

He deals with allment
in a positive way. 4B



Wrestling
review. 1B

Marvelous Marvin's
has gizmos galore. 15A

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Student test scores teeter-totter

See related commentary on
Page 27A

Science up across board, math, reading dip a little

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Results on state mandated skill tests for Farmington public school students were a mixed bag this year. Science scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program were up across the board, while reading scores fell slightly. MEAP mathematics test were quite low, as expected, because of a change from testing basic skills to analytical skills.

"Compared to what we're used to seeing, this is not as favorable," said Carolyn Mahalak of the district assessment office, in discussing the new math results. "But then, we don't know what other (district's) scores are."

This year's MEAP reading test also caused controversy in some parts of Michigan because of reading selections some parents and educators deemed inappropriate.

The Farmington Public School District released its MEAP results on Dec. 17 in a preliminary report to the school board. Officials plan to do a comparative analysis of Farmington and other districts when state results are released in early 1992. The tests are given at the beginning of each school year.

The past several years have been a time of transition for the MEAP, as changes have occurred in all ma-

for testing areas from the types of tests given to the grade level of student tested.

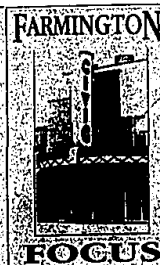
MAHALAK SAID said any change of five percentage points or more in any category is considered noteworthy. Some of the highlights released by the district include:

- In the science area, scores were up for all grades tested, which includes grades five, eight and 11. In the fifth grade, students performing satisfactorily increased from 82.7 to 87.3 percent. In the eighth grade, scores rose from 66.4 to 74.2 percent. Eleventh graders showed a slight increase from 55.9 to 56.2 percent.

- The two-year-old essential reading test is given to fourth, seventh and 10th graders and tests comprehension for both story and informational reading selections. Nearly 49 percent of fourth graders scored satisfactorily compared with just over 52 percent last year. Seventh grade scores fell 8.8 percent, with just 43.8 scoring satisfactorily this year. Tenth grade scores fell slightly from 57.9 to 54.2 percent.

- Math was tested in both basic and essential skills for fourth, seventh and 10th graders. In basic skills — the same testing done in past years — student scores fell slightly

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DON'T FORGET: Solid waste and recyclables in Farmington Hills will be picked up on Wednesday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day.

That means if Wednesday is your regular collection day, your rubbish and recyclables will be picked up Thursday. Thursday's collection will take place Friday and Friday's will be picked up on Saturday.

After the holidays, collection days will revert back to the regular schedule.

SPEAKING OF holidays, the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation will operate its Sunday service on Jan. 1, New Year's Day. On New Year's Day, Route 820 at 6:41 p.m. with a destination to Grand River-Halsted, will be operated.

For more information on SMART's holiday service, call customer information, 953-5515.

POSTAL OFFICIALS remind customers that stamps may be bought from vending machines in the lobby of the main Post Office on 12 Mile Road, as well as at three non-postal stations in supermarkets in the Farmington area.

They are: Farmer-Jack, 23128 Farmington Road, and Kroger stores at 35780 Middlebelt Road and 37550 W. 12 Mile Road.

Both the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices will be closed on New Year's Day. But special delivery service and Express Mail delivery will be made to customers who have scheduled delivery of those articles.

Also, there will be no regular business or residential delivery of mail on New Year's Day. Collection of mail, window service or post office box services also will be unavailable on the holiday.

FOR THE next three weeks, every Farmington and Farmington Hills residential property owner who receives solid waste services from Waste Management Inc., can place one whole Christmas tree on the curb at the regular pickup day.

If you want your tree composted, make sure it is not in a bag and place it at the curb the week of Thursday, Jan. 3 to Wednesday, Jan. 8.

MEMORY LANE — From the Dec. 27, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

- A small group of boys and girls are thanked for collecting approximately 125 singing Christmas carols throughout the city. The children then took the money to Dr. Joseph Gadbaw just before Christmas and asked if he knew of any boys and girls who needed help. The doctor accepted the money and said he knew of some children who needed overcoats.
- New telephones are added to Farmington city offices. In particular, a phone was added to the city manager's office so direct calls could be made. A second phone was added in the police department. Residents had complained they couldn't get through on the phone during an emergency because the one telephone was tied up.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48330, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Stuffed menagerie

Students in Jim O'Leary's classes at North Farmington High School collected more than 300 stuffed animals to be donated to children at the Sara Fisher Home this holiday season. Here, O'Leary and sophomore Shannon O'Brien (seated) watch as

Lindsey Brandt adds a small stuffed dog to the collection. For more about community giving during the holiday season, see Page 3A.

Holiday spirit

Groups, individuals gave generously this season

Kids talk about giving, 4A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

GROUPS AND individuals from throughout the Farmington-area community were exceptionally generous this holiday season.

From the Farmington Hills police "Cops for Christmas" program to students throughout local schools and individuals who dropped dollars into the Salvation Army red kettles or gave to the Goodfellows drive, donations were on the rise.

'The parents have just been so supportive. They've been very, very generous.'

— Elaine Gilbert
Longacre teacher

Groups who organize help for the needy reported a 40 percent increase in need this year, and were happy for the help.

The Goodfellows reported a 60 percent increase in their canned food drive collection,

much of which comes from the Farmington Public Schools, said district spokeswoman Betty Welford. Last year, the Goodfellows collected 14,000 cans and this year, 26,000 were brought in.

Goodfellows president Richard Tupper said all Goodfellows collections, including the annual newspaper drive, were up this year.

Community groups also helped in their own way.

AT LONGACRE Elementary, third and fourth graders in Elaine Gilbert's class helped out sev-

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Chief's views rile group

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The Farmington Hills Police Officers Association (POA) is dismayed with Chief William Dwyer's renewed criticism of their telephone solicitation program.

Dwyer recently received two complaints — one from a Hills resident, the other from a doctor's secretary — complaining about their telephone contacts with Midwest Publishing Company.

Midwest is a Southfield telemarketing firm hired by the Hills POA for a three-year contract to solicit money for a political action committee and other charity programs, including a drug education handbook.

"I've reviewed the complaints and they are baseless," said Daryl Slowinski, POA president, Dec. 23. "Whenever there is a complaint filed, we follow up on it immediately. We do not want to do anything to embarrass the police department. We went with the best fundraising organization we can. Our membership voted on it."

The Observer also reviewed the tapes. In the complaint, the resident said that he was "battered." The tape reveals that he took the initiative and hung up at the end of the call.

In the other, a Midwest solicitor attempted to call a doctor at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. The complaint says the solicitor called it an "emergency." The tape records the solicitor as saying it was "a business call."

DWYER SAID that different people in his department take the complaints.

"I still think that it is inappropriate for him (the solicitor) to call a hospital," Dwyer said. "The doctor has office hours, he could call then."

The contract expires in March

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Early Holiday Deadlines

To place your
classified liner ad
in our Thurs.,
Jan. 2, 1992 edition,
please call before
5:00 p.m. Monday,
Dec. 30, 1991.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Observer & Eccentric
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
591-0900

North Farmington teacher is accused of indecency in park

By Mike Tyree
staff writer

A North Farmington High School teacher has been charged with indecent exposure after an incident in Hines Park last summer.

Charles Donald Scheer, 54, of Farmington, a shop teacher at North Farmington High School, faces a Feb. 6 pretrial examination in 35th District Court in Plymouth on charges that he exposed himself in a section of Hines Park off Northville Road between Five and Six Mile.

Farmington Public School officials

said they will investigate the charge.

The charge is a result of a report by a 24-year-old Plymouth woman who said she saw a man masturbating in the park Aug. 14, 1990. Township police interviewed Scheer Aug. 5, 1991.

Scheer posted bond Nov. 13. His attorney, Brian Herschfeld, was unavailable for comment on Friday.

North Farmington High School Principal Debbie Clark would not comment on the allegation. Nor would she discuss Scheer's status with the school, deferring comment

to the employee personnel office.

Susan Zurvalic, director of employee relations, on Friday said Scheer is not working because of the school's winter break. The school will investigate the allegations after the first of the year, she said.

This report just came to our attention," Zurvalic said. "We will conduct our investigation in January."

Scheer's employment with the school system could hinge on the results of the school's investigation, she said.