

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER

We're celebrating Dad this year with a special contest. Send us a favorite photograph of you and your Dad with a short caption, explaining why it's your favorite (funny, sentimental or just interesting). We'll hold a drawing of all entries and award a winner from each Observer Newspaper with two tickets to the Ford Senior Players Championship golf tournament at the Dearborn TPC, July 8-14. Participants are expected to include Tom Watson, Hale Irwin, Tom Kite and senior "rookies" Fuzzy Zoeller and Ben Crenshaw. All tickets include a free shuttle bus ride to the front gate of the TPC. To enter, send your photo to Joni Hubred, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335. Photos will not be returned. All entries are due by 6 p.m. Friday, June 7. Even if your name isn't selected for a prize, you'll have a chance to show Dad how much he means to you. We'll have a special page on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, where we'll publish the photos.

Ford Motor Company
SENIOR PLAYERS
CHAMPIONSHIP

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

By
design: If
you say
aluminum
and think

cans, as in pop cans, you need to visit the Cranbrook Art Museum where a major exhibition documents the impact of the material on design and technology./B1

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End of the road: Nearly 3,500 men and women, their families and supporters gathered at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills Sunday, at the close of the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

Full circle

Avon walkers raise \$5.25 million

BY JONI HUBRED
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An empty circle formed at the beginning of the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk in Ann Arbor arrived with in Farmington Hills Sunday, with nearly 3,500 walkers who joined family and friends at the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile Road.

Men and women from across the state participated in the 60-mile trek, which also moved them through Canton, Livonia and Plymouth, netted \$5.25 million. The first-ever Michigan event was among 13 held across the country, raising approximately \$115 million for breast cancer research,

patient care, support services, education and early detection programs. The empty circle, which held memories of loved ones lost to cancer, "now holds our memories of the past three days," said Nancy Mercurio, a walker who committed to all 13 events.

Cars were parked in every available space along the shoulder and on sidewalks as supporters poured onto the soccer fields around a large stage. They carried posters, balloons, bouquets of roses and spring flowers and many wore t-shirts proudly proclaiming support for their "crew."

As music boomed from tall speakers, the walkers arrived, walking arm

in arm. They crowded in front of the stage, many taking off their sneakers and holding them high as they danced in celebration.

But there were many somber reminders of the cause they supported.

"At opening ceremonies, from when we took our first step on Friday morning to where we are now, somewhere in America, 244 lives were lost to breast cancer," said Jennifer Accord, who represented Avon.

She also announced the Avon Foundation had awarded a \$500,000 grant to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Can-

Please see WALKERS, A10

Court cases on the rise

■ Despite an increasingly crowded docket and delays, the 47th District Court may have a long wait for an additional judgeship. According to its annual report, felony and general civil filings are up more than 30 percent.

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Farmington area's 47th District Court is bulging with more cases than ever and arguments for a third judge remain strong, say court officials.

Unfortunately, the court remains in a long line of communities begging legislators for another state-appointed judge to handle ever increasing caseloads.

According to the 47th District Court's recent annual report, new cases increased by 6.3 percent in 2001. Although new case filings have remained relatively stable for the last five years, significant increases in key judicial workload categories further bolster the court's argument for a third judge, said Court Administrator David Walsh.

In 2001, there was a 34-percent increase in felony new filings and a 35-percent increase in general civil cases over \$10,000 that further congested the judges' dockets and extended scheduling timelines, he said.

Please see COURT, A10

MEAP reading results concern officials

BY JONI HUBRED
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While the numbers don't tell the whole story, Farmington school officials are concerned about some results from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program testing, released last week.

"There's a number of concerns," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield. "We're still not seeing the progress we want to

make. We had a fourth grade reading drop that mirrored the state, but we work too hard to just simply mirror the state."

Maxfield said results disseminated by the state were distributed to building principals, who were in turn asked what they saw. He believes while the district's increased emphasis on early reading shifted help from the upper elementary grades, it will likely show up in improved test scores over the next few years.

Social studies scores showed a significant increase, particularly at the 5th grade level. Last year, 23.9 percent of students met or exceeded standards; this year, 36.1 percent did. Among 8th graders, 47 percent met standards, as opposed to 45.6 percent last year.

Fifth grade writing results held steady; however, 7th grade success dropped from 84.1 percent last year to 78.5 percent this year.

Kris Gekiere, who manages the data, used a new computer program to track

everything from race and languages spoken in the home to how students did in a particular area of the test.

The reading portion includes both narrative or story-like and information pieces. Kids are asked questions that can be answered within the story, as well as those that require them to think deeper and draw conclusions.

Answers aren't graded on a curve, she explained.

Please see MEAP, A10



Celebration: Rev. Ben Bohnsack presided over a hat-trick celebration recently, as Nardin Park Methodist celebrated its 75th anniversary, a Pentecost festival and a fund-raiser that netted \$150,000.

Nardin Park Methodist celebrates 75 years

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills is marking 75 years as a congregation.

This past Sunday, parishioners celebrated a "triple header" as senior pastor Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack put it: the church's 75th year, its Pentecost festival and "Miracle Sunday," a fund-raiser where \$150,000 was raised to help relieve the church's debt.

He said 150 members enjoyed a picnic outside last Sunday.

The church's history started in Detroit. The congregation began in 1927 through the combination of two churches, the Grand River Avenue Church with 2,000 members and the Nindo Church with 1,000 members.

Bohnsack said neither church had adequate buildings so they joined efforts to build one church together at Chicago and Grand River in Nardin Park.

But as the 1960s approached and more people were moving outside the city, the decision to move the church congregation from Detroit to a new building in Farmington Township was made. The choice embroiled the congregation in conflict, with many opposing the move.

But in 1965, the new church was done and it became the Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

Despite the move from Detroit, Bohnsack said the church remains committed to the city and helping its residents.

Please see NARDIN, A6

Hills resident's run for governor hits roadblock

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Tuesday wasn't Jim Moody's day. The Farmington Hills resident spent \$30,000 of his own money, "tons" of hours planning and about three months collecting more than 16,000 signatures to run as a Republican to be Michigan's next governor.

He said he found out Tuesday from the state elections bureau his qualified signatures fell about 1,000 short from the required 15,000 mark.

"I got the call yesterday saying we're short on the total," he said Wednesday. "This is not sour grapes," he said, adding that he will go up to Lansing this week to question the results before the state board of canvassers.

"We're not going to take it and just roll over," he said. "We'll ask some questions. But if it's true, I was a class act when I started this and I will be a class act when it's over."

The 59-year-old, who has never run for office before, said he decided to enter the crowded governor's race

because he figured the state needed a leader who uses common sense.

"The state really needs somebody who's thinking like I am," he said.

"If revenues are down 10 percent, then let's cut government by 10 percent."

"Basically, I am fiscally responsible. I'm very conservative," he said. According to Elizabeth Boyd, spokeswoman for the Secretary of State, Moody's signature count totaled 14,082.

"This was not a case of the signa-

tures not being qualified, it is a case of the total number did not meet the requirement by the May 14 filing deadline," she said.

Boyd said Moody can question the board of canvassers today about the results, but it's unlikely he will have any recourse to correct the shortfall.

Moody is married to Rosella and they have two adult children and three grandchildren.

He runs Paynter Floors in Novi, a

Please see MOODY, A10