

Saving Mother Nature
in a milk jug way. 4B



Football
results. 1B

Two-career families
juggle meal tasks. 1C

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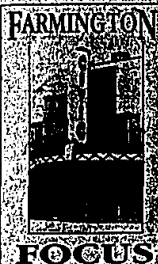
Monday, October 21, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

46 Pages

Fifty Cents

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THEY'RE CALLED the South Farmington Blues, but these days they have very little to be blue about.

The Blues, a men's softball team of 13-year-olds representing the best of South Farmington, did a lot of winning this past summer.

The squad, managed by Tom Trice, won the Rochester Memorial Day Tournament and South Farmington's Firecracker Tournament. The Blues then played in the Pony Baseball International tournament, winning at the district, state, and regional levels and reaching one level below the Pony Baseball World Series with a final rank of 13th among more than 8,000 teams. Players and fans of the Blues know all about their accomplishments. Now the entire community does, too. Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagstad, speaking for the Hills City Council, proclaimed Monday, Oct. 14, to be South Farmington Blues Day "in recognition of their accomplishments and of the honor they brought to their community."

GIVE THE car a "scary scrubdown" and help fight cancer at the same time. That's the idea behind the Haunted Car Wash at the Colonial Car Wash on Nine Mile Road in Farmington Oct. 25-31.

Funds raised Oct. 26-27 benefit the American Cancer Society. The business will stay open until 9 p.m. on fund-raiser dates. The car wash, the kind where the owner stays in the car, will be decorated for Halloween with ghosts, goblins and a coffin that opens and closes.

"It's fun," said Mark Owen, car wash owner. "The employees make most of the decorations with the help of my wife, Holly. It gives them a distraction from just spraying the cars and sending them through."

Last year, about \$2,500 was raised for the charity, Owen said. Farmington Mayor Shirley V. Richardson will take the first ride through on Saturday.

THE CLUB is in Livonia, but the location of its fund-raiser is on the Farmington Hills side of Eight Mile Road.

The Exchange Club of Livonia will host its 28th annual all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Finnish Cultural Center, 33200 W. Eight Mile.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. Profits will go to club charities. For tickets, call Dick Arvo (349-0490) or the Finnish Center (478-4933).

MEMORY LANE — From the Oct. 18, 1991 Farmington Enterprise:

From an Around the Block column: "Hunting season opened with a bang Monday morning and a big bang it was. Early Monday an unusually heavy flow of traffic was pouring out of the big city to the open fields. There were the usual reports of damage and trespassing, caused by careless and indifferent hunters. Be a good sport... and don't don't shoot buildings or livestock. Look before you shoot."



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

With a little help from a friend

While last Thursday was a day for North Farmington High to host a cross country meet at Oakland Community College, East and Dunckel middle schools held a meet of

their own. Dunckel eighth grader Kerrie Simpson (above) is walking off a pain in her side with the help of her grandmother, Rita Simpson of Bloomfield Hills.

School board approves seeing itself on cable TV

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school officials have agreed to cablecast regular school board meetings, adopting a plan that would include a permanent sound system, three video cameras and live coverage.

Trustee Cathleen Webb said the district should be prepared to field some criticism for spending money on the project in light of recent cuts, but she felt that the televised meet-

'I think cablecasting in the long run will be a benefit.'

— Trustee Susan Rennels

ings would be effective and are needed.

"What we're coming to tonight... is a positive step forward not only for the board but the community," she said.

Trustee Susan Rennels agreed. "It is necessary to involve as many people as possible with what the board is doing," she said. "I think cablecasting in the long run will be a benefit."

Board members voted 6-0 on Oct. 15 to approve the plan. Board president Jack Cotton — who said at a previous meeting he did not see the benefit in cablecasting — was absent.

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Harrison students help spread la francais

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Advanced French students at Harrison High School are saying bonjour to elementary and middle school students as part of a community service/enrichment project.

Students in Pierrette Simpson's third, fourth and fifth level classes at the Farmington Hills school are giving French lessons to elementary and middle school students, or tutoring individuals at home for class credit.

"Some are doing it solo, and others are feeling more comfortable with a partner," Simpson said. "They're really enthusiastic about this. This is a movement all over the country."

"I just thought it would be kind of a fun thing to do."

SIMPSON INCORPORATED the idea into her French classes after sitting on a secondary study committee which recommended some community service credit for high schoolers. The two-year study completed last summer also recommended new concepts such as team teaching and alternative scheduling, but left implementing the ideas in the hands of the staff. Faculty at the Farmington district's three high schools are working with various parts of the plan.

Simpson said the community service program encourages students to give back to the community, and also offers a "real world connection" for their language learning. Students

'This is a movement all over the country. I just thought it would be kind of a fun thing to do.'

— Pierrette Simpson

are asked to make the visit to school or home on their own time.

THEY ARE required to do teaching or tutoring once per card marking. Each student contacts an elementary or middle school teacher, schedules a time and gets an evaluation from the teacher. Some students are returning to favorite elementary or middle school teachers, and they are touching all grade levels.

Simpson wants the community service aspect of the project to come first. "French will be a byproduct, I hope," she said. "This is a time to share time and talent with the community. I want them to feel they're doing something."

The project is offering students a multitude of talents and skills. They learn to teach, learn responsibility and, more importantly, act as role models for younger students. "I think they'll come back with a sense of pride and self esteem," Simpson added. "I think it will put a feather in their caps. They'll also learn how to be responsible to the community. There's some commitment here."

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Mail service upsets 2 on Hills council

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Two Farmington Hills council members have concerns about the local post office operation. The concerns surfaced at a recent council meeting.

Council members were discussing a resolution from the city of Birmingham to support a review of postal service at a national level.

"It is a great concern to me when the regional post office in Royal Oak was cited as one of the 10 worst in the United States," councilwoman Jean Fox said. "I thought, 'Yea. Right. Here we are... our services weren't very good. My long-time

friend who has been postmaster over there since Farmington Hills opened and whom I knew as supervisor of the Southfield Post Office before Ken Harris (Farmington postmaster).

"It is so bad that he has been on medical leave because of the stress, and you go in there and you try and find out something if you have a complaint or problem and there isn't anybody. Oh yes, there is somebody but he's not here or something."

"It is impossible to have any responsibility over there, the staff is upset and I think it is a terrible situation."

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Court needs another judge, candidates say

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Without a master plan for facilities in Farmington Hills, city council candidate Paul Sowerby is wondering whether there's an alternative to expanding the existing 47th District Court to make way for a third judge.

The expansion will be put before Farmington and Farmington Hills voters Nov. 5 in the form of two ballot proposals — one for each city.

Each city will have a different share of the \$1.8 million bond proposal based on state equalized value and caseload stemming from each city.

FARMINGTON HILLS will seek approval to sell \$1.6 million in general obligation bonds and Farmington, \$175,000. It will cost Farmington Hills about \$175,000 annually to pay off the bonds over 20 years.

For Farmington Hills taxpayers, that works out to about seven-hundredths of a mill (0.07 mills). Tax-

'I'm not sure this is the only alternative or the best alternative. But it may be.'

— Paul Sowerby
Farmington Hills
city council candidate

payors who own a house that would sell for \$100,000 would pay \$3.72 a year more in taxes.

The proposed expansion and renovation of the courthouse on 10 Mile, between Farmington and Power roads, will cost Farmington \$12,000 annually to pay off the bonds. That works out to less than \$2.50 annually for the average Farmington property owner.

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Wood Creek Elementary second grader Moddy Jud holds "la vache" (a cow) on a stick as the class sings "Old MacDonald" in English and inserts the French words for each animal. The lesson was part of a community service project by advanced French students from Harrison High School who were visiting Wood Creek.

