

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Newcomer hits town: Nieman Marcus opening draws throngs to gawk at new store and its wares.
/5A

Mud will fly: Even a proposed campaign reform law won't stop those annoying negative ads./10A

OPINION

Fatherhood: The ravages of divorce are felt by teens, as well as by their parents. Columnist Jeffrey Miller understands how./10A

TASTE



Flavored vinegar: Vinegars are no longer just for canning, pickling and dressing salads. They add a bit of zest without adding calories to food. Easy to prepare, flavored vinegars make great gifts./1B.

SPORTS

Hockey final: The Spartans completed a late-season turnaround Thursday to upset the Kings and win the Metro Summer Hockey League title./1C

Grid preview: Former Observer-land high school football standouts will be playing for Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association teams this fall./1C

STREET SCENE

Folksy sound: Buddy Mondlock can rattle off an impressive list of musicians that rave about his work or have performed with him, but he would rather let his songs speak for themselves./6A

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Groove Session" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Board reviews closing sled hill



Will there be sledding on the old sled hill near Farmington school headquarters this winter? A lawsuit against the district resulting from an accident has the school board considering its options.

By CARRY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington school trustees plan to revise the issue of whether the district-owned sledding hill should remain open. In light of several injuries and a lawsuit filed against the district during the past month.

"I think we should anticipate a game

plan for this winter," said trustee Jack Cotton, who raised the issue at an Aug. 4 school board safety committee meeting. "We need to compare citizen hours of pleasure versus the agony of a suit."

Board vice president Cathleen Webb agreed. "I, too, am irritated we are in the middle of a suit because of an injury on the hill," she said. "We have all felt,

time and again. . . there's a potential there for serious injury."

"If the insurance company ends up with a settlement, it's time to look at it again. We are not in the recreation business."

The lawsuit, which names the school district and the city of Farmington as defendants, involves a 35-year-old Farmington Hills resident, Donald Jackson, who broke his leg and fractured his ankle while on the hill during the past winter season.

Helping his son

According to the suit filed June 10 in

Oakland County Circuit Court, Jackson's son had sledded down the hill and the father was walking down a designated walkway area at about 1:30 p.m. to help his son, when he slipped and fell.

Novi attorney Dennis Cleary, who is representing Jackson in the suit, said he doesn't really have an opinion on closing the hill.

"If they're going to keep it open, they need to make it as safe as they can," he said. "When you designate a section specifically for walking, you're kind of

See HILL, 2A

Flitters fewer, newer

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Fewer butterflies were counted this year, but the Farmington Naturalists Club found 13 species they had never counted before in Heritage Park.

"We've now cataloged 37 different species at Heritage Park," said club member Joe Derek, a Farmington Hills naturalist.

Because summer just hasn't shown its real face yet, the 21 participating club members counted only 231 butterflies at the annual count July 18, compared to 349 last year.

"We're down about 100. But that isn't necessarily good or bad. It's just different," said Tim Nowicki, Independence Oaks County Park naturalist.

Derek agreed. "Butterflies that are out now should have been out in June. It hasn't been a good year so far. Everything is a month behind. The plants (on which butterflies feed) are small. If we ever get summer, it could get better," Derek said.

This is the second annual butterfly count for Farmington Hills and Heritage Park. Information from the count is given to the Xerces Society, which is dedicated to protecting butterflies and insects. All butterfly counts must be conducted at least 15 miles apart.

"It gives you a barometer of how things are going," Derek said.

Nowicki compiles the count for local naturalists. "Over time it (counts) will illustrate trends and population of butterflies. There will always be little blips and fluctuations. We should be able to see some changes."

See FLITTERS, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LA MILVA

No worm: This caterpillar, photographed in Heritage Park, may look like a worm now, but it'll be a beautiful Monarch butterfly soon.



Nets in tow: Joe Derek (left), Celeste Roe, Alex Roe and Tim Nowicki search for butterflies in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park.

2 face felony charges

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Two Detroiters, who face felony charges in connection with the shooting of one of two youths at a dance at Mercy Center July 31, apologized in 47th District Court Friday.

"I'm sorry it happened. I should never have went," said Donovan L. Thomas.

SHOOTING

as, one of two 20-year-old men arraigned on concealed weapons charges Friday.

Thomas and Lamar D. Clifton both said they were sorry for the incident, which involved the shooting of Eric Leslie Coleman, 16, about 11 p.m., Friday, July 31, outside Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile.

A second man, Henry Coakley, 19, also was shot outside Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile, that night. But police believe the shootings are unrelated. Coleman and Coakley remain in Borgford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. Police have made no arrests in the Coakley shooting but do have a suspect, said Farmington Hills police Sgt. Charles Nebus.

Clifton and Thomas stood mute to one charge each of carrying a concealed weapon. A not-guilty charge was entered on behalf of both men. Bond was set at \$150,000 cash-surety.

If convicted, the men each face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$2,500 fine. Charges against Clifton and Thomas are not related to Coakley's shooting.

Police expect Clifton and Thomas to face additional charges in relation to the shooting and the prosecutor has asked for more information prior to issuing other charges, said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer.

After a week-long investigation, Farmington Hills police believe a case of mistaken identity may have led to Coleman's shooting.

When police apprehended the two men, they also confiscated weapons from a house where one of the suspects lived in Detroit. "We are not certain yet if we have the actual weapon used in the shooting," Nebus said.

Apprehension of the two men began when detectives received information that a blue Ford EXP was involved in Coleman's shooting. Coleman apparently was run over by the EXP the night of the shooting, Nebus said.

Detectives located the car in Detroit and by Wednesday found out where the owner lived. On Thursday, police con-

See CHARGES, 8A

He knew what to do

An act of heroism was performed on the 11th hole during a round of golf one recent Saturday at the Links of Pinewood course in Commerce Township.

Mike Cosgriff, a 51-year-old Farmington Hills resident, may have helped save a friend's life because he knew what to do when someone suffers a heart attack.

Cosgriff and Wally Prough, 35, of Dearborn Heights, were part of a foursome. On the 11th fairway, Cosgriff turned his back on the others to take a practice shot. When he looked back, Prough was on the ground.

"Wally had just keeled right over," Cosgriff said. "It just freaked me out. I rolled him over and gave him CPR, mouth-to-mouth and massaged his heart. I was trained for this 30 years ago in the military," He added. "I didn't even think about what I

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was doing. I just did it."

A Commerce Fire Department rescue vehicle drove across the golf links to reach Prough. He was treated at Huron Valley Hospital and then transferred to Henry Ford in Detroit where "he's doing quite well," according to Cosgriff.

Both Cosgriff and Prough are on disability because of bad hearts. They're on a waiting list for transplants.

"Playing golf, believe it or not, is something our doctors recommend," Cosgriff said.

Hey, old-timers

Attention, anyone who was a coach, manager or

board member of the South Farmington baseball leagues: You're invited to participate in an Old Timers softball game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at Shalwassee Park.

The game is part of Family Day activities which help Farmington celebrate its 125th anniversary of its incorporation as a village. If interested in the softball game, call Rosanne Fitzpatrick at 474-8868.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 14, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

• The Farmington Enterprise management announced that the price of the newspaper would rise from five to seven cents in September. The price increase for single copies was the first since 1920.