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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Band together: Farmington Hills Harrison High's Marching Band proved to be one of the best in a regional competition./A3

Sentencing: A Farmington Hills man, who pleaded guilty but mentally ill to sexually assaulting two women, is sentenced to 30 to 70 years in prison./A4

OPINION

Bear facts: The Farmington Observer urges a no vote on Proposal D that deals with bear hunting and a yes vote on Proposal G, which concerns wildlife management./A18

County nod: We give our reasons why Donn Wolf deserves another term as county commissioner, representing Farmington and a southern portion of Farmington Hills./A18

FALL BACK!

It's that time of year again... at 2 a.m. Sunday, set your clocks back one hour as we return to Eastern Standard Time.

INDEX

A&E	E1	Letters	A18-19
At Home	G	Obituaries	A10
Cable Connection	A12	Police and fire	A4
Community Life	B1	Real estate	A6
Crossword	I8	Recreation News	A3
Editorials	A18	Sports	C1

Police commanders get 3.5-percent raise in new contract

BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington police commanders have a new contract.

On Monday, City Council approved a renewal collective bargaining agreement between the city and the Farmington Command Officers Association (FCOA). The new contract is retroactive to July 1 and continues until June 30, 1991.

"Most contracts run three years," said Commander Thomas Cox, president of the FCOA. "We'd been without one since June 30."

The new agreement is the same as the prior one, with a few changes:

■ A three-year wage-increase package, with 3.5 percent increases each January 1.

■ An extra personal-leave day and sick-leave eligibility to care for a sick immediate-family member.

■ Increases in optical care and school-tuition reimbursement.

■ Commanders put on stand-by to appear in court will now be paid \$25 for the day instead of \$15.

■ If commanders are called back to work after their shift ends, they are paid for a minimum of two hours.

The contract also includes minor changes in the handling of work bids, the scheduling of vacation time and shift supervision, and funeral leave time.

"It's an agreement that keeps the command officers on par with comparable departments of our size and so on," said Bill Richards, assistant city manager. "It's a fair settlement."

Cox said that the two parties met three times without much progress. The fourth meeting included a mediator, and the settlement was reached.

"I'd like to tell you we got some things we really wanted, but I can't say that," Cox said. "We wanted pension improvement, but they were too costly."

Said Assistant City Manager Richards: "The city felt that there had been pension changes in the last negotiation, and just felt that it would be better to defer consideration presently."

Fear fades as outbreak wanes



Folks in usually-serene downtown Farmington had to get used to helicopters flying overhead and TV news crews taking up parking spots, but it's business as usual after an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease.

BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

Even with the Legionnaires' disease outbreak still in the news, many residents had no problem heading downtown Farmington for shopping and entertainment during the weekend.

According to the owners and employees of some stores right in

the middle of the investigation area, business didn't suffer much.

"I haven't noticed any difference in customers or traffic flow," said Carl Thomas, owner of Sports Image. "I don't think (the outbreak) is going to change anything."

"People were talking about it, but they didn't seem scared," said Domenic Belcastro, owner of Luigi's

restaurant, who noted that his weekend was busier than usual. "The media is telling people it's over, so they say, 'I'll still go out.'"

Unlike some residents who complained of helicopters overhead and TV news trucks filling up parking spaces, Belcastro thought the media handled the situation well. "They let people know what's going on. It's a public interest issue."

Becky Thomas at Sports Image noticed a difference in the coverage by different networks.

"My mother watched Channel 4 (WDIV) and she was petrified," she said. "But when I watched Channel

7 (WXVZ), they just gave you the facts."

Her husband Carl was upset by some of the media's alarmist tone.

"On WJR, they said, 'There have been two more cases of Legionnaires' reported.' I don't think that's fair," he said. "If you stopped listening right then, you'd think, 'Geez, I better not go down there.'"

"People's attention spans are so short nowadays, they don't always listen to the end, when the guy says, 'There's really no threat anymore.'"

"If there's no threat now, then

See OUTBREAK, A8

Spish, splash



PHOTO BY BILL HANSEN

Paddle-less pursuit: Morresa Meyer of Southfield works hard at maneuvering her kayak without a paddle during a class taught at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Instructor pools resources for kayaking

BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

Everyone enjoys Eskimo Pies, but it takes a special breed of person to enjoy Eskimo rolls.

"It's when you purposely go upside down and back upright in a kayak," said Erik Carlson, instructor of the kayaking class at Oakland Community College (OCC) in

Orchard Ridge.

Kayaks are light, easily maneuverable canoes in which the paddler sits, enclosed to the waist. Therefore, Eskimo rolls are often a natural consequence.

"Once I had a student out on the river," said Carlson. "He did an Eskimo roll and came up with his face all bloody. It turns out he brought his own helmet with a

visor, and hit a rock underwater."

Rest assured, the class isn't quite as intense. The seven-week course usually contains about 15 students, everyone from recent high-school graduates to retirees. It covers kayaking from the very basics to riskier moves, all in the safe confines of the OCC pool.

"We have an introduction to the kayak, how to get in and out, and

how to stay in it when you're upside-down," said Carlson. "When people go upside down and come out, we call those 'wet exits' or 'swimming.' I have a T-shirt with the Top 10 Excuses for Swimming like 'The sun was in my eyes.'"

Besides Carlson's instruction, the class does much of its learning

See KAYAKING, A3

House hopefuls discuss differences in debate

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Raczowski and Steve Dibert, the two candidates running for the 37th District House seat, were not in much of a mood for compromise at the Oct. 16 forum sponsored by the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners.

Raczowski and Dibert, who both survived a close primary race, were far apart on many issues.

Dibert stressed his moderate social views and conservative economic views. Raczowski reiterated his conservative stands and Republican party affiliation, a factor he said would directly benefit the district.

Panelists Bob Bruckner, Deb Kondziorski and Andy Nickelhoff of the homeowners council, and Jim Stark of the Northwest Gazette, asked their own and audience questions concerning the right to die,

roads, politics, drugs, crime, education and other issues.

Neither candidate has held public office. Raczowski said his stands on the issues, involvement with the Republican party, education and military background were all qualities that would make him a good representative.

"Families are seriously threatened," Raczowski said. "Families are seriously threatened with taxes,

drugs a crumbling infrastructure and crime."

The owner of a small business said he would work to lower the tax burden and fight crime. Raczowski also talked about his work for term limits as insurance against career politicians.

A term-limit legislature "will have a healthy skepticism of big government and will have a mandate to

See DEBATE, A3

High school mockers

Mock elections are planned Tuesday, Oct. 29, at all four Farmington high schools. Students at the Farmington Alternative Academy will vote at Farmington High. The ballot will be the same as the one used on election day Nov. 5.

Polls open at the schools between 7:30-8 a.m. and close at the end of the school day. Voting is open to all senior students.

Women's focus

Bethesda Hospital offers "Pathways to Health for Women," a screening program that highlights women's health risks 2-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, at the hospital's Health Development Network, 89750 Grand River, Novi. The

FARMINGTON FOCUS

program includes health questionnaires analysis, blood pressure and cholesterol screening with HDL, osteoporosis screening and a body fat analysis. Fee is \$15. Call 477-6100 to register.

Can do spirit

People can drop off canned goods for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen at Card and Gift Center, 37081 Grand River, Farmington as part of national Make a Difference Day Saturday, Oct. 26. Some 30 volunteers will collect the canned goods 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call 880-8409 for information. At St. Fabian School in

Take a shot

Oakland County Health Division is offering free immunizations for children 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Farmington Y/MCA, 28100 Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile. Parents or guardians must be present and the child's immunization records must be shown. Call 424-7145 for more information.