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THE WEEK AHEAD

More congestion:

Motorists can expect northbound lanes on I-275 to be reduced to two lanes between Five Mile and I-696 until at least Saturday, while construction crews build a barrier. Once the barrier is completed and crews build temporary crossover lanes through the I-275 median, southbound traffic will be crossed over to temporary lanes on the northbound side, possibly as early as May 13.

MONDAY

Council meets: Farmington City Council meets 8 p.m. in city council chambers. Farmington Hills City Council plans a study session to go over its budget for the coming year.

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FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Editor's note: From now until the debut of the Festival of the Arts April 25-May 2 at the William Costick Activities Center, we will highlight the myriad of clubs and organizations that comprise the Farmington Community Arts Council, which hosts the weeklong festival.

Farmington Historical Society

The society is a group of about 101 members who love history. "We try to preserve and publicize the history of the Farmington area," said member Jim Denny.

The society is known for its hosting of the Heritage Home Tour every three years. It also produces a newsletter five times a year. Members also write historical articles and volunteer in the history room at the Farmington library branch. Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month in the lower level of the Farmington library branch.

Farmington Area Arts Commission

The nine-member commission is appointed by the city councils of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Three members represent Farmington, six represent the Hills. "We are funded by Farmington and Farmington Hills," said Fern Barber, commission chairwoman. "It is a collaborative effort."

The commission is the major backer of the Festival of the Arts, which concludes today. "All of our members of the commission are doing something for the festival," Barber said.

The purpose of the commission is to "encourage the performing and creative

Please see ARTS, A4

'Gateway' firm wants to expand

A local business has plans for expansion and is seeking zoning change approval.

By TIM SMITH
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One of Farmington's biggest "gateway" businesses could be on the verge of becoming even bigger. H.R. Krueger Machine Tool's proposal to approve "expansion of a non-con-

forming use Type A" is on the agenda for Wednesday's Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, set for 8 p.m. at Farmington City Hall.

"I'm hoping we'll get the approval," said Scott Moore, Krueger president. "It may be contingent on revised landscaping."

Moore added that the project could be "a positive change for this part of the city, and I'd hope the zoning board considers it in the same light."

The proposal includes adding 16,800

square feet to the rear portion of the facility, located at Grand River-Mooney Street in the eastern portion of the city.

Two lots owned by Krueger would eventually be merged and the property reconfigured, said Kevin Gushman, Farmington Department of Public Services director.

Because Krueger includes a factory for manufacturing purposes, Gushman explained, "It technically would not be a use that would be permitted" under

the current zoning master plan.

"But they're very unique," he said. "They run a very clean operation, a really quiet operation. ... It's very compatible with surrounding businesses."

Krueger's offices are also included on the campus.

But the machine tool company must make a few changes to the site plan, mostly in landscaping. Those were stipulated by the Farmington Planning Commission when it gave conditional

Please see GATEWAY, A4

No ordinary 'Joe'



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZEL

Showtime: Joseph (Jeff Shiffman) isn't quite sure what to do about the advances of Mrs. Potiphar (Krystle Richeson). He's surrounded by dancers Stephanie Roberts, Ashleigh Dexter, Tricia Berry, Sophie Martins, Catherine Powell and Stefanie Elson. North Farmington High School presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" opening Thursday, May 7 with additional performances May 8, 14 and 15. Tickets are \$7 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for adults. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 489-3539.

Eighth-grader shares Peruvian adventure

By TIM SMITH
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One would be hard-pressed to find anyone on the lecture circuit younger than 14-year-old John Szymusiak, an eighth-grader at O.E. Dunckel Middle School.

But John picked up enough knowledge about the country of Peru during

his February-March junket with the JASON-X project to do five weekly speaking engagements about the topic and about his experience.

John was one of 20 students, including 16 Americans, to make the trek to the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research, known as the ACER. But he was the only student participating from Michigan.

Recently, John made one of his

appearances during the Farmington Board of Education meeting, narrating a series of slides with a plethora of rapid-fire facts and interesting trip tidbits. School board members were very impressed with the student's presentation. Earlier on that same day, he spoke to Dunckel students and parents, during the "Back to the Future Day" and parent appreciation break-fast.

"There's no CD players," said John, talking about conditions in the rain forest-laden South American country. "We were expecting the worst, but it was not as bad as we thought."

Unless you want to talk about the food.

"It was fish, rice and beans... fish, rice and beans," he said. "It's high pro-

Please see PERU, A4

Farmington staffer earns top honor

By KEN ABRAMCZYK
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Tim Smith, a reporter with the Farmington Observer, certainly has received his share of accolades and accomplishments this year.

Smith's book was published, in which he tackled the topic of premature babies, reliving his and his wife, Donna's, own personal experiences during the birth of the couple's now 4-year-old daughter, Elizabeth.

For his coverage of educational issues, Smith won a first-place award from the Suburban Newspapers of America. On Thursday, Smith received the Journalist of the Year Award for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers from Philip Power, chairman of Hometown Communications Network, the company that owns the newspaper group.

Smith, 42, of Livonia, was honored for his exem-

O&E JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

plary coverage in his reporting on schools, police and fire departments for the Farmington Observer.

Smith was nominated along with Tom Hawley, photographer with the Observer Newspapers; LeAnne Rogers, reporter with the Garden City Observer; Larry McKee, photographer with the Lake Orion and Oxford Eccentric editions; and Pat Murphy, Oakland County reporter for the Eccentric Newspapers.

Power remembered a recent luncheon where he spoke to the Farmington Exchange Club and

Please see SMITH, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZEL

Peer recognition: Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith receives congratulations from colleague Mary Rodrigue after he was named O&E Journalist of the Year.

