

Club celebrates culture, unity, pride, 1B



Swimming preview, 1D

Free market principle goes to school, 3A

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AND the question is... Dr. Roger Silverstein, a Farmington pediatrician, will appear on the popular evening game show "Jeopardy" at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday on Channel 4. Obviously by his two-day stint, the Detroit resident won on the first show and lost on the second. But he won't reveal his winnings ahead of time. "I enjoyed it very much," he said. "It was very exciting."

Silverstein auditioned for the show during a May talent search at the Michigan Inn in Southfield. "I've watched the show for 20 years and thought it'd be fun to do. I figured I could do as well as the contestants I'd seen." Apprehension gripped him on his flight to Los Angeles, where five "Jeopardy" shows are taped daily. "I was thinking I had a golden opportunity to look foolish on national TV," said Silverstein, who paid his way to the TV studio in Hollywood.

The Jeopardy staff goes out of its way "to preserve the appearance of propriety," he said. "You don't wander around the studio and when not in a group, you're escorted."

QUOTE of the week

Families should have available schools of their choice, in the same way they have choices of services in a free market system.

—Superintendent Graham Lewis, discussing the trend away from artificial school boundaries (please see story on Page 3).



MD patient Tom Nef (center) chats with his sophomore, at sister, Dawn (right), a Harrison freshman, and Center Monday, family friend Tom Taube, a Farmington High

Cure is beacon for MDA victims

By Bob Sklar staff writer

□ Muscle protein lifts MDA research, 4A

They're guardedly confident a cure will be found in the war against muscular dystrophy, a group of 40 neuromuscular diseases that strike hardest at the young. "I hope they find a cure. I think they're close enough," said Linda Nef, whose son, Tom, 17, was diagnosed as having Duchenne dystrophy, which progressively weakens and wastes voluntary muscles, 11 years ago.

"A cure is a long way off. But the latest breakthrough is a start. It gives the researchers something to work with," said Joseph Loacano, whose son, Tony, 13, was stricken with Duchenne seven years ago.

Last year, a research team supported by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) identified the critical muscle protein that, when missing because of a gene defect, causes Duchenne dystrophy. (See related story.)

Both the Nefis and Loacanos lent a hand at the Jerry Lewis Labor

Day Telethon's Farmington-Novl Pledge Center in the Sheraton Oaks of Novi Monday.

The families praised MDA national chairman Jerry Lewis, whose Labor Day telethons have raised \$484 million since 1966. The telethon is the major fundraiser for MDA's research projects, patient services, outpatient clinics, summer camps, educational programs and promotional efforts. This year, the telethon raised \$41 million nationally. Channel 2 viewers contributed \$2 million — \$80,000 through the Farmington-Novl Pledge Center.

"Thank God for Jerry Lewis and MDA," Joseph Loacano said. "They're the greatest."

BOTH FAMILIES said MDA has been a godsend. Health insurance and MDA, for example, have paid for \$18,000 in medical supplies that Tony has required, including body braces, leg braces, a motor-



Jon Greene, who helped coordinate the Farmington-Novl Pledge Center phone room, has been an MDA volunteer for 17 years.

ized wheelchair, a hospital bed, an air mattress, an armrest and custom shoes, his father said.

The youngest of eight children, Tony is a mainstreamed eighth grader at Warner Junior High in Farmington Hills. He likes the

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Bonds bad way to pay for new school: Headlee

By Casey Hans staff writer

Self-proclaimed taxpayers' spokesman Richard Headlee has had no change of heart about his philosophy of tax restraint.

The 1982 Republican gubernatorial candidate said Tuesday he disagrees with bonding \$27 million for a new elementary school and facility improvements in Farmington Public Schools. The district should spend the cash it has, and not ask for additional taxes, he said.

A Farmington Hills businessman and recent heart transplant recipient, Headlee was back in the limelight this week, highlighting philosophical differences with the school board in a 90-minute discussion.

There is need for a new elementary school and building improvements, Headlee said, but they should be paid for with capital funds and surplus money, not by bonding.

The 16-year, \$27 million issue is scheduled to go to Farmington school voters Monday, Sept. 19 — in less than two weeks.

"We look at the financials, and what we see is enough cash to build a school today," said Headlee, author of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, passed by voters in 1978. "It seems to me if you have the cash... you should build the school. You should avoid debt like the plague."

"The more you can do on a cash basis, the stronger and the healthier you are."

The district is proposing \$7 million to build a new elementary school on the west side, and another \$20 million to renovate and update buildings which are at least 20 years old. Taxpayers in the district would receive an increase of between \$35 and \$80 on their annual tax bills if the debt millage passes.

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Rank aids plan to improve road

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Relief may be in sight for motorists aggravated by congestion and stop-and-go traffic on Orchard Lake Road, south of I-496.

Plans and financing are in the works to widen Orchard Lake Road, from Grand River in Farmington to just south of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. The proposed project would feature a four-lane boulevard and drainage improvements.

Though the widening of Orchard Lake Road has long been discussed and planned, city officials are optimistic this project will become reality. The widening is ranked second in priority to proposed improvements on Big Beaver in Troy for state financing, Farmington Hills public services director Tom Bissell said.

"It was always envisioned by the county that it would be a federally

funded project," Farmington city manager Robert Deadman said. "But they weren't able to do it because of financing."

The proposed \$7.8 million project is expected to be financed with a 75 percent matching state grant. Construction alone would cost about \$1.8 million. The grant, if approved, would pay about \$4.38 million of the construction. Other costs include drainage improvements, design and right of way purchase and enlarging a proposed storm sewer drainage pipe.

THE CITIES of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the Oakland County Road Commission would share the remaining 25 percent local share. No special assessments for property owners along the roadway are expected, Deadman and Bissell said.

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By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington-area banking officials are hoping to lessen confusion as information goes out about a new law designed to help consumers.

The Expedited Funds Availability Act, which went into effect Sept. 1, will probably appear "transparent" to most customers, one official said, but may affect the internal operation of banks and other institutions.

The act limits the number of days financial institutions can place holds on checks customers deposit into their accounts.

But Farmington-area banking officials say most institutions are al-

□ What new Funds Act requires, 4A

ready well within the limit of the law.

"We've pretty much adopted the same, day-to-day business as normal," said Jim Dickinson, vice president of the Farmington-based Livingston-Oakland Counties Federal Credit Union, where many checks funds become available the same day they are deposited.

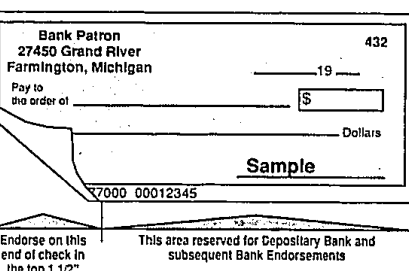
"I think it's only going to impact those (financial institutions) taking advantage of their members and customers. We did not exceed what the new regulation requires."

ROBERT HEINRICH, president

of Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington, agrees. "The regulation... really grew out of some abuses," he explained, adding that a few banks were holding deposits too long, making money in the process. "We have never done that as a routine practice. From that standpoint, it's business as usual for us."

At Metro Bank, customers are credited for money "when it becomes available to us," he added. Leo Yesajyan, manager for the Farmington Hills Comerica branch at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, said it's also business as usual, although the "clearing time will be a little bit sooner, which is good."

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Studies permeate solid waste question

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington city manager Robert Deadman calls the latest attempt to push for county-owned solid waste facilities "ambitious," but he's hoping no one is being rushed into a mistake that the county's 60 communities may regret.

"I don't know if we object to the final proposal. But the initial proposal is awfully ambitious in terms of their sizing," said Deadman, who is chairman of the Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium. "We would like to do additional work in the feasibility of recycling before

they size the final plans." The consortium's six communities — Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Walled Lake, Novi and South Lyon — formed last year after deciding not to join the county's 7-year-old solid waste project.

The consortium is confronted with three solid waste proposals. One is from the county executive's office, which has supervised the Municipal Solid Waste Board since 1981. Thirty Oakland County communities belong to this group.

The consortium also has its own plans, which call for negotiating with the county for equity for all involved communities. If negotiations

fail, the consortium would like to create an authority with control of solid waste in the hands of a board elected by member communities.

DEADMAN IS keeping an open mind about a third and latest venture into solid waste handling. "We're not ready to object to anything. We're just concerned."

A task force, led by Oakland County Board of Commissioners chairman Roy Rowell, hired a Washington, D.C., firm to help establish a countywide program of solid waste management. The firm — Bishop, Cook, Purcell and Reynolds — is expected to take the volumes of studies

and reports throughout the county and transform them into a comprehensive solid waste plan.

"We're using every study. We're trying to work with them. That's where the task force comes into play," Rowell said.

But Deadman has some reservations with the task force's sizing of the incinerators, particularly in light of new state guidelines that require that 80

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