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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Safety: The Farmington Hills City Council is considering an ordinance requiring the use of helmets while bicycling. /A2

At last: The Michigan Department of Transportation has informed Farmington officials that the city will get a left-turn light at the Orchard Lake, Nine Mile and Grand River intersection. /A6

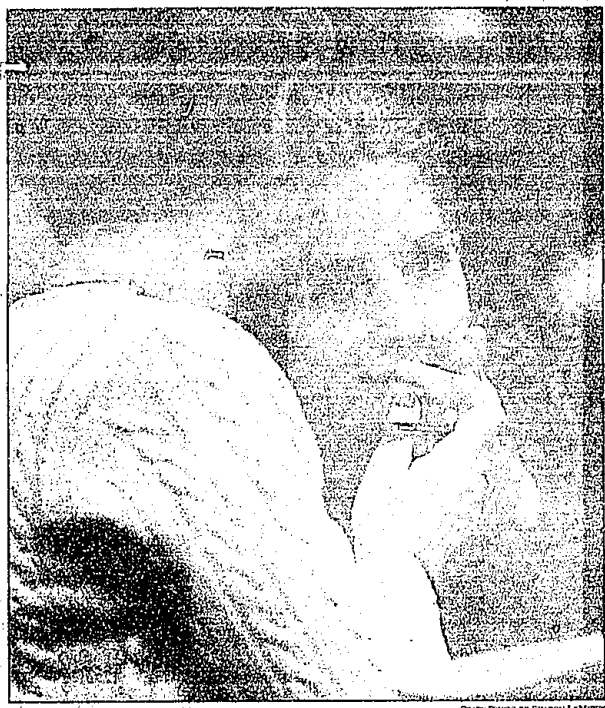
OPINION
Diversity: The honorees at the Rainbow Recognition Awards breakfast are fine examples of how we all can make a difference. /A14

COMMUNITY LIFE
Gathering: Local history buffs gathered at the downtown library for a show and tell of old gadgets. /B1

Owl, out: Mercy High French teacher Joyce Campbell tells why France is the place to be this summer. /B1

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STAFF PHOTO BY SHERIDN LIZHICK

Attentive: Power Middle School seventh-grader Aaron Helisch and his mom, Cindi, share their thoughts during the Call to Action summit.

Zero tolerance

Kids offer their observations

By TIM SMITH
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Zip, zilch, nada, none ... These are among other ways to say "zero tolerance" to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

But the meaning of the actual term itself — and of the student code of conduct, as well — apparently is going right over the heads of Farmington Public Schools' students who participated in the Wednesday, Jan. 27, Call to Action summit.

See related story, Page A10

During breakout sessions at the summit's mid-point, the group of middle and high school students made other candid observations:

- Parents tell them one thing and do another, making it far too easy for them to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol.
- They receive too many mixed messages about what is right or wrong.
- And that perhaps a "city code of conduct"

Please see SUMMIT, A10

Developers given project wish list

■ The Farmington Hills City Council let developers know their thoughts on what members would like to see in the Eleven Pines development.

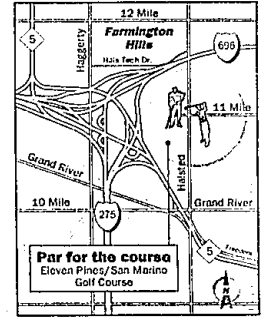
By LARRY O'CONNOR
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In the ideal setting for Eleven Pines, Farmington Hills golf enthusiasts will have up to 18 holes to play, a new clubhouse and surrounded by trees, homes and possibly senior housing.

While conjuring up notions of a splendid green golf course and accompanying development, the city also wants to recoup at least \$5.5 million to offset the cost of buying more than 100 acres to expand San Marino Golf Course.

On Monday, Farmington Hills City Council members shared what they'd like to see at the 92-acre Eleven Pines site, which includes trees and a lake as well as a landfill. Developers and interested residents listened intently during a study session at Fire Station No. 5.

Now it's up to developers, who have been asked to submit their proposals. In November, nine developers put in



Please see PINES, A11

Schools pledge prior notice

By TIM SMITH
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Parents of fifth-grade students will be notified about exactly when lessons on sexual harassment and child abuse are to be taught — plus they will have the chance to preview materials and opt out their kids if they so wish.

And, without any repercussions, Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield said parents shouldn't worry about being targeted as potential child abusers if their sons or daughters don't attend the lessons.

According to Maxfield, "It hadn't originally been our staff's plan" to notify parents about the sexual harassment and child abuse lessons; the child abuse lessons are part of a personal protection segment of the Respecting Myself and Others curriculum.

"But we'll do it exactly the way we do the sexual reproduction class," Maxfield said. "They (parents) will get a preview."

"This gives any parent who is not comfortable a chance to opt (his child) out" or discuss the issue with them, he said.

Letters of notification will be mailed to all parents of fifth graders shortly before lessons, and follow-up letters will be sent out, said district health coordinator Kathy McElroy. A committee is working on specific details, she said. In addition, a general notice will be included in the fall newsletter.

Please see NOTICE, A9

Newspapers reorganize

HomeTown Communications Network Inc. President Richard Aginon and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Vice President and General Manager Steve Pope today announced a major reorganization of the O&E management team.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

Justin Wilcox, associate publisher of the Troy Eccentric, Rochester Clarion-Eccentric, Oxford Eccentric, Lake Orion Eccentric and Clarkston Eccentric, has been promoted to publisher of these papers, as well as becoming publisher of the Eccentric West Bloomfield-Lakes Edition and the Southfield Eccentric.

Jeanne Towar, HomeTown Communications Network vice president-editorial, will assume the position of Birmingham Eccentric publisher to complement her responsibilities for HomeTown's other Oakland County properties.

"With the recent acquisitions of the Rochester Clarion, Holly Herald and Mirror Newspapers of Royal Oak, Birmingham, Clawson, Borkley and Ferndale,

Please see O&E, A9

Council backs police chief

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington Hills City Council members are backing their police chief for his decision to follow through on a gambling raid at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

In a written statement issued Tuesday, the council members said they "deplore the double standard which gives special treatment to those with influence and powerful positions."

Among those ticketed included "highly-placed people," the statement said. Some off-duty police officers from Westland and Canton were also ticketed during raid Jan. 17.

On Jan. 26, Royal Oak authorities dropped mis-

demeanor charges against more than 360 people. Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said he wasn't notified, which sparked a dispute involving the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

An Oakland County prosecuting attorney said the warrant was poorly written. Dwyer called it "a cheap shot."

The county prosecutor's office was contacted prior to the raid, Dwyer said. Deputy Prosecutor James Halushka said the prosecutor's office wasn't asked to draft the warrant.

"The purpose of the statement was to back the chief," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. "I thought he was unfairly criticized, especially on the warrant."

Please see CHIEF, A9

Argentine students beef up on U.S. customs

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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Between consuming 20 hamburgers and using a Coca-Cola can to demonstrate to geographically-challenged Yanks why it's summer in South America and winter here, six Argentinian exchange students are bearing up to U.S. customs.

The six are visiting Farmington Hills Mercy High as part of a cultural exchange between the all-girls' Catholic school and their sister school outside of Buenos Aires. The girls are here until Feb. 13.

A handful of Mercy students, accompanied by principal Sister Regina Marie Doelker, will visit

St. Ethnea's for four weeks in July. St. Ethnea's is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

The Argentinians marvel about their visit until the subject of food comes up.

"I'll offer you the food here," said Ana De Ambrosi, who lives in La Vista.

Argentinians and the late Wendy's gothic pitchwoman share one common concern: They want to find the beef. Far from vegetarians, natives of the South American country love their red meat.

"I think I ate 20 hamburgers," one student said.

Culinary concerns aside, the



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL ENGLEZ

Hello: Sister Susana Diaz, RSM, and Sister Sara Fliess, RSM, greet the students from Argentina at Mercy High School.

Please see ARGENTINA, A12

