

IN THE PAPER TODAY

ARTS

Fine selection: This weekend's Festival of the Arts at Nativity Episcopal Church, which started as a celebration of the creative gifts of God, will feature 56 artists, showing painting, clay, wood sculpture, photography, jewelry and fibers. /B1

AT HOME

In bloom: The plants will be blooming with color at the upcoming Michigan African Violet Society display at Matthaei Gardens and the Michigan Orchid Society show at Laurel Park Place. /C1

HOMETOWN LIFE

Opera man: During the day, Dean Unick can be found digging ditches or crawling around in attic work that goes with being a carpenter. But in the evening he transforms into his nighttime self: Opera singer with the prestigious Michigan Opera Theatre and Rackham Symphony Choir. /C5

Reaching out: It took Donna Ellis six years and the help of 20 family members to capture her own family stories. Now she is helping families, businesses and organizations with their history-saving projects as a "personal historian." /C5

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Board OK's school boundaries



After months of discussion, Farmington school officials have finally approved an attendance boundary plan for the coming school year that includes "companion" schools to help deal with crowding.

BY SUE BUCK
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Revised school boundaries were approved unanimously March 5 at the Farmington school board meeting. School officials and members of an attendance area review committee presented their plans to address expected overcrowding at Beechview, Kenbrook and Longacre Elementary Schools next

year at the Feb. 19 meeting.

The district wants to make both the Alameda and Fairview Early Childhood Centers, located at 32400 Alameda and 28500 Oak Crest Drive, "full back" centers and have those buildings house expanding preschool programs. The primary goal has been to fill the 13 home schools first.

"It's inefficient to run kindergarten at 15 sites when we don't need 15

sites," said Farmington School Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Sue Zurvalet co-chaired the attendance area review committee with Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations. Committee members included school principals and their chosen parent representatives.

Only elementary school boundaries were under consideration this year.

The primary elements of the plan are:

- Beechview, 26840 Westmeath — Maintain the Beechview Elementary boundaries with Lanigan Elementary, 23800 Tuck Road, as an overflow com-

panion school for incoming kindergarten through second graders. If space permits, parents could return their children to Beechview for these grades. Alameda would be used as a kindergarten overflow building only if it is available and as a last option. Beechview-area students in grades 3 to 5 will continue to attend Beechview.

- Kenbrook, 32130 Bonnet Hill — Maintain current boundaries. An overflow/companion school model would be used, if necessary, and as a first option for any kindergarten overflow. Forest Elementary was announced as Ken-

Please see BOARD, A2

Profiles in courage

Ceremony honors 26 who turned lives around

BY JONI HURRED
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Matthew Migliore's parents smiled broadly as they watched their son cross the small stage at Farmington Hills Manor during Tuesday's Turn Around Achievement Awards ceremony.

The Lucito star with a plaque bearing his name might look nice on a shelf, and they can frame the certificate he received, as did 25 other students recognized for making significant life changes. But the most important reward Matthew has received for his accomplishments has less to do with recognition than simply having his life back.

"I never expected I'd be here, or that I would lose what I had and regain it in a totally different way," he said after the event, launched this year through the efforts of Farmington Public Schools, the Farmington Observer, Farmington Public Safety and Farmington Hills Police Departments, along with a long list of community sponsors.

An avid and talented football player at Harrison High School, Matthew was hit hard during a game and suffered a career-ending injury. His grades dropped, his spirits sank and he began to wonder where he fit in at school.

Thanks to encouragement from social worker Greg Drzdzowski, he tried out for the school musical "Oklahoma!" and discovered a talent he never knew he had — dancing. He has since earned a spot on the Harrison High Dance Company. Matthew credits Mr. Drzdzowski with getting him through "the days when I didn't think I would make it."

"You go through life never knowing what to expect, and then you find things turn out for the best after all," said the senior, who has lifted his grade point average to 4.0 for the current school semester. That's the case for all 26 hon-

Please see CEREMONY, A3



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRIDLER

Turn Around Achievers: The honorees are, in alphabetical order; Michelle Anderson (not pictured), Devin Bailey, Corey Boulas, Dominique Boyd, Amanda Bramble, Nicholas Cianciolo, Lauren Daniels, Shqipe Dauti, Andrea DiGiglio, Amy Gibson, Julie Goettlicher, Natalie James, Justin Kasgoris, Will Larkin, Heather Lindenmuth, Ryan Martino, Steven "Joe" McElroy, Matthew Migliore, Aaron Mundy, David Myers, Alicia Orihel, Leslie Orihel (not pictured), Angela Priebe, Ryan Taylor, Jessica Trowbridge and Brad Willis.



She's a star: Julie Goettlicher had a life-changing experience working with poor children in Peru.

And the achievers are ...

Michelle Anderson, Warner Middle School, Grade 8
Devin Bailey, Power Middle School, Grade 7
Corey Boulas, Farmington High School, Grade 12
Dominique Boyd, North Farmington High School, Grade 11
Amanda Bramble, Dunckel Middle School, Grade 8
Nicholas Cianciolo, North Farmington High School, Grade 10
Lauren Daniels, Warner Middle School, Grade 7
Shqipe Dauti, East Middle School, Grade 8
Andrea DiGiglio, Farmington Alternative Academy, Grade 12
Amy Gibson, North Farmington High School, Grade 10
Julie Goettlicher, Farmington High School, Grade 12
Natalie James, Dunckel Middle School, Grade 8
Justin Kasgoris, North Farmington High School, Grade 12
Will Larkin, Harrison High School, Grade 9
Heather Lindenmuth, Power Middle School, Grade 7
Ryan Martino, Dunckel Middle School, Grade 8
Steven "Joe" McElroy, Harrison High School, Grade 12
Matthew Migliore, Harrison High School, Grade 12
Aaron Mundy, East Middle School, Grade 8
David Myers, Warner Middle School, Grade 8
Alicia Orihel, Farmington High School, Grade 12
Leslie Orihel, Farmington High School, Grade 12
Angela Priebe, Adult Education - Farmington Community School
Ryan Taylor, Power Middle School, Grade 7
Jessica Trowbridge, Harrison High School, Grade 11
Brad Willis, East Middle School, Grade 8.

Accident kills elderly pedestrian

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Farmington Hills police are investigating the traffic death of an 81-year-old West Bloomfield woman who was struck by a SUV while she was wandering a residential street in northern Farmington Hills late Friday night.

According to Lt. Gary Hawald of the Farmington Hills Police Department, the woman's family had reported her disappearance to West Bloomfield Police Friday evening.

She was walking along Northwick near Brierton around 12:30 a.m. Saturday when she was struck by the SUV driven by an 18-year-old Farmington Hills man, police said. The street has no sidewalks.

Hawald said the woman was taken to

Botsford Hospital where she was pronounced dead. Police would not release her name.

The driver may be issued a warrant for leaving the scene of an accident, as he did not report it immediately, Hawald said. He said the death has been ruled an accident and alcohol was not a factor.

Detective Jeff Pindzin of the West Bloomfield Police Department said the woman lived with her son and family near the border of Farmington Hills.

He said the family told police they did not know why she left the house. She had diabetes and could be confused easily, but she was not diagnosed with dementia, Pindzin said.

In May, the family reported her missing, but she was later found, the detective said.

Special 'Pay It Forward' viewing slated

In conjunction with the Farmington Community Library's "Everybody's Reading: Pay It Forward" program, the movie "Pay It Forward" will be shown at the Farmington Civic Theatre at 11:45 a.m. and 2:05 p.m. on Sunday, March 10.

The Civic is at 3332 Grand River in downtown Farmington, just one block east of Farmington Road.

"Everybody's Reading" encourages the public to join together to read and discuss the book by Catherine Ryan Hyde, upon which the movie is based. It relates the story of a young boy who develops an idea to change the world as a school assignment.

He calculates that if everyone

"paid it forward" by doing a favor and asking only that the recipient do a favor for three other people in return, thousands of lives could be touched.

The movie stars Haley Joel Oment, Helen Hunt and Kevin Spacey.

Tickets will be discounted from the theater's regular rate for this event. Admission is just \$1.

For more information about the program, which also seeks to foster community involvement, go to www.everybodysreading.org or visit either the downtown Farmington or 12 Mile Road branch of the Farmington Library.