

FARMINGTON Observer

Super food



SUNDAY
 January 19, 2003
 75 cents

www.observerandcentric.com

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East leaves mark with Kilpatrick

BY SUE BUCK
 STAFF WRITER

Sporting the trademark earring in his left ear, Kwame Kilpatrick, 60th mayor of Detroit, spoke to East Middle School students Thursday during a "Leave Your Mark" program, which honored Martin Luther King Jr.

Kilpatrick is a former state representative and teacher.

"He was the first African American and the youngest person to serve as a leader in either party in the 175 years Michigan has been a state," said Barbara Johnson, a member of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council. She introduced the mayor as one whose election platform focused on improving the quality of life for Detroit residents.

"Today, we are celebrating a legend,"

Kilpatrick said. "This school is a microcosm of what Martin Luther King Jr. felt this entire country should be. This country is all about the next generation taking leadership from us."

FOCUSED EDUCATION

Kilpatrick said he wasn't focused in high school.

"You had to have a 2.0 grade point aver-

age, which is not a very good grade point average," Kilpatrick said. "I got a 2.17. As long as I could play football, that was my attitude."

At the university, he roomed with Tim Green, a young Georgia man, much different than him.

"If there was a party I would find it," Kilpatrick said. "Tim was different. Tim

PLEASE SEE KILPATRICK, A7

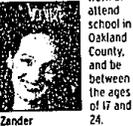
Our Towns

Miss Farmington

Applications for the 2003 Miss Farmington/Oakland County Scholarship Program are now being taken.

Forms are available at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills during business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Contestants must live, work or attend school in Oakland County, and be between the ages of 17 and 24.



Deadline to enter this year's scholarship pageant is April 1.

This year's Miss Farmington is Kelly Zander.

For more information, call (248) 471-9042 Monday through Friday.

Frog survey

Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers to participate in its annual frog and toad survey.

The group is holding several workshops in Oakland County to train volunteers how to listen for the various species of frogs and toads found in the Rouge River watershed.

Each volunteer can pick an area in the watershed, which covers much of Oakland County, to determine what kinds of frogs and toads live there. Frogs and toads are considered indicator species, because they are sensitive to pollution.

Thriving populations often indicate healthy water quality.

The workshops are:

- 7-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, located at 39221 Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.
- 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile.
- 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15, at the Farmington Hills City Council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

The workshops are free, but pre-registration is required.

To register, call (313) 792-9621 or e-mail ploomcinar@therouge.org.

Volunteers

The State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court needs volunteers to serve on the Oakland County Foster Care Review Board.

Anyone interested in serving on a Foster Care Review Board should call (517) 373-1956 for an application.

The application deadline is Feb. 27.

Interviews with candidates will take place in February and March.

Volunteers

Stephanie Bessen is the new president of the Farmington Area Jaycees.

The 27-year-old West Bloomfield resident said she didn't imagine she would take the lead for the organization when she joined the chapter in March 2000.

She found out about the club after looking through the Web for volunteer organizations to join.

"What they do appealed to me," she said of the group's many local charity and community events, including the popular annual Easter Egg Hunt and tree lighting ceremony.

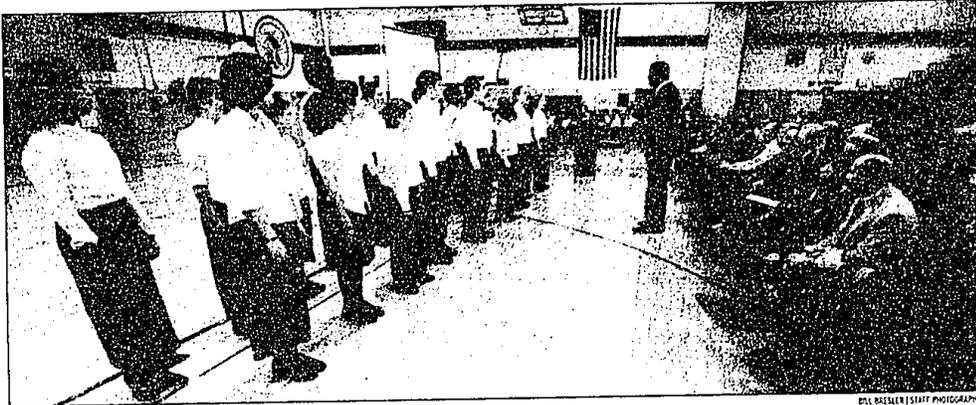
She was vice president of community development before being elected president this month.

She is involved in market research for the automotive industry. She hopes being president will improve her management skills.

Already by being a member, she said

PLEASE SEE JAYCEES, A4

PLEASE SEE ELECTIONS, A7



East Middle School's choir gave a stirring performance.

DEE BRESLIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OLS uses cards to gauge support

BY SUE BUCK
 STAFF WRITER

Our Lady of Sorrows clergy and school officials plan to gauge support for proposed shared time programs by distributing formatted response cards.

The cards were sent home to both parents of OLS school students and were included in the Jan. 12 church bulletin. They allow people to respond with a show of support, but don't include an opportunity to express non-support for the partnership that would bring Farmington public school teachers into OLS classrooms.

Both OLS Principal Jim Watson and Monsignor Walter Hurley have refused to conduct or authorize an actual survey of the content of comments at recent grade level meetings, although a formal vote was not taken.

"Most Catholic schools have simply implemented the program with great success, without any furor or parental input," Hurley said.

PLEASE SEE CARDS, A4

"Most Catholic schools have simply implemented the program with great success, without any furor or parental input," Hurley said.

Monsignor Walter Hurley
 Our Lady of Sorrows

school parents last spring that he wanted to see a strong level of support (more than 50 percent). Parents have asked how he can measure that without an actual vote. Hurley said he measured support by the content of comments at recent grade level meetings, although a formal vote was not taken.

"Most Catholic schools have simply implemented the program with great success, without any furor or parental input," Hurley said.

SURVEY CRITICIZED

Hurley has severely criticized a private-

ly-funded survey by parishioner Randy Bergeron which indicated non-support, calling it unauthorized. Parents were told not to respond to this survey by Doeren Mayhew, certified public accountants. Ballots were mailed using the 2002-03 OLS student directory. Of 657 ballots, 123 indicated they didn't support shared time and 52 supported shared time.

Under the plan, public school teachers would instruct OLS children in art, music and physical education. A few OLS teachers would be displaced.

The school district points to the revenue it could gain and to its nationally recognized programs as benefits. The OLS administration sees it as a way to fund needed technology improvements.

Critics charge that it will diminish Catholic education, among other issues. No religious symbols or prayers are allowed in the classrooms with public instruction.

The cards of support read: "As parents of OLS School students or as parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows, we join with the Parish Council, School

PLEASE SEE CARDS, A4

Republicans seek unity in elections

BY PAUL R. PACE
 STAFF WRITER

Friction among members of the Farmington Area Republican Club has been made public since the start of last year's election season.

But at the group's first meeting this year, held at the Farmington Hills City Council chamber, members agreed to play nice for the party's sake and treat each other like family. Two club members have already indicated an interest in the fall election for Hills City Council.

Outgoing Vice President Chris Cummings asked the members not to vote for him as club president. Instead, he asked them to support the nominating committee's recommendation for Ken Massey Wednesday night.

Both men have pulled petitions to run for the Farmington Hills City Council this year.

Outgoing President Linda Jolicœur said, "We need to remember to work together as years go on."

When it came time to elect the new executive committee of the club, Cummings noted an e-mail message sent to members from fellow member Mark Gordinier. Gordinier stated he and his wife were quitting the club due to in-fighting and the fact Cummings wasn't nominated to be president by the election committee.

PLEASE SEE ELECTIONS, A7

Jaycees president enjoys giving back

BY PAUL R. PACE
 STAFF WRITER



Stephanie Bessen is the new president of the Farmington Area Jaycees.

The 27-year-old West Bloomfield resident said she didn't imagine she would take the lead for the organization when she joined the chapter in March 2000.

She found out about the club after looking through the Web for volunteer organizations to join.

"What they do appealed to me," she said of the group's many local charity and community events, including the popular annual Easter Egg Hunt and tree lighting ceremony.

She was vice president of community development before being elected president this month.

"Just giving back to the community" is what appeals to her about the group, which emphasizes good will to others, fun and inspiring members to further their professional backgrounds.

Bessen is involved in market research for the automotive industry. She hopes being president will improve her management skills.

Already by being a member, she said

PLEASE SEE JAYCEES, A4

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LOOKING AHEAD

B4 **Downright decisive**
 In Thursday's At Home section: if you don't have a down comforter but want one, it's probably obvious the time has come.

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