAX

HURRY! Time Is Running Out• STARRING

JESSICA LANGE An Intimate Profile Of A Most Intriguing Actress. Plus, A Selection Of Her Finest Screen Work In CRAZY ABOUT THE MOVIES Jessica Lange - It's Only Make Believe •MEN DON'T LEAVE • Tootsie • ALL THAT JAZZ

ACT NOW AND RECEIVE FREE CINEMAX INSTALLATION!! HURRY! OFFER ENDS SOON!

*Offer Available To New Cinemax Subscribers. May Not Be Substituted For Any Other Premium Service. Expires 8-31-91. Other Restrictions May Apply.

HARRON CABLE TV • 1-800-772-7548