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IT'S a very special school project at Larkshire Elementary, the only one of its kind in the state. Teachers, students and staff are collecting pennies for the planned new Chimpy House at the Detroit Zoological Park in Royal Oak.

"Our objectives are to preserve our wildlife for everyone's enjoyment, to take on an educational project that will benefit all of us, and to explore the math experience by collecting pennies," said Evelyn Kaplan, first grade teacher.

"We all enjoy the Detroit zoo," she added. Pennies donated to the school are kept in a penny container hand-made by Kurt Kinde, a Larkshire dad. Students saw a slide show about the zoo's chimps Oct. 28. The zoo staff will present a prize to the Larkshire class contributing the most pennies through March 1988.

NO mistake about it! Roger Walker, a longtime Farmington resident and former councilman, scored a hole in one at Hickory Hills in Wixom last week.

A saleswoman at Thompson-Brown Realtors in Farmington Hills, Walker was golfing with co-workers Torrey Smith, Herb Hohl and manager Sheila Raymond when he aced the 235-yard seventh hole. Thompson-Brown held a celebration in his honor at its Nov. 6 sales meeting, reports Mary Bush, executive assistant.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Though cocaine has snaked its insidious way into suburban and inner city areas, the drug of choice in high schools is still alcohol, as it has been for generations.

Voters asked to renew levy, avert rollback

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A special election scheduled in the Farmington school district in 1988 will ask for more than a simple renewal of 5.75 operating mills.

Voters will also be asked to waive the effect of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment on the renewal, in what has become known as a "Headlee rollback."

The rollback would effectively negate the impact of the constitutional Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, passed by voters statewide in 1978. But it would involve only the 5.75-mill renewal and would be effective only for one year, according to Betsy Duschinske, supervisor of business support services for the district.

"Remaining mills would still be subject to Headlee," she added.

The Farmington Board of Education scheduled the special election for Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1988.

Unlike some districts, Farmington school taxes are broken down into small millage chunks; other districts have fewer elections and ask for larger renewals.

AN APPROVAL by voters in February would allow the value of the 5.75 mills to be retained without the tax limitation impact of the Headlee Amendment.

Under the Headlee amendment, authorized taxes levied by municipalities and school districts must be decreased if money generated by increased property tax assessments rises by a greater percentage than the U.S. Consumer Price Index.

The CPI, which reflects the nation's inflation rate, was computed at 1.9 percent — the lowest in 20 years, according to school officials. Because of Headlee provisions, Farmington Public Schools can currently levy no more than 33.48; the district lost nearly four mills in levying power last year when the CPI was drastically reduced. Voters had previously authorized up to 37.29 mills.

For the current 1987-88 fiscal year, the district is levying 31.75 mills and has a \$66.5 million operating budget.

If a downward CPI trend continues, another chunk of the authorized tax will be taken in the 1988-89 budget year because of Headlee provisions — leaving the district below the current levied amount. Deputy Superintendent Michael Flanagan explained during a budget session last March.

THE MILLAGE renewal election with the Headlee waiver would remove the district from this possible crisis.

The district is holding the election in February, one month before the district begins its annual budget building process, Duschinske said. She said asking for the Headlee waiver is a "conservative approach," because annual state-collected value will not have been determined.

Jailed Convicted man fights extradition

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A motel receipt that U.S. customs officers found in a car at the Detroit Windsor tunnel led to the whereabouts of a Farmington Hills man who fled Oakland County hours before being convicted of possessing about a half pound of cocaine.

Windsor police arrested Fran Nikola Sinishta, 32, without incident at 3 a.m. Friday at a downtown Windsor motel. That was nine hours after he had failed to return to his Oakland County trial for closing arguments.

Wednesday, Sinishta was being held in a Windsor jail, pending a deportation hearing by Canadian immigration officials.

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I want no cheap sentiment



photos by RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Mercy High English teacher Tom Schusterbauer discusses a literary selection with his class of juniors and seniors. The books are historical and first-person accounts of Holocaust victims.

Grim reality History of Holocaust studied

□ curriculum introduced, 7A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

JUNIORS AND seniors at Mercy High are learning that the misery of human life in another time, and another part of the world, can be felt even today. The desecration of life some 40

'I'm just convinced that the benefit far outweighs the burden I sometimes feel with it.'
— Tom Schusterbauer
Mercy High teacher

years ago is the basis for a course being taught about the Holocaust. It is the first time such a course has been offered at Mercy.

The non-traditional class teaches about the more than six million European Jews who were systematically destroyed before and during World War II. The atrocities of the Holocaust are taught by English instructor Tom Schusterbauer.

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Veterans observe their day quietly

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By Chris Rizk
staff writer

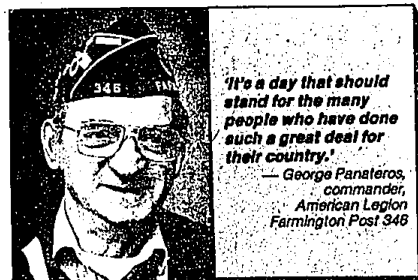
George Panaretos faced Veterans Day Wednesday, Nov. 11, much like the others he has witnessed — with the silence and solemnity he has grown accustomed to since his days in the Korean War.

It's not that he doesn't have a lot to say about Korea, or any war for that matter. It's just that a few things in life are personal. And for Panaretos, life and death in north-east Asia was just that.

Millions of veterans like Panaretos celebrated the observance in the same manner, with a silent resolve that has stayed with them since realizing that they were witness to what few in life ever have to face more than once, death.

For them, Veterans Day is a catharsis — a releasing and cleansing of the soul; an emotional outpouring that some, like Panaretos, never allow themselves to face but once or twice a year.

For civilians, some of whom insist that both Memorial Day and Veterans Day are merely events that glo-



'It's a day that should stand for the many people who have done such a great deal for their country.'
— George Panaretos, commander, American Legion Farmington Post 346

riety war, Panaretos, American Legion Farmington Post 346 commander, has but a few words: "I feel sorry for them."

"It's a day that should stand for the many people who have done such a great deal for their country," said the Farmington resident, 58.

Dr. Surendra Kelwala, chief of psychiatry at Veterans Hospital in Allen Park, agreed. He said Veterans Day serves to remind veterans, as well as civilians, of what those

tempt by the U.S. Congress to honor veterans.

The idea that the public needs to be reminded not of war, but of the sacrifices that are made by the men and women who fight in wars, has since remained steadfast.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a congressional act that commemorates veterans and changed the name of the national observance from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

"The ordinary citizen doesn't think much about Veterans Day, or even war, unless they know someone who is a veteran or the family of one," Panaretos said.

APATHY BY the general public doesn't surprise him, though.

"This generation has never known war," Panaretos said. "The feelings that you get when you're overseas fighting are those that I could never express. Those real feelings of what it was like can be talked about over and over to someone who has never experienced war, but they'll never understand."

Arthur Schremser, 71-year-old World War II veteran and commander of the American Legion Northwest Post 190 in Farmington Hills, agreed.

"Unless they've fought, they don't really understand," the Northville resident said. "It's important to continue honoring veterans. It makes people aware of the fact that there are vets now and of the possibility of having more veterans."

With 22 million veterans living in the United States, Veterans Day celebrations should have their share of support.

This year, as memories of war surface again and the men and women who have shared similar experiences gather together, it won't be all grim reminders.

"EVERYBODY HAS their war stories that you hear over and over again," said Jerry Rodebaugh, past commander of Farmington Hills VFW Post 2269 and a World War II veteran.

"But it wasn't all bad and it wasn't all war when you were over there. You had to find something else to do while you were there, and sometimes you had good times, too," the Novi resident said.

The good times, however, are probably not what most veterans stopped to remember Wednesday.

They were probably reminded, like Panaretos, that it was hard to do but something they "knew had to be done."