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FARMINGTON Observer

November 10, 2002

75 cents

VOLUME 116 NUMBER 15

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Say YES! to taking the MEAP

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

School districts vary in how they will offer the community a chance to take a sample Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.

The MEAP tests are the primary component of Michigan's new school accreditation system called Education YES! The system includes MEAP scores and trends, plus other important learning indicators like family involvement, school facilities and teacher quality.

The MEAP tests will also serve as the basis for assessing the federal initiative, "No Child Left Behind."

In the Farmington Public School District, the test will be offered 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas, just north of Grand River. Parents and other interested citizens can either just drop in or, to ensure enough materials are available, call the school community relations office at (248) 489-3349, according to Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

There will be a power-point discussion followed by the 90-minute test which participants will self-correct.

TEST TIME

Some districts, like South Redford, PLEASE SEE TAKE TEST, A7

OUR TOWNS

Latest counts

Results from Farmington Hills elections published in Thursday's Observer were incomplete and did not include absentee ballots. The Observer will re-publish accurate totals in the Thursday, November 14 edition.

Bernstein elected

Farmington Hills attorney Richard Bernstein, outspoken advocate for people with disabilities and special education, won election to the Wayne State Board of Governors Tuesday.

Bernstein, a Birmingham resident, works with his father, Sam, at their law firm on Northwestern Highway. In a pre-election interview, the new college official said his



Bernstein

candidacy was also a way for him to advocate to improve the state's special education system, which he credited with helping him achieve his dream of being an attorney.

Climbing show

Windsor native Shaun Parent will host a free ice climbing slide show and presentation at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Benchmark Outdoor Outfitters in Farmington. A free day of ice climbing instruction for two will also be given away.

Parent is the source for Great Lakes ice climbing information and is listed in National Geographic's Ultimate Adventure Sourcebook 2001. Parent's school, North of Superior Climbing Company, was named one of the six best places to learn to ice climb in North America.

The Benchmark is located at 32715 Grand River. Call (248) 477-8116.

Flyer at the finish

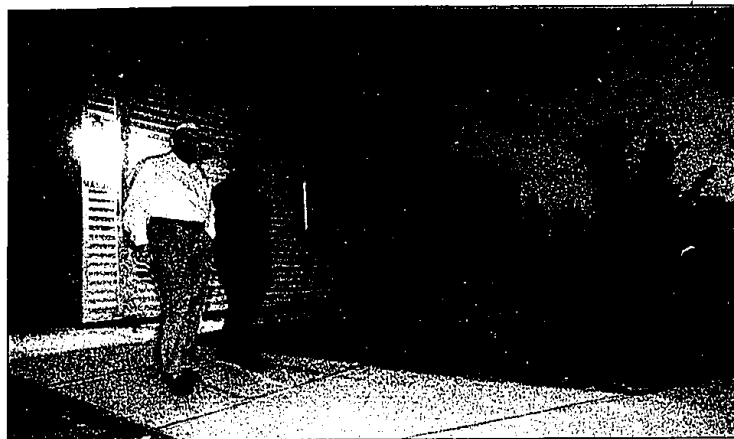
A flyer sponsored by the Church and Truth Project, which lists a Plymouth post office box, ended up tucked inside car doors in the Farmington city lot behind Page's Food and Sprouts on Election Eve.

According to city officials, whoever left them there broke the law.

"Jennifer Granholm supports the destruction of this child. Do you?" the handbill read. It featured a photo of a baby in utero.

Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said he didn't know of any other areas of the city where the flyers were circulated.

"It's illegal to put handbills inside car doors and on windshields," Goss said.



Shameen Ahmed and Mohammed Rahman leave the Tawheed Center following evening prayers. In the distance, at the far corner of the building is a silver of the moon that signifies the beginning of the month of Ramadan.

Ramadan fasting teaches discipline

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, started Wednesday.

In Farmington Hills, along with the rest of the Muslim community in America and around the world, people begin a monthlong fast where members abstain from food, drink and other sensual pleasures from dawn to sunset.

For Sohail Khan, member of the Tawheed Center on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills, Ramadan is some-

thing he looks forward to, even though it's a hardship.

"It teaches me self-restraint and commitment," he said. "It takes me to a higher level of spirituality and gives me a renewed sense of commitment. It keeps us going for the rest of year."

The fasting is performed to learn discipline, self-restraint and generosity, while obeying God's commandments, he said.

Fasting for the month is one of the five pillars of Islam, along with the declaration of faith in the oneness of God, five daily prayers, charity and pilgrimage to

Makkah.

Khan said the fast is also a way to feel the hunger and thirst of the less fortunate in the world.

"We can associate and relate to the hardships of those people and learn to reach out and help them," he said.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Khan said people not of the Muslim faith are welcome to visit the center and learn more about Ramadan and the reli-

PLEASE SEE RAMADAN, A7

Ink leaks through ballots

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Glitches in the voting process in Farmington Hills were limited on Election Day.

A 55-percent voter turnout in the Hills kept election volunteers and the Clerk's Office busy, said Hills Clerk Kathy Dorman.

But some of the ballots had ink leak through, causing people to have to redo their ballots, she said.

Other clerks in the county are complaining about the ballots, said Dorman. She said there's a state task force to regarding the printing process of the ballots for optical scanners to address the problem.

If ink bleeds to other side of the ballot the

optical scanning system tends to report the ballot as an over vote and it must be redone.

"We shouldn't have to deal with that," said Dorman. "We need to do something better with these ballots."

The only other problem, Dorman said, was having school open on Election Day were most of the city's precincts are located.

Finding a parking space for school hours is very difficult and she found out personally herself Wednesday visiting various precincts.

"Years ago, schools use to be closed (on Election Day)," she said.

"I see cars drive in and out because they can't find a parking space," she said.

PLEASE SEE BALLOTS, A6

Cowley's plans February opening

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The re-building of Cowley's Old Village Inn on Grand River is on schedule, with plans to set steel Monday and enclose the building by Thanksgiving Day.

A "soft" re-opening is planned for February. A black tie charity benefit event is also under discussion for a grand opening, which will be invitation only.

"A unique feature is that food will be on a wood burning grill which will cast an aroma throughout Farmington and will make people want to eat," said Greg Cowley, who owns the establishment.

Cowley spoke at a council meeting where council members approved notification to

the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to transfer stock ownership. Cowley's parents own controlling interest in the corporation and the children split the rest.

"The reconstruction of the Cowley's Old Village Inn will be a significant economic development improvement for downtown Farmington. It will add a food venue and entertainment location which for many people will be a destination location," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauffoff.

Cowley announced at a recent Farmington City Council meeting that his father, John, had reluctantly retired. Cowley's original building, erected in 1940, was razed to make way for the new two-story pub.

"I'm thinking we found every water line

PLEASE SEE COWLEY, A6



Brad Vroom, an assistant manager at Damman Hardware, displays 32 gallon trash cans that comply with local ordinances.

Trash size limits enforced

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

While the allure of big garbage cans with wheels looks like a smart way to take care of your trash, it won't mean much if your trash man ignores it.

The city of Farmington Hills is witnessing an increase in the use of oversized garbage containers, which will not be emptied by the waste hauler.

Garbage containers in Farmington and Farmington Hills are limited to the 32-gallon size - no 18, and/or butts.

Lately, lots of people are calling the Department of Public Works Department complaining about their cans not being emptied.

"And always the reason is (the

container) is not the allowable size," said Jill Pines, special projects coordinator for Farmington Hills.

Size limitations will be strictly enforced and violations will result in unemptied trash containers left at the curbside with a note stating the container was too large, said Pines.

The city is sending out notices and posters to area hardware stores so they can post the information in their trash can sales aisles.

The 32-gallon limit has been a Hills city policy since its inception in 1973.

The limit is also in place for the city of Farmington, which also

PLEASE SEE TRASH CAN, A7

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LOOKING AHEAD

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