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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Goodbye to Bob: Retiring Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, who held the job for 20 years, was feted at a dinner Tuesday at Glen Oaks Country Club. /3A

Book her! It's back to school for Marla Parker, newly elected to the 47th District Court in Farmington, for a refresher course. /2A

Cheers for Clinton: A group of Farmington-area pompon girls will help provide the cheer at the president-elect's Inaugural Parade. /11A

COUNTY NEWS

Tenuous accord: Oakland County is relying on a "drop-dead" clause to make sure the state doesn't leave it high and dry on mental health funding. /7A

Do as I do: The new Oakland County executive resigns from the OU board, then sets up ethics committee to detail proper actions for county employees. /16A

OPINION

Let's talk: Discussion and debate is needed on the Farmington Schools' millage renewal before voters go to the polls Feb. 2. /14A

SPORTS

Volleyball score: Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball team started the New Year with a dual-meet loss to rival Birmingham Marian. /1B

Gymnastics scene: Farmington and North Farmington gymnasts began dual-meet competition in the Western Lakes Activities Association this week. /1B

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Identity crisis? Companies having problems sparking up presentations are leaving it to the dummies. /9B

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Injured student to sue schools



A lawsuit will be filed against the Farmington School District, claims the attorney for a Farmington High student injured in an altercation at the school.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A lawsuit is expected to be filed against the Farmington School District by a parent whose son received a head injury after being punched by another student at Farmington High School.

Kenneth LaFleur, 16, was intensive care for two days after suffering a cerebral concussion, a cracked jaw, two broken facial bones and severe swelling after being punched Dec. 8. An unidentified student, 15, was suspended after the incident. A filing date has not been deter-

mined, but a lawsuit is "nearly imminent," according to Robert Craig, an attorney representing the LaFleurs. The suit will ask in excess of \$10,000 in damages.

"I'm not doing it for the money," said Joanne LaFleur, Kenneth's mother. "I'm doing it for more than that."

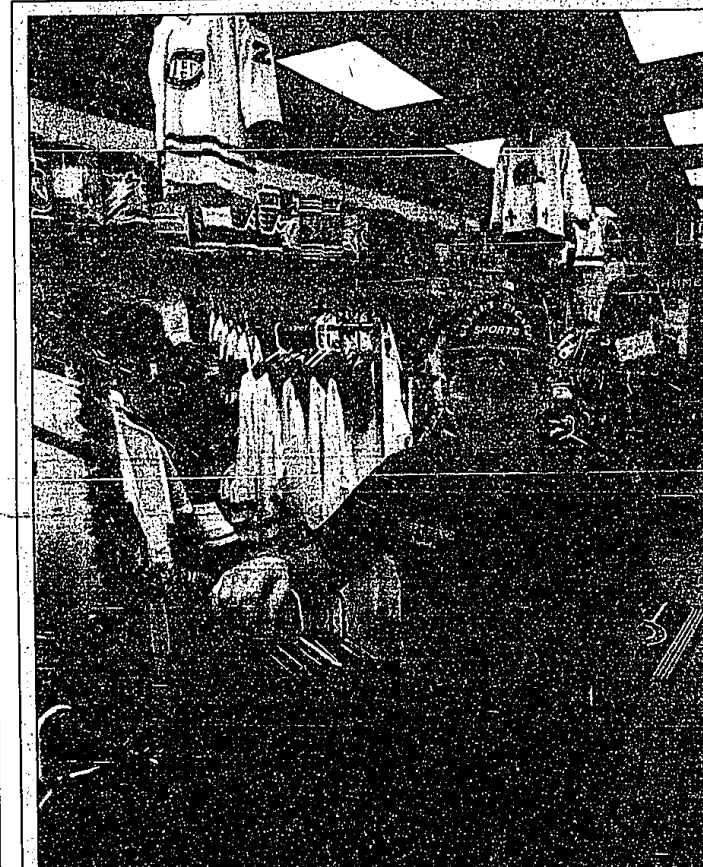
The suit probably would be filed in Oakland County Circuit Court. Craig said the action is being brought because the school has a responsibility to provide a safe environment and

were negligent in doing that in this case.

According to police and school reports, Kenneth LaFleur was punched in the hallway of Farmington High after the two students bumped, apparently accidentally.

"When they are aware of multiple beatings that have taken place as well as a person with a propensity towards violence . . . then I think the responsibility is definitely there," Craig said.

See **STUDENT**, 2A



Picard drives for ice rink

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

As a professional hockey player, Robert Picard's forte would be to get the puck on the blue line and blast it through a maze of players into the net.

Today, the former NHL defenseman is the point man in a different arena.

Picard, who lives in Farmington Hills and owns Robert Picard Sports, has become the visible proponent in the effort to get an ice arena built in the city.

He pitched the idea before the Farmington Hills City Council seven months ago. Since then, City Manager William Costick has traveled to Canada with councilmen Larry Lichtman and Terry Sever to look at other arenas, and the council has approved the formation of a citizens advisory committee.

Picard's name recognition has helped. More than that, Costick said, Picard has been an invaluable source of information on how such a rink would succeed.

"He (Picard) is a very sincere guy. He's dedicated to youth," Costick said. "He's dedicated to seeing that we get a rink built."

To Picard, a rink is as natural to a community as a baseball mitt is on a kid named Mickey.

After all, he grew up in suburban Montreal, where the community ice arena is a second home for many Canadians.

He learned his trade at the Verdun Auditorium, playing hockey there endlessly and later operating a pro shop with his father. When the indoor rink was unavailable, he skated outdoors.

"My son can't go outside and skate; there's no place outside of the rink to skate," said Picard, 35, whose son Preston, 8, plays minor

See **ICE RINK**, 2A

Life after hockey: Robert Picard. "When you make the transition from hockey to normal life, it's not easy. It was tough for the first few months."

Drug suspect in jail awaiting decision

By BILL COUANT
STAFF WRITER

For now, accused drug dealer Eric Adams will have to stay in jail while he awaits trial.

Federal District Judge Robert DeMascio did not rule Monday on Adams' appeal of his original detention hearing, in which the 37-year-old Farmington Hills resident was denied bail.

The judge heard testimony from a

Drug Enforcement Agency agent and took the appropriate advisement, meaning he could grant a request to allow Adams to be released on bond or deny it.

Adams has been in the Wayne County Jail since his arrest on Nov. 27. He faces up to 15 years in prison on drug conspiracy and possession charges.

"The judge did not give a time frame (for a ruling on the appeal),"

said Diane Donohue, assistant U.S. district attorney. "He's studying the transcript and could make that decision any time."

Adams, who was arrested on Detroit's east side after fleeing federal drug agents, had recently moved into a \$500,000 house in the exclusive Copper Creek subdivision near 12 Mile and Halsted roads.

Federal agents seized cash, weapons and ammunition from his Farm-

ington Hills home. They also seized cocaine valued at \$20,000 in the Detroit raid on Nov. 27.

Timothy Crawford, one of three attorneys representing Adams, said testimony at Monday's appeal hearing contradicted earlier claims by agents that gunshots had been exchanged during Adams' arrest.

See **JAIL**, 2A

Red Cross class planned

The American Red Cross will conduct a nurse assistant training program at its new Farmington training site at 33000 Thomas, between Farmington and Power roads, north of Grand River.

The 84-hour program teaches students the skills and theory that they'll need to provide care for residents in long-term care facilities. Classes will meet three consecutive weeks, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, Jan. 11-29.

Cost is \$325. Some tuition assistance is available for qualified persons. For more information, call the Red Cross Health and Safety Services Department at 967-0966.

They're euchre champs

Victory was in the cards for Bernie and Cathy

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Koolwick, Farmington Hills residents.

The Koolwicks emerged as champions of the Farmington Hills Recreation Department's Euchre Tournament last month at the Heritage Park Village Center. They beat Bill and Julia Jamieson in the championship round.

After seven rounds of play, the Jamiesons were the winners of the A Division with 49 points. In the B Division, the Koolwicks were forced into a playoff with Bob Dryden and Jan Rockford. Both teams had 48 points.

The Koolwicks won that match and then went on to take the championship. The finalists earned gift certificates from local restaurants.

Another city euchre tournament begins Friday, Jan. 23. Call the recreation office at 473-9570 for more information.

Memory Lane

From the Jan. 8, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Farmington Police Chief Joseph DeVriendt advised residents to lock their parked cars. Two autos, a 1946 Dodge and a 1949 Chevrolet, were stolen from an area near Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Both were unlocked with keys in the ignitions.

■ Long-sleeve, ankle-length "union suits" from Dancer's Department Store on Grand River were advertised at \$2.48 each.

■ Attractions at the Civic Theater in Farmington were "Yankee Buccaneer" and "Glory Alley."