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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Best band in the land?: No, but Harrison's Mark Phillips was happy with his band's performance in a recent national competition. /3A

Off to Austria: Choir members from an area high school will display their talents in Europe. /4B

BUSINESS

Mutually speaking: Mutual funds command the spotlight in Sid Mittra's discussion. /7A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Viva la vino! The Merchant of Vino is opening three marketplace stores that promise to change the way you shop for food. /10A

Retail forecast: If you plan to spend more money on gifts than you did last year, and add more persons to your list, you're not alone, according to an Arthur Andersen survey. /10A

TASTE

A happy loser: Sandra-Dalke Prysby has lost 75 pounds, and has 75 more to go. Find out how she did it. /1B

Pop those corks: Chappellet in Napa Valley is America's Vouvray on the Hill. /1B

SPORTS

District final: Farmington's girls basketball team was a finalist in the district tournament at Lahser High School Friday. /1C

Grid showdown: Catholic Central and Sterling Heights Stevenson did battle Saturday for a berth in the Class AA championship football game. /1C

INDEX

Business 6A	Crossword 6C
Classifieds C-F	Malls 7B
Columns 2F	Movies 8B
Employment 3D	Obituaries 6B
Fets 2F	Texts 1B
Real Estate 7C	Sports 1C
Car reject 1F	

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Itsomi Koga

Death 'not a dream'



Itsomi Koga, charged with the murder of her infant son, was in court all day Friday. Her preliminary exam continues Wednesday. Her husband testified that she did not throw the baby into a pond.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Like the misty, cool early morning, the setting did not seem quite real for Itsomi Koga after her infant son was pulled from a pond behind her apartment in Farmington Hills. Through an interpreter, Koga's husband, Akihito, testified at the

preliminary exam that his wife was dazed, had a blank expression and did not seem to realize what had happened.

"She said, 'This is not a dream, is it?'" the dead baby's father said. At Friday's exam, in Farmington's 47th District Court, the accused murderer's husband and sister testi-

fied about the events of Nov. 17, leading up to and including the discovery of the body of 20-day old Toyuyuki.

Dressed in a purple suit, the defendant sat motionless for the most part, but talked to her interpreter and at times seemed less depressed than at her Nov. 3 arraignment. She remains in the Oakland County Jail with no bond.

He works at Nissan

The Kogas had been married

See EKAM, 2A

Now that's some windbag!



SHARON LEMMA'S STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Forest's Science Fair: Justin Wu creates a tornado with classmate Jonathan Liefer's science project at Forest Elementary School in Farmington Hills.

No average fare at Forest science fair

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The assignment is innocuous. The editor barks: "Science fair at Forest Elementary. Be there."

The education reporter goes, expecting the expected.

He doesn't bemoan his fate. He simply accepts it. For he knows he'll

be exposed to the usual calypso of conductivity projects and tributes to the elemental chart.

Copious notes will be taken and their efforts documented for gleeful children, parents and teachers alike.

A large sigh is emitted as he opens the side entrance door at Forest Elementary.

Once inside, mundane and melan-

choly feelings are tipped over like a wheelbarrow in the hands of disgruntled farmers. He's shocked and disoriented.

Displays turn him in circles. Their titles glare out at him in dizzying frequency: "Clean restrooms," "Tornadoes," and "Mold."

He sees a child pass out solar assisted apple chips. Another student

showcases moldy bread while one nearby tries to grow grass in spaghetti.

Teacher Kathy Koperaki offers reason. She coordinates science study for fourth and fifth graders at the Farmington Hills school.

"I'd see some of the topics and I'd

See FAIR, 3A

Hunter's death a mystery

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It's been a difficult year for Carolyn Fodor and her family.

"I was the first one on the scene when the (David) Klenke boy was killed (on Sept. 25) and now this," she said the widow of Marvin Allen Fodor, the Farmington Hills man who died in a hunting mishap in northern Michigan Nov. 14.

"It's been a terrible year."

And along with family members and many friends, Carolyn Fodor awaits the results of an autopsy to find the cause of her 64-year-old hus-

band's death.

Marvin Fodor, his father-in-law Edward Grohowski, son Gregory and several friends were hunting on his 110 acres in Wheatfield Township near Ramus in Maccocta County Tuesday when his bow hunting companions became concerned after he did not check in with them.

"Two friends, Jerry Buzewski and longtime Farmington Hills resident John Knoepfel, discovered him at the base of the tree where he had set up a blind."

Despite use of CPR, Marvin Fodor was dead. But Maccocta County Sher-

iff Henry Wayer said no one is sure whether the fall caused the death or if it was another health problem.

"We're not certain of the cause of death," Wayer said. "We know he fell onto the ground, but we don't know if that was the cause. There's no foul play suspected."

Marvin Fodor had suffered a heart attack six years ago, but had gotten a clean bill of health, said his nephew Jay Hughes.

"He was an avid — and I would emphasize avid — outdoorsman,"

See DEATH, 4A



Marvin Allen Fodor

WL voters get message, approve millage

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Saturday's decisive millage renewal victory in the Walled Lake district indicated voters heard school officials' message after all. Without a renewal, the quality of education was set to take a \$20 million hit next year.

It wasn't even close. District spokeswoman Lois Lange said about 87 percent of the voters cast were in support of the proposition. The district

turning out to the polls, the 10-year operational millage was approved by a 9,204-to-1,268 count.

The renewal extends the existing millage rate, 18 mills levied on businesses, industry and other non-homesite property and up to 4.3 mills on homesite property (residences). It does not increase school tax bills.

The lopsided result was encouraging to Lange and other officials, who had predicted the last American district

issue attempts between October 1993 and last February.

"It came out better than I had dared to hope for," said Lange at the Educational Services Center, shortly after the final votes were tallied. "We just want to thank all the voters who came out and realized it was such an important issue. We want to thank them for having trust in us."

Board member David Flammer said the victory was "encouraging and a real strong indication of the support

we have in the community for the programs we're putting on in the district."

He added that the decision proved people "understood that if there were \$20 million in cuts there'd be drastic consequences."

Without a renewal, the district was prepared to eliminate general education transportation, eliminate middle and high school athletics and lay-off about 300 employees, including 140 teachers.