



Farmington Observer

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Police contemplate use of deadly force

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer
Faced with the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling limiting police use of deadly force in apprehending criminal suspects, Farmington Hills police officials say they will review their policies.

"Our order basically follows state law. The state law is much more permissive (than the court's ruling). Obviously we are going to have to re-evaluate our order to be in compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling," said Farmington Hills Inspector Richard Niemisto.
Armed with regulations which are more stringent than the high court's ruling, Farmington police officials, on the other hand, may not have to make any changes.
"OUR POLICY is more stringent than what they (U.S. Supreme Court justices) came down with," said Commander Peter Amato of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. He added that Farmington's policy could be a model for other departments.
In a 6-3 vote last week, the U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a Tennessee law allowing police to shoot fleeing felons. The justices said the law was unconstitutional because it authorizes the use of deadly force against unarmed fleeing suspects not considered dangerous.
Determining whether the high court's ruling will force a change in Michigan law and police practice is still undetermined, according to Dan Loopp, spokesman for the state attorney general's office.
"We're looking at that. We haven't quite determined what impact it would have," Loopp said. "We don't have a definitive opinion on it."
Michigan law does not prohibit a police officer from using deadly force when a felon is fleeing, Loopp said. Michigan State Police officials in

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Faxon fights smokers

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Smokers, watch out. If two Detroit area legislators have their way in Lansing, smokers will be banned from indulging in their habit in public places.

Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and Rep. Justine Barns, D-Westland, are making another effort to legislate restrictions on smoking in public places. Both Faxon and Barns last week introduced a new Michigan Clean Indoor Bill simultaneously in the state Senate and House.

The bills provide for smoke-free areas in public places such as schools, stores, offices and other work places. Smoking would still be allowed in designated areas.

"It covers all public places," Faxon said. "All we're saying is that in public spaces there will be designated areas for smokers."

Already statutes either prohibit smoking or restrict it to designated areas in restaurants, supermarkets, hospitals and nursing homes, Faxon said.

"We've already covered a number of institutions and places with other legislation," Faxon said.

WHAT FAXON'S bill does is expand the previous legislation to cover all public places, such as offices, public schools, banks, city halls, police departments and other facilities that serve the public.
If the bills become law, smoking restrictions would not apply to private schools, public spaces where employees are covered by union agreements concerning smoking and facilities



Visiting a petting farm, such as this one at Kensington Metropark, is an alternative to giving youngsters live pets for Easter. Marlene, a cow who recently gave birth to a bull calf, gives a rabbit a nurturing

lick to the delight of Debbie Cavallero, a farm interpreter and health care specialist. Suggested names for the bull calf are being accepted, farm manager Dave Mollanon says.

Farm offers holiday option

By Sandra Armbruster staff writer

If Peter Cottontail is hopping on down the trail to your house Easter morning, you could be in for trouble. Area naturalists advise against giving youngsters live bunnies or chicks as presents.

Those well-meant gifts often end up in the hands of the Michigan Humane Society.

"We don't really suggest live rabbits or chickens or baby ducks unless parents are absolutely sure they want the responsibility," said Kathy Blauet of the Humane Society's Kindness Center in Westland.

BEFORE BUYING such an animal, Blauet offers some points to consider.

"Check and make sure that you're allowed to have those kinds of pets in the city you live in. Then be sure you want the responsibility of that animal. They're cute when they're young, but when they grow up, you do have to have adequate facilities to keep them.

Young animals are fragile and can be "very easily injured or killed," Blauet said.

As alternatives, Blauet suggested giving stuffed animals or making a visit to petting farms operated by some high school and community groups as well as the one at Kensington Metropark.

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Parents beat up on education proposals

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Much to the relief of Oakland County educators, state Department of Education officials are expected to postpone changes in regulations governing special education programs at least until 1986.

"I was excited," said Mary Lou Ankele, Farmington special education supervisor, who has opposed some of the 66 proposed rule changes.

State education officials are scheduled to meet in mid-April to act on a recommendation to postpone the rule changes opposed by many parents and educators, said Dr. Richard Baldwin, special education consultant with the Michigan Department of Education.

"I assume they will accept that. I don't know," Baldwin said, about the state board of education.

Special education rules, originally implemented in 1972 and revised in 1980, include administrative and financial regulations. They also include items such as the criteria children must meet to be enrolled in special education classes, parents rights and policies for protecting records.

Originally state educators had planned to implement the 66 proposed rule changes by September 1985. For local district officials, parents said, the prospect of having to follow the proposed changes by September was considered nearly impossible.

"AT HEARINGS and in written testimony, administrators, teachers and parents asked us in their testimony not to have these rules take effect in September," Baldwin said. "It's just too much change too quickly. When all the power groups go after something, you say gosh they're right."

Much of the strongest and most vocal opposition to the proposed rule changes came from Oakland County teachers, administrators and parents. They complained about the speed of implementation as well as the anticipated costs involved with the changes.

By the time the volumes of testimony reached the state education department, local district administrators were well into preparing annual budgets for the coming school year, unsure if the changes would be implemented.

Farmington's preliminary 1985-86 \$49 million budget, for example, does not include expenditures for the proposed changes.

Much of the opposition, particularly paid additional costs from the programs would bring to the local school districts. Additional costs are estimated at \$200,000 for the Farmington district.

Baldwin offered a different opinion. "Our position is that it is not going to be a costly package," he said in March.

This week he said that much of the reaction, especially from Oakland County, was concerned with the financial impact of the proposed changes.

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How changes would affect district

Educators consider some of the proposed changes in the state's special education rules to be positive. But other changes that would directly affect special education students and classrooms overshadow much of the positive, according to local educators.

The proposed changes which have met with opposition from parents, administrators and teachers concern school districts' resource rooms and the addition of educational consultants and aides, said Mary Lou Ankele, Farmington special education supervisor.

The package of rule changes proposed by the Michigan Department of Education is not etched in stone, Richard Baldwin, special education consultant for the Michigan Department, said in March.

On first review of the testimony taken at six statewide hearings in March, some of the proposed changes would most likely be revised, he said.

To what extent the revisions would be made needs to be reviewed along

with the testimony, Baldwin added. Implemented in 1972, the special education rules include administrative and financial regulations. They also include such items as the criteria children must meet to be enrolled in special education classes, parents rights and policies for protecting records.

OF GREAT concern to opponents of the rule changes is the expected effect on special education resource rooms, Ankele said.

Resource rooms are classrooms where some special education students, those who are mildly handicapped, go for specific help outside of their regular classroom.

Although the state's rules were revised in 1980, districts' resource rooms still were not acknowledged as a means of helping special education students even though most districts used them, Ankele said.

Under the proposed rule changes resource rooms would finally be acknowledged as a legitimate means of

helping students. But the rule changes would also designate what type of service a resource room teacher can and cannot provide students.

The proposals also call for the addition of educational consultants to work with the resource room teachers.

Resource room teachers have proposed

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Police hunt robbers

By Julie Brown staff writer

A total of \$3,549 was reported stolen in an unarmed robbery Tuesday of the Comerica Bank at 31800 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

As of Friday, no suspect had been caught in the robbery, which occurred at approximately 4 p.m.

"We are looking," said Mirl Spencer, inspector, operations bureau, for the Farmington Hills police. "We really don't have anything concrete yet. There's a couple (of people) we're looking at."

According to the police report, a

white man entered the bank and handed one of the tellers a brown paper bag. The teller was told to fill the bag with money.

After being handed the money, the man left by the east side entrance and walked toward Orchard Lake Road. No weapon was seen at any time.

According to police the robber is approximately 25 to 30 years old. He is between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs approximately 185 pounds.

"We're working with the FBI on it," Spencer said Friday. "It's customary for us to be working with the FBI on bank robberies."

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