

Local debate team brings home prize, 4A



All-Area track, 1D

Hills wants better noise barriers, 2A

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SPECIAL guest. Ex-heavyweight boxing champ

Muhammad Ali had reservations for dinner at Pete and John Ginopoli's Ginopoli's Restaurant in Farmington Hills Saturday night, June 2.

All was in town to attend an autographing session in Westland Saturday afternoon and the Detroit Pistons-Chicago Bulls game the next afternoon.

"He knows Pete and John real well," said Ginopoli's manager Bob Botsford. "He's been in here before."

All was very cordial, shaking hands, signing autographs, posing for pictures. "It was a very nice occasion," Botsford said.

"When he walked out of here, he had applause from everyone in the restaurant, which was very touching," Botsford said.

Coincidentally, the Motor City Hitman, Tommy Hearns, walked into Ginopoli's for dinner about an hour after Ali left.

QUOTE of the week

"We think people should have the right to die with dignity. But this is not something you can make a snap decision about."

- Susanne Paul, minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, reacting to a Royal Oak doctor's request to use his suicide machine at the Farmington Hills church: 1A.

Hills woman receives new lung

By Casey Hans and Louise Okrutsky staff writers

It was as if Mother Nature whipped up Sunday's high winds to send Susan and Gene Stuart home from the lake.

No sooner did they arrive at their Farmington Hills home than they received a long-awaited call from the Mayo Clinic. A lung was available for Susan, and getting to Rochester, Minn., quickly was key.

It was time for 49-year-old Susan

Stuart, who had suffered from a rare form of emphysema for 10 years, to get a new lung and a new lease on life.

Emphysema is a severe, disabling lung disease.

Susan Stuart received a single lung transplant at St. Mary's Hospital at the Mayo Medical Clinic complex Sunday night — the first such surgery performed at the clinic since it revived a heart/lung transplant program in 1988.

The Stuarts were contacted at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, arrived in Minnesota

by 6 p.m., and the 7-hour operation began at 9 p.m., lasting well into Monday morning.

The disease would have been terminal without the transplant surgery, said Gene Stuart, calling from Minnesota Tuesday. "This was her only real alternative. We're very excited about it."

"If it is successful, she will be able to live a normal life."

SUSAN STUART started having real problems with her disease two years ago, when further complica-

tions began. Since her diagnosis, she has lost 45 pounds. "She was using so much energy, just trying to breathe," her husband said.

Her rare form of emphysema was caused by a protein deficiency.

During the operation, Stuart received a new left lung donated by a resident of the upper Midwest.

Mayo doesn't release further information about donors, but Gene Stuart said, if they wished, his family would be allowed to write an anonymous letter that could be given to the donor's family.

At mid-week, Susan Stuart was reported in critical but stable condition in the hospital's intensive care unit, which is expected following this major surgery, said spokeswoman Nancy Skaran.

Gene Stuart said his wife would remain hospitalized for 4-6 weeks, and would remain in Rochester for two months, where her transplant could be monitored for signs of rejection or infection. He will commute between his job in Livonia and the donor's family.

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Webb, Inch win terms on board

Clarenceville results, 5A

Walled Lake results, 14A, 18A

By Casey Hans staff writer

Challenger Cathleen Webb and incumbent R. Jack Inch paced a field of nine candidates Monday to win two four-year terms on the Farmington Board of Education.

Webb stote the show, winning the highest number of votes in all precincts, as well as with absentee voters. She had 1,343 ballots cast for her and 33 percent of the vote.

Inch won his fourth term on the seven-member panel with 983 votes, a showing of 24 percent of the vote.

Both begin their new terms in July.

WEBB SAID Tuesday she was "overwhelmed from the response" and called the overall 4.46-percent voter turnout "a great indication."

"Maybe we're going to have a lot more involvement in education."

Last year, 2.95 percent of the voters turned out to C. Webb fill two seats from among four candidates.

Webb credited her overwhelming win to a "team effort" involving many volunteers and supporters.

A 12-YEAR veteran trustee, Inch said he was not surprised to finish behind Webb.

"She organized well, she meets people extremely well. It's hard to say anything critical."

"She just did an excellent job. I'm very happy with R.J. Inch what I got. It was a tough, tough election."

Webb, mother of two Gill Elementary students, is a facilities study task force steering committee member and former elementary attendance area study committee co-chair in the 11,000-student district.

Voting in the south end of the district was heavy, as Webb, Inch and third-place challenger Laura Myers all drew strong support for their campaigns.

Myers trailed the two winners with 714 votes, an excellent showing compared with past vote counts.

TURNOUT WAS higher than usual for a school election, according to unofficial vote tallies released by the district Tuesday.

Of 50,194 eligible voters, 2,238 voters turned out to cast ballots. Ballots must now be certified by the Oakland County Elections Commission.

Betsi Duschinske, business support services supervisor for the Farmington district, attributed the heavier balloting to the seat left open when



Susan Olson of Farmington votes in Monday's Farmington school board election as her children, Kristen, 8, and Stephen, 4, watch. She voted at the Farmington Training Center.

trustee Janice Rolnick decided not to seek re-election. The highest turnout was in Precinct 1 at the Farmington Training

Center, where 873 ballots were cast. Next in line was Precinct 2 at O.E. Dunckel Middle School with 748, followed by Precinct 3 at Warner Mid-

dle School with 375 and Precinct 4 at East Middle School with 242 votes.

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Kevorkian sought help from local churches

By Ryan Tutak staff writer

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, whose so-called suicide machine helped an Oregon woman take her own life last week, had twice sought help from area churches to carry out assisted suicides.

One minister said she turned him away because he turned her off. Others said he demanded help more quickly than they could offer.

"He was using strong-arm tactics to pressure us into a decision on it," said Susanne Paul, minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington. "We think people should have the right to die with dignity. But

this is not something you can make a snap decision about."

Kevorkian called the church in March seeking space to help a California cancer patient kill herself, Paul said. But she said the church needed more information and approval from its board of trustees and congregation members.

Kevorkian, unapologetic, said his style is simply fidelity to his calling — to fight to legalize "planned death," as Margaret Sanger fought to legalize "planned birth" nearly 80 years ago.

"I'M A STRIDENT man," he said. "But I know I'm right so it doesn't matter. I'm not getting anywhere by being docile. Do you think

I would get anywhere trying to passively persuade people?"

"We're not playing on a political field anymore. It's a battlefield. If you're meek on a battlefield, you're going to die."

He asked the Birmingham Unitarian Church for space for the California woman and two weeks ago for Janet Adkins from Portland, Ore., but was refused for similar reasons.

"I would need a more complete legal opinion about it," Minister David Gallagher said, adding that his board also would have to approve it. "He was on too tight of a schedule to wait for it."

"But from a moral point of view, depending on the circumstances, medically assisted sui-

cide for the terminally ill would be the kind of thing I would want Unitarian Universalists to support."

Two years ago Kevorkian spoke at the Birmingham church during a pot-luck to advocate operating on death-row prisoners and elderly people who consented to research organ functions near death, according to event chairman Carl Speck, a Birmingham resident.

"He was an interesting and animated speaker," Speck said. "But he was extremely defensive. When someone would ask a question, he would take it as an attack on him rather than as a request for information."

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Student complaints prompt district action on recycling

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington Public Schools will begin recycling foam trays used in school cafeterias this fall, after some students studying environmental issues complained.

Food services director Debra Larson said she received several calls from students in the spring, wanting the district to practice what it teaches.

A number of schools, and individual classroom teachers, focused heavily on environmental learning this year because of what is becoming a local and national garbage crisis.

Landfill space is running low, garbage disposal costs are going up, and local cities have started recycling programs to help the problem.

School officials have decided it's their turn. "Students brought the issues to be examined," Larson said. "We were delighted to see the number and variety (of student suggestions). This is just the beginning."

A COMMITTEE of administrators was appointed to discuss what the district can do to conserve resources after students, especially at the secondary levels, complained about foam lunch trays and other things they perceived to be environmental problems.

One classroom at O.E. Dunckel Middle School reportedly had several protests over the lunch trays, and a Farmington High student spoke at a June 5 school board meeting, suggesting the board take action.

"The young man raises a good point," Superintendent Michael Flanagan said. "This generation has really given us a challenge. They're way ahead of us in a lot of ways."

Although Larson said the foam trays are minimal when compared with problems like paper products, which take up 80 percent of landfill space, she said it is an important first step.

"We are implementing this now in the hopes of Imple-

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Drug series on tap

Just how serious is the illegal drug problem in Oakland County?

That's an important question. Many members of the national media try to answer that question by remote control, from Washington or New York. Using statistics and predictable footage and photographs, they reinforce the idea that the Detroit area and its northern suburbs are thick with drugs, and the problem is bordering on catastrophic.

Is it? For four months, more than 20 members of the Observer & Eccentric staff talked to the people who use drugs in the county, from grade school children to adults. We also interviewed narcotics officers, local police and local officials with one goal in mind — to answer the question on a community level by



talking to the people who know. The result is Suburban High, a special report that will appear starting June 18 in the Oakland County Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. It presents a comprehensive picture of the drug scene in our part of the county, with information gathered in school yards, teen hangouts, bars, homes and offices in your neighborhood.

Part 2 of Suburban High will appear June 21 as a series of stories throughout the paper.

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