

Pupil test scores generally on rise

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Reading scores for fourth graders increased from 90.5 last year to 91 this year. Seventh grade reading scores were raised from 90.2 to 91.8 while the 10th grade scores decreased from 90.9 to 89.1.

School officials prefer to review MEAP scores over several years, viewing the skill trend. Using scores from 1980 and comparing them with 1986 numbers, math scores show a nine-point increase for the fourth grade, a five-point increase in seventh grade and a four-point increase at the 10th grade level. Fourth grade reading scores show a 10-point spread, while fourth and 10th grades showed a two- and three-point increase over the four years.

Each district also compares its numbers with statewide results, usually not distributed from the state until January, according to Mahalak. She said it is considered more important to compare results in each individual district to get a true analysis of student skills locally.

A TOTAL of 2,288 Farmington students were tested this fall over a two-week period, Mahalak said, about 100 more than were tested during the 1985 school year. The addition of a required science test category caused a bit of a time problem for individual teachers administering the tests, she added.

Districts are given one week to administer the tests, usually done at the end of September by individual teachers, and one additional week for building reading specialists and high school counselors to give make-up tests.

Spreading the league message

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Metrovision cable broadcast the league's informational programs on the three state proposals before the Nov. 4 election but it was not seen by West Bloomfield viewers, DePorter said.

"We're in the middle of our finance drive, and we're always looking for new members. Our \$25 membership includes many publications from national, state and Detroit Metro Area LWV, which cover Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Porter said. Besides the phone calls, meetings and a mailbox full of publications she must keep up with as LWV president, she enjoys sewing, bowling and working on the cable-TV programs.

Of the league's election materials, she said, "Ballots are getting unwieldy." Now with Nov. 4 past, she looks forward to working on the state

health care study scheduled for consensus by all leagues in January.

To contact the local league, call 855-0467. For other citizen information, the League of Women Voters of Michigan has a toll-free line at 800-292-5823 weekdays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DePorter seeks member observers who will attend community gov-

ernmental meetings and report on them to the league.

There are also board vacancies for someone interested in public relations and international relations.

A number of league members, DePorter notes, hold state and local elected offices. Many others have gone on to school and careers inspired by their league activities.

County economic picture bright

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"The only area in the state to show a net gain in manufacturing jobs," Grimes said.

IN THE TWO years ahead, they predicted 38,700 new jobs in Oakland. They gave this breakdown for 1988:

- Total private employment will be 519,000, up from the current 480,300.
- Manufacturing will employ 112,400 compared to the current 112,200 (rounded off). Transportation equipment manufacturing actually will be down a net of nearly 2,000.
- Non-manufacturing, the other basic component of the total job picture, will be up to 406,800 from the current 368,100. Services, trade and finance will be the largest components.

Detroit, Pontiac and Flint "merely amplify what has been an ongoing process (the loss of manufacturing jobs) here in Michigan since at least the end of the 1952 recession." The layoffs of 17,750 GM workers will be reduced to 12,550 by the absorption of a quarter of them in other plants.

Supplemental unemployment benefits and GM-UAW training programs also will help maintain the family incomes of those who are laid off, minimizing the impact on retail trade, Cray said.

The layoffs will cost Oakland County less than 1 percent of its manufacturing jobs, Grimes said.

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