

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Oakland's homeless:** County shelters admitted 25 percent more people last year, compared with 1990, according to a just-released county report./5A

## MONTHLY ALBUM

**Go in' to the chapel:** Couples celebrate their engagements or their weddings during the summer months. And other couples celebrate having been together for many years.

## OPINION

**We get letters:** Farmington Observer readers write on several subjects./10A

**Way up north:** Observer columnist Jeff Counts gets some Northern Exposure during a recent trip through Michigan's Upper Peninsula./10A

## STREET SCENE

**Rock tradition:** Tin whistles, bodhrans, accordions and fiddles — they're the instruments of music steeped in the traditions of the Emerald Isle. But don't look for an Irish lilt in talking to The Drovers, a band of Irish-American musicians who've been creating their folk-rock sounds in the Windy City./6A

## TASTE

**Michigan wines:** If you seek outstanding wine, look no further than Michigan. Columnists Eleanor and Ray Heald tell why./1B

**Sweet corn:** Don't allow summer to slip past your kitchen without enjoying the great taste of fresh sweet corn. Whether it be steamed, boiled or grilled, corn is one of the delights of the season./1B

## SPORTS

**Olympic tales:** Farmington High graduate Jennifer O'Donnell talks about her Olympic experience in women's archery and Mercy senior Michele Gaza reflects on winning a gold medal in synchronized swimming at the Junior Olympics in Rochester, Minn./1C

**Johnstown update:** Walter's Appliance came out of the loser's bracket and surprised some teams in the All-American Amateur Baseball Association tournament in Johnstown, Pa./1C

## CABLE TV WEEKLY

**Local access:** "Sharon Stein Show" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date./

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# Talks with school unions heat up



BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Bargaining intensifies this week between the Farmington Public Schools and three of its unions — with the start of school just one week away. Both sides say the bargaining mood is good, but this year's negotiations have a different twist: the teachers' con-

tract expires at the end of August, after the school year has begun.

The other two employee groups, whose pacts with the district expired in June, will work under contract extensions negotiated through the end of August, union officials said.

Negotiating with the district are the 210-member Custodial, Maintenance

and Cafeteria Workers, the 265-member Educational Support Personnel which includes secretaries and paraprofessionals, and the Farmington Education Association which represents 738 teachers. All three unions are Michigan Education Association affiliates.

Two other bargaining units representing transportation employees and administrators are in the middle of two-year contracts.

Zan Alley, chief negotiator for the MEA affiliates, said negotiations are going "slowly, as always" and that "both sides are looking at all issues"

with little agreed to yet except this year's school calendar.

Employee relations director for the Farmington district, Sue Zurvalec, said the district is looking at benefits and wages as a total package, with another key issue being that of increasing instructional time for students.

Both sides have proposed three-year agreements and would prefer multi-year contracts, though much depends on the economic settlement, Zurvalec said. "The bargaining mood of the parties is positive," she added.

See UNIONS, 2A

# Seniors will recreate charm of frontier dances



BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

"Do it for Maggie."

That's about all it took to get a small group of senior adults on the dance floor to relive the days of barn-railings, sheep shearings and corn huskings.

"I teach dance classes here. And I asked people if they wanted to do it," said Maggie Loridas, senior adult specialist at the City of Farmington Hills Senior Center.

What the seniors will be doing — in honor of Farmington's 125th anniversary of incorporation as a village — is demonstrating the type of dances settlers all those years ago danced, complete with period costumes.

Eight senior adults will demonstrate what is officially known as contra dancing at Family Day in the Park 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. The demonstration will be in the tennis courts, Shilohssee Park.

Dances such as Blackberry Quadrille, Badger Gavotte, Indenook Waltz, Harvest Waltz and the Left-footers One Step should conjure up scenes of life long ago when dancing gave settlers a chance for some fun and socializing.

"It ties you in historically. Disco has come and gone. The hula-hoop has come and gone. But these dances date from the French Revolution. And they are still here," said Loridas, who has coordinated practice sessions throughout the summer.

"The dances are charming. They are elegant. And it makes you feel pretty to do them. This brings back a feeling of elegance."

The steps aren't always simple, but most of the dances are done in lines or circles. The best thing about these dances, according to the participants, is that you don't have to have a certain number of people. Anyone can join in.

See DANCES, 2A

Practice makes perfect: Ann Kutnich of Southfield and Leonard Satz of Farmington Hills practice a few steps contra dancing in preparation for the Family Day in the Park on Saturday, Aug. 22.

# Court exam delayed in Mercy shootings

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police continue to investigate the shootings of two youths at a dance at Mercy Center July 31 to determine if two Detroiters will face additional felony charges.

A preliminary examination on felony charges against Donovan L. Thomas, 20, and Lamar D. Clopton, 20, was adjourned Friday by 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris until Wednesday, Aug. 26.

The two men each face concealed weapons charges in connection with the shooting of Leslie Coleman, 16, about 11 p.m. Friday, July 31, outside Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile.

Police also have a potential suspect in the separate, unrelated shooting of Henry Cookley, 19, at the same event at Mercy Center, but no arrests have been

made, said Detective Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Both Coleman and Cookley were taken to Hutaford General Hospital following the shootings.

Friday's scheduled exam was postponed to provide additional time to prepare for a preliminary exam. Thomas and Clopton, who are free on \$150,000 cash-surety bond, stood mute to the charges and not-guilty pleas were entered on their behalf a week ago. If Thomas and Clopton are convicted, they face a maximum penalty of five years in prison or \$2,500 fine.

"If additional investigation shows that the acts they committed in this shooting were intentional, they could face additional charges for attempted murder," Nebus said. "It is our job to investigate their claims of self-defense."

According to police, Thomas and Clopton say they acted in self-defense because Coleman wielded a replica pistol at them while they were in their car in the Mercy Center parking lot.

Police believe Coleman thought two men in a Ford EXP were involved in an earlier fight with him and pointed the fake gun at the men, which in turn led to the shooting, Nebus said.

On the night of the shootings, police received a series of 911 calls between 10:52-11:05 p.m. The calls reported a large fight inside the center filled with about 400 partygoers who were attending a dance.

Within minutes, a second call came in reporting a disturbance in the parking lot, followed by a third call, reporting that two people had been shot.

See SHOOTINGS, 2A



Lamar Clopton (right) and Donovan Thomas

## Lives on video

Get out the camcorder, pop in a tape and let that camera roll. Cable TV is sponsoring a contest with a "day-in-the-life" video format.

As part of a plan to introduce viewers to Community Access Television (CATV), officials of the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission has announced the home video contest.

The videos should show "day-in-the-life" scenes of the Farmington area and its residents. They should be no more than 20 minutes in length, self-edited and submitted to SWOCC by Nov. 6.

Entries will be judged and prizes awarded. First prize is \$300. All qualified entries will be shown on cable Channel 12, the CATV station.

"In America, anyone can produce TV programming," said Lark Samouelian, executive director of

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

SWOCC. "They can make ordinary things come alive on the screen, vivid with that special drama of life seen through the eyes of a producer."

For more information, call Mark Adler at 473-7266.

## Celebrating safety

Botsford General Hospital and West River Shopping Center will host the second-annual Kids Health and Safety Celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at the shopping center, 30000 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The event will include activities for children, an

emergency service rig and staff, a nutrition display, healthy snacks, cooking demonstrations, and vision and hearing tests. Clowns will give away treats and offer to paint children's faces.

## Kids fashion show

The Ground Round restaurant and Kids Klor children's store are teaming up for a 1992 back-to-school fashion show with Farmington-area youngsters modeling the merchandise.

The event will be held at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Ground Round, 30005 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. A full menu will be available for lunch and dinner. Bingo the Clown will be on hand to entertain the kids.

Reservations for either show can be made by calling 651-7404.