

Cable a teaching tool

Continued from Page 1

Cobb called the student-operated station a "tremendous boon to the schools."

An estimated 70 percent of households in the district do not have children in the public school system. Counting paid cable subscribers through the station of Oakland County — the local cable company — the educational channel has a potential viewership of about 116,000, Cobb added.

THIS CHANNEL is different because it is run by students from the studio at North Farmington High School. The new programming will run between 6-8 p.m. every Thursday. It will be written and produced and will star students from the three Farmington public high schools.

A children's puppet show, "The Popcorn Shop," a feature show called "Farmington Schools — A Closer Look" and a 15-minute news program are some of the shows already in the works, Cobb said.

Other specials will mix local panels with some of the nationally syndicated educational programming, offering such topics as sexual abuse of children, he added. Specialized local programming such as the Creative Express, which allows student plays, poetry readings and other creative expression, will continue, he said.

The Thursday night specials premier on March 5 and will air in addition to the station's weekday broadcasts from 3-5 p.m.

Not only telecommunication students are involved with the new programming. Art students' illustrations will be used and journalism students will be involved with newscasts, according to Cobb. "We involve all kinds of people."

ANOTHER GOAL for the station is to offer continuing service in the classroom. Most teachers using local station programs as lesson plans are at the elementary level. Cobb would like to see middle school and high school teachers make better use of the channel.

"We still have some detractors that feel this is . . . not viable," Cobb said of the program, which began 2½ years ago. "There's some reluctance."

To promote the additional Thursday night broadcasts, TV-10 hired a consultant to compile a program guide and to do a follow-up community survey during the first week of April to help future programming.

Meanwhile, as Cobb and his students work to gain audience, the students gain valuable broadcast experience, which is carried with them into telecommunications careers.

And the opportunities grow. In addition to the studio, which was completed in 1985 as a cooperative venture between MetroVision and the school district, a new idea is taking shape in the control room.

Community Access Radio will soon be used to do live voice-casts on Channel 10, Cobb said. It is the only program in the country to mix the community access radio with television via local cable, he added.



Gianna Mason (right), Farmington High senior, and Stephanie Jaffee (left), Farmington senior, monitor the Popcorn Shop from the Channel 10 control booth.

History theme continued

Continued from Page 1

sloners decided against naming parks after individuals because of the possibility of slighting those whose names would not be chosen, Potter said.

Originally, the name "Youth Park" was suggested for the city's first athletic park. But city council members rejected the name, preferring something more descriptive.

At a special study session between city council and parks and recreation commissioners about two weeks ago, commissioners unveiled the name "Pioneer Youth Park."

Commissioners wanted the word youth in the name because the park is planned predominantly for youth athletics. Commissioners also wanted the word youth in the name because youth athletes were bolstered as a good reason for supporting the successful five-year, 0.5-mill levy approved by voters last summer.

In the final analysis, however, city council members rejected the word youth. "I would prefer we didn't have youth in there," Councilwoman Jody Soronen said.

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN DUDLEY agreed. "What are we going to do when we have some simple, but ef-

fective fitness trails for those of us who are over 21, 31, 41."

Most council members agreed the word youth made the name awkward and that most residents would eventually nickname the park, "Pioneer Park."

Councilman Joe Alkateeb stood alone in remaining true to parks and recreation commissioners' full recommendation.

"It's a slap in the face to them (commissioners) to take the word youth out," Alkateeb said, adding the council should have disagreed and tried to change the name at the spe-

cial study session.

Councilwoman Jan Dolan and Don Wolf disagreed. "They have submitted names before, and we have turned them down," Dolan said.

Wolf added: "Everyone in this city is going to call it Pioneer Park. I guess I would go with what people are going to call it."

The park, on which construction should begin in spring, will include two baseball/softball fields and two soccer fields. In the fall, the two ball fields can be used for soccer. Originally, the plan called for three soccer fields.

Forum on taxation

A tax expert will be guest speaker at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon Thursday, Feb. 19.

The luncheon will begin with a social hour at noon at C.J.'s Fine Food & Spirits, 2905 Nine Mile, Farmington Hills. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.

Paul Smihal, director of state and local taxes for Coopers & Lybrand, Michigan's largest accounting firm, will provide an overview of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 — how it will affect you and your business.

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SMIHAL JOINED Coopers & Lybrand in 1984. He specializes in state and local tax planning, compliance

and assistance with audits and appeals for income, franchise, sales and use, gross receipts and ad valorem taxes.

Call the chamber for luncheon reservations: 474-3440.



Paul Smihal
tax specialist

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Focus: road to freedom

"Tracking the Underground Railroad" will be delineated by Jean M. Fox of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission on Sunday, at the Pontiac Art Center, 47 Williams.

The program, a highlight of Black History Month, will focus on sites in

Oakland County as well as Michigan's role in the Underground, which escorted 30,000 slaves to freedom in Canada during the 1850s.

The program, which is free to the public, begins at 3:30 p.m.

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