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along the Gulf, 1D



Wrestling
results, 1C

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never ending, 3A

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BREAKING bread together.

Detroit Red Wings coach Jacques Demers will be guest speaker at the Farmington Area Jaycees 21st annual Community Leadership Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19 at Glen Oaks Country Park.

The breakfast is the Farmington area's version of the Presidential Breakfast.

The program will include the presentation of several service awards honoring local business people's contributions to the Farmington Area Jaycees.

Cost for the buffet-style breakfast is \$9.50. For reservations, call the Jaycee hot line: 477-5227.

Jan. 17-23 is Jaycee Week in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

IMAGE conscious. The Farmington Education Association, which represents employees in several departments of Farmington Public Schools, will receive the E. Dale Kennedy Award Feb. 4 for "outstanding achievements in public relations."

The award will be given by the union's parent group, the Michigan Education Association, at a conference at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week - Assaults with baseball bats, property destruction, bullying, shouting obscenities, and car vandalism are some of the disruptive acts teenagers are accused of committing along northern Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. A community meeting is planned to combat the rowdiness.

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The CLASSIFIEDS

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Area harbors hostile image, says NAACP

Reward posted
in vandalism case, 6A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

An official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People believes the Farmington area harbors a hostile image toward blacks.

Couple looks to ministry

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Derwin Success and his family will probably leave Farmington.

"I'd like to be on the outside looking in. Within the next few months, it looks like I'll be leaving Farmington, perhaps the state," Success told members of the Cultural Awareness Committee Wednesday.

Police continue to investigate two incidents at the Farmington home of Dianna and Derwin Success, where windows were broken and aluminum

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ton-Farmington Hills community has a hostile image to overcome.

"You have a perception to overcome," said Robert Willis, president of the NAACP southern Oakland County branch. "You have to somehow get to the world and say, 'We are not hostile.' I think you have an uphill task."

A major public relations effort is needed to let blacks know the community is receptive to having them as neighbors and members of the community, Willis said.

"Often, it takes a crisis to at least start something," Willis said.

He was referring to the recent obscenities and racial slurs spray-painted on the Farmington home of Dianna and Derwin Success, a biracial couple, who live on Shiawassee near Farmington High School, west of Orchard Lake Road.

Willis and Derwin Success attended the Cultural Awareness Committee meeting Wednesday in Farmington Hills City Hall to discuss the racially motivated vandalism.

James Agnew, chairman of the relatively new community-based committee, prefaced the discussion: "This committee's purpose started out never to have to deal with issues like this."

The purpose, he said, is to create cultural awareness.

"We felt a need for this committee."

FACED WITH the incident, however, Agnew and fellow committee members jumped right in to tackle the issue.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Debra Hill, a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier, Farmington while dressed for the cold weather delivers mail along her route on Lakeway in er.

Hardy carriers brave wintry blast

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Even last week's Arctic Express didn't stop Farmington-area mail carriers from completing their neighborhood rounds.

But it might have taken them longer than usual.

"If they need an extra break, we tell them to feel free to do so. No one is going to jump on them for that," said Farmington/Farmington Hills postmaster Kenneth Harris.

"It's the time of year they really earn their pay," he added. "It's certainly nice to be out when it's 70 degrees, but I certainly sympathize with them this time of year."

Carriers are cautioned to dress in layers.

"They all have their own unique way of fighting the cold," Harris said.

"One carrier, for example, wears two pairs of socks, two pairs of long johns and three pairs of gloves."

PROPER FOOTWEAR also is important, Harris said.

The only required dress is their outerwear.

Carriers also advised to stay inside their vehicles when warming them.

"The temptation is to wait where it's warm. But because of their age, those vehicles could jump into gear and take off. We

had that happen when I first got here 12 years ago," Harris said.

It might be cold while sitting in a just-started truck, but braving the elements is "better than the vehicle jumping forward or backward and hitting an employee or a customer," he said.

No carrier has been frostbitten this year or last.

Remember to keep approaches to door and roadside mailboxes clear of ice and snow "so we don't have slip, trip and fall incidents," Harris said.

"It's easy to look at carriers from the warmth of a living room," he said. "But this time of year is tough on them. Falling is something we are especially concerned about."

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Warning issued for lead in water

By Casey Hana
and Tom Henderson
staff writers

The federal government will require cities, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, to notify residents of possibly dangerous levels of lead in their drinking water.

The risk of lead is worse in houses less than five years old, according to officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who ruled on the issue recently.

The EPA has already notified the state health department, which, in turn, will notify local officials, according to Jim Cleland, deputy chief of the water supply division of the state Department of Health. City officials contacted in the Observer

area had not yet received notification of any EPA ruling.

"The contribution of lead from drinking water is more substantial than they originally thought," explained Cleland. He said he was aware of the EPA ruling, and that state officials were currently making plans to distribute the information to local governments.

"It used to be that everyone thought lead (levels in humans) was from gas fumes or things like kids eating paint, but now we realize a lot of it comes from drinking water."

Officials stressed they don't consider current lead levels in water to be cause for alarm. Michigan's water isn't very corrosive, which reduces the risk, said Cleland.

The problem is restricted to water

pipes plus the connecting lines between houses and the outside water mains. Lead contamination is usually easy and inexpensive to correct, officials said.

Though nearly all houses today have copper plumbing, lead often

seeps into the water from the solder used to connect pipes. Lead is also present in flux, a material used to evenly distribute solder around pipe joints.

In most cases, the danger can be averted simply by running the cold-

water tap for a minute or two in the morning to flush out lead deposits that may have built up overnight.

Experts also warn that hot or warm water carries higher levels of

Red Cross seeking blood donors

Give the gift of life, says the American Red Cross. Give blood.

Because of a critical post-holiday blood shortage nationwide threatening many elective surgeries, a special bloodmobile is planned for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, in the Boistford General Hospital Administration Building, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

"We're appealing especially to O type donors," said Cliff Taylor, Red Cross spokesman. "It's the most common blood type. It's also universal. When we're short on other blood types, we use O."

"But we're appealing to donors

of any type."

Anyone between 17 and 70 weighing 110 pounds and in good general health can donate blood. The process, from registration to post-donation snack, takes 45 minutes.

Call Mary Coffman at Boistford for an appointment, 471-8551.

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LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

Lee Peel, author of "Farmington: A Pictorial History," turns to foreign words and phrases that are part of the English language for the

Author explores language change

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

LEE PEEL has written the book he says he has always wanted to own.

The retired English and journalism teacher with a penchant for history began a collection of Americanized foreign words and phrases that were more often than not misspelled, misused or mispronounced, about three years ago.

From ad hoc to wunderkind, they are now listed in "Speak Easy, Read Write," which will be at the printer before the month is out.

Peel explains the need for the simplified guide to correctly casing "pas de deux" or "vis-a-vis" into one's vocabulary by saying, "Every waitress surely knows what 'au jus' is. Every waitress surely does not know how to pronounce it."

While his collection of words and

people

phrases began only a few years ago, the seed for the book was planted many years before while Peel was teaching at Farmington High School. "It was hors d'oeuvres and 'papier-mache' that started it," Peel said. "Every year, there was a junior dance and hors d'oeuvres were going to be served. Every year, my students asked me how to spell it and every year I didn't remember how and we had to look it up."

"It was the same with papier-mache. Every year, the kids were going to make a float. And every year . . ."

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