

Driver faces charges in hit-and-run

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

The driver in Monday night's fatal hit-and-run accident turned himself in to the Farmington Hills Police Department on Tuesday afternoon.

On Wednesday, Matthew Adam Lucas, 21, of Farmington Hills was arraigned in 47th District Court and charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident. If convicted, he could serve up to five years for the felony offense. His license and 2000 Jeep Cherokee were confiscated.

Lucas posted \$500 bond and is home in Farmington Hills awaiting a June 28 preliminary examination in 47th District Court.

After reviewing his driving record, police say Lucas shouldn't have been driving Monday night. He has been ticketed 25 times and his license has been suspended nine times since 1995.

"It's a shame that a life was lost and the person responsible shouldn't have been driving," said Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "I'm not sure why his license wasn't revoked."

On Monday at 11:57 p.m., Stephen Croan, 39, was struck and killed by a vehicle witnesses say resembles Lucas. Police say Croan was mentally

Please see DRIVER, A5

Social studies tough MEAP subject

■ More MEAP results. These cover social studies and writing in the fifth and eighth grades. Farmington students still are scoring higher than state averages, but eighth-grade scores in writing have decreased.

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

Farmington's fifth- and eighth-grade science, social studies and writing MEAP marks were superior to state-wide scores.

Farmington fifth-grade results

remained stable in all areas compared to last year. Eighth-grade scores, however, increased in science and social studies, but decreased in writing.

Almost 100 percent of Farmington's fifth- and eighth-grade students, about 800 in each grade, took the two-day Michigan Educational Assessment Pro-

gram test, according to school administrators.

Social Studies

In its second year, the social studies portion of the test proved to be a tough area for the district and the state. Only 2.8 percent of Farmington-area fifth-grade students performed at Level 1 this year, with 2.1 percent at the highest level last year.

The social studies portion of the test is categorized into levels, one through four. Level 1 is called Exceeded Stan-

FIFTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

dards; Level 2 is Met Standards; Level 3 is Basic and Level 4 is Apprentice.

With 116,164 test-takers throughout the state, 2.2 percent of fifth-graders made Level 1 this year while 1.7 percent did last year.

Levels 1 and 2 are combined to deter-

Please see MEAP, A4

Yeah! Kids Day!



Up and down: Brave kids could climb the stairs to the inflatable slide and zip back down to the bottom Thursday.



Up and away: Natalie Cioffi watches her bubbles grow and float away in the breeze. Below, Rick Carver entertains on stilts.

A day in the park

Hundreds of children lugging popcorn, cotton candy and balloons swarmed Shiawassee Park on Thursday for Kids Day.

They rode on a miniature train, competed in a rotten sneaker contest, a bubble-gum blowing competition, met and petted farm animals, and got a chance to travel around the park on a hay ride.

FAMILY FEST

Kids Day is a highlight for the annual Farmington Area Family Fest, formerly known as the Farmington Founders Festival.

Most of the activities in the park were free, except for rides. The event was sponsored by the Farmington Hills Special Services Department.

Please see KIDS, A5



INDEX

Apartment/E9
Arts/C1
Automotive/H5
Classified/E,Q,H
Classified
Index/G3
Crossword
Puzzle/E5
Jobs/G1

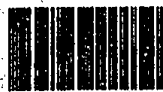
Malls/C8
Movies/C4
New Homes/E1
Obituaries/A5
Real Estate/E1
Service Guide/H4
Sports/B1
Taste/D1
Travel/C9

HomeTown Classifieds WORK!

"I had a great response. I only had to run my ad one day to sell my van."

—S.G.
Plymouth

Place your ad today!
734-591-0900



To place a classified ad: 734-591-0900

Anniversary

Remember: Colonial Car Wash reminds the community to remember Korean War vets on their 50th anniversary, which is today. It also marks the official beginning of the Korean War Commemorative period. Commemorative flags are still available at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. Please call 474-3440 to purchase one or for more information.



Plan for rentals pulled

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER
jhubbred@hometowncomm.net

A beleaguered plan for luxury apartments on Eight Mile Road near I-275 disappeared from Thursday night's Farmington Hills Planning Commission meeting, much to the delight of neighboring residents.

Project developers say, however, that a new proposal will appear soon, one

that doesn't include any rental housing.

Tim Smith, public relations director for Village Green Properties, said Friday that company reconsidered after meeting with city officials and residents.

"The feedback we got was that a rental product of any type was really unacceptable," Smith said. "We will, in

Please see RENTALS, A5

Candidates agree that reducing state gas tax is not the solution

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER
jhubbred@hometowncomm.net

Though governors in other states have enacted emergency measures to reduce gas taxes, state Rep. Andrew Raczowski (R-Farmington Hills) said Friday that's not a solution to skyrocketing gas prices.

Although they may differ on other issues, Raczowski's opponents in the November race for the 37th District House seat agree on this one. Challenging Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democrat, and Reform Party candidate Eric Borgerd also believe solutions lay in dealing with those who control oil and gas supplies.

"We could stop the 4-cent gas tax, but that's not what the real problem is," Raczowski said.

Raczowski, who said he voted against the tax when it was first proposed, feels the federal government "dropped the ball" when OPEC, the foreign cartel that controls the flow of crude oil, was negotiating prices. The combination of a very cold winter and warm spring put pressure on an already low oil supply, along with two pipeline breaks in Michigan and Texas,

he said.

While the supply issue has boosted prices significantly, a new Environmental Protection Agency requirement that the region use reformulated gas — mixed with more ethanol — has driven them even higher, Raczowski added.

"Because we are in a more industrialized area, we need to have a higher rate of ethanol mixed with the crude oil," he said. "There is one company that has the patent. That's why fuel prices took a huge jump almost the day that rule went into effect. This guy had a patent, and he's making money on it."

Rather than going into a special session to deal with the gas tax, Raczowski said the state should ask the EPA for a waiver, to give officials time to figure out how to implement the reformulated gas. He has signed a resolution and will testify at two special task force meetings, the first of which is scheduled for 2 p.m. June 27 in room 519 of the House Office Build-

Please see GAS, A5

Home Delivery: 734-591-0500

Newsroom: 248-477-5450