

Ex-Israeli prime minister leads off series

Netanyahu speaking before Economic Club on Wednesday

By TODD DVORAK
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BENTON HARBOR — Benjamin Netanyahu, the former prime minister of Israel, kicks off Wednesday the 2001 speaker series for the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan, club officials announced.

Netanyahu, defeated by Ehud Barak in Israeli elections 16 months ago, will speak at the club's first dinner at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center.

Six other noted speakers, ranging from journalists to authors to business leaders have been booked for engagements between

now and May, according to club officials:

- Oct. 11 — Humorist and author Garrison Keillor
- Nov. 15 — Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich
- March 9 — Tom Peters, best-selling author of business management books, including "In Search of Excellence."
- April 4 — Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper, who is largely credited with introducing exercise and aerobics to the world, on key components to preventative medicine. He is the author of 41 books on aerobics, hypertension and stress.
- April 18 — Ed Bradley, a veteran reporter from the CBS-TV news magazine "60 Minutes."
- May 1 — Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward. A staff member at the newspaper since 1971, Woodward made his journalistic breakthrough with his coverage, along with colleague Carl Bernstein, of the Watergate scandal.

In the first dinner event, club members



Bradley Mallor Woodward Peter Reich Cooper Netanyahu

will get an up close look at a leader who played a critical role in the negotiating a peaceful settlement to decades of Israeli and Palestinian disputes and violence.

Netanyahu served as Israel's prime minister for three years, and in that time helped stabilize Israel's economy and brought the historic interim peace agreement signed in 1988 at Wye River, Md.

But after his loss to Barak last year, Netanyahu left politics, resigning his seat in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and the Likud party. Since then, he's tried to engineer somewhat of a comeback in his country's political world, in addition to traveling the United States on business and as a sought after public speaker.

The speech, like all others in the coming

season, begins at 7:30 p.m.

Public admission to the events is limited to Mainstage seating only. For information about tickets, contact club officials at (616) 927-2106.

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