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Tech talk: Old-fashioned paste up gives way to pagination at the Farmington Observer./3A

Cost and need: Kimberly subdivision residents are taking a second look at a paving plan./4A

Safe and sober: Farmington-area police will be targeting safety belt use and drunk driving./2A

COUNTY NEWS

No endorsement: The Oakland Community College Faculty Union decides not to make endorsements in the coming hotly contested school election./9A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Center updates: Oakland Mall gets a new sign, a new ad campaign and a new holiday style./10A

Esther Williams: The ex-actress/olympic star brings out a new line of swimwear./10A

SPORTS

Softball playoffs: Mercy High School faced Southgate Aquinas in the semifinals of the Catholic League tournament Friday.1C

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It's no gag—the room went dark!

A brief power outage May 16 emphasized the point a citizen's committee was trying to make to Edison officials.

During a meeting between the committee, which was created to find solutions to power outage problems, and the utility giant, in the Hills city council chambers, the lights went out.

"I thought it was a gag at first," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who has been an outspoken critic of the company's service delivery. "But they came on again."

Vagnozzi said the next day City Clerk Kathy Dornan told him that the clocks at city hall had to be reset, indicating there had been an outage.

"The meeting itself went well," Vagnozzi said. "We've had some citizen complaints about the tree trimming (to clear power lines)."

The committee has been working with the utility to improve communications during outages and suggest other ways to improve service.

School chief given pay hike



■ Bob Maxfield has "accomplished all his goals" in the words of a school board member, and is in line for a 3-percent raise in salary. He'll make \$128,941 with the hike.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools superintendent Bob Maxfield is getting a 3-percent raise as part of a one-year contract extension.

Maxfield's three-year pact goes through 1999. The 2-percent salary and 1-percent merit increase would bring his annual salary from

\$125,186 to \$128,941. He received a similar increase last year.

The Farmington Board of Education is expected to formally approve terms of the contract extension at Tuesday's regular meeting.

"We were satisfied he's accomplished all the goals the board set out," said trustee Cathy Webb, who served on the Superintendent Eval-

uation Committee. "It's something we as a board ... felt comfortable with, extending his contract."

Every year, the board evaluates the superintendent and usually tacks on an additional year to the existing three-year contract as a vote of confidence.

Maxfield, 54, was hired in at an annual salary of \$118,000. His contract calls for use of a leased car and a term-life insurance policy. He made \$97,600 as school chief at Berkley Schools.

The evaluation process has become more involved since Maxfield became superintendent in

1994.

The board subcommittee of Bobbie Feldman, David York and Webb rated Maxfield on a series of predetermined goals. He presented a portfolio of accomplishments to those objectives to the subcommittee.

In the past year, Farmington schools received a gold medal status from a national magazine. The district also received high marks from residents in a recent survey.

The district's Mission 2007 strategic plan is being implemented.

In the 1996-97 school year, Max-

See RAISE, 2A

Art's allure



Captive audience: First-graders Harvey Martin and Michael Moore, above, watch a demonstration on jewelry by Frank Yanke at Gill Elementary Monday. Second-grader Leah Kessler, below, leans in for a better look at a photographic demonstration by Michele Jakacki of Focal Point.



Gill students get head start on art

Did VanGogh know, did Rodin understand ... They would be artists when they were children? Perhaps not.

But exposure to the arts at an early age is important, educators say. Gill Elementary students and staff spent a whole week May 13-18 getting a grasp on the different expressions.

Michele Jakacki of Focal Point Studios discussed photography. Frank Yanke of Yanke Designs explained custom jewelry. Cathy Webb gave the lowdown on being a commercial artist while Jill Hemingway demonstrated calligraphy. Hitachi representatives gave a presentation on computer-generated design.

Retired teacher makes board bid

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

At 58, Monica Schultz says it's probably time to develop some other interests.

That sounds simple enough, except for one thing, the Farmington School Board candidate added.

"This education thing keeps coming up," she said.

For 35 years, Schultz was a teacher and a counselor for Garden City Public Schools. She retired two years ago, accepting a buyout from

SCHOOL RACE

the district.

The Farmington Hills resident was content to play the organ, dabble in photography and travel. Then she inadvertently heard about two open seats on the Farmington board.

Why not, she figured.

"I'm not depending on a salary," Schultz said. "I don't think I'm going any higher than the school board.

It's something I've always wanted to do.

"In the classroom, you tend to have blinders on. You don't see what's going on all around you. I'd just like to see the total picture before I die."

Schultz is seeing an entirely new picture in Farmington.

She and her husband Norman moved into a newly-built home in Biddestone subdivision recently.

See BOARD, 2A



Monica Schultz

Open for business at OCC

Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, in Farmington Hills has opened its own "coffee house" house in the lower level of Tirrell Hall (J Building).

Called Studio Cafe, the coffee house is the brainchild of extension and Community Services director Jamie Mason and veteran entertainer Dusty Rhodes. A room that had been used as a television studio was converted into a coffee house with seating for 65.

"The Studio Cafe is primarily a student activities venue," said Rhodes. "However, we believe that students benefit a great deal by meeting people from all walks of life. Therefore, we are making the room available to everyone."

A Coffee Beanery, Ltd. outlet (owned by the college), a small stage with a sound system

FARMINGTON FOCUS

and "Cyber Cafe" computers are part of the ambience.

Studio Cafe hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Rhodes hosts an open Mic Night 7-10 p.m. Thursday evenings. Singers, poets, comedians are welcome. "Good amateurs, semi-professionals ... anyone who will work for tips," said Rhodes, are welcome to audition for him Wednesday evenings.

"Of course, I intend to entertain him as well as maintain my house gig at the Botaford Inn and Friday and Saturday nights," Rhodes said.

A grand opening for the Studio Cafe will be held 6-10 p.m. Thursday, May 30. Additional

information about the facility may be obtained by calling 471-7638 or 471-7655.

Yes, postal customers

Wednesday, May 22, has been set aside to recognize postal customers throughout the state.

"The Farmington/Farmington Hills Post Office appreciates your business," said Don Hall, local postmaster.

On Wednesday, more than 900 post offices will be thanking all customers officially. "We would like to encourage everyone to stop by their local post office," said Hall.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 3341 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@oconline.com.