Court from page A1

Magistrates are not authorized to handle felony preliminary examinations or any activity on general civil cases; therefore increasing magistrate services to address the increased workland in these areas is not an option.

The 35-percent increase in the general civil over \$10,000 category is particularly alarming, said Walsh. Since the legislature and Gov. John Engler increased the district court's jurisdiction from \$10,000 to \$25,000 in 1998, the court has annually had among the highest number of new filings in this category in the state, he said.

There is no set time when Farmington may get a third judge to help with the workload, he said.

"We have the highest number

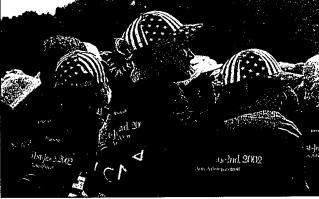
he said.
"We have the highest number "We have the highest number of civil cases of any city in state, I believe," he said. "Basically the governor has said he will not authorize appointing new judges unless one is eliminated from someplace else. The judges are paid by the state. For us it's a waiting game... We've been in line for the last 10 years while other courts with growing popu-

lations like Plymouth and Novi get new judges."
How that affects residents is that cases continually get pushed behind, Walsh said.
"You can only put so many cases on a docket, he said, "It's a constant battle to try and stay within scheduling guidelines."
New case filings for traffic civil infractions including zoning cases increased by 4.3 percent in 2001.
Small claims case filines

Small claims case filings increased by 10.7 percent. Overall, this category has increased by 21.2 percent since the small claims jurisdictional limit was increased from \$1,750 to \$3,000, in January 2000.

The court is a third class district court, pringrily funded

The court is a third class dis-rict court, primarily funded through the general fund budg-ets of the cities of Farmington (12 percent) and Farmington Hills (88 percent). The amount each city pays to support the court budget is determined by caselond and population statis-tics and can vary from year to year.



In memory: Tears of sadness fell as walkers remembered the loved ones in whose honor they made the 60-mile trek from Ann Arbor to Farmington Hills.

Walkers

from page A1

cer Institute. The Institute's chief operating officer Rosemary Gilchrist of Clarkston, also a walker, noted it had been 30 years since the National Cancer Act of 1971 declared war on can-

years since the vational Canacar.
Act of 1971 declared war on cancer.
Passed in December of that year, the legislation authorized the first cancer centers and established an international cancer research data bank.
She said the Institute, which already treats 10,000 women annually, would be able to de thousands more cancer screenings and enroll an additional 200 women in drug trial programs.
"With the help of the Avon Foundation, we will, God-willing, save lives," Gilchrist said. She thanked the volunteers, their families and support systems, adding, "You truly are our heroes."

Map assering depict roads, bodies of water or coverage areas. Artime charges apply

MEAP from page A1

"It's not a standardized test, it's a pass/fail, which is a little tougher," Cokiero said.

For instance, on the 20-question reading portion, kids must answer at least 13 questions correctly. Missing one question makes a difference, and a significant number fell into that margin.

It's also important to remember that kids may have passed the "story" portion of the test with flying colors, but didn't do well with the non-fletion or informational reading. At the 7th grade level, the overall MEAP result was 66.5 percent; however, 82.4 percent passed the story portion and 72.9 percent, the informational of 72.9 percent, the informational.

Results can also be tracked by gender. Girls traditionally do better with the story portion and 72.9 percent, the informational portion. But overall results are split almost evenly. Gekiere said.

The number of years a child has lived in the district also lave on impact. Test scores rise significantly among kids who have attended Parmington Schools for three or more years.

From a baseline of less than 50

shown steady improvement in reading scores, to 67.4 percent and 86.6 percent in 4th and 7th grades, respectively. Farmington has only dipped below the Oakhand County average once, and has always stayed well ahead of state-wide numbers, according to information Gekiere provided.

The written porting of the test

The written portion of the test The written portion of the test is judged by trained professionals, mostly educators, Gekiere said. The "cut score" designate as the state standard is 2.5, which doesn't allow much margin for error.

which doesn't allow much mar-gin for error.

In the future, reading and writing will be tested together, with a higher possible score.

The state also includes com-ments that indicate where kids went wrong with their respons-

"Oftentimes, they need to go into more depth and give more examples in their writing," Gekiere said.

Gekiere said.

The reports she runs for each building include specifics that will help teachers evaluate their classes for the coming school year. By tracking where each student has difficulty, teachers can tailor lesson plans with emphasis in those areas.

Moody from page A1

hardwood installation, and refinishing business.

The businessman said he's not a member of the local or national Republican clubs and decided torun for the state's No. 1 office on his own funding.

"I put my money where my mouth is; he said." I don't throw my money around loosely. I'm a businessman, and I thought I had an honest chance to win."

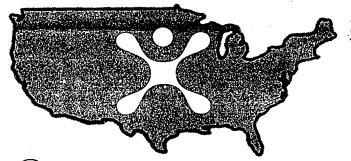
He said until he finds out for sure whether he can run for governor, he was planning on some davertising and word of mouth to lead him to a win in the primary.

"I thought I had something different to offer," he said. "I have a different slant on things, using my business sense. I'm morally correct rather than politically correct."



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What do you have to say?"

