

Rep hosts office hours in district

State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, will again host office hours in the 37th District during the 1998 Legislature session.

"Open and direct dialogue between a legislator and constituents can go a long way in restoring trust in the governmental process," Raczkowski said. "Improving the relationship between government and the electorate is most important to me, so I will continue to make myself available."

"If you can't make the times available, call me at home for immediate attention." Raczkowski is available at area locations to discuss issues or problems. His schedule is:

- First Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at the

Farmington City Hall, 23600

- Second Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.

- Third Monday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at Farmington Community Library, 32227 W. 12 Mile.

"I look forward to visiting with residents and listening to their ideas and concerns," Raczkowski said. "I encourage everyone to call and set up an appointment for any of the sessions."

Appointments are encouraged for office hours. Residents may call Raczkowski's office toll-free at 1-800-864-2108 to arrange a time. His home phone is 476-3525.

This state test isn't in January

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Farmington high school juniors have a four-month reprieve before taking the controversial Michigan High School Proficiency Test.

Earlier this school year, administrators thought the test would be given in late January—at the same time the Michigan Educational Assessment Program is administered in the elementary and middle schools. But due to a package of legislative bills signed into law by Gov. John Engler in late December, the HSPT now will be given across the state during the last 30 days of the school year, according to a Dec. 23 memo to superintendents from Brian Whistler, director of legislative affairs for Oakland Schools.

As of Friday, Farmington district officials were discussing when the so-called "testing window" will be, said district spokeswoman Diane Bauman.

Superintendent Bob Maxfield apparently has mixed feelings about the change.

"I think we'd be better off to have stayed the course" and given the test in late January as

first thought, Maxfield said. "There was a certain hesitancy having it all done at one time, but that's not the biggest issue."

Maxfield also said he wonders how motivated 11th graders will be to take the test in May.

On the positive side, Maxfield noted that juniors will have more time to learn and prepare for the test—which some parents across the state have criticized as being an unfair gauge. One reason is the stamping of test results on high school transcripts.

"The test is designed to measure junior-level achievement," Maxfield said. "This way, they'll have almost a full year at the junior level."

Carolyn Mahalak, the district's assessment and testing coordinator, said "we were prepared for either a January or May test."

Now comes the job of making sure everybody is aware of the change.

"We're now in a position of trying to notify everybody about the change," Mahalak said. "We hope to (soon) come up with the testing window."

Even though the HSPT test is now taking place later on, Maha-

lak said all of the MEAP testing in the elementary and middle schools will still take place between Jan. 28 and Feb. 13.

Other than the extra time, Mahalak doesn't think the change will make a measurable impact on how successful students are with the test.

North Farmington High School parent Ilene Klogon, critical of the test in the past, still doesn't like it. But the scheduling change "makes more sense, because then they'll have more academics under their belt."

Engler's package included the following, as provided in Whistler's letter to Oakland superintendents:

- The test will be graded and returned by the beginning of the senior year.

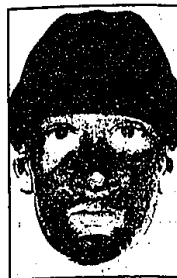
- Scoring categories include basic, above average and outstanding.

- Michigan teachers will grade the tests, not out-of-state faculty members.

- Students can re-take the HSPT during the senior year, and after graduation, at no cost.

- Transcripts will contain the student's high school attendance records and scaled scores for each subject area.

Wanted



Robbery suspect: This composite sketch shows one of three men who were involved in Tuesday's armed robbery of The Farmington Tobacco Shop, in the Uptown Shopping Plaza on Grand River. This man pointed a handgun at the store owner.

He is a black male, 30-35 years old, with a thin build and medium complexion. He was wearing blue jeans, a black sweatshirt, black knit cap, hiking boots and gloves. Anyone with information should call Farmington Detective Christine Schutz at (248) 474-4700.

Farmington Observer

Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48334-0910. Periodicals postage paid at Farmington, MI. Second-class postage paid at Farmington, MI. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48334-0910. Telephone: 444-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 ONE YEAR (in Oakland County) \$42.00
 ONE YEAR (outside Oakland County) \$48.00
 Single copies: 75¢
 Home delivery service: \$4.00 per copy, \$40.00 per year.
 Classified: \$1.00 per line.

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the circulation rate card. Copies of ads are available from the advertising department, 23411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48334-0241. 477-5430. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Advertisers have no authority to send the newspaper or publisher any correspondence or other material without the express written consent of the publisher.

Arthritis Today

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X-RAYS AND SIMILAR TESTS IN ARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE

Knees generally don't order tests unless the findings help confirm a diagnosis, or potentially change treatment.

This approach has particular value in knee pain. Discomfort or swelling in the knee doesn't mean that you should have an x-ray or possibly MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) of the involved knee joint.

If your history and examination lead the doctor to believe you banged your knee and had it reconstructed as a result, testing the knee without x-ray is reasonable. However, if the pain or swelling persists after appropriate treatment, then an x-ray is in order immediately.

You may experience an evaluation by your physician which brings up the diagnosis of possible frayed meniscus or knee ligament loss. Then ordering an MRI, despite it being an expensive test, is proper. The diagnosis requires arthroscopy as treatment; both cost and hazard of this procedure are considerably lessened if the precise cause is clear before hand.

MRI can give that type of precise information.

If you have undergone knee replacement or arthroscopy, obtain a copy of the pre-procedure and post-procedure films. If pain recurs in the operated knee, you should return to the doctor who did the surgery; I appreciate that this is not always possible. However, you can always request copies of your films. Having them with you answers the doctor's question if you now. Comparing current x-rays with past ones often answers the question of whether the present knee pain relates to previous surgery.

TAMMIE GRAVES / STAFF ARTIST

Detectors

from page A1

The homeowner said he cleaned the furnace and duct work himself. Nevertheless, fire staff advised him to have a licensed furnace and boiler contractor work on it before the family returned home.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide

poisoning include dizziness, nausea, drowsiness and burning eyes. An alarm can warn people dangerous levels of CO are present.

Consumers Energy recommends detectors at least have an audible alarm and be Underwriters Laboratory listed.

Consumers Energy offers carbon monoxide detectors to customers for \$88.50 and \$109.69, including shipping and handling. "There is no more important thing to have in your home than a carbon monoxide detector and smoke detector," said Debra Dodd, Consumers Energy spokeswoman. "That's one of the best lines of defense against carbon monoxide poisoning."

SPOTLIGHT ON

Orthodontics

by Josephine Finazza, D.M.D.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

While it is generally recommended that children see an orthodontist beginning at about age seven to see if they could benefit from orthodontic treatment now or in the future, parents can sometimes get a good indication of the need for treatment on their own. For instance, if a parent sees that his or her child's permanent teeth will be forced out of their proper alignment, at this time a course of treatment can be initiated. Other possible indications of the need for orthodontic treatment include mouth-breathing, which results in never fully closing the mouth and improper growth of teeth and jaws, and teeth-grinding, which can place persistent pressure on the teeth to move them out of position.

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that every child visit an orthodontist by age 7 or earlier if an orthodontic problem is detected by parents, the dentist, or the child's physician. An early examination allows the orthodontist to determine when a particular problem should be treated for maximum improvement, with the least time and expense. In many patients, early treatment achieves results that are unattainable once the face and jaws have finished growing. For further information, call THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 19223 Merriman, Livonia (442-8885). The initial consultation is free.

THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP

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Dentistry in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.,
Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY

The new technology known as digital radiography uses a radiation detector to form an electronic image of a patient's teeth. This image, received by a television camera, is transmitted to a computer in digital form or stored in the computer memory. Thus, the images can be viewed immediately on a monitor, or they can be recalled at a later time. This digital information can also be manipulated. Subtraction radiology uses digital imaging to subtract an earlier image from one taken later. This provides the dentist with a useful tool in the detection of periodontal disease. Digital radiography also provides the advantage of being able to be taken either from within or outside the mouth.

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REFLECTIONS on a year gone by

This has been a difficult year for some... a merciful year for others. We ask you to join us in expressing our sympathies to the families we have served during the past twelve months. May the coming year be a blessed one for you and your family.

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The Farmington Observer

DEC 1997