

Farmington Observer

"Little TV Weekly" is not me.

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IN THE PA TODAY

Scholarships anyone?: American Legion Post 390 in Farmington will provide six scholarships to seniors at Farmington-area public high schools. /5A

Paybacks anyone?: Farmington Hills residents say they want paybacks on sewer and water costs. /6A

Millage anyone? School districts are not out of the millage business, but Farmington school officials don't expect to open shop anytime soon. /7A

OPINION

Changing up?: The Observer asked readers about youth gang activity in the Farmington area. The readers answered. /4A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Fun: Barkers on the microphones, games, contests and prizes await footwear shoppers at the Annual Shoe Stores coming to town. /8A

Behind the Label: Cosmetics maker Barbara Walden came to Hudson's to talk about women, makeup and community service. /8A

STREET SCENE



Spring: BOP (harvey) has had a stellar 10-year career, including performing at Bill Clinton's inauguration, but band members are ready to temporarily pursue other projects. /4B

SPORTS

On track: Farmington and Farmington were double winners in their first dual track meet Thursday. /1C

Locker: North Farmington and Harrison battled each other (and the elements) in girls basketball Friday. /1C

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Principal Chelsea-bound?



Farmington High's James Myers is the only high school principal trying for the position of superintendent of the Chelsea School District. The other five candidates are superintendents. Myers will be interviewed Friday.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High principal James Myers is one of six finalists for the Chelsea School District superintendent position.

Myers will be interviewed by the Chelsea Board of Education Friday, April 22. The board will narrow the field to two or three before selecting a

Sue Zurvalec has her eye on Ferndale, 3A

successor to Joseph Pisecki, who was fatally shot in the district office Dec. 16. Myers, 48, is the only high school principal of the six selected by the board out of 58 applicants. The rest

See PRINCIPAL, 3A



James Myers



'... my gosh, she's laughing.'

Showing some heart: Farmington Hills resident Dennis Hextall comforts his daughter Jennifer at the Wing Lake Developmental School.

Daughter inspires dad to wing it for charity

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

No matter the age, certain parts of the game never leave the retired professional hockey player. There's the eternal fountain of gulls used to outfox players half their age. Or, as Farmington Hills resident and former NHL center Dennis Hextall puts it, "We have to get them chasing the biscuit." Another character attribute excels in hockey: It's called heart. Players

either have it or they don't, coaches say. For Hextall, that meant going nose first into the corners and dropping the gloves when needed for a series of teams — including the Detroit Red Wings from 1976-79. Hextall showed his heart in another way, some would say waiting until this year to deliver his best check. He and his Red Wings alumni cohorts raised \$40,000 for four

health organizations playing charity hockey games throughout the state. Hextall earmarked \$5,000 for the next two years to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department. Something more than generosity drew his attention to the facility. It's where his daughter stayed after suffering a severe closed head injury two years ago. Jennifer Hextall, then 17, was pulling out of Canter-

bury Commons Subdivision when she was struck by a vehicle. Today, Jennifer lives in a long-term care facility. Hextall and his wife Becky visit her regularly at Franklin House. "When she was in the hospital, you were able to see Mott Hospital and how it's full of kids," Dennis said. "The number of kids between 15 and 18 who are there because of

See CHARITY, 10A

Council shoots for ice arena financing alternatives

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

As the Farmington Hills City Council moves to put a proposal for a multi-use, multi-surface ice arena before voters, two council members have come up with an alternative way to pay for it. Council members Cheryl Oliverio and Terry Sever had talked about another way to pay for the proposed arena

at an earlier session. But the question of putting a proposal before voters that could cause a budget shortfall encouraged them to bring it up again at Wednesday's three-hour study session. "Even if we have a shortfall, it won't be a serious problem," Oliverio said. The city council discussed the project location, cost and design, the

possibility of a restaurant and whether alcohol should be served in the complex. The council will consider whether to adopt a resolution to put the proposal on the August primary ballot at tonight's regular meeting. Apart from the new funding proposal, the council has pretty much agreed that the complex will be at the

new Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile. Representatives of recreation groups, including soccer and baseball associations, have already endorsed the location because the displaced fields could be installed on Mercy Center property on 11 Mile that the city recently acquired.

See ARENA, 5A

All about animals

All talk on animals, both wild and domestic, will be given by animal expert Bev Cornell 7-8 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in the Orientation Room of the Heritage Park Visitors Center in Farmington Hills. The talk is free and school-age children are welcome. The event is sponsored by the Women's National Farm and Garden Association of Farmington Hills.

All about gypsies

Attention members of Farmington-area neighborhood/homeowner groups: If you are concerned about the invasion of the gypsy moth, you might want to attend a seminar on that pest next month offered by the

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Michigan State University Extension of Oakland County.

An extension official emphasized that the seminars are open only to representatives of homeowner groups. Call 868-0887 for details. The county will spray Farmington Hills for gypsy moths in May. Gypsy moths are very destructive to trees in the caterpillar stage.

Any cans or bottles?

Members of the Farmington Area YMCA Indian Federation Program will conduct a charity bottle/can drive Saturday-Sunday, April 23-24, in the Farmington area.

Proceeds will be contributed to the Invest in Youth program, which helps pay YMCA fees for disadvantaged youth.

Memory Lane

From the April 22, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise: Delos Hamlin, former mayor of Farmington, was re-elected vice chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. Short item: "Nothing changes the direction of a man's thinking quicker than spading up fishing worms while digging in the garden."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.