

THE WEEK AHEAD

Founders Festival begins: A long weekend full of entertainment and exciting, family-oriented events begins Thursday, as the community's annual celebration kicks off. Thursday events include Kids Day in the Park at Shiawassee Park, craft and art shows on Grand River and the return of the Ox Roast downtown. Highlighting the festival will be Saturday's parade. Brochures are available at the Farmington Observer office, 33411 Grand River. Or for more information, call 248-470-FEST.

MONDAY

Hills City Council: Officials will consider approval of a consent judgment for development of the Holocaust Memorial Center on the Olde Orchard Theater property, located on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

TUESDAY

Farmington School Board: Officials will hold their regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. today, in the Lewis B. Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee in Farmington. An agenda was not available at press time.

INDEX

- Apartments/E9
- Arts/C1
- Automotive/G10
- Classified/E,G,H
- Classified
- Index/E4
- Crossword
- Puzzle/E5
- Jobs/G1
- Malls/C6
- Movies/C4
- New Homes/E1
- Obituaries/A8
- Real Estate/E1
- Service Guide/G9
- Sports/B1
- Taste/D1
- Travel/C8

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Student or graduate to work at computer-based sign company in Southfield.

CLASSIFIED WORKS

We got a good response. We hired all the people we needed with one run of the ad.

Southfield



Flash: David Robinson, 5 of Livonia has been riding for one year and is the smallest rider of the group. He is also very speedy.

STAFF PHOTOS BY HEATHER NEEDHAM

Unicyclists prepare for Festival parade

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
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It's hard not to get attention when you're riding a unicycle. David Brichford of Farmington Hills, along with several members of his family, will be among the performers in the July 21 Founders Festival parade in downtown Farmington.

WWW.FOUNDERSFESTIVAL.ORG

Once you get the hang of it, unicycling isn't much harder than bicycling, said Brichford, 42, who's been a unicyclist since he was 12.

"You have to lean forward and pedal fast enough to keep it underneath you," Brichford said of unicycling. But he added, "You can fall off a unicycle in any direction."

The worst unicycle related injury Brichford has suffered is a sprained ankle.

"It was nothing too dramatic," he said. Unicyclers will often perform in V-formations, with those riding shorter unicycles on the ends and those riding taller ones in the middle.

Brichford is a member of the 35-member Redford

Please see UNICYCLE, A2



Jump: Karl Brichford, 16 of Livonia has been riding for 10 years and has learned many stunts that can be done with a unicycle ... such as jumping over his friend, Jonathon Sogioian, 16 of Livonia.

Redistricting may send Rocky packing

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
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State Rep. Andrew Raczowski is still considering a bid to run for the U.S. House of Representatives and serve a proposed congressional district that would include western Oakland and Wayne counties.

Raczowski's residence of Farmington Hills was not included in the redrawn congressional district approved by lawmakers last week, which is awaiting Gov. John Engler's signature. This means Raczowski, who lives in Farmington Hills, would have to move in order to live within the

new district.

The Republican-dominated legislature controlled redistricting, but the plans could face a federal court challenge from Democrats. District boundaries are redrawn every 10 years to reflect census changes.

Raczowski said he wants to do what's in his constituents' best interest.

"If I do run for Congress, it will certainly be with my constituents in mind," he said. "I would never do anything to harm my constituents — these are the people that I love."

Initially, the House Redistricting and Elections Committee was going to

vote on an amendment that would have included Farmington Hills in the redrawn district. Raczowski requested removing the amendment.

"I chose to withdraw because some senators had a very definite remark that they did not want Farmington Hills on the map," he said.

Raczowski declined commenting on whether or not he felt the sentiment was politically motivated.

Under the proposed redistricting, Farmington Hills is now within the district of Congressman Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Hills. The popular Republican has held the seat for nearly a decade.

State Sen. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said he is considering running for the seat, but is waiting to see how a court challenge pans out. So far he has raised more than \$100,000 for a congressional bid.

"Obviously it would be very inviting and I would be open to that opportunity," said McCotter, whose state senate district includes Redford, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville and part of Canton. Getting support from Oakland County voters would be a cinch.

"I think I'm already on my way towards that," McCotter said.

Please see ROCKY, A1

Bellacino's comes to Farmington

BY SUZ BUCK
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A new restaurant and pizzeria will locate in the former Baker Street Draperies site on Grand River in the Village Commons plaza.

The owners of Bellacino's Pizza and Grinders plan a Labor Day grand opening, according to Joe Guido, Guido and Ken Balcom are co-franchisees.

The franchise, located in 15 states, offers a variety of food items which can be prepared in 10 minutes.

"We can get you in and out," Guido said.

One of the store's trademark items is the grinder, a cooked submarine sand-

Please see BELLACINO, A6

Sign of the times



Rouge reminder: Sign shop technician Daren Collins helps city manager Steve Brock hang the sign for Minnow Pond Creek Monday. The signs draw attention to Rouge River watershed protection efforts.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEEREA