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Baseball
results, 1C

Naturalist finds own
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Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 64

Monday, May 13, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

44 Pages

Fifty Cents

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A LITTLE bit of Farmington fluttered over Tiger Stadium Wednesday during the Tigers game with the Kansas City Royals.

It was a "no pollution" banner sponsored by a third grade class at Wood Creek Elementary in the Farmington district, and it was towed over the stadium during the baseball game.

The fly-by was the culmination of a problem-solving assignment given by teacher Liz Okopyn, to create, organize and implement an event that would raise the public's awareness of environmental issues.

Students organized and ran several bake sales to raise money needed to contract an airplane and tow the message. The 5-by-120-foot banner read: "Wood Creek's Students Say: Don't Pollute."

After circling Tiger Stadium, the banner was flown over Wood Creek, where the students were gathered on the lawn to see it.

B RING OUT your cans and bottles, the Farmington Harrison music students are coming.

The students will be canvassing the area and knocking on doors 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 18, to collect cans and bottles. Those who need a special pickup or more information should call the Harrison High band room at 489-3508.

T HE CANDIDATES are coming . . . the candidates are coming.

Voters can see the three Farmington Board of Education hopefuls — incumbent Susan Rennels and challengers Laura Myers and Richard DeVries — twice more before the June 10 school election.

Monday, May 20, the Farmington League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women will co-sponsor a candidate forum at 7:30 p.m. at Dunckel Middle School, 32800 W. 12 Mile.

The program will be taped and televised on cable Channel 12 before the election.

Wednesday, May 22, the Farmington Area Republican Club will host a forum at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. It will be cablecast live on cable Channel 18.

The public may attend both forums.

M EMORY LANE — From the May 17, 1951, Farmington Enterprise:

• Roma Rose, 15-month-old daughter of Pfc. and Mrs. LaVaern Wadenstorer of Drake Road, was given rabies shots after being bitten by a dog.

• Mary Markell and Rosemary Jones were named captains of the 1951 Poppy Day sales.

• Rita Christian was picked by the Women's Auxiliary to represent Farmington High at the Wolverine Girls State in Ann Arbor. June Hamlin was named alternate.

• Wilson's bacon was selling at 53 cents a pound at the C.F. Smith Market in Farmington.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

It was murder!

Guest Pat Boring (right) of Farmington Hills talks with actor Dave Rago, a possible murderer, during the recent Mystery Party at the Farmington Community Center. About 50 guests paid \$35 each for dinner, cocktails and . . . a murder. Members of an acting troupe, Homicide Host, mingled with the guests and made things happen. "It turned out that the wife did it . . . killed her husband because he was fooling around," said Bobbi Gelman, rental coordinator at the

Community Center. "The man who played the victim was my husband, Howard Gelman." An authentic touch was added by a Farmington Hills police officer who showed up to check the center's one-day liquor license just as the murder was committed. "Most people thought he was part of the show," Gelman said. "We tried to get him to chalk the body, but he said he didn't think his supervisor would like that."

Gambling raid caused 'mad rush' — chief

4 ordered to stand trial

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When the Farmington Hills police chief and a detective ran down the stairs of a house, suspected as the site of a high-stakes gambling operation, late Jan. 27, there was a "mad rush" among the 20-30 people there to get away.

"It was very loud," police Chief William Dwyer said. "It became chaotic. They were running in all different directions."

Dwyer and detective Patrick Monti were the only two witnesses who testified at a preliminary examination on gambling charges against Farmington Hills resident Jamal Abro, 46, owner of the house, 28834 Lake Park, where the gambling is alleged to have occurred.

Three other men also faced preliminary examination on the charges Friday before 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris.

They are Salwan Yousif Marogi, 30, of Southfield, Imad Gorgis Samouni, 37, of West Bloomfield, and Gerald Nash, 47, of Detroit.

Following a three-hour hearing, Harris ordered the four men to stand trial in Oakland County Circuit

Court. The four will be tried on charges of conspiracy to maintain a gambling house and conspiracy to keep a gambling house. Both charges are five-year felonies.

THE FOUR also will be tried on charges of maintaining a gambling house for gain, a two-year high misdemeanor, and keeping a gambling house, a one-year misdemeanor.

Abro and Marogi will be tried on additional charges. Abro faces a charge of permitting gambling apparatus on the premises, a one-year misdemeanor. Marogi faces a charge of resisting and obstructing a police officer, a two-year misdemeanor.

They remain free on bond. Dwyer and Monti described what they believed to be a crap table and blackjack table in the basement when they raided the house in the Colony Park West subdivision after midnight.

Both admitted they did not see any of the four men, including Abro, who admitted to Dwyer he owned the house, actually playing any of the gambling games when they raided

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Hills eyes revenue from valuation hikes

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Mathematically speaking, it just worked out that way . . . the proposed 1991-92 Farmington Hills tax rate is the same as last year's.

The recommended tax rate for 1991-92 is 8.8710 mills. Most rates decreased but the overall rate is the same because of the parks tax that was just passed.

And the recommended rate is expected to have a little more punch for taxpayers. "Anybody who got exactly 2.7 percent (increase, the city average) would experience 1.8

percent increase in their taxes," Farmington Hills finance director Charles Rosch said.

THE RATE must be cut so that the city takes in no more this year than last — or the city must hold a public hearing.

City officials believe that, unlike past years, they can't cut the tax rate to offset inflation. They want to reduce the rate by 2.7 percent, then increase that rate 1.8 percent. That's why some taxpayers may pay more in 1991-92 even though the tax rate is exactly the same as this year's.

"Those who got more than a 2.7-percent as-

essment increase will get higher (tax increase) than the 1.8 percent," Rosch said. "If their increase was less than 2.7 percent, the increase would be less than 1.8 percent. It won't necessarily mean a decline in what they pay."

FOR EXAMPLE, if your house had a market value last year of \$126,532, it was assessed \$83,266. This year that same house has a market value of \$130,000 and assessment of \$85,000.

With the proposed 8.8710 mills, that homeowner will pay \$756.61 in taxes this year compared to \$561.23 last year on the same tax

rate, Rosch said.

Before the city council can levy a rate bringing in more than last year, the city must hold Truth-in-Taxation hearing and public hearing on the proposed 1991-92 budget in June. The public is invited to give its opinions on the plan.

The proposed tax rate would, if approved, support a \$28.7 million budget. The proposed 1.8 percent increase would provide the city with an additional \$333,000 to balance the new budget, which takes effect July 1.

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Revenue growth dries up, schools in a bind

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Declining student enrollment coupled with lucrative property tax assessment increases have funneled millions of dollars into Farmington Public Schools coffers during the past several years.

That well is running dry.

Although a slight revenue increase is projected for the 1991-92 budget year, school officials remain fearful of decreasing state funding, increasing numbers of pupils, plus a February election mandate from Farmington-area voters telling the district it must work with its current level of tax.

And due to a state tax freeze in 1992, which will freeze property tax assessments at current levels, the district will not get any increase next year.

A major reason for the dilemma facing the schools is the fact that after a period of decline, the schools' enrollment curve turned upward in recent years and costs began to outrun revenue growth. The situation came to a head this year.

School officials are responding by tightening the purse strings, cutting staff, paring programs and increasing class sizes for the coming year.

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Farmington High principal James Myers: "This feels like home to me now." Myers replaces Gerald Potter who is retiring.

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New chief

Myers appointed principal at FHS

By Casey Hans
staff writer

It's the beginning of a new era at Farmington High School.

In addition to recently completed building renovations, a new assistant principal and 13-15 new teachers will walk into the revamped facility next fall, led by James Myers, who was named principal last week, replacing the retiring Jerry Potter.

After a year in the role of assistant principal at Farmington, Myers said, "This feels like home to me now."

He came to Farmington last summer from the principalship at John Glenn High School in Westland, where there was speculation he was in line for the principal's job here.

In recommending the appointment of the 45-year-old administrator Tuesday, superintendent Michael Flanagan said: "Farmington High has had a physical renaissance . . . but the most significant change in a building is the principal." He made the recommendation "with the expectations that great things will continue to happen at Farmington."

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