

Voucher plan's call for teacher training debated

Editor's note: This continues a series about the November voucher proposal.

By TRACY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

If voters approve a state constitutional amendment on Nov. 7, teachers won't only give tests — they'll also take them.

The voucher amendment that's so hotly debated also provides for a change in guaranteed school funding and teacher testing for public and non-public school teachers that redeem tuition vouchers.

With vouchers, students living in school districts that fail to graduate two-thirds of their students could get vouchers to fund educations at non-public schools. The program would start with the 2001-02 school year.

Since an affirmative vote would lift Michigan's constitutional ban on vouchers, districts that graduate more than two-thirds of their students, including Farmington, could adopt vouchers through a vote of the people or the local school board.

In other words, vouchers could

Please see TEACHERS, A5

THIS WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Repeat: They'll try again to kick off the "Cruise the Grand" season in downtown Farmington — weather permitting, of course.

TUESDAY

On the agenda: The Farmington Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center on Shiawassee between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

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Write-in candidate joins school race

By TIM SMITH
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Monday's Farmington Board of Education election won't be the perfunctory re-election of two incumbents after all. Both Priscilla Brouillette and Gary Sharp still are favored to win another term on the board. But Melody Jaske's last-minute addition to the candidate field definitely should make life a lot more nerve-wracking for the incumbents on election day.

Melody Jaske filed the necessary paperwork Friday to become a write-in candidate in Monday's Farmington Board of Education election.

With 2-3 percent of the district's 69,730 registered voters expected to go out to the polls between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday, the chances improve for a successful write-in campaign.

Officially launching a write-in campaign Friday afternoon was Jaske, a parent who twice ran in Farmington school board elections. She was unsuccessful each time, in 1998 and 1999.



Melody Jaske

Jaske said the board's handling of recent issues led her to become a write-in candidate.

"I had planned to sit this one out," Jaske said Friday. "I was disappointed when the only contender who had filed (Mark Mergener), decided to withdraw, but I was still not drawn into the race."

"It was a series of events that have

Please see WRITE-IN, A5

Music for their moment



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CALDWELL

Serenade: Harrison High School graduating seniors and guests were treated to several songs by the combined choirs. For more pictures and the story about the June 4 commencements, please turn to page A8.

Campaign funding gap apparent in House race

By JONI HUBBRED
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It doesn't take much effort to find the differences among candidates for the 36th District House of Representatives seat.

Five months before the general election in November, Republican State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski faces challenges from Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi and Reform Party candidate Eric Borregard. While they're philosophically distant on a number of issues, the campaign funding gap among them resembles the Grand Canyon.

Vagnozzi, who has been dropping off written statements to local media, libraries and city halls since January, had just about \$4,000 on hand April 30. He said his May report, though not yet submitted, will include collection of an additional \$10,000 at a single fundraiser.

After months of receiving only individual contributions, he recently accepted his first political action committee donation from a pipefitters' union.

Borregard has filed a waiver with the Secretary of State's office indicating his committee does not expect to raise or spend more than \$1,000 during his campaign. The waiver excuses him from having to file public reports about his finances, until his committee receives or spends over \$1,000.

Vagnozzi and Borregard together have so far raised only about one-third the amount in Raczkowski's war chest.

In the last financial statements filed with the Secretary of State, Raczkowski's re-election committee had picked up nearly \$30,000 from Dec. 31, 1999, through Jan. 31, 2000, added to \$15,000 remaining from his fund-raising efforts in 1999.

PACs

All but a handful of the most recent

Please see FINANCES, A5

City loses 'dedicated' parks advocate

By JONI HUBBRED
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Farmington Hills lost a hard-working advocate for local parks and beautification this week with the death of Barbara McCann.

McCann, 68, died of cancer Thursday in West Bloomfield, after an extended illness.

"Barb was a very dedicated person," said former city special services director Dan Potter. "She took on a lot of tasks."

McCann founded and served as chairperson of the Friends of Heritage Park, a volunteer organization whose members have dedicated countless hours to park beautification. A member

FARMINGTON HILLS

of the Harrisville, North Farmington and Hill & Dale Garden Clubs, she was particularly interested in plantings of flowers, at the park and around Spicer House.

A former chairperson on the Parks and Recreation Commission, McCann also served on the Beautification and Tree 2000 committee. She had been involved in developing the city's Cultural Arts Master Plan, served on the Arts Council and was a member of the Osceola Yacht Club.

"She was a fine person and had a great love of parks in our community," said City Manager Steve Brock. "She

donated a nature pole that stands in Heritage Park, and that will be her legacy."

McCann served in U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1954, as a member of the 12th Air Force during the Korean conflict. A graduate of San Jose State University, she has received numerous awards and recognitions for her contributions to the community.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, June 12, at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills, with visitation from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, with a service at 7:30 p.m. at McCabe Funeral Home.

McCann is survived by her husband of 38 years, Donald; children Terence

Please see McCANN, A2

Circle of Friends

Children finally meet to cap year-long program

By TIM SMITH
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The Circle of Friends pen pal collaboration is really a straight line. It connects the hearts of children at Cloverdale Developmental Training Center in Farmington and Eisenhower Elementary School in Fraser.

That warm connection was in plain view Wednesday, during a field day at Cloverdale to conclude this year's Circle of Friends program. After nine months of interaction (through videos and craft projects more than pen pal letters), children from Cloverdale and Eisenhower finally met each other.

Getting together for the day were sixth graders from the class of Eisenhower teacher Becky Kley and 29 youngsters with mental and/or physical impairment from Cloverdale. Kley's sister, Kelly Vogelheim, is an occupational therapist at Cloverdale; Vogelheim works with children enrolled in the SMI/EXI program. (SMI stands for severely mentally impaired; EXI stands for severely multiply impaired.)

Several Eisenhower students talked glowingly about the Circle of Friends program, a first-year friendship collab-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DESSLER

Toss it in: Kyle Rehner helps Lee McGrew with the bean bag toss.

oration. They said the whole experience helped them change their perception of children who have special

needs. "It's sort of helped me learn what dis-

Please see CIRCLE, A3



Pals: Donald Stein carries his buddy, Cloverdale's Matthew Livingston, to the next event.

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