

Beaver Island: Our 'Emerald Isle,' 1D



Piston star at camp, 1C

Teens find summer action at center, 3A

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INNER workings... North Farmington high senior Jason Lowe said he "learned a lot of what goes into making government work" at the American Legion Boys State. The Farmington Hills City Council paid \$170 to sponsor him at the June program at Michigan State University. As a county commissioner, Lowe and fellow lawmakers addressed growth and crime through a new jail and low-income housing. Lowe also was a delegate to the Nationalist Party state convention. "Even though we come from far and wide across the state, we had many similar concerns (at Boys State)," he said. Farmington Public Schools may not be perfect, but he said he "discovered we are very fortunate compared to other school districts."

Memory lane

50 years ago:
A city improvement for many years ago, will become a reality with the building of a parkway on Brookdale Avenue at the Grand River Interchange. A liquidation sale of 1-acre homesteads at 8 Hills and Farmington Road are selling for \$225 to \$300. "Shallow wells will provide an unending supply of good water."
— Farmington Enterprise, Aug. 2, 1939

This week

THE preliminary exam for a McDonald's Restaurant employee charged in the armed robbery of an armored truck courier at the Farmington Hills restaurant is slated to continue this week in 47th District Court, Farmington.

what's inside

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Suit eyes full Medicaid funding

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

While vowing it would never abandon the poor, Botsford General Hospital has joined a statewide fight to help secure its financial health.

Botsford is one of 12 hospitals named in a federal lawsuit to assure that Medicaid reimburses hospitals for the full cost of providing Medicaid care.

"We hope this action will spark a total rethinking of Medicaid, leading to innovative funding and health delivery programs that better meet the needs of the poor," said Gerson Cooper, president of the Farmington Hills hospital.

"Hospitals fully intend to keep serving the poor as long as they can — and state leaders know it," Cooper said.

"But how long can hospitals be shortchanged on Medicaid before the health delivery system collapses under the burden and people start losing access to care?"

Last year, Medicaid insured 8 percent of Botsford's patients.

THE HEALTH of hospitals and the health of

We hope this action will spark a total rethinking of Medicaid

— Gerson Cooper
Botsford president

people are inseparable, said Cooper in detailing Botsford's role in what has become a raging health delivery battle.

"If we allow our basic hospital structure to decay, we will sentence ourselves to a future of ill health, rising mortality and needless suffering," he said.

Filed Tuesday in Lansing by the Michigan Hospital Association on behalf of its 194 member hospitals, the U.S. District Court suit seeks a preliminary injunction against the state Department of Social Services and the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services to secure some interim funding relief.

The suit claims the state is not complying with federal law by setting an illegally low payment rate for care of poor patients — and that translates into a \$75 million loss for hospitals this year.

Federal law requires hospitals to receive full reimbursement, but that isn't being done, said Spencer Johnson, Michigan Hospital Association president.

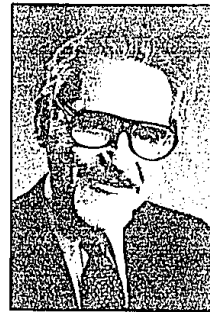
Hospitals lose 21 cents for each dollar of care they give to Medicaid patients, a burden that has become intolerable, Johnson said.

"Right now, hospitals are only paid 79 cents under Medicaid for every dollar of care they provide," he said.

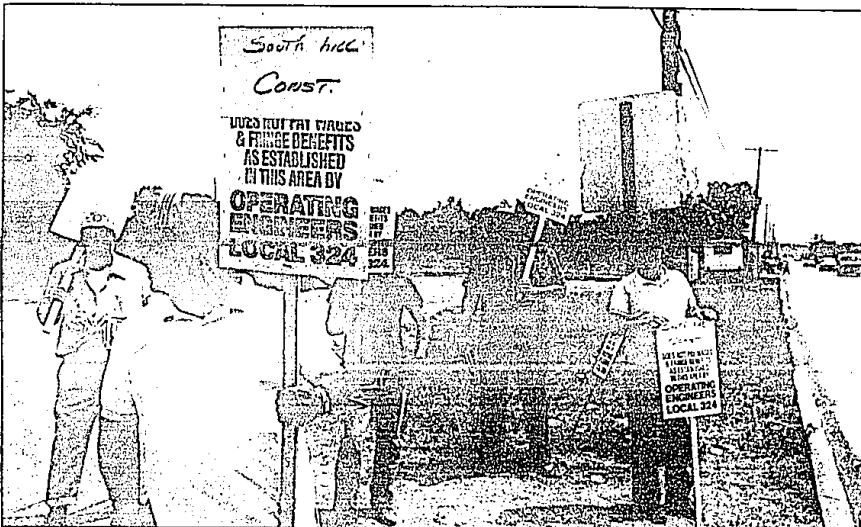
"The losses hospitals face from Medicaid treatment threaten some of our hospitals' very existence."

BUT THE director of Michigan's Department of Social Services, C. Patrick Babcock, said the state complies with federal law.

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Gerson Cooper
Botsford president



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Members of AFL-CIO Operating Engineers Local 324 picketed a construction site in Farmington on Wednesday, claiming non-union workers were operating the earth-moving equipment.

Union workers picket job site

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Unionized heavy equipment operators picketed a Farmington Hills construction site where non-union workers were moving earth Wednesday.

"We feel we have every right to organize to get the community's attention," said one of 16 picketers at the Colonial Carwash construction site on Nine Mile, west of Farmington Road.

'We feel we have every right to organize to get the community's attention.'

— Picketeer

"It's the age-old battle: union vs. non-union." In Livonia, claim that South Hill Construction of Wixom doesn't hire union workers so they can pay low wages and few, if any, benefits.

SOUTH HILL is a subcontractor for the builder, Camborne Construction of Redford Township.

Gazing at the young men moving earth on a steamy afternoon, one picketer said: "They're not paying them hardly anything to run the equipment."

Many of the picketers, he said, have 20 years of experience but can't find work because of companies like South Hill, which won't hire

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Survey backs Hills levy

By Susan Buck
staff writer

More than 69 percent of the Farmington Hills residents who answered a city attitude survey in May said they would support continuing the five-year, 0.5-mill tax to develop local parks and recreation facilities.

Three-quarters of those who have lived in the city less than one year favor continuation as do nearly 69 percent of those who say they vote. Sixty percent of those who have an unfavorable opinion of Farmington Hills also would back the special millage.

More than two-thirds of the respondents said the millage should be spent on acquisition and development of additional parks and open space.

About 92 percent consider recreation programs very or somewhat important. But a trend shows that the longer people live in Farmington Hills, the less important they consider recreation programs.

Those are some of the findings in a recent survey done in conjunction with Farmington Hills' Year 2000 Planning Project and in response to work done by the Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

A survey was mailed to every household in Farmington Hills. More than 27,000 surveys were mailed to homes, apartments, condominiums and manufactured homes; nearly 7,800 were returned for a response rate of 27 percent, 7 percent more than anticipated.

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Space Camp Simulated flight thrills Hills girl

By Noreen Flick
staff writer

A Farmington Hills seventh grader geared up for simulated space flight in the U.S. Space Camp's five-day mission for fourth through seventh graders in Titusville, Fla., last month.

Maura Duggan, 11, a student at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, began countdown on June 4 when she arrived at the Space Camp near NASA's space shuttle launch site, on the east coast of Florida.

"I want to be an Air Force pilot," Maura said. "And then I might go into the space program and become an astronaut."

people

Space Camp includes an introduction to astronomy while working with telescopes. It also includes excursions with a moonwalking chair at an astronaut training center, techniques on space flight control and assembly of a model launch site.

The program, sponsored by the Mercury Seven Foundation and the U.S. Space Camp Foundation, encourages young people to participate and prepare for careers in space,

science, and high technology for life in the 21st Century.

"I had a lot of fun," Maura said. "I got to meet a lot of kids from all over the United States."

MAURA ATTENDED the camp with 90 other students throughout the United States and one student from Cairo, Egypt. Students were separated into five teams and worked in groups throughout the week.

Teams were trained in positions of mission control and flight crew activities, from packaged food and waste management systems to life-

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Have a 'secret'? Share it with us

It's Monday morning rush hour. You're late again and the traffic is moving slower than a teenager taking out the garbage.

Grand River, as usual, is more stop than go around the Halsted-M102 intersection. East and west-bound motorists on I-596 have been on the route so long their coffee has turned cold and the antifreeze hot.

And Haggerty Road is a parking lot with more taillights flashing than a Friday night at the old drive-in movies.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is highway hell.

But you, with your thoroughfare savoir-faire, are moving and grooving, zipping along because you know how and where to avoid

gridlock, traffic tie-ups, road closings and major highway headaches. You have a "secret" route to work.

WHETHER IT'S traveling on the shoulder, or snaking down uncharted side streets, we'd like to hear about it. We'll compile the best responses into a story about motorists like you, who know how to outsmart the Oakland County traffic that's driving everyone else crazy.

Call Sharon Dargay at 651-7678 8-10 a.m. Tuesday. Or Carolyn DeMarco at 644-1100 10 a.m. until noon Tuesday. Or fax your name, your telephone number and a sentence or two about your route, to 651-9080 or 644-1314.