

Ramadan: Islam's month of fasting, 1B



Soccer win streak, 1D

Lot splitting approved over moratorium, 2A

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SUBURBAN pearl. That's how one expert on schools sizes up Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, which take in northwest Farmington Hills.

A story in "Physician's Assets," an investment magazine, says Walled Lake schools are better than generally perceived and that "creates a window of opportunity for smart real estate investors."

Th story is based on data released by SchoolMatch, an Ohio firm that evaluates school districts for clients who plan to relocate.

COLOR blind. Don't be confused when viewing the pedestrian lighting lamp posts in downtown Farmington.

Downtown Development Authority executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer said the posts will be an ugly, primed yellow when first installed. They will be painted, soon after, in a dark green color.

Quote of the week

“More kids die from cigarettes than all the illegal drugs combined.”

— Betty Mullins, Farmington Families in Action member who spoke out against substance abuse during "Say No To Drugs" week in Farmington Hills April 17-25.

what's inside



Bridal

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Nature buff presumed drowned

Man falls from cliff

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Christopher Reinke was enjoying nature at its best — the roar and mist from the Tahquamenon Falls — when he apparently lost his footing and fell into turbulent waters 50 feet below.

The 21-year-old Farmington Hills man and nature lover is missing, and presumed drowned, following the accident. It occurred Friday evening at an outing of 10 college classmates near the waterfall in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

A sophomore majoring in natural resources technology at Lake Superior State College in Sault Ste. Marie, Reinke fell from a cliff at Tahquamenon's upper falls, which descend 55 feet into the Tahquamenon River.

The upper falls are the second tallest east of the Mississippi.

"He was on the edge," said Sgt. Ken Johnson of the Michigan State Police Post in Newberry. "He slipped and went over."

State Police continue to work with Luce County Sheriff deputies on the case.

The accident occurred shortly after 8:30 p.m. Friday, after Reinke climbed a catwalk fence near the crest of the falls, the closest viewing point. The overlook is fenced in, but the young man had apparently gone past the fence, Johnson said.

The 1988 North Farmington High School graduate slipped, dropped



Christopher Reinke
'He was a great guy'

along the rock cliff, and fell into the river. "That was the last anyone saw of him," Johnson added.

TIM BOWMAN, a student from Cadillac, was one of two friends who saw Chris Reinke sitting at the cliff's edge in a grassy area. They called out to warn him.

"We saw Chris sitting on the edge. We knew you weren't supposed to be out there," Bowman said.



Pictured is a view of the upper falls at Tahquamenon State Park in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is near the area where the Friday

evening accident occurred involving Christopher Reinke.

As his friends approached, Reinke began to stand up and slipped. They were able to hold him for a short time as he gripped a tree root, but he was unable to hold on, Bowman said. It was Reinke's first visit to the falls. "We were looking forward to it all week," said another friend, Dennis Grell, a student from Bessemer in the Upper Peninsula.

Luce County sheriff's divers searched for Reinke Saturday and

dredged the river Monday without success.

Sheriff Kevin Erickson said a Michigan State Police diving team was expected to arrive later this week to evaluate the scene. A local man also offered to do an aerial search; because of the rocky cliffs that span several miles, using a boat is difficult.

A sheriff's department spokesman said deputies continued to monitor

the shoreline at the Tahquamenon gorge this week.

DIVERS WERE hampered Saturday by high, turbulent waters worsened by the spring snow melt and runoff. According to park officials, the water is now at its highest.

As of Tuesday, water levels had dropped some, which should help in

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Sidewalk dropped from Drake paving plan

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A meandering sidewalk on the east side of a scenic stretch of Drake Road won't accompany a new \$1.3 million paved and realigned surface for the gravel thoroughfare.

In a surprising turnabout, the Farmington Hills City Council Monday dropped immediate plans to install a sidewalk along the east side of Drake Road, from 11 Mile to just south of the I-696 overpass.

The council Monday night approved paving plans, including the realignment, for Drake Road and

scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 16, to discuss project costs. But changes made in the plans, including the sidewalks, didn't stop the continuing complaints from residents.

Despite the council's decision, the lack of a sidewalk along the scenic and historic stretch of Drake isn't expected to be permanent.

"What we did was defer the installation," said councilwoman Jan DeLan, who in February demanded sidewalks in the interest of pedestrian safety.

"We've done this in other isolated areas. I'm not fond of it, but where

there is nothing to connect it (the sidewalk) to, we're willing to wait. When there is something to walk to, then they can go in."

RESIDENTS VEHEMENTLY opposed the council's February decision to install a sidewalk. Residents complained the walkway would traverse their property and encourage trespassers.

Residents' objections played a part in the decision to defer the sidewalk. "Although that was not a major consideration," councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said, "we've had long nego-

tiations on that road and the sidewalk was part of the process."

But safety remains a concern. "We still have that concern. There is probably some liability both ways (with or without sidewalks). It's one of those things you have to give a whole lot of thought to," Mayor Jody Soronen said.

To residents' pleasure, the council agreed to erect a four-way stop sign at the 11 Mile-Drake Road intersection. And to a round of applause, councilwoman Joan Fox successfully gained support for her request to immediately reduce the speed limit from Grand River north to 11 Mile

along Drake from 45 to 35 mph with strict police enforcement.

Residents also asked for truck restrictions on the roadway as well as double-yellow line to prohibit passing when the roadway is paved.

With the Drake Road Citizens Committee's blessings, the paving project calls for preserving much of the natural beauty of the road, including trees, vegetation, natural hills and slopes and two historic homes. The homes, known as Miller's Cottage and the Arnold House, have

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County prepares detectives' force to react to rape

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Oakland County investigators are laying the groundwork for a formal task force that would let detectives from six police agencies work full time if another serial rape occurs.

With tips now topping 800, the task force would "assure we have a core of investigators whose sole responsibility is the serial rape investigation," said Richard Thompson, Oakland County chief assistant prosecutor.

A donated building that's central to Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township, Birmingham and Bloomfield Township is being sought to house the task force. Each law enforcement agency involved, including the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, would provide a detective.

A formal law enforcement task force "is not something that happens frequently," Thompson said. "The last one was for the Oakland County child killer investigation in the mid '70s."

The task force would be put into effect immediately if the serial rapist or rapists struck again, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

No prime suspects have emerged since items stolen from the latest Farmington Hills victim March 31 turned up in the Cleveland area Easter weekend. Police believe the rapist spent the weekend there visiting relatives or friends.

"We're being very cautious," Dwyer said. "We're pretty well caught up in following up phone tips. We've eliminated several suspects and plan to interview several others. We're still looking at the Cleveland connection."

Bloomfield Township youth officer Philip Denomme continues to work closely with Farmington Hills police. Blood samples taken from the 11 crime scenes indicate at least two rapists, one perhaps a copycat, are on the loose, but police believe the same man may be involved in the Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township cases.



Betty Mullins of Farmington Families in Action talks to Forest Elementary School fourth graders about drugs.

Drug props aid talk to 4th graders

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Betty Mullins held up one plastic bag with a white, powdery substance, and another with dried leaves.

"It stimulates you. You feel very, very confident," she said, discussing cocaine, only one of the illegal drugs that have invaded society and its

schools. "When you come down from this high, you feel very, very depressed."

Fourth graders at Forest Elementary learned about the dangers of drugs with some props — a little powdered sugar and some kitchen herbs — and some very real drug paraphernalia.

Mullins, a member of Farmington Families in Action, was teaching not

only drug dangers, but what cocaine and marijuana look like.

Her program was a special part of "Say No To Drugs" week April 17-23, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Department's citizens crime prevention advisory committee.

These Forest students are the only fourth graders in the district who

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WITH ALL the publicity surround-

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