

IN THE PAPER TODAY

OPINION

Gun Law: The concealed weapon's decision from the state Supreme Court doesn't pass test of logic. Has absolute power corrupted? Columnist Phil Power has some thoughts. / A9

Today's editorials: Some ideas on rezoning for Lowe's, on I-275, and on Great Lakes drilling. / A8

ENTERTAINMENT

Music: The Michigan Jazz Festival, Sunday at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, features more than 184 musicians. / B1

Theater: Jack-in-the-Box Production's presentation of "Murder in Green Meadows" opens Friday, July 20 at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The thriller is directed by Jennifer Rembisz, a graduate of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. / B1

AT HOME

A rosy picture: David Paul of Canton beautifies his yard with his more than 60 varieties of roses, so many that even joggers stop there. C1

REAL ESTATE

Good neighbors? Before you buy a home, check out the neighborhood for these characteristics. / E1

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Hills council rejects Lowe's plan



While Farmington Hills officials have turned down Lowe's planned unit development request, they hope the company will work with Grand/Sakwa on a cohesive plan for the 14 Mile/Orchard Lake/Northwestern area.

BY JONI HUBBARD
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"Why can't you all just get along?" Farmington Hills City Council members sent that message - loud and clear - to representatives of Lowe's Home Improvement Centers and Grand/Sakwa Properties, both of which own properties in the 14 Mile/Northwest-

ern/Orchard Lake area. Officials denied Lowe's request for Planned Unit Development approval to build a home improvement center on the south side of Orchard Lake, east of Northwestern, asking both parties to negotiate a better proposal.

Sakwa's development - 350,000 square feet of commercial space - will likely include a "big box" home improvement center; their PUD agree-

ment specifies only one can exist on the 90-acre property. Gary Sakwa said he had tried to negotiate with Lowe's to include them in his development, but always hit a dead end at their corporate offices.

Lowe's had asked for a postponement on Friday, to give them time to address concerns over orientation and site access raised at a June 21 planning commission meeting. The commission approved the plan on a 5-2 vote.

"This is a complicated planned unit development," said attorney Rick Ratner, representing Lowe's. "We want to gather information so we can present a site to you that addresses those issues."

Asking Ratner to proceed, Mayor Nancy Bates said council members all received tapes of the hearing, along with detailed meeting minutes and other information. Ratner then introduced into the record a letter from a real estate company announcing a meeting that apparently encouraged property owners to option their properties for the Grand/Sakwa project.

It bore the signature of city manager Steve Bruck.

Ratner said that letter arrived at a "sensitive time" for Lowe's, which was gathering land options to proceed with

Please see **LOWE'S**, A2

Year-round's end



Party Hearty: Excited students Michelle Childrey, Kate Sullivan and Marie Hill mug for the camera on the last day of school.



Having a field day: The last day of the Gill School year-round program was an outdoor field day. Students enjoyed a number of activities, including a visit from the Hills Fire Department.



Fond memories: Julia Wang and her mom Jackie made a scrapbook of memories for Julia's teacher Linda Lipson. Nicole Taylor admires their work.

Gill Year Round era ends

BY SUE BUCK
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Gill Year Round students celebrated the end of their school year and program with fun, games, and face-painting.

It was the end of an era. And, while some parents mentioned their disappointment that the

nine-year-old program was terminated, most of the kids were busy being just that - kids on their last day of school.

They delighted in the arrival of Farmington Hills Firefighter Brett McMahon, who opened the fire hydrant and, with the help of a parent, sprayed the students who basked in the coolness of the water on a humid, 90 degree

day. "It's a lot of fun," said McMahon, who got drenched himself. "The department likes to do things like this."

Gill's was one of the area's longest running year-round programs and outlived similar programs in Northville and Ply-

Please see **GILL**, A4

Lassoed cow rescued in Farmington Hills

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
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Farmington Hills Police had a cow Saturday when they responded to an animal complaint near the intersection of St. Frances and Sedalia.

Literally. When officers responded to

Please see **COW**, A3



Harry Kirk

Teen takes on Tootsie

How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop? Now the world knows.

BY CARA PLOWMAN
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A Farmington Hills teen recently dared to look for the answer to one of life's biggest mysteries: Just how many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of

a Tootsie Pop?

Fourteen-year-old Harry Kirk's scientific findings - they were affirmed by a friend of his who also conducted the experiment - suggest that it takes 520 licks, to be exact.

Kirk, who will be a freshman at Harrison High School this fall, used the popular technique of placing the sucker into the mouth, rotating it a full 360 degrees and removing it from the mouth, which equals one lick.

Please see **TOOTSIE**, A4

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