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## 3 schools shine in MEAP scores



Farmington school officials have cited Kenbrook, Grace and Power for making significant strides in the latest round of MEAP scores. Overall, officials seem pleased with test results throughout the district.

BY RICHARD PEARL  
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Principals at two Farmington schools said a focused effort by administrators and teaching staff has helped their students improve Michigan Education Assessment Program test scores this year. MEAP results released Monday by the Farmington Public Schools District showed that Kenbrook and William Grace elementary schools made what district officials called "significant gains" in reading while Power Middle School "distinguished itself" in mathematics.

annual report, which generally showed continued improvement by district students.

An error in scoring the science portion from some districts — not including Farmington — caused the state Department of Education on June 11 to hold off releasing statewide averages in reading, math, writing and science and delaying comparisons between the district and the rest of the state. All MEAP tests were given in January. But "even now, at this late date, there still are no state scores," remarked Dr. Barbara Chorem, district director of assessment and evaluation, on Monday. She said the district decid-

The three schools highlighted the

Please see MEAP, A6

4th Grade MATH	7th Grade MATH
District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99	District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99
Farmington 77.8 84.0 84.1	Farmington 67.3 75.5 79
State Average 69.5 74.1 N/A	State Average 61.1 61.4 N/A
4th Grade READING	7th Grade READING
District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99	District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99
Farmington 62.7 69.7 71.2	Farmington 52.0 60.3 57.7
State Average 49 58.6 N/A	State Average 40.4 48.8 N/A
5th Grade SCIENCE	8th Grade SCIENCE
District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99	District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99
Farmington 54.0 52.1 59	Farmington 21.1 22.1 22.9
State Average 38.8 40.4 N/A	State Average 17.0 22 N/A
8th Grade WRITING	8th Grade WRITING
District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99	District 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99
Farmington 82.7 83.5 72.1	Farmington 84.8 88.0 85.5
State Average 73.4 64.3 N/A	State Average 77 89 N/A

### IN THE PAPER TODAY

Off road: A Farmington man is hurt when he rides his bicycle off a sidewalk in the dark./A5

Rescheduled: An accused armed robber will head for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court in mid-July./A5

### OPINION

Missing: The community has lost three good friends to death within the last six months./A10

Celebrate: It's July 4 and time to celebrate our freedoms, which also come with responsibilities, such as voting./A10

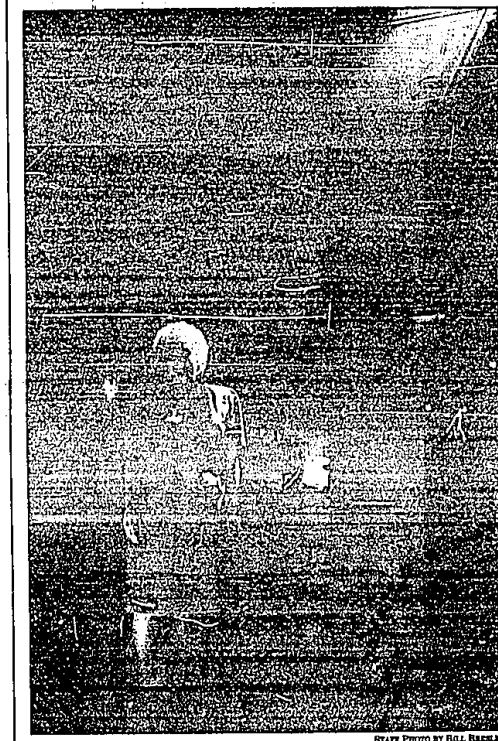
Speaking out: Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi speaks out about opponents to a new bicycle helmet ordinance./A11

### COMMUNITY LIFE

WJR: Meet Mike Peczey of WJR fame./B1

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Staff Photo by Bill Bazzaz

On her way: Deborah Clarke, North Farmington High School principal, is saying her goodbyes as she heads to a new administrative job in the Pontiac school system.

## Beamed away Clarke heads north

BY TIM SMITH  
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It almost looked like a scene out of Star Trek.

Bathed in white rays, streaming from the skylight openings in North Farmington High School's unfinished athletic training area, Deborah Clarke appeared to be glowing awaiting transport right out of the place.

And yes, although Clarke is leaving the high school after more than nine years as its principal, her exit wasn't so "beam me up" dramatic. Or willful.

Actually, Clarke admits that she has mixed feelings and a heavy heart about leaving to take an administrative position in Pontiac Public School District. She loves kids and empowering teachers to

Please see CLARKE, A4

## Mercy Health Services announces merger

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Employees at Farmington Hills-based Mercy Health Services won't learn for another few months how a recently announced merger affects them.

On Monday, Mercy officials said the nonprofit organization will consolidate operations with South Bend, Ind.-based Holy Cross Health System Corp. The merger makes the system the third largest Catholic health system in the country, employing more than 50,000 people.

Mercy has 178 full-time corporate employees at its headquarters on 12 Mile Road. The Catholic, nonprofit health system sponsored by the Sisters

### FARMINGTON HILLS

of Mercy Regional Community of Detroit has been at the current site since 1988.

No decision has been made about whether Mercy Health Services will maintain its Farmington Hills headquarters. Officials should know by January 2000.

"It's too early to say," said Stephen Shvinsky, Mercy Health Services associate vice president for communications. "In the next few months, we will be looking at where we have comple-

Please see MERCY, A4

## Fireworks set off Founders Festival

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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The Hills will be alive with sound of Founders Festival this year. Except it won't be music to the ears as much as a thunderous percussion and stomp of elephant hooves.

Farmington Hills has always taken an active role in the annual event. This year, the city's presence increases in terms of events taking place within its borders.

On July 4, the city will present its second annual fireworks show at, appropriately named, Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile Road.

Last year, Farmington Hills hosted the first-ever pyrotechnic display at the 83-acre sports park to celebrate its 25th anniversary in June.

Similarly, another event that debuted last summer returns during Founders Festival week. The Kelly Miller Circus performs July 8.

"We're certainly contributing more to the Founders Festival than in the past in terms of events," Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock said. "We are trying to add more synergy to the Founders Festival as far as coalescing certain events we already have ... to make it week-long."

"I think (Founders Festival) is a lot more than just an in-Farmington type of an event," said Special Services Director David Boyer. "It's a cities event involving both Farmington and Farmington Hills. I think it's going to continue to grow in that manner."

Fireworks during the 25th anniversary concert proved exceptionally popular, with 2,000 people attending despite rain earlier in the day. Like last year, the Teen Angels perform 7-10 p.m., followed by pyrotechnics from Zambelli Brothers.

Parking is limited. People can leave their cars south of Eight Mile at Metroview, which is within walking distance of the concert area.



Sunday, July 4:

- Teen Angels, 7-10 p.m. • Founders Sports Park
- Fireworks, 10 p.m. • Founders Sports Park

Tuesday, July 6:

- Kids day with Bloome the Clown, noon to 5 p.m. • Shilwassee Park

Wednesday, July 7:

- Miss Farmington Pageant, 7 p.m. • Vidimir's Banquet Center

Thursday, July 8:

- Kelly-Miller Circus, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. • Founders Sports Park
- Tennis tournament, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. • Farmington High School
- Craft show, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. • Big Apple Bagel parking lot
- Fine arts show, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. • Memorial Park

Friday, July 9:

- Tennis tournament continues, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. • Farmington High School
- Country line dancers, 4-5 p.m. • Showmobile
- Bon Temps Route, 5:15-6:15 p.m. • Showmobile
- Mad'puppy, 6:30-7:30 p.m. • Showmobile
- Chisel Brothers, 7:45-8:45 p.m. • Showmobile
- Imperial Swing Orchestra, 9-10:30 p.m. • Showmobile

Saturday, July 10:

- Tennis tournament continues, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. • Farmington High School
- 4-mile run, 3-mile walk, 9 a.m. • Shilwassee Park
- Shirts Parade, 10 a.m. on Grand River
- Country line dancers, 3-4 p.m. • Showmobile
- Starlight Drivers, 4-5 p.m. • Showmobile
- Forbes Brothers, 5:15-6:15 p.m. • Showmobile
- Jill Jack, 6:30-7:30 p.m. • Showmobile
- Black Market, 7:45-8:45 p.m. • Showmobile
- Howling Diablos, 9-10:30 p.m. • Showmobile

Sunday, July 11

- Volleyball tournament, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Founders Sports Park
- Tennis tournament continues, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Farmington High School
- Raffle ticket-holder party, 6-9 p.m. • Farmington Hills Manor

## Merchants gearing up for festival

BY TIM SMITH  
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From sidewalk barbecues to cool treats and freebies, downtown Farmington businesses are gearing up in different ways for the Founders Festival.

But all agree that the week-long extravaganza, from July 4-11, is a top attraction that can only benefit their stores in the long run.

Some 60,000-70,000 people are expected to attend this year's event, managed by Watts Up! Inc. for the newly organized Farmington Area Founders Festival Inc. Past festivals were organized by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

"I've always been a strong supporter (of the festival)," said Diane Cassidy, owner of Village Hidden Treasures and the Village Clippers Salon. "It's your largest avenue for free advertising. There are 10,000 people down here at a given time who aren't usually here."

"So the best thing we can do as retail businesses is provide them with something fun to do."

Please see FESTIVAL, A5

## Volunteers needed now

BY RICHARD PEARL  
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Looking for a good thing to do this Fourth of July weekend?

Because of rain and shipping errors, the city of Farmington is seeking volunteers — whole families and others who haven't already helped — this Saturday, Sunday and Monday for one big, final push to get the Kids World Playscape up and running at Shilwassee Park.

Rain last Sunday hampered efforts to get the woodchips laid in the play area, said Bill Richards, Farmington's assistant city manager who is overseeing the project. The rain softened the terrain, forcing volunteers to make "thousands of trips" with wheelbarrows instead of using



Please see PLAY, A3

