

## Math added to some surveys

# School board approves changes in district's testing

The Farmington Board of Education approved changes in the districtwide testing program Tuesday night.

The changes will add math to reading and spelling survey screen tests already administered at the second through fifth grade levels.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills, formerly administered at the end of sixth grade, is being taken out of the district program while the state-required Michigan Educational Assessment Test was added this year for 10th graders.

School psychiatrist Judy Niehoff chaired a nine-member committee asked by school officials to make the districtwide test program more consistent. The committee presented the board of education with its recommendations two weeks ago after a year of study.

Mrs. Niehoff said the Iowa Test of Basic Skills was eliminated from the program because it is administered at the end of sixth grade and therefore of no value to elementary school teachers.

Approved tests for the 1980-1981 school year are:

- Metropolitan Readiness Test, administered in kindergarten.
- Survey Tests in reading, spelling and math for grades two, three, four and five.
- Michigan Educational Assessment Tests, grades four, seven and 10.
- Cognitive Abilities Test and post survey test in reading, math and spelling, grade five.
- Dunckel Math Test, grade six.
- Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test, grade seven.

• Differential aptitude test, Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis test, Gates-McGinnitie Reading Test, grade eight.

• Computational Arithmetic test, grade 11. Also optional PSAT, SAT, and ACT college entrance qualifying exams.

IN OTHER business Tuesday, the board of education gave Chappell Electric Co. of West Bloomfield a contract to act as staff electrician for the district.

"We do not have a licensed electrician on our staff," said William Prisk, assistant superintendent of finance.

"This would eliminate a delay period in getting repair work completed."

The \$15,000 annual contract was unanimously approved by the seven-member board.

Chappell Electric Co. was first hired by the district to complete work in the O.E. Dunckel Junior High renovation project and has been contracted for work on several occasions since.

The board also approved buying a \$745 16mm movie projector to be used in the community education program.

The board asked school administrators to seek an appraisal of the High-meadow School property. The school is scheduled to close permanently at the end of the current school year because of declining enrollment.

School administrators said several formal and informal requests for the purchase of the school property have been made.

## Singers take note of park's auditions

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Auditions are the stuff showbiz dreams are made of.

Broadway plays sing of the joy and jitters inspired by try-outs. And a bit of that nerve-shattering magic surfaced in the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills last week as the Cedar Point amuse-

ment park in Sandusky, Ohio went on a talent hunt.

That hunt continues between 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 14 in Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester. The two stops are part of a 17-city tour to find 150 persons for 16 different shows this summer in the park.

The largest crowds showed up in Ann Arbor, the evening before the Farmington Hills auditions.

Only a small number of hopefuls — 17 — showed up in Farmington Hills to show off their acting, dancing and singing abilities to Marjorie E. Cronewett, the parks manager for its live show department.

Ms. Cronewett has had organ grinders with their own monkeys and belly-dancers with their own wiggles audition for parts in Cedar Point's productions.

"We try to discourage it. There's no place for it," she says as she readies to listen to the next audition in the Holiday Inn banquet room.

THE FIVE THEME theaters in the park concentrate on old-fashioned American and exuberant shows filled with songs and dance. Magic acts and Keystone cops comedies are also produced.

The songs sung during the audition were straight out of old-fashioned musicals and sing-a-longs.

Jeanine Head, 24, of Dearborn, filled her audition with the melancholy tune "You Love to See Me Crying." She has been pursuing a theater career for the past two years and has a special spot in her heart for musical comedy and period pieces.

It's not surprising that she has had parts in Greenfield Village productions and a musical revue put on by Somerset Dinner Theater.

A promotion's assistant at Greenfield Village, she graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in history.

But she soon discovered that she preferred theater and has pursued that goal ever since.

"I want to enjoy it and to keep on going in it as far as I can," she said.

Another Greenfield Village stage veteran, Lori Mills, 23, also of Dearborn, bounced into the audition.

She was bitten by the theatrical bug at an early age. "Ever since I was in the Hansel and Gretel chorus" — and hasn't experienced many detours.

She's worked as a technician and a producer for Greenfield Village but wants to more performing experience to round out her abilities.

"I'd love to do more musical work. I need to expand myself."

As she looks at the line of hopefuls parading before her, Ms. Cronewett watches their attitude as well as their ability.

"I want an attitude as they present themselves that says they're good."



Jeanine Head sings a melancholy tune for the talent scouts from Cedar Point.



Michael Sartor (left), Cedar Point's musical director, works with Lori Mills during auditions. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

RUN, RUN, RUN, pant, pant, pant. Who were those runners trotting down Farmington Road this morning? Never fear, Angles has the inside track on the identity of those Thursday morning runners. Better yet, Angles knows why they were running down the road. No, they weren't riders SEMTA left behind. They were Boston Marathon veterans who are running from Twelve Oaks Mall to Fairlane Mall in Dearborn as part of the shopping centers' celebration of the Winter Olympics. They are scheduled to leave Twelve Oaks on 12 Mile in Novi, trot down 12 Mile to Farmington Road until Five Mile, hit Five Mile until Beech-Daly and after a short jog swing onto Ford Road in Dearborn Heights. After turning down Evergreen they will swing onto Hubbard Drive and make a triumphant entry into Fairlane Mall. The run begins at 10:30 a.m. and comes to a finish around 2:30 p.m.

For running fans in the area, IA briefly lists the names and times of the Boston Marathon vets who trotted through town. Bill Carey, 55, 6 feet, 170 pounds, best time in Boston Marathon, 4 minutes; Dr. Jerry Coyle, 51, 6 feet, 172 pounds, best time, 2:13; Chuck Davey, 54, 5 feet 9 inches, 150 pounds, best time, 2:59; Don Dibble, 53, 6 feet, 170 pounds, best time, 3:14; Frank Kelley, 50, 5 feet 8 inches, 150 pounds, 3:13; Bob Kieiss, 50, 6 feet 2 inches, 185 pounds, 3:07.

After the running's over, there will be a transfer of the Olympic flag and the lighting of the perennial torch at Fairlane. Among the local politicians on hand for the ceremony will be Farmington Mayor William Hartsock and Farmington Hills Mayor Joanne Soronen. (Somewhat it seems unusual to IA that none of the politicians are running in this one. It would seem appropriate in a presidential election year, wouldn't it?)

B'NAI BRITH Barristers are conducting a dinner to honor five new federal judges serving this area. The \$20-a-plate event fetes the following judges: Patricia Boyle, Avern Cohn, Julian Cook Jr., Anna Diggs Taylor and Stewart Newblat. Sen. Donald Riegle will be the guest speaker at the dinner, 6 p.m., Feb. 11 in Congregation Adat Shalom, Farmington Hills. For reservations or further information call Steve Cooper at 352-8090.

SENIORS CAN obtain tax assistance at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the Gathering Place in Mercy Center, 11 Mile near Middlebelt. The service is provided yearly with the assistance of the American Association for Retired Persons.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to work during Dance-a-thon '80, a 12-hour dancing marathon conducted March 2 at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills to benefit the American Cancer Society. Volunteers call 557-5353.

YOU MAY BE eligible for financial assistance with your winter fuel bills. The Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP) will provide \$280 for eligible persons using natural gas and \$320 for eligible persons using fuel oil or other heating sources. To be eligible, the total household income cannot exceed the following limits for non-farm families: family of 1, \$4,250; 2, \$5,625; 3, \$7,000; 4, \$8,375. For farm families, the limits are as follows: 1, \$3,838; 2, \$4,800; 3, \$5,963; 4, \$7,125. If you think you qualify, sign up for assistance on Feb. 15 at the Gathering Place at Mercy Center. An energy worker will be there to take your name. Bring proof of your income and a copy of your fuel bill in your name. A letter documenting Social Security income can be obtained by calling the Social Security Administration at 493-1111. Renters may be eligible, too. For further information call Maggie Loidas at 474-1407.

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION activity for the mildly to moderately handicapped, ages 6 to 18, will be sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. The schedule alternates between 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays; 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and 5 to 7 p.m., Thursdays from Feb. 9 to May 21 at Shawwassee Recreation Center, 20415 Shawwassee and Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile. There is a \$14 fee for two or three days of activity per week. Activities include crafts, gym and field trips to Metropolitan Airport, cross country skiing, U of M Exhibit Museum, Young People's Concert at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and similar excursions. Transportation is provided for the trips. Registration can be made at the Hills Parks and Rec office, 31555 11 Mile in the city hall complex. For further information call 474-6115.

HURRY, HURRY Send in your nomination for Unsung Hero. Help us sing out in favor of someone who helps others without a lot of fanfare. Send your name and the hero's name, address, and phone number to the Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. Tell us about your nominee. Remember, our choice will be based upon what you have to say about your unsung hero. Deadline for nominations is Feb. 15.

## GIFT IDEAS FOR VALENTINES

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