



Farmington Observer

VOLUME 103 NUMBER 87

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1992 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 80 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Absentee voters: Find out why candidates are scrambling for votes from people who won't even be at the polls this election day./7A

Congressional race: More on the high-visibility race for a seat in the 11th U.S. House District./6A

Parole bill: There is a cost to keeping bad guys off Michigan streets./5A

OPINION

Endorsements: The Observer's endorsements for the judgeship in the 47th District Court in Farmington are on the Editorial Page. There is also a recap of the newspaper's endorsements in other primary races./16A

SPORTS

Golf outing: Meg Mallon, a successful professional golfer and Mercy High School graduate, again will be the guest of honor at a fund-raiser for her alma mater./1B

State champs: The South Farmington Blues won the Bronco baseball championship in the Pony League state tournament./1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Eating out: Have lunch on the deck overlooking Walled Lake at Key Largo restaurant. You'll enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, good food and service./6B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Gay discovery: Area men and women discuss their recollections of when they first realized they were homosexual./1C

Counselors' view: Local specialists who counsel gays give their opinion on whether homosexuality is innate or acquired./1C

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Hopkins testifies he was afraid



The Edward Hopkins murder trial continues in Circuit Court. Hopkins of Farmington Hills testified that he feared the two men he's accused of shooting to death last year.

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Edward Hopkins says he was afraid of two young Detroit men who he claims beat him a week before the Farmington Hills resident shot the two to death at his Inkster Road house May 31, 1991. "I knew I didn't want to get beat again," said Hopkins, who is accused of shooting the two Detroit men, who ar-

rived at his house the evening of May 31 apparently to collect on a \$250 drug debt.

The Farmington Hills man faces two first-degree murder charges and two counts of felony firearms in the shooting deaths of LaTerrie Lee Carter, 18, and Ricardo Preston, 17, at the house where he lived with his mother and sister at 20753 Inkster Road.

Tom McGinnis, Hopkins' court-appointed attorney, is arguing that Hopkins shot the two men in self-defense because they returned to his house to collect a drug debt days after they beat him in front of a Detroit crack house.

Roman Kalytiak, Oakland County assistant prosecutor, however, is arguing that Hopkins knew Carter and Preston were on their way to his house and lay in wait for them with a shotgun.

Hopkins said he thought the drug debt owed by him and his brother, Mikel, was paid when he gave Carter his car — before the beating in Detroit — valued at \$1,000. The car also had a

lien on it.

Mikel Hopkins testified earlier in the three-week long trial before Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Tempin that Carter and Preston continued to threaten the Hopkins' family while Edward recuperated from the beating in Botaford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Kalytiak reminded the jury in his closing argument that according to testimony, Hopkins' mother was under the impression that Carter set up the beating but was not involved in it and was

See HOPKINS, 2A

Mother-daughter share in new life

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER



Marcia Nieport never felt like she quite fit in.

Her adoptive family on the farm in Ohio cared for and loved her, but that didn't stop the longing she felt to know about her roots.

Then, two years ago, a letter arrived from Nieport's birth mother, a Farmington Hills woman who had been searching for her daughter for 15 years. It was 20 years after a single, pregnant 17-year-old Marcia Berg gave her daughter up for adoption, sight unseen.

The final piece of the family puzzle was put into place in August of 1990 when birth mother and daughter — and extended families — were united.

"I was holding Levi (her then 10-month old son) and I fainted on the bed," said Nieport, describing her reaction upon hearing the news. "I couldn't have been happier — it came at a perfect time."

Today, Nieport and her son Levi live in Farmington Hills with Berg and her husband. With birth mom at her side, Nieport gave birth this month to her second baby, a little girl named Morgan, at Providence Hospital in Southfield. The family has gone through counseling to cope with all the changes which have come into their lives.

Unlike some adoption search cases, their story has a happy ending. But their lives weren't always happy.

Search is on

The Farmington Hills woman began searching for her child five years after giving birth to her in Ohio, after coming to a full realization of what she had done.

Berg already had one child when she became pregnant with Marcia. She offered her for adoption because of her strict family upbringing and the hurt she felt she had brought to them.

"My family was distraught when I had my first daughter — I was afraid to talk to them about it," she explained.

Berg eventually married, and her husband became father to her first daughter, Traci. But she never forgot the child she gave up.

See SEARCH, 8A

Bonding with baby: A search for roots has a happy ending as grandmother Marcia Berg (top) and mother Marcia Nieport come together to celebrate the birth of Morgan in Providence Hospital.

Primary election: Off to the races

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
AND CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITERS

Registered voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills will have several contested races on the ballot in Tuesday's primary election, including a local judicial race, challenges for a U.S. House seat and several al county posts.



See editorial, 16A

See related stories, 13A

Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman reminds voters that tickets may not be split in a primary election; to do so will cause the ballot to be spoiled. That means in partisan political races, voters may select only one party in which to cast ballots.

"You can't vote for a Democratic con-

gressional candidate and then a Republican county commission," Dorman said.

A voter does not have to be a registered member of a political party to vote in that party's primary.

Candidates winning on Tuesday will become the nominees of their respective parties and will face off against each other in the November general election.

Judicial race

All voters can cast ballots in the non-

partisan District Court race, where seven Farmington Hills attorneys are vying for an open seat on the 47th District Court bench with the upcoming retirement of Judge Margaret Schaeffer. The two top vote-getters in Tuesday's race will square off in November.

Polls in both cities will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and voters are reminded to go to their city precincts, which are different in many cases from those used in local school elections.

See PRIMARY, 3A

So what's cooking?

John and Rita Denby, married 46 years, seem perfectly happy at their Farmington Hills residence. But, really, they're not the type to sit around home. John and Rita are fond of attending "elderhostel" programs for senior citizens at distant universities. Participants live in university dorms while they take the courses. The Denbys have been to 38 such programs.

Last month, they were among 48 senior citizens from across the nation to attend a week-long Culinary Arts Elderhostel at Johnson & Wales University in Charleston, S.C.

The school — known as "the hospitality center of the South" — claims to be the world's largest food service and hospitality educator. "The Art of Baking

FARMINGTON FOCUS

& Pastry" was the featured course at the elderhostel. Did Rita, 70, learn anything new? "At my age? Well, maybe a little," she said recently. "I'm not really not for cooking the fancy stuff. . . just the everyday things."

Her specialty, according to husband John, 79 and a retired IRS agent, is a standing rib roast.

The Denbys, 16-year Farmington Hills residents, will hit the road for two more elderhostels this year. In September, they'll be in Tennessee for a program on exercise. Then it's on to Auburn University in Alabama for a course in finance in October.

"It's a mighty nice thing to do," said John Denby.

Suds your wheels

Get the family buggy washed and help the community anti-drug abuse program at the same time.

That's the advice of Farmington Families In Action, which is co-sponsoring a benefit car wash with Colonial Car Wash in Farmington.

FFIA members hope to sell 1,500 tickets at \$5 each. A ticket is good for an exterior wash for just about any vehicle at any time at Colonial on Nine Mile west of Farmington Road.

Tickets are on sale at three local businesses — Valvoline Oil Change, 32686 Grand River, Little Professor Book Store, 37115 Grand River, and Total Fitness, 23311 Orchard Lake Road.

For more information, call Nancy Smith at 476-5682.