

Mercy students sing
Cole Porter, 1B



Volleyball's
best, 5D

Firefighters defend
professionalism, 3A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33263 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

HE'S the Outstanding Marketing Education Teacher of the Year in Michigan.

Douglas Roessler, a Farmington Hills resident and marketing instructor at Detroit Henry Ford High School, received the award at the Michigan Distributive Education Clubs of America's 20th annual career development conference March 13-15 in Dearborn. A Detroit Public Schools marketing instructor for 19 years, Roessler is general chairman of the DECA Career Development Conference Detroit District. He's also active in the Michigan Vocational Coordinators Association, a marketing education co-ordinator and a reviewer of textbooks for McGraw-Hill. Michigan DECA is a vocational education association for students planning careers in management, marketing, merchandising and distribution.

They tied the knot — finally. In a private ceremony attended by 20 close friends and relatives, North Farmington High School graduate Pam Dawber, star of TV's "My Sister Sam," married actor Mark Harmon March 21 in Studio City in California's San Fernando Valley.

Dawber, 34, previously starred in "Mork & Minky." Since summer, she has been engaged to Harmon, 35, a TV star in his own right, having appeared on the dramatic comedies, "St. Elsewhere" and "Moonlighting."

Their wedding took place in the chapel at Harvard School, Harmon's prep school. They plan to live in Harmon's Pacific Palisades retreat following a honeymoon in Vancouver, where Harmon is filming a TV movie.

AS in years past, Farmington will continue to maintain the portions of Farmington Road running through the city, according to a recently approved contract with the Oakland County Road Commission.

Although it costs the city \$18,000 to \$22,000 each year to maintain the road, the city is reimbursed about \$12,700. "Farmington Road is vital to serve city residents and businesses located off this road," city manager Robert Deadman said.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: Remember to move your clocks ahead before you go to sleep Saturday. At 2 a.m. Sunday, April 5, Daylight Saving Time will take effect until late fall to provide an extra hour of daylight in this evening.

Response mixed to court ruling

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

'I think women have been very unevenly treated.'

— Jack Faxon
state senator

Some think it's a great victory and are hoping for changes in the workplace.

Others are nonchalant about it and believe a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gives women an edge over men in job promotions will have little effect. "I think it was a great decision," said state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills. "Unless there is some kind of at-

tention drawn to the issue in the area of women being in jobs traditionally held by men, the opportunity would never open up unless there is a conscious effort. I think women have been very unevenly treated."

In a 6-3 vote March 25, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld voluntary affirmative action programs that give preference to promoting women over men. In its first affirmative action case involving alleged sex discrimination, the Supreme Court said an employer may promote a woman over an arguably more-qualified

man to help get women into higher ranking jobs.

The justices upheld an affirmative action plan challenged by a man who was denied promotion to road dispatcher by the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency in California.

THE COURT said employers need not admit past discrimination against women to adopt such preferential treatment. The promotion of more women is a legitimate effort to overcome "a conspicuous imbalance

in traditionally segregated job categories," the court said.

"It's wonderful," said Farmington resident Marian McCracken, president of the Michigan chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women). "This is a giant step. It affirms that affirmative action is locked in place."

State Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, is cautious about the court's ruling. "That opinion is one that needs to

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Drug session offers insight into recovery

By Chris Rizk
staff writer

They met surreptitiously over the course of three weeks, plotting, planning and practicing.

At last, the final day approaches and each member carefully executes his or her plan of action. They are set for the surprise confrontation. If things work out, the object of their attention will be at first mad, denying, reluctant and, hopefully, responsive to their efforts.

It's not a plot to harm or embarrass. Rather, what has just been described may be the best method yet for combating a heartless disease — chemical dependency among teens and adults.

The method, which reads like a coup d'etat, is called intervention. The uniqueness of the program lies in who and how many it helps in the

effort to shake a chemically dependent person from self-destruction.

"It precipitates a crisis in the family," said Renee Genger, an intervention specialist at Henry Ford Hospital's Maplegrove treatment center in West Bloomfield Township.

"People think that in order for someone to help, the chemically dependent person has to hit bottom. That's not true because then what may happen is that you'll be going to that person's funeral."

THE GOAL Genger told more than 70 community members gathered at North Farmington High School March 30, is to reach that person before he or she hits bottom.

The program, titled "Intervention," was the fourth of a five-part, Monday-night series on "Alcohol/Drug Use and Misuse." Sponsors in-

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Winter's best

RANDY BOHS/fstaff photographer

March may have blown in like a flamb but it roared out like a lion with snow and cold temperatures this week. This rustic-like scene looked settling provides one of the more attractive vistas in the city.

Private schools split on certification

By Casey Hays
staff writer

Last year the Michigan Supreme Court voted 3-3 to uphold the state's right to require certified teachers in private schools. Some Christian schools are preparing to ask the U.S.

Supreme Court to overturn that decision.

About 900 private schools met the deadline for reporting their school name, address, number of students in each grade and number of certified teachers, said James Phelps, associate schools superintendent.

Last month, the Education Department notified about 250 schools they have until March 30 to register with the state or face hearings and possible closure by fall, Phelps said.

In Michigan, any college graduate with a bachelor's degree can get a state teaching certificate and "it has

nothing to do with religion," Phelps said. Certification requirements vary only for certain vocational instructors with expertise in a particular trade, Phelps said.

A rally last month in Lansing was timed to draw attention to new legis-

lation that would make teacher certification optional for private schools.

MOST OF the protesters who filled the Capitol's front lawn were

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Voc ed fair is slated

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It hasn't happened for about 10 years.

But this year it's the Farmington Public Schools' turn to host the annual Industrial Arts Fair, set for April 10-11 at Farmington High School. Industrial arts students from 50 schools in Oakland County will participate in the annual competition, sponsored by the Michigan Industrial Arts Education Society, a teachers' organization, said Dennis Zaleski, a production arts educator at Farmington High School.

"It's the practical application of some of the skills they learn in classes," said Earl Baumunk, Farmington Public Schools vocational education director.

The April regional competition is open to all industrial arts students in grades 6-12.

"It's a little form of recognition. The kids get a kick out of it," Zaleski said.



RANDY DORST/fstaff photographer

Farmington High seniors Harold Wylie (left) and Steven Sherwood review architectural drawings in a drafting class.

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Nursing homes — close up

Dear readers:

Placing a relative in a nursing home is an experience few of us enjoy contemplating but one many of us will face. Unfortunately, few of us are prepared. We find a labyrinth of unanswered questions that often stymies our attempts to take care of loved ones in the manner we would prefer.

To help develop a deeper understanding of nursing homes, the Observer & Eccentric is publishing a special all-news tabloid section that you will find inserted into today's edition.

You will not only read about the many controversies that surround the industry, but you will get an inside look at how nursing homes operate, how the state regulates the industry, how Medicaid fits in and why you pay what you pay.

You'll learn how to seek out the nursing home that best meets your needs. You'll also get a personal look at the residents and employees for whom nursing homes are an everyday reality.

STEVE BARNABY
managing editor

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