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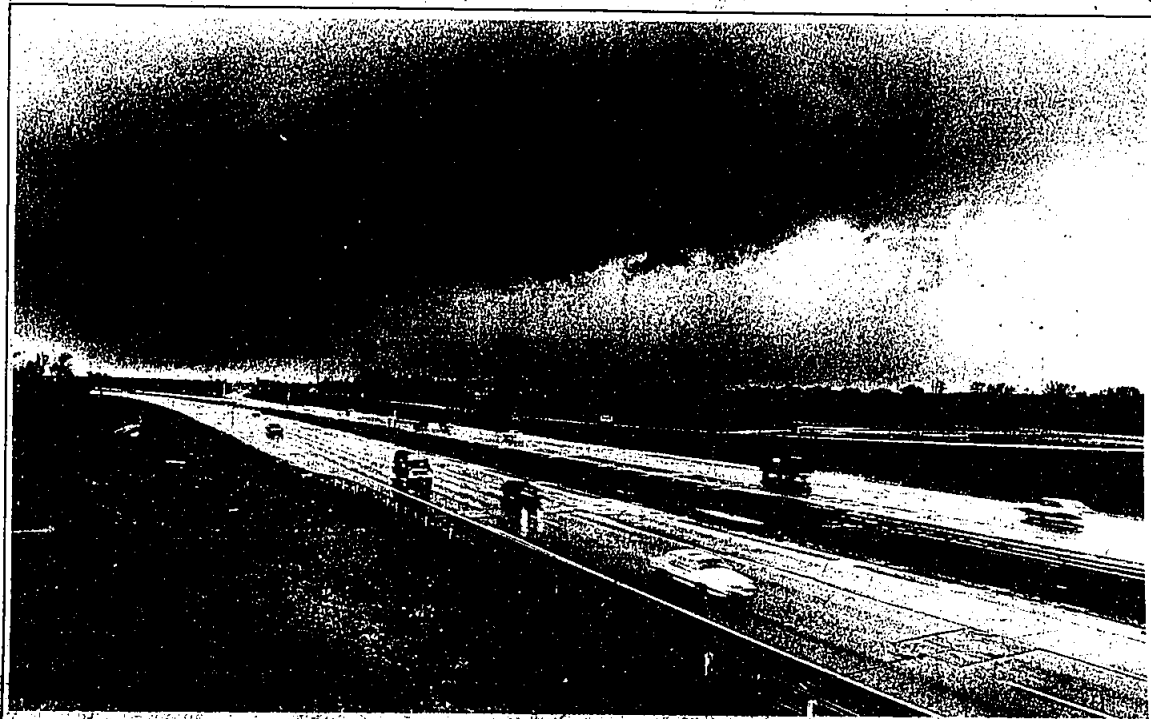
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Farmington, Michigan

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Nature's fury

A thunderstorm cell, one of many that swept across the state Monday, races above I-96 in Farmington Hills. A total of five tornadoes were reported throughout Michigan, but the Farmington area was spared any major damage. However, heavy rains did flood basements and caused the closing of some roads around the city. For more pictures, look on Page 3A.

RANDY DONIST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Force rule spawns debate

By Tom Baer
staff writer

State legislation making it more difficult for a teacher to use physical force to discipline a student has been proposed — and some Farmington school officials don't like it one bit.

At issue is the use of corporal punishment — that is, punishment inflicted directly on the body, such as flogging or shaking — by a teacher on a student.

A current state law, on the books since 1977, says that a teacher may use "responsible physical force necessary" to take away a dangerous weapon carried by a student, or "to maintain proper discipline over pupils in attendance at school."

The law also states that a teacher or superintendent "shall not be liable for civil action for the use of physical force on the person of a pupil . . . except in the case of gross abuse and disregard for the health and safety of the pupil."

The proposed legislation says, in part, that a teacher may be liable in a civil or criminal action for corporal punishment inflicted on a student.

Also provided are numerous definitions of corporal punishment. They include "the kicking, shaking or throwing of a pupil" and "pushing, shoving, or grabbing a pupil for any reason other than for protection."

Lewis Schulman, Farmington's superintendent of schools, called the proposal "lawful and unnecessary as far as this district is concerned" when the matter was discussed Tuesday night at the board of education meeting.

SCHULMAN STRESSED the district's opposition to corporal punishment, citing his 1979 memo to its administrators which reads, "The use of corporal punishment is an unreasonable response as a disciplinary technique."

"However, a teacher or administrator may use reasonable physical force, where necessary, to protect the safety and well-being of students, teachers, administrators and staff — and to prevent the destruction of property."

Schulman seemed to have plenty of support in opposing the corporal punishment proposal.

"It muddles the waters," said board trustee Jack Loch, a former high school teacher. "For example, exactly what is shaking a child? You mean to say that if a kid has a pair of scissors and he's threatening another child, the teacher can't take it away from him?"

Trustee Michael Spiccone added, "We don't see any need for this legislation at this time."

The board took no official action on the matter, Schulman noted, however, that state Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, has requested the views of the board regarding the proposal.

Care of aged targeted for Mercy Center

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

How much money a series of recommended programs for senior citizens in Farmington and Farmington Hills will cost is the next step in a community services study for the aged sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

A series of programs targeted for the aged have been recommended for further study after the results of a survey

mailed late last year to about 5,000 persons in the two cities and other surrounding cities and townships was compiled. The Roman Catholic sisterhood, in conjunction with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac and Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit — both run by the sisterhood — sponsored the study.

"People are real interested in having a continuum of services on one site," said Susan Nestor, director of Services

for the Aged at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac.

The religious order is targeting a portion of an existing structure on the 102-acre site on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt for a retirement home for retired Our Lady of Mercy nuns from Grand Rapids and Dubuque, Iowa, by May, 1984, Nestor said. To complement those plans, the order has planned to expand its ministry work with senior citizens.

WHILE MERCY Center also houses a health care corporation and a Montessori school, the remaining portion of the facility is being targeted for recommended senior citizen programs, Nestor said.

But recommended programs are based on providing services to senior citizens living within a five-to-10 mile radius of Mercy Center, she said.

"We consider that practical and reasonable for senior citizens because of

transportation," Nestor said.

"According to the results of the survey developed by the Gerontological Planning Association of Santa Monica, Calif., a steering committee of representatives from the sisterhood and the two hospitals will develop dollar costs and details of the following recommended programs at Mercy Center:

- A geriatric clinic focusing on medical problems of the aged.

- Programs offering physical assessment, fitness and nutrition services.

- Educational programs offering information and assistance to the aged and their families.

- Counseling services addressing pre-retirement and post-retirement.

- An adult day care program featuring therapeutic care for the aged.

Although many of the recommended programs will take some time to implement, Nestor said, some, such as counseling services could be phased in this summer or early fall.

Judge enforces Brookdale permits

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

At first unsure about the constitutionality of the city's first parking permit district along Brookdale, 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand now says he intends to enforce the new city ordinance which was designed to prevent parking problems caused by patrons of Bootlegger's Bar in Farmington.

"I had some problems with it being constitutional," Hand said. "But they (Farmington Police) came up with sufficient cases to convince me. I plan to enforce it to the hilt."

In January, Farmington City Council members responded to Brookdale residents' complaints and signed petitions about Bootlegger's patrons blocking driveways, creating too much noise and

traffic, littering and urinating in homeowners' yards. The council adopted an ordinance allowing parking permit districts in the city's neighborhoods, said Public Safety Director Robert Siefert.

"It was about a yearlong process with several groups (from the Brookdale neighborhood) appearing before council," said City Manager Robert Deadman.

RESIDENTS are paying a price for peace and quiet by having to buy parking permits (\$7.50 for the first permit and \$5 for each additional permit) if they wish to park on either side of Brookdale. So far, Siefert said, 33 annual parking permits and 17 visitor permits have been sold.

Under the new ordinance, anyone parking on the street without a sticker between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. can be issued

a parking ticket, Hand said.

Although the first parking permit violator was taken before Hand about two weeks ago, the judge delayed sentencing the motorist while he considered the new ordinance's constitutionality. Satisfied that the parking permit ordinance has a precedent, Hand said he intends to sentence the first violator within the next few days.

"I was just concerned with the constitutionality of it," Hand added.

The parking problems stemmed from the relatively small size of the combination bar and bowling alley parking lot which accommodates 150 cars. Although the bar meets all city zoning codes regarding parking, the establishment attracts more customers than the lot can accommodate.

"I think some people parked on the street by choice," Siefert said, referring to the bar's patrons.

ALTHOUGH DEADMAN says he hasn't received any complaints about the new parking permit district from Bootlegger's owner Joe Asclone, "It caused him to get a new parking lot" across the bar on the north side of Grand River.

Asclone, who refused to comment, referred questions to his attorney, Norman Farhat of Southfield, who was unavailable.

Last November, however, Asclone said he made an agreement with the owner of a real estate office across the street from the bar to allow customers to also use that lot.

Man charged again in traffic death

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Even though a manslaughter charge against Jeffrey Scott Jones was dismissed last week when prosecution witnesses failed to appear in 47th District Court, a new arrest is expected to be issued for the Farmington Hills resident. Jones was charged in the March 4 traffic death of 11-year-old Jennifer Karpowicz.

The charge against Jones was "dismissed without prejudice" after Oakland County assistant prosecutor Gary Chopp's witnesses failed to appear for Jones' preliminary examination before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer on April 27.

"It's as if there was no case ever," Schaeffer said. "You can't proceed without witnesses."

"Calling it a procedural problem," however, Lt. Ernest Miller of Farmington Hills police traffic safety division

indicated that Chopp will issue another warrant for Jones who pleaded not guilty to the charge at his arraignment before District Judge Michael Hand on March 15.

"They (Chopp and Farmington Hills police) will have to start over from square one," Schaeffer said, indicating "it's not like adjourning it (the case against Jones)."

"We're at no disadvantage," Chopp responded. "It was a sad situation. But the witnesses were never served (with subpoenas)."

Jennifer, a fifth-grade student at Beechview Elementary School, was struck by a car at 7:18 p.m. at 11 Mile and Middlebelt. She was dead on arrival at Rosford General Hospital of multiple injuries.

Jones has been free on a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond. Conviction of manslaughter carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence.

What should be rule for class discipline?

Farmington School District officials are upset over a proposed law which they feel would hinder a teacher in maintaining discipline in the halls and classroom of public school. (See lead story).

The present law says teachers may use reasonable force to maintain discipline. The proposed legislation says a teacher could be held legally liable for inflicting corporal punishment on a student. Farmington Superintendent Lew Schriber has described the new law

as "lawed."

Today's Oral Quizzal question is:

HOW MUCH AUTHORITY SHOULD TEACHERS HAVE IN HANDING OUT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT TO STUDENTS? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROPOSED LAW?

To answer this week's Oral Quizzal call 677-5498. You have until 1 p.m. Friday to answer. To see what your neighbors think of this issue, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

what's inside

- Amusements . . . 8C-13C
- Classifieds . . . Sections C,D
- Club Circuit . . . 4B
- Community Calendar . . . 2B
- Editorials . . . 18A
- Exhibitions . . . 19C
- Obituaries . . . 8A
- Science . . . Section B
- Sports . . . Section C
- YMCA Highlights . . . 6A

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