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Voters tired of negative campaigns

BY SUE BUCK AND PAUL PACE STAFF WRITERS

Bryony Benditz isn't a teacher but education issues figured into her voting decisions Tuesday.

She, like others who voted at one of the two precincts located at the Farmington Training Center, put thought into how

they would cast their ballots.

Benditz voted for Jennifer Granholm because she liked her views on education and smaller class sizes. She voted no on Proposal 4, but only because she didn't want to see students lose scholarship money.

"I don't know if someone can tell someone not to smoke," Benditz said.

She voted for Proposal K, the arts tax, because of its "cultural aspects." Though successful locally, the measure failed to gain the needed majority in both Oakland and Wayne Counties.

Marsha Means found the state proposals as interesting or more of a draw than the candidates running for office.

"I'm 60 years old and fighting for pre-

scription and health help," Means said.

She voted for Granholm and voted yes to reallocate the tobacco settlement revenue received by the state from cigarette manufacturers.

"It should go back to health and helping people kick the habit," Means said. "It should go to help people."

PLEASE SEE COMMENTS, A7



ELECTION RESULTS
The vote totals (unofficial) below show how voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills cast their ballots. The check mark shows the overall winner in the election.

Governor
Dick Posthumus, R. 12,098
✓ Jennifer Granholm, D. 13,959
Douglas Campbell, G. 188
Joseph Plichak, U.S.T. 74

Secretary of State
✓ Terri Lynn Land, R. 14,297
Melvin Butch Hollowell, D. 10,036
Ray Zarno, G. 316
Charles F. Conces, U.S.T. 74

Attorney General
✓ Mike Cox, R. 10,785
Gary C. Peters, D. 12,009
Merry Jay Kaufman, G. 435
Gerald Van Sickle, U.S.T. 180

U.S. Senate
Andrew Raczkowski, R. 11,221
✓ Carl Levin, D. 14,525
Eric Borregard, G. 177
John S. Mangopoulos, R. 97
Doug Dern, H. 60

State Proposals
Prop. 02-1, Election Law
Yes. 9,221
✓ No. 15,514

Prop. 02-2, Sewer Bond
✓ Yes. 16,091
No. 8,497

Prop. 02-3, Binding Arbitration
Yes. 8,555
✓ No. 15,323

Prop. 02-4, Reallocation of tobacco settlement
Yes. 7,600
✓ No. 17,644

County Proposal
Prop. K, Arts Tax
Yes. 13,079
✓ No. 11,438

U.S. House
9th District
✓ Joe Knollenberg, R. 14,699
David Fink, D. 10,598
Robert Schubring, L. 481

State Senate
14th District
Macr Wilkins, R. 11,049
✓ Gilda Jacobs, D. 12,687
Lloyd Sherman, L. 626

State House
37th District
Valerie Knol, R. 12,391
✓ Aldo Vagnozzi, D. 13,148

Oakland County
6th Circuit Court
✓ Martha Anderson, R. 8,352
John Brennan, R. 8,404
✓ Daniel O'Brien, D. 8,139
James O'Reilly, L. 7,224

County Commission
14th District
✓ Michael Rogers, R. 7,641
Ryan J. Gesund, D. 5,082

15th District
✓ David Moffitt, R. 6,157
Jim Nash, D. 5,248

17th District Court Judge
Annette Raczkowski 9,064
✓ Jim Brady 11,355

More election coverage inside:

- Granholm Michigan's first woman governor, A6
- Cox claims victory in Attorney General race, A6
- Three state ballot proposals defeated, A6
- Carl Levin breezes to easy win, A6
- Reaction to election, A8



Aldo Vagnozzi speaks with supporter Susan Averbuch during his victory party.

Second time's the charm Vagnozzi credits lots of shoe leather

BY PAUL R. PACE STAFF WRITER

State Rep.-elect Aldo Vagnozzi said his intense door-to-door campaign helped lead him to a win Tuesday.

So it's only fitting that he plans to walk around some of subdivisions in the area and thank some of his supporters personally this week.

The former Farmington Hills mayor said a strong grass-roots effort led to his victory against Republican opponent Valerie Knol, 33, of Farmington.

In a race that became heated with dueling press conferences and the backlashes of negative campaigning, Vagnozzi said people who knew him

PLEASE SEE ALDO, A7

Knollenberg aims for new heights

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER STAFF WRITER

Joe Knollenberg has his sights set on goals he hasn't reached before.

The congressman, re-elected for his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, is hoping to be appointed chairman of the Energy and Water Committee.

"That would help me work on behalf of the 9th District, where we have water, energy and manufacturing concerns. They are all related," he said.

After his acceptance speech at his campaign party at Centerpoint Marriott in Pontiac Tuesday night, Knollenberg said he's looking forward to a couple days off before he gets back to work.

Knollenberg, a Republican from Bloomfield Township, defeated trial attorney and West Bloomfield Township resident David Fink.

Fink had mounted the most serious challenge to Knollenberg since Knollenberg, a former insurance salesman, was first elected to Congress.

PLEASE SEE KNOLLENBERG, A5

Knol surprised by State House loss

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

At almost 11 p.m. election night, with her cell phone at her side, 37th District state representative candidate Valerie Knol debated when she would call her parents in Grand Rapids.

The news wasn't good. "They came here every weekend, stayed at my house, and helped out every Saturday," said Knol, a 10-year Farmington Republican. "They couldn't come in today. My mom had to teach today."

PLEASE SEE KNOL, A5



Valerie Knol leaves her gathering late in the evening; that's Farmington Republican organizer Christopher Cummins at right.

Everest presentation offered tonight

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

One man's attraction and intrigue with Mount Everest, known to the natives as Sagor Matha, the Mountain Goddess, drew him to Farmington this week.

Nima Tenzing, who was part of the 1953 expedition with Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander, and the 1963 expedition with American Jim Whittaker, will give a

slide presentation at 6 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at The Benchmark Outdoor Outfitters. The store is located at 32715 Grand River, across from the Burger King.

While in Farmington, Tenzing also plans to have dinner at Everest Express on Orchard Lake in Farmington. Restaurant owners tout it as the only Nepalese restaurant in Michigan and beyond.

Tenzing, a Sherpa or guide by ethnicity, was a porter with the first American team

to summit Mount Everest in 1963. Tenzing was assisted by Scott Reid of Birmingham during a Farmington Observer interview. Reid climbed 24,000 feet up Mount Everest in 1983.

"That was tough enough for me," he said, adding the mountain top was at 29,000 feet.

Tenzing was born in the Nepali village of Thami, which has an elevation of 14,000

PLEASE SEE SHERPA, A2

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INDEX

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------------|----|
| Apartments | G4 | Jobs | G7 |
| Arts | B1 | Movies | B6 |
| Automotive | B11 | Obituaries | A5 |
| Classified | E, G, H | Real Estate | E1 |
| Classified Index | G2 | Service Guide | G9 |
| Crossword | G3 | Sports | D1 |

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