

# MEAP

mine the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the social studies portion of the test. Each section of the test is graded differently.

Farmington fifth-grade scores were 27.6 percent satisfactory, compared to 29.3 percent last year. The state overall was 20.6 percent satisfactory this year, compared to 18.7 percent last year.

Of Farmington's eighth-graders, 51.1 percent performed satisfactorily in social studies, while 43 percent did last year. Statewide, 50.8 percent of students had satisfactory scores, compared to 27.8 percent last year.

Throughout the state, most students did not make Level 1 in social studies. Locally, 13.2 percent scored at the top level. For the state, 6.1 percent made the top level this year, compared to 4.8 percent last year.

While the Level 1 results appear low, administrators are focusing on the increases, which show improvement.

"We're quite pleased here," said Kristin Gokiero, administrator to Assessment and Evaluation. "That's a nice increase."

The district's strongest area in the social studies portion was civics, while the weakest area was economics, Gokiero said. "Farmington showed a lot of improvement," said Stephanie Van Koevering, spokeswoman

## 'Social studies (at Farmington) remains weak, partially attributed to the newness of the test.'

Stephanie Van Koevering  
—Department of Treasury

for the Michigan Department of Treasury, which oversees the Michigan Educational Assessment Program. "Social studies (at Farmington) remains weak, partially attributed to the newness of the test."

### Writing

Farmington's eighth-grade writing proficiency scores are steadily dropping. They were at 88.9 percent in 1998, 86.5 percent in 1999 and 73.7 percent in 2000. Scores are categorized into Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory. Statewide, 63.6 percent of students performed satisfactorily in 1999 and 68.8 percent did this year.

Farmington students are testing better than state averages but school administrators still aren't pleased about the drop. They said they will examine the data and possibly make some curriculum changes next year.

"It's a tough test," said Barbara Chorem, director of Assessment, Evaluation and Special Projects. "Many adults have had problems with it. Also, writing is

very subjective." Van Koevering said Farmington school officials shouldn't stress over the decrease in writing scores.

"I don't see any red flags here," she said. "We always wish to see scores improve. The more the schools can do as far as aligning information presented to students with the state's content standards, the better they'll do."

MEAP results show a disparity between Farmington eighth-grade male and female writing proficiency scores, with 78.1 percent of females and 63.6 percent of males testing satisfactorily.

"It's traditionally this way," Gokiero said "We can't do an item analysis, so it's difficult to really pinpoint exactly where the problem is. We have limited feedback."

Local fifth-graders remained stable in writing, with 72.1 percent satisfactory last year and 71.2 percent this year, compared to 54.8 percent last year and 67.8 percent this year for the state.

### Science

For science, 52.2 percent of local fifth-graders had proficient scores this year, compared to 53 percent last year. Statewide, 43.6 percent of students were in the proficient category this year and 37.5 percent were last year. Results are categorized into Proficient, Novice and Not Yet Proficient.

Forty-one percent of Farmington eighth-graders tested satisfactorily in science this year, compared to 32.9 percent in 1999. Statewide, 24.2 percent of students this year and 23 percent last year tested satisfactorily.

The good news in science is there isn't a significant gender gap in the district.

For fifth-graders, 55.4 percent of males and 49.1 of females performed proficiently while 37.5 percent of male and 36.8 percent of female eighth-graders followed suit.

Fifth-graders performed the best in life sciences, while their lowest scores were in earth sciences. Eighth-graders exceeded in life and earth sciences but didn't do as well in physical sciences.

Surveying Farmington's comprehensive scores, Van Koevering predicted, "Performance will continue to increase. Scores are improving, but there's a long way to go."

# Hills man faces robbery charge

BY MATT JACEMAN  
STAFF WRITER  
mjaceman@oe.home.comcast.net

A high-speed chase of an armed robbery suspect ended early Sunday when police used a patrol car to ram the van the man was driving.

Brian Keith Schnarr was arrested just before 2 a.m. after the 1999 Chevrolet Astro was pinned to a utility pole at the corner of Brady and Glendale in Bedford Township, according to Livonia Police Department reports. He was being pursued in the holdup of a Livonia convenience store.

Schnarr had lost control of the van while trying to turn left on Brady from eastbound Glendale, police said. Meanwhile, officers in the patrol car behind Schnarr had been given permission by a supervising lieutenant, also in pursuit, to ram the van.

The suspect was cut on one hand and on the forehead but did not require medical treatment, said Lt. Ben McDermott, department spokesman. There were no reports of police injuries.

The 7-Eleven store on Middlebelt north of Five Mile had been robbed about 10 minutes earlier by a man with a long gun, police

said. No one was hurt.

Police recovered a Daisy air rifle in a parking lot just north of the 7-Eleven. Cash was recovered from the Astro.

Schnarr was charged with one count of armed robbery and one count of fleeing police in the 7-Eleven holdup. He was also charged with armed robbery in the June 14 holdup at the Mobil gas station at Eight Mile and Middlebelt.

Schnarr, of Farmington Hills, was arraigned last Monday by 16th District Court Judge Robert Brzezinski. He stood mute to the charges, and Brzezinski entered a not-guilty plea for him.

Bond was set at \$100,000 cash or surety for each charge. Schnarr was being held in the Wayne County Jail on Wednesday. He is due back in district court Thursday, June 29, for a preliminary hearing.

The 7-Eleven robbery occurred just after 1:30 a.m. Sunday, police said. The clerk told police a man walked in with a long gun, pointed at the floor, and said, "Give me all the money in the cash register."

The clerk emptied the register, giving the money to the man. The robber left the store, heading north on foot, the clerk said. The clerk was able to describe him.

A man walking along Middlebelt near the store told a responding police lieutenant, Ron Dehne, that he had seen a man park a white van just north of the 7-Eleven, go into the store briefly, return to the van and head north on Middlebelt, according to Dehne's report. The van had writing on it, the witness said.

Dehne broadcast the information, and another officer responded that he had spotted such a van at Five Mile and Inkster, police said.

Police pursued the van south on Beoch Daly at speeds reaching 70 to 75 mph, a report said. The van turned east on Glendale, and Officers Monto Banks and Patrick McGrath asked Dehne for permission to ram it, reports said.

Dehne told them to do so at the next turn, police said. After being struck, the van came to rest partially on the hood of the patrol car, police said.

In the Mobil station robbery, a man with a knife demanded cash from a clerk just after midnight June 14. He ran when the clerk triggered an alarm, but not before taking a \$20 bill off the counter. The incident was captured by a security video camera.

Police found a large kitchen knife in the parking lot of a strip mall just east of the Mobil station.

With a 1983 conviction for the sale of marijuana, Schnarr is being charged as a habitual offender, which could increase the length of his sentence if he is convicted.

### CLARIFICATION

■ Due to a typographical error in a Vintage Farmington article that was published on page B-1, in the June 22 issue of the Farmington Observer, the incorrect date was published regarding the German surrender during World War Two. It should have read: The Germans surrendered May 7, 1945.

■ A booklet on the Farmington Area Family Fest distributed with the June 18 issue of the Farmington Observer neglected to mention that the city of Farmington Hills made many contributions to the planning and execution of the festival, including the Mrs. Farmington Faganat, shuttle bus service, Kids Day and the arts and crafts show.

## Golf outing to benefit agency

Mark your calendar on Friday, August 25, 2000. That's when the 6th Annual Golf Outing to benefit Catholic Social Services of Oakland will return to Independence Green Golf Course in Farmington Hills. For more information, contact Sharon Josephson at (248) 648-1040 ex. 3122 or Sheryl Ross ex. 3123.

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