

## Action movies raise funds for FHS

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Unicycling down ski slopes and rock climbing without gear or ropes is just part of series of films that will be shown at Farmington High School April 11.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival will make its third Michigan stop in Farmington Hills; proceeds from ticket sales will support the school's Adventure Outdoor Leadership class, where students practice outdoor activities with the help of Farmington's Benchmark Outdoor Outfitters.

Benchmark's Mike Banks teaches the class. He said the Banff Mountain Film Festival highlights outdoor adventures captured on film or videotape for an annual festival where judges vote for

the best clips based on the adrenaline they produce for the viewer.

Some of the clips are amusing as unicyclists try to wheel their way down a mountain slope only to fall off, while other clips captured a rescue mission of trapped mountain climbers after an avalanche.

"There are 250 entries from all over," Banks said. "They have big producers to narrate (productions)."

The festival's only other showing will be at Michigan State and the University of Michigan.

Banks said proceeds will help fund trips and equipment for Farmington High's adventure class.

Before the show begins, several athletic organizations will speak to guests and show clips.

They include the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, the Hills to Trails Conservation, the Schools for Outdoor Leaders and Recreation, the North Superior Climbing School, the League of Michigan Bicyclist, the North Country Trail Association, the Michigan Environmental Council - Active Michigan Initiative, the Ecology Center, Michigan Sports and Fitness, the Ecology Center, and the Wolverines Sports Club.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Benchmark, 22715 Grand River in Farmington.

Farmington's Cowley and Sons will be providing the food. The hourlong preview show starts at 7 p.m.

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## INKWELL

### German champs

Farmington Public Schools, which entered the most teams, excelled at the German Quiz Bowl held at West Bloomfield High School.

The group took home trophies and other prizes such as German flags and dictionaries. The teams were from Janet Harris's German classes.

**German 1: First Place Winners:** Becky Howles, Marc Sanko and Nathan Walker of Farmington High School; and Russell Shirey of Harrison High School.

**German 2: Second Place Winners:** Katie Meek and Nikki Mynsberge of Farmington High School and Katie Steff of Harrison High School.

**German 3/4 First Place Winners:** Dunja Elkmann and Katy Proch of North Farmington High School and Vilma Sinistaj and Arianna Sundick of Harrison High School.

Several students also won prizes in a poster contest sponsored by the German American Heritage Association.

**Second Place:** Rachael Morrison of Harrison High School.

**Fourth Place:** Merideth Klubeck of Farmington High School, Dan Robinson of North Farmington High School and Stuart Rose of Harrison High School.



The Benchmark features a climbing wall.

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## Hills officials visit U.S. capital

Farmington Hills City Council members and City Manager Steve Brock attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C., earlier this month.

Mayor Nancy Bates said the three-day conference is a way for city officials to get their concerns heard in Washington and learn more about proposed legislation

that can affect the community.

While President Bush did not speak to the attendees, Tom Ridge, the Homeland Security chief, did speak about issues facing every community, Bates said.

Council members also attended meetings on proposed legislation to extend the Internet Freedom Act, which bars taxing Internet

commerce.

Bates said Michigan is losing millions of dollars in sales tax revenue from Web transactions.

There's also a push toward early-childhood development, the mayor said. One way to address that issue is to increase pay for pre-school workers, she said.

Another concern for Bates is unfunded mandates, or laws passed at the federal level without accompanying dollars for implementation.

"It's a hot issue," she said. City Councilman Barry Brickner said the group met with U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow.

Brickner said Levin is trying to get more money back from the taxes Michigan residents pay for roads. Brickner said Michigan gets 90 cents back for every dollar it gives to federal highway program. Even if Michigan was able to get back 94 cents for each dollar, it would generate hundreds of millions of dollars, Brickner said.



Farmington Hills City Council members and City Manager Steve Brock met with U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, during the National League of Cities Conference.

By Paul R. Pace

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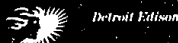


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