

THURSDAY

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FARMINGTON Observer

**Bloody
drama**
Professor
plays up
gore to get
audiences, B1


Allergy prompts voluntary peanut ban

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

A concern over the health of a child with peanut allergies has prompted a move to eliminate all peanut products - including childhood favorite peanut butter sandwiches - at Beechview Elementary School.

Four children there have peanut allergies. However, the sensitivity of one new child, a kindergartner, is so severe that Principal Norma Jean Sass has sent home two letters, on Aug. 26 and Sept. 30.

The first, shorter letter requests that parents make Beechview a "nut and peanut butter-free environment" by

keeping students from bringing foods containing nuts, peanuts and peanut butter to school. The second, which is two pages long, cites continued vigilance and high alert and requests continued support in refraining from sending peanut products to school.

That's been tough for some families, as peanut butter is a staple in packed school

lunches. "Although we know that this may be difficult for some children and families, we know that our Beechview community always puts children first in their decision-making," Sass said. Sass explained that the new child has a dangerous allergy, which is set off even if

PLEASE SEE ALLERGY, A4



Eric Angott works on special effects to be used for a candidate's debate.

SWOCC facility boasts high tech decor

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Six miles of video cable runs horizontally in mid-air below the ceiling in railroad track fashion at the new SWOCC studios.

Having cables run out of exposed pipes into rooms wasn't done by mistake, but part of the hip, industrial decor of the new SWOCC studios in Farmington.

Beneath the cool lines, wide open spaces and cement walkways lies state-of-the-art video technology and resources for community expression and information for residents and business owners in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and

PLEASE SEE CABLE, A8

Our Towns

Elks donate

The Farmington Elks recently donated two pairs of fatal vision goggles for use by the Farmington and Farmington Hills police departments in their work with public school students and others.

These specialized goggles simulate various blood alcohol content levels and are used to impress upon the users the effects of alcohol consumption.



The goggles were presented to Estralee Michaelson, Director of Safe Schools.

Teen party

Libraries and schools across the country will be celebrating Teen Read Week during the week of Oct. 13-19, a celebration sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association.

The Farmington Community Library is hosting an event to bring teens in to the library during Teen Read Week, and to encourage a love of reading.

The Teen Mystery Party will be held 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty St. in downtown Farmington.

The program is designed for 6th-8th graders. Teens will learn about detective work, fingerprinting and DNA from host Jeff Ferreri, and will solve a crime with a team of fellow "crimebusters."

Detectives will be rewarded with a pizza party.

There will be a display of great mystery books to browse and check out too.

Call the Farmington Branch Library at (248) 474-7770 to register.

Observer winner

Congratulations to Michele Siroky of Livonia, our Observer reader contest winner, who has won a \$500 Farmer Jack shopping spree.

She was one of 872 Observer & Eccentric readers who responded to our on-line reader survey. Thank you to all of our readers who participated and offered suggestions for improving the content of our newspapers and for making the Observer more relevant to their lives.

Scheduling conflicts kept debate one-sided

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

What if they gave a debate and nobody came?

The Farmington Area Democratic Club faced that dilemma Tuesday evening, as none of the Republican challengers asked to attend showed up for the event at Farmington Hills City Hall.

County Commission candidates David Moffitt and Mike Rogers and House District 37 candidate Valerie Knol all say they had prior commitments.

Club president Gerry Goldberg suggested another idea, that given the billion-dollar deficit, the deplorable mental health system and other problems Republicans have left at the state level, he could understand.

"But we're going to go on anyway," he said.

Democrats said their debate has long been a flagship during the political season. "Two years ago, they all turned out," Goldberg said. "Two years from now, I hope they will."

Reached for comment, County Commissioner David Moffitt, who is

PLEASE SEE DEBATE, A5

Friends remember Oliverio as devoted dad

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills activist Ron Oliverio will be remembered for far more than his strident criticisms of city officials and his candidacies for public office.

"He loved rum cake," said Hills city councilwoman Vicki Barnett.

Despite their philosophical differences - he was an ardent conservative Republican and she a more liberal Democrat - Barnett also remembers his love for his four sons, his neighbors and his community.

"There was more to Ron than just politics," she said.

Oliverio, 47, was found dead in

his home by Farmington Hills emergency services personnel on Sunday afternoon. Fire Chief Rich Marinucci said it was obvious Oliverio had been dead for some time.

The cause of death was apparently a heart attack; however, a member of the family requested an

PLEASE SEE OLIVERIO, A4 Ron Oliverio

Abduction attempts prompt search

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Livonia martial arts instructor believes kids need the tools to fight back to ward off kidnappers.

Two reported incidents within a mile of each other in the city's northeast corner on Oct. 5 further underscore her belief, Carol Wornack said. In both cases, the intended victims fought off the attacker, whom police are trying to track down.

On Saturday, the 6th-degree black belt will host a free Strangler Awareness and Self Protection seminar at Okinawa Budo Kai School of Karate on Seven Mile Road.

PLEASE SEE ABDUCTION, A5



PETE BALEWICH

Friends forever

Four-year-old Lindsey Jackson met the Farmington Hills Fire Department's prevention expert Sparky at Sunday's Open House. Officials estimate over 1,000 adults and children visited Station 5 headquarters at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads, learning about fire safety and prevention and getting a close-up look at equipment.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Pumpkin patches
In Sunday's Taste Section: Searching for the "Great Pumpkin." Local farms ready for "happy haunts."



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