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FARMINGTON Observer



Tradition
Easter bunnies have long history with local companies. Taste, B1

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Our Towns

Broe singers
The Farmington Hills-based Broe Therapy Choir is comprised of men and women recovering from Traumatic Brain Injuries. They have given more than 50 free performances at schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. On Tuesday, April 29, they have been re-invited to perform for the third time in the



beautiful Rotunda of our State Capitol Building in Lansing, Michigan. The concert which goes from 11 to 2 p.m. will include guest speakers addressing the new legislative body about pending changes in laws such as the proposed repeal of motorcycle helmet mandate, the lowering of drunk driving blood alcohol level to .08, and legislative issues important to the citizens of Michigan. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Choir Director and Director of Psychological Services at Broe Rehabilitation Services, Inc., Len McCulloch, at (248) 474-2763.

Business brief
The Farmington Community Library in Farmington Hills is now offering a new service called "Business Brief" to Farmington/Farmington Hills businesses. Through this service local businesses can learn how to create their own specific marketing list and convert it immediately to mailing labels. Call (248) 553-0300 to arrange for this one-hour training session with Librarian, Sharon Vincent or Nina Harris. Sessions can be scheduled for up to 21 participants on Monday or Tuesday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. Farmington Community Library and the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center will offer a free small business workshop at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 29 at the Farmington Hills Library, 32731 W. 12 Mile. The program will highlight resources available through the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, the State of Michigan and through the Farmington Community Library. Librarian Sharon Vincent will share a variety of resources available on the Internet, in addition to sharing a selection of the many "how to" books on setting up and running a business and demonstrate ReferenceUSA, a database available free through the library. To sign up, call (248) 553-0300.



Dorothy Cencer cherishes the years with her sons.

With a capital 'C'

Mother of the Year cites sons' courage in battles with muscular dystrophy

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

SYMPTOMS

Dorothy Cencer's eyes still well up a little when she talks about her boys.

But the mother of seven, who buried five of her sons more than 20 years ago, is just as quick to laugh about their antics and express pride in their accomplishments.

They were, after all, typical boys who rooted for Detroit sports teams and kept a menagerie of pets over the years - including a pair of goldfish named "Fish" and "Chips."

Only one thing made five of the seven Cencer boys different from their children. They were diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, a disease that slowly robbed them of their mobility and eventually took their lives.

"I had no known, we probably would have seen the symptoms sooner," said Dorothy, who has been named Michigan Right to Life-Lifespan's Mother of the Year.

"But maybe it's good we didn't, because there was nothing to be done for it anyway."

Dorothy and her husband, Tom, have been married 51 years, 30 of which were spent in Livonia. Their first child, Richard, was born in 1953. David was born in 1954, Steven in 1955, Thomas in 1956, Timothy in 1958, Ronald in 1960.

By the time Kenneth came along in 1963, they had gotten the news that would transform their lives.

"In our case, they said it was incompatible genes," Dorothy recalled. "We didn't notice anything for the first few years. And when they said muscular dystrophy... wow."

Steve, who now works security for Saint Joseph Mercy Health Systems, and Tom, a dentist in Rochester, were spared the disease.

Of the others, Rick, who lived the longest, was diagnosed first. David was the first to die.

The earliest indications came when they were babies. The boys wouldn't crawl like healthy children, but dragged themselves along

PLEASE SEE MOTHER, A7

Parking's the talk of the town

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The John Cowley & Sons renovation on Grand River brought continued success to the family business since it reopened March 14.

However, some in downtown Farmington say a tighter parking situation is the result.

Those most closely involved with the issue discussed it at Thursday's Traffic and Safety Board meeting. Some people think because the new establishment has two floors the building doubled its capacity. Greg Cowley said, but it has only increased by 80 people.

As early as three weeks ago, Cowley said he made a continuing offer to all nearby businesses and their customers. His valets will park their cars free if they drive in through the back alley off

PLEASE SEE PARKING, A4

Driver arraigned on hit and run charges

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

A 48-year-old Farmington Hills woman was arraigned on two felony counts Wednesday for allegedly hitting and seriously injuring a bicyclist, then fleeing scene, said

Farmington Hills Police. Cheryl Esther Feinberg was charged in Farmington's 47th District Court in relation to a 19-year-old man being hit by a car around 10:05 p.m. Monday, where both driver and bicyclist were heading westbound on Colfax between

Eight and Nine Mile. Police said the driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol. Feinberg was charged with operating under the influence of liquor causing a serious injury accident and leaving

Comini. Police would not reveal his name or the hospital where he is being treated. Feinberg was charged with operating under the influence of liquor causing a serious injury accident and leaving

PLEASE SEE DRIVER, A8

Henry Ford solicitation angers patient

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Carol Hearrell thought her medical information was safe, especially since the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act went into effect this month.

But the Farmington Hills resident discovered some of her information is available for others to see, after she received a letter from Henry Ford Health Systems.

In it, the health care provider asked her to consider donating money to its West

Bloomfield Cancer Center, letting her know someone would call her and explain why her donation was vital.

Hearrell said the letters were postmarked from Nevada, which also made her wonder how far her medical details were being spread around the country.

"I became outraged," she said. "I am offended that I am on their patient mailing list."

Hearrell said she has nothing but praise for the care she has received at Henry Ford. She travels to the West Bloomfield facility because her

longtime primary caregiver works there.

However, she has concerns about being solicited specifically because she is a patient and the health system allowing third parties to view her information.

Glen Smiley, corporate vice president for Philanthropy at Henry Ford Health System, said the solicitation was coming from his division. He said under the HIPAA Act, a patient's name, age, gender and insurance status can be

PLEASE SEE PATIENT, A8



BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carol Hearrell is concerned about a local hospital's fund-raising efforts

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LOOKING AHEAD
Beauty and the Beast
Disney's Tony Award-winning musical playing April 29 to May 18 at the Fisher Theatre features Laura Dyrzycki.

You never have to dig for your local news. We do it for you!
Your hometown is our front page.