

IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDLER
Champ: Tom Smith is a first-time chili cookoff winner.

Pass the antacid: It was a full house at Pages Food & Spirits Sunday afternoon for the 6th annual Chili Cook-off. See *HomeTown Life* / C5

A step in faith: What's being built at 11 Mile and Drake roads? See *HomeTown Life* / C5.

FORE: Students at Farmington High have been working on golf art for display at a major show this weekend / A3

OPINION

Boundaries: School officials should take their time to ensure boundaries are all-inclusive / A6

Milton Rose: A man whose commitment to volunteerism should live on, but will it? / A7

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dining: Executive Chef Beat Richei of Farmington talks about the new dishes he created for DaVinci's Market, an Italian restaurant. / B6

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Seussification



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDLER
Cat in the Hat chat: Student teacher Joe Pesci reads to students on Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Flanders tips its hat to Dr. Seuss

BY TIM SMITH
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Flanders Elementary School students tipped their long, striped hats to Dr. Seuss and to the joy of reading, during a unique Read Across America program to honor the famed children's author's 97th birthday.

Of course, there was birthday cake and a school-wide rendition of the song "Dr. Seuss We Love You," but the featured attraction of the Friday, March 2, program was reading. The school's 240 students divided into 16 multi-aged groups, each stopping by two classrooms for Seuss readings, said Flanders media specialist Anne Marie Kurzyniec.

In other words, kindergartners and fifth-graders sat together on the floor to hear teachers such as Pam Green read *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day*.

Parents such as Kathy Stiebor also wore big smiles while listening to the story. Stiebor's daughter, Kahtlin, was one of 36 kindergartners (in classes taught by Cindy Walsh) to wear homemade paper tube hats, the kind popularized in the Seuss classic, *Cat in the Hat*. They wore the hats to make sure every group included kindergartners.

Please see SEUSS, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDLER
Tall topper: Kindergarten student Maria Tomlinson wears a hat almost as tall as she is.

Ox roast returns to Founders Festival

BY TIM SMITH
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The ox roast and "hospitality" tent are returning to the Farmington Founders Festival after a lengthy absence.

Farmington City Council members Monday night approved a request for a

special event permit by new Founders Festival administrator Suzanne Lichtman, clearing the way for various special activities in downtown Farmington. Among those activities is the ox roast, which will be a family-type event where patrons can enjoy food and beverages — both of the alcoholic and non-alcoholic variety.

The municipal lot on the north side of State Street on the west side of Farmington Road will be reserved for the ox roast, which will take place each evening of the festival (Thursday, July 19 through Saturday, July 21).

Mayor Bill Hartsock said it will

Please see ROAST, A4

Homeless find shelter

BY RALPH ECHTINAW
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About 400 parishioners from Our Lady of Sorrows Church are helping themselves by helping others this week as the church houses and feeds 25-30 homeless people.

The homeless people are given a place to sleep in the church basement, three meals a day, dental care, haircuts and transportation to jobs or school for one week ending Sunday morning.

This is the 12th year the church has participated in the program, which is

run by the South Oakland Shelter. The homeless people are moved from place to place throughout the year, most of the places being churches. To qualify for the program, they must be alcohol- and drug-free and working or looking for work. South Oakland Shelter keeps 75 percent of their wages and returns the money to them when they leave.

Our Lady of Sorrows parishioners get satisfaction from volunteering, said co-chair Jim Pelton, a Farmington resident. "It's a nice thing to do," he said. "And the people need a second chance. Some of it is self-inflicted and some is

Please see HOMELESS, A5

14 Mile PUD on hold

■ Lacking a full board Monday, Hills Council members tabled a draft Planned Unit Development agreement for a shopping center in the 14 Mile/Orchard Lake/Northwestern corridor.

BY JONI HUBRED
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After listening to a little over an hour's worth of testimony Monday night, Farmington Hills City Council members tabled a decision on a Planned Unit Development agreement that would bring about 320,000-square-foot of retail space to the 14 Mile/ Orchard Lake/ Northwestern area.

The motion was proposed because councilman Chris McRae had to leave the meeting, due to a commitment he couldn't reschedule. Officials wanted a full council decision on the agreement. Council members had noted at the beginning of the meeting that McRae would have to leave.

Afterwards, he said he felt terrible, but realized the importance of a full council vote.

"Nothing they presented was any different from what we'd seen at the study session," McRae said Wednesday. "I wouldn't have had a problem voting on the issue, but then the peo-

Please see TABLED, A3

Officials hope to expand grad survey

■ The results of the latest Farmington graduate survey are in, but officials say it'll take a few years of comparison to get meaningful answers.

BY TIM SMITH
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The percentage of 1999 Farmington Public Schools graduates reporting their high school experience was a fulfilling one has dropped, compared to a similar survey of 1998 grads.

But school officials caution against jumping to conclusions because of the survey comparison, outlined during the Feb. 27 school board meeting. They said one reason for the year-to-year fluctuation is the fact the number of alumni completing the survey — offered one year after graduation — was double that of the first attempt, in summer 1999.

An aggressive marketing campaign with the 2001 graduates is hoped to increase participation to as high as 30 percent, which would be considered a more meaningful sampling, said Susan Zurvalec, the district's assistant superintendent for staff and community services.

"It's a slightly less positive evaluation," Zurvalec said. "But even making a general comparison from one year to the next can be risky. It's better to have several years, so you can start

Please see SURVEY, A3

Student shot in Detroit robbery

BY JONI HUBRED
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A nine-year-old 4th grader at Lanigan Elementary School in Farmington Hills was shot Tuesday during an armed robbery attempt at his family's Detroit restaurant.

According to published reports, police are searching for two men who hit The Rikshaw, a small, take-out restaurant on Greenfield, at around 10:15 p.m. The boy was the only person wounded.

School officials sent a letter home with children on Tuesday. The boy

and his sister have been Lanigan students for three or four years, according to district spokeswoman Diane Bauman.

"Today (Wednesday), he had surgery, and the principal (Marva Turner) will visit him tomorrow," Bauman said. "The reports are very uplifting."

A fax sent to school board officials, which board chair Frank Reid said fit with notices sent throughout the school community, reported: "The good news is Mrs. Turner talked to

Please see BOY, A3

