

A night for special folks



Ron Coden and Josh White Jr. perform on the North Farmington High School stage for a fund-raiser held by the Forest Elementary PTO.

Also special that night was a tribute to Forest principal Walt Jablonski, who was celebrating his 60th birthday.

PTO event is filled with song, fun and warmth

IT WAS A night of song, fun and feelings, when organizers of the Forest Elementary School PTO brought families together for a special night March 19.

The songs and fun were provided by veteran folk singers Ron Coden and Josh White Jr., who offered up music from their recent children's album release, "My Favorite Toy."

Feelings were in high gear because of a special visit by 8-year-old Carissa Campbell of Wixom and her family. Carissa is the child who received a \$1,010 donation given by Forest to The Rainbow

Connection, a Rochester Hills group which fulfills the wishes of chronically ill children.

Carissa, who has cancer, and her family plan to use the money for a trip to Disney World.

THE CROWD also offered surprise well-wishes to veteran principal Walt Jablonski who was celebrating his 60th birthday at the event which was at North Farmington High School. The family night was sponsored by the Forest PTO as a family night of fun, and a fund-raiser for the parent-teacher group.

Co-chair of the PTO, Bonnie Murphy, said she

was pleased to bring such a mix of emotions together for Forest's family night. "We raise money in a different way," she said. "We're not afraid to try something new."

Coden and White have each had separate folk-singing careers spanning 30 years each. They released their new joint venture album last fall.

To get students interested in attending the concert, PTO members went into the schools during lunch hours and played the Coden/White tape. The event was videotaped for future cablecast on TV-10.



Three-year-old Carl Murphy wipes her mouth in between singing folk songs at Thursday night's concert. She's sitting on the lap of Forest Elementary student Melissa Caplan.

Staff photos by Sharon LeMieux



Folk singer Josh White Jr. hops off the stage for a little audience involvement, as Ron Coden accompanies on guitar.

Tornado safety sirens to be tested on April 2

It's almost that time of year again. At 1 p.m., Thursday, April 2, the Tornado Warning Siren System and Tone Alert Receiver System will be tested in the Farmington area.

The public is requested by the police and fire department not to call either about the sirens being activated because such calls tie up police and fire telephone lines and could hamper these with emergencies from getting through to emergency personnel.

All sirens in the Farmington area will be monitored to ensure they are operating properly.

For more information, contact the Farmington Hills Disaster Service at 473-9880 or Farmington Public Safety Department at 473-7282.

The sirens will be tested using Tornado Safety Week, March 29 to April 4, as declared by Gov. John Engler. Residents are encouraged to practice their "just-in-case" procedures for tornado warnings.

ANNUALLY, MICHIGAN experiences an average of 16 tornadoes. Since 1950, 237 people have been killed by twisters in the state. Tornadoes can hit anytime of the

day or night in almost any month of the year. Most, however, occur in April, May, June and July, during the late afternoon and evening hours, generally 3-7 p.m.

Tornadoes develop and move rapidly, often with little notice or forewarning. When a tornado watch is announced, residents should gather a first-aid kit, flashlight and portable radio. They should stay tuned to local radio and television stations. A watch means that conditions are right for development of a tornado.

A tornado warning means that a tornado has actually been sighted nearby and everyone in the area should take action. Go immediately to the basement, taking cover under something sturdy. If there isn't a basement, move to the lowest floor possible in a small room or closet. Again, stay low and if possible, under a heavy object. Stay away from windows.

AT WORK OR school, if a basement is not available, move to an interior hallway on the lowest floor possible. Avoid rooms with a large, free-span, like gymnasiums. If caught in the open during a tornado warning, seek shelter in a ditch, ravine or other place below ground level and stay as low as possible.

Registrations accepted for community ed classes

Spring has come to the Farmington Community School, which is full of exciting class offerings for the entire community.

The Community School, at the corner of Shawansee and Tuck, is currently accepting registrations for spring sessions. Many classes begin soon and they fill quickly, so those interested are encouraged to register.

Information on any class may be obtained by calling 469-3333.

Following are a few of the classes being offered by the program, which is part of the Farmington Public Schools:

- ACT Prep for grades 11 and 12 — This workshop acquaints students with the ACT test, a must for many college-bound students. It includes practice materials, shortcuts and an overview of each area on the test.
- Parent/toddler class — A variety of activities are designed to encourage creative art, social development and group activities for parent and child. Separate classes are held for ages 3-4 and 4-5.
- Aviation Private Pilot Ground School — Fly high with the knowledge you'll learn in this course, which provides the necessary operations, procedures and regulation

- knowledge and skills needed by private pilots. Course emphasizes maintenance in the Federal Aviation Administration Private Pilot written exam.
- Beginning Sign Language — The American Sign Language class includes beginning level conversation, deaf culture and general deaf awareness.
- Introduction to Macintosh — This hands-on intro to the Mac is ideal for newcomers and potential owners of Macintosh computers. Learn set-up basics using discs, the finder, files, fonts and other items.

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