



Farmington Observer

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Phone threat: Farmington and other municipalities have expressed concerns about the telephone company's plans to enter the cable TV field./6A

Tremendous trees: The Friends of Heritage held the annual Holiday Tour recently, and many Christmas trees were on display. A popular addition was a multi-layered toy train set./2A

OPINION

PC alert: A poetry reading and discussion session at Michigan State University became a "politically correct circus" as Professor Ponytail tried to bait poet and novelist Jim Harrison and three other writers, all MSU grads. Jeff Counts was there./10A

TASTE



Holiday appetizers: Forget nachos and spinach dip. Come out from behind that stalk of stuffed celery and look at what's happening to hors d'oeuvres. Tasty, out-of-the-ordinary appetizers are easier than you think to make./1B

Baking delights: Leave it to Chef Larry to come up with a basic cookie dough recipe that's versatile enough to work eight different ways. This magical confection can transform itself from a spritz cookie to a walnut bar with the flick of a measuring cup./1B

STREET SCENE

Sharp edges: Somehow you don't associate concrete with rattle. One word evokes hardness the other noise. But then if you're a band with an attitude and music that's about chaos, Concrete Rattle probably is an appropriate moniker./5B

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North Farmington is 'exemplary'



By GUY BUECK
STAFF WRITER
The students and staff of North Farmington High School can wear the badge of honor proudly. They are . . . an exemplary school.
"Expect the best" is the school, logo/motto and that's exactly what

happened last week when North Farmington High was recognized by the State Board of Education.

The school is the first secondary school in the Farmington district to be honored under the state awards program, which consisted of a review

panel of 24 principals and superintendents.

The exemplary school award is based on high scores in the areas of leadership, quality of instruction, programs and practices that foster the development of sound character, a sense of self-worth, democratic values, ethical judgment and self-discipline.

"The focus above everything this year were schools that have restructured their math and science programs," said Principal Deborah Clarke.

Clarke said the evaluation team, made up of previous recipients, felt the staff did not give themselves enough credit, even after mentioning all the school's strong points on the application.

"They were impressed with the total commitment to quality," Clarke said.

Many good programs

North Farmington students consistently score above the national average.

See NORTH, 3A



BILL BRUESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A 'class' act: Student Kristen George (left) presents a social studies project in teacher Dave Hales' class at Hillside Elementary School.

Hillside teacher links lessons with life

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

For Dave Hales' students, the world is their oyster.
The social studies teacher has a special way of motivating his Hillside Elementary School fifth graders in their search for pearls of knowledge.

"I've consistently tried to make history come alive for the students," he said. "What tends to happen is

that history gets wrapped up in a text as a thing of the past — but it greatly influences the things we do today."

Hales first came to the Farmington district from a job in Missouri after Highmeadow Common Campus opened its doors, and worked there for two years before transferring to Hillside, the district's newest elementary school on 11 Mile Road. Hales learned his teaching craft

through a special program in the College of Education at Michigan State University, designed to give teachers a hands-on, integrated approach to the classroom.

"When you walk out the door, life isn't isolated," Hales explained. "Now you're doing the reading part of life, now you're doing the math part. It's so unrealistic."

His undergraduate degree in so-

cial studies and children's literature combined with a graduate degree in curriculum has given him a unique approach to the classroom. His philosophy earned him a spot as one of 30 teachers from around the country, and the lone teacher from Michigan, invited to a Monticello-Stratford Hall Seminar last summer in Virginia.

See TEACHER, 2A

Hacker gets probation for computer fraud

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Michael Shutes sat with head bowed, holding hands with his fiance and appearing on the verge of tears several times before his case was called and his sentence pronounced in Washtenaw County Circuit Court.

Shutes, 24, of Farmington Hills, dressed neatly in a double-breasted business suit, had more of the appearance of a young man with the

weight of the world on his shoulders than of a "Live Wire" — the computer code name he used while he helped a group of young computer hackers commit fraud under the name "Nation of Thieves."

If Shutes were praying, his prayers were probably answered when Judge Melinda Morris sentenced him to five years probation and six months of jail, which she suspended.

He spoke softly, almost inaudibly

before TV cameras especially set up for the occasion of his sentencing, as he apologized for his misdeeds.

"I just want to express my remorse for what I did," said the Lawrence Technological University junior. "I just want to put this behind me and get on with my life."

If he had been arrogant while showing his fellow thieves how to get access to credit card numbers, telephone lines and security codes, he

SENTENCING

was that much more humble as he sat through a long morning and faced the court.

Shutes will have to pay court costs of \$1,280, a \$1,000 fine and restitution for the \$1,924 computer hard drive he illegally obtained from a Salt

See HACKER, 4A

In holiday voice

Put on the winter coats and limber up those voices . . . you're invited to join a traditional Christmas caroling party sponsored by the Farmington Branch Library.

The singing starts at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the library, 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington. Persons of all ages and voices are invited to participate.

Music sheets will be provided. Singers should dress warmly, bring a flashlight and maybe some cookies to share. After caroling in the nearby neighborhoods, participants return to the library for hot chocolate and a Christmas filmstrip. Anyone interested should call the library at 474-7770 to register.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Cubs ring bells

Cub Scouts from Pack 897 of Farmington Hills have volunteered to be bell-ringers for the Salvation Army from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Kmart on Orchard Lake Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads. The project is being coordinated by Scott Elliott.

Advice from the Ladies

Any Alkon, a former Farmington Hills resident, is an Advice Lady. Any questions?

Alkon, a 1982 graduate of North Farmington High School, joined Caroline Johnson and Marlowe Minick to form the New York-based Advice Ladies. They lend their expertise to solving all kinds of problems of love and dating to the sour economy.

The Advice Ladies were featured on a recent TV's "Maury Povich Show." Alkon's parents, Sheldon and Lorraine Alkon, are commercial Realtors in Farmington Hills.

Memory Lane

From the Dec. 11, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:
Ward Eagle of Farmington was re-elected to a three year term on the board of directors of the Michigan Milk Producers Association.