

THE WEEK AHEAD



Friend in need: Nick Hippler, a member of the Farmington High School baseball team, was critically injured in a baseball tournament held in Belgium. Friends are holding a car wash from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Shell Station of Farmington on the corner of Power Road and Grand River. All proceeds will help the family with expenses.

FRIDAY

Kick back, relax: The Downtown Development Authority closes out its annual Celebrate the Sounds concert series today at 7:30 p.m., with a performance by bluegrass artists the Baldch Mountain Ramblers, who will play under the gazebo in Village Commons on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

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ANIMAL LOVER
Needed to work part time in local boarding kennel.

"I got a great response, over 15 interviews."
Kathy, Farmington Hills

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Group hug



Family ties: At Community Living Centers, the days' events include a wide variety of activities and special moments. Pictured left, staffer Adam Guest gets a hug from resident Anthony Carethers. Below left, Michelle Cihelka gathers plates to set the tables for dinner; and at right, Charles Tybinka shows his artwork. Their home, on Tuck Road, provides them with a base that combines independent living with the level of care residents need.

STAFF PHOTO BY DILL DENZLER



Living Centers help residents build pride

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.hometown.com

It's hard not to notice the open, sociable atmosphere in this home. Exuberance increases as the family members return from work. There are hugs for visitors and an overall eagerness to talk about the day.

Sixteen people live in this house on Tuck Road in Farmington Hills, the same number as in an identical house next door. The group homes operated by Community Living Centers are designed to serve people with developmental disabilities.

Charles Tybinka, a resident, is known for his ability to look at a picture in a book and then reproduce it in paint. "I draw different things that get into my brain," Tybinka said.

Finding each resident's talents, whether hidden or simple, helps to build pride.

Please see GROUP, A2



Local senior concerned over M-CARE changes

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@oe.hometown.com

Recent Medicare coverage cutbacks by managed health care organizations are worrying local seniors.

Even before the University of Michigan Health System's managed care group M-CARE announced changes July 24 in its care plan, Don Mercer of Farmington Hills heard changes were

coming.

A retired Teamster, Mercer, 74, said he'd heard that M-CARE was dropping Beaumont Hospital from its list of available primary care providers.

Tim George, a spokesman for M-CARE marketing, said July 23 of a continued partnership with Beaumont. "At this point we're still under evaluation."

"I'm happy with my doctor at Beaumont, Dr. (Michael) Eidelman," Mercer

said. He's registered complaints with state insurance regulators and the Michigan Attorney General.

Then on July 24, M-CARE announced in newspaper ads some changes in its senior coverage. Yet to be resolved is the future of M-CARE's partnership with the Beaumont Hospital system.

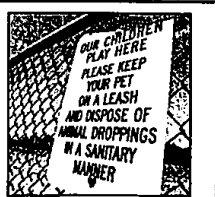
The announcement followed similar cutbacks of supplemental Medicare coverage by Health Alliance Plan and

Blue Care Network.

Mercer said he's concerned he'll lose his doctor, and that he'll pay more. "He's (Eidelman) great, he just cares about people," Mercer explained. "It's a bad deal, we're really getting hurt on this one — it's going to cost a lot more money."

M-CARE announced July 24 it will end enrollment to its supplemental

Please see M-CARE, A4



NFHS field is not a dog park

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.hometown.com

When it comes to walking dogs on school property, Farmington school officials are asking owners to consider issues of common

Please see DOGS, A3

Summer sizzles

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@oe.hometown.com

The summer sun is mighty. But not as mighty as Madison and Olivia Quinn, when it comes to quickly and totally rendering two ice cream cones.

Madison, 7, and Olivia, 5, joined baby-sitter Sarah Dickey outside the Silver Dairy last week as the megahot wave moderated enough to make a mid-day jaunt for ice cream a pleasant experience.

They were among several Farmington area residents enjoying moderate high-70s temperatures after a heat wave had pushed temperatures to the mid 90s one week ago.

"During that hot stretch we were

Please see SIZZLE, A4



Summer scoop: Farmington Hills resident Peter Bertera takes a big bite of an ice cream cone at the Silver Dairy on Grand River. The Dairy and other businesses found themselves swamped over the past week by customers looking to beat the heat.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CAENENEA

Newsroom: 248-477-5450