

Which model is which at the auto show, 1D



Skiers hit slopes, 1C

Deli's offerings are truly kosher, 1B

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 28

Monday, January 8, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

58 Pages

Fifty Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington #9024. To call news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-4506. Classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-5722.

MORE than just the University of Michigan lost when it fell to the University of California in the Rose Bowl. Athletic Supporter Ltd. of Farmington Hills, which struck gold with the World Champion Detroit Pistons "Bad Boys" design logo last year, lost \$200,000 to \$300,000 in sales of T-shirts and sweat shirts proclaiming U-M as "Back to Back Rose Bowl Champions." Bill Berris, company president, figures 40,000 shirts would've been sold. Designs are done two months early, so the company also lost the money it invested in artwork, silk screens and samples sent to retail buyers, who placed orders contingent on U-M winning. The day after the game, the firm shipped a "Bo is Michigan Football" T-shirt commemorating Bo Schembechler's retirement. Bo donated his royalties to U-M's football program.

Memory lane

25 years ago:

- A mounted horse division of Farmington Township's auxiliary police force should be making its first appearance very soon.
- The new 102-bed Belsford General Hospital in Farmington Township will be dedicated at a public program.
- The Farmington school district is taking steps toward construction of a fourth junior high, superintendent Gerald Harrison said.

— Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 13, 1965

This week

COUNCILWOMAN Jean Fox will preside at her first Farmington Hills City Council meeting as mayor tonight.

what's inside

- Building Scene . . . Sec. F
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C,E,F
- Index 7E
- Auto Sec. C
- Real estate . . . Sec. E
- Employment . . . Secs. E,F
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 2F
- Entertainment . . . SD
- Obituaries GS
- On the agenda . . . SA
- Police/fire calls . . . SA
- Sports Sec. C
- Street Scene . . . Sec. D
- Taste Sec. B

THE NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Brothers accused of selling fake IDs



By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

"Temporarily closed due to unforeseen circumstances." That was the sign on the front door at Farmington Hills Fast Photo, 284 Orchard Lake Road, north of 13 Mile, Thursday. The unforeseen circumstances were the arrests of owner Robert P. Slobin, 25, and his brother and employee, Richard E. Slobin, 20, both of Farmington Hills, on charges of forgery and conspiracy. The two, arrested Tuesday, are charged with making fraudulent driver's licenses for minors. Farmington Hills police said they believe the store "was providing the majority of fraudulent identification in Farmington Hills and the entire county" for minors to illegally buy alcohol, Chief William Dwyer said. Driver's licenses confiscated from the photo store "were an excellent product," Dwyer said. Almost anyone checking identification would not notice the IDs were fake, he said.

AT THEIR arraignment Wednesday before District Judge Fred Harris of Farmington, Robert Slobin pleaded not guilty to two felony

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said police believe the store 'was providing the majority of fraudulent identification in Farmington Hills and the entire county' for minors to illegally buy alcohol.

counts of forgery of public records and conspiracy to forge public records.

Richard Slobin was charged with one count of forgery and two counts of conspiracy. He also was charged with one misdemeanor count of forging a license. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Both are free on cash/surety bond. Robert Slobin posted 10 percent of a \$15,000 bond, and Richard 10 percent of a \$10,500 bond pending a preliminary examination Jan. 19 in 47th District Court.

The felony counts carry a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The misdemeanor count carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$100 fine.

"At this point, I don't have any comment because I'm really not aware of anything," Jerome Sabbotta, the brothers' Birmingham-based attorney, said Thursday.

Because the police and prosecutor delivered the arrest warrants to Judge Harris' court late Wednesday afternoon, Sabbotta said, "I don't really know what kind of evidence they have."

THE LATE delivery of warrants prompted Sabbotta early Wednesday to ask Harris to order receipt of warrants by 3:30 p.m. or else to release the Slobins from police custody. The warrants were hand-delivered by 5 p.m. while the Slobins awaited arraignment.

Please turn to Page 3

Phony licenses easy to get

By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

A North Farmington High senior says she knows of classmates who bought fake driver's licenses from photo shops or printers. "Everybody uses them in school. I know tons of people. It's very common," she said.

A Farmington High junior is equally nonchalant about classmates' use of fake identification to buy alcoholic beverages. "They show them to each other. A lot of people have them. It's quite a problem. This

kid may not look a day over 15, but his license says he's 21."

Farmington Hills Fast Photo was raided Tuesday after two undercover/underage Farmington Hills police cadets bought fraudulent driver's licenses there, Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

Owner Robert P. Slobin, 25, and his brother, Richard E. Slobin, 20, were arrested on forgery and conspiracy charges.

THE TEENS' comments don't surprise Kim McNamara, general manager at Mr. Sports One of a Kind

bar, in the Orchard-14 Shopping Center, on Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile.

During the peak times of holidays and summer break, she said, up to 15 fake, altered or misused IDs are confiscated daily from would-be patrons.

"We've seen some unbelievable IDs come through here. Teens are teens. But unless the law says, 'Kids, you will get some hefty fines or lose your license,' they're going to keep doing it."

Please turn to Page 3

Chesley was old family business

Scott Chesley said he wasn't surprised with the recent announcement that Chesley Industries — the business his family owned for some 30 years — might close in February. There had been rumors for a while that the Hussmann company, which now owns the Farmington-based wire products company, might shut down the southside Farmington plant.

"If that's the best decision for the company, then that's fine," said Chesley. "But it's sad to see it go." Scott is the grandson of George Chesley, founder of the original company, and youngest son of the late Bob Chesley — the man who brought the company to Farmington and made it go.

Scott Chesley recalled when his father ran the business, how involved



Mike Callahan, general manager of Chesley Drive near Eight Mile and Farmington Road.

Major plant threatened with closing

By Casey Hans staff writer

Mike Callahan surveyed the floor of the 86,000-square-foot plant at Chesley Industries last week — quiet, dark and devoid of employees due to a holiday shutdown.

The Farmington-based plant may soon be emptied for good.

Unless a buyer is found, the south-side wire products company, formerly owned by the Chesley family, will close its doors in mid-February, leaving some 50 hourly and 21 salaried employees out of work, said Callahan, general manager at Chesley since 1976.

Some 30 employees already have since the parent firm, the Hussmann Corp. of St. Louis, announced Dec. 20 it would close the plant in 60 days unless a buyer for the business was found.

Please turn to Page 3

Crash victim 'happy-go-lucky'

By Bob Sklar staff writer

A Farmington Hills woman who died shortly after a van struck her car Friday was "a happy-go-lucky person with a nice disposition," her sister said Saturday.

Lorna "Mac" Attard, 59, was pronounced dead at Belsford General Hospital shortly after making a U-turn in front of a van while en route to work, Farmington Hills police said.

"She was very family-oriented," said her older sister, Lorraine Fishbeck of Dearborn. "She was vibrant and had a beautiful personality. She loved life and loved children."

An autopsy revealed that, Attard died of multiple injuries, the Oakland County Medical Examiner said. A Farmington Hills resident for 21 years, Attard was eastbound on

Eight Mile, just west of Orchard Lake Road, at 8:30 a.m. Friday. She was en route to work in Southfield, where she worked as a real estate company secretary.

TWO WITNESSES told police Attard made a U-turn and drove in front of a westbound van, which slammed into her Intermediate-sized car on the passenger side.

The van had just crossed Orchard Lake Road on a green light. Neither the 23-year-old Madison Heights woman driving the van nor her passenger were hurt. Only Attard wasn't wearing a seat belt, police said.

"There's no indication of prosecution," said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section supervisor. Police and firefighters assisted

Community EMS paramedics at the scene.

Fishbeck thinks her sister may have been returning home to pick up something she forgot.

ATTARD is survived by her husband, Edward; her mother, Lorna Hawthorne; one daughter, Lynn Meiner; two sons, Mark and Douglas; two sisters, Lorraine Fishbeck and Ruth Huddleston; one brother, Thomas Hawthorne; and one grandchild.

Visitation will be noon to 9 p.m. today and services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia.

The Rev. Arthur Spafford of First United Methodist Church of Farmington will officiate. Burial will be in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

Jewish group riled by zoning review

By James Radebaugh staff writer

Leaders of a Jewish educational organization reacted angrily to news that West Bloomfield township is still considering zoning ordinance changes that the organization feels are intended to prevent it from building a campus/retreat here.

Ben Falbaum, a spokesman for the Lubavitch Foundation of Farmington Hills, said last week that foundation officials thought the issue had been "put to bed" weeks ago when the town board failed to approve changes proposed earlier.

"We're shocked and dismayed that the process has started over again," he said. "We've already been through the process."

West Bloomfield Supervisor Sandra Draur acknowledged that the township planning commission is reviewing zoning laws that may apply to property owned by Lubavitch, but said the possible revision of those laws will not significantly affect the foundation's ability to build on its land and is not intended to squelch its plans.

Please turn to Page 2