

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Bookish battlers: More than 300 youngsters from Farmington-area middle schools fought the 1993 Battle of the Books recently. They might have to find a bigger battlefield for next year's skirmish. /3A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Shoe time: It's a whole new world from the ankle down these days. "Shopping Centered" columnist Linda Bachrack walks us through it. /6A

OPINION

Emotions and ethics: Men as well as women can be raped, and reporter Bill Coutant agrees with some victims that their names should be used in news stories. /10A

COUNTY NEWS

Good news, bad news: Oakland County is paying its share of SEMCOG dues. But it's taking funds away from another regional agency to do it. /12A

TASTE

Tea time: Unwind and visit with friends over a cup of steamy, soothing tea. Brew it yourself, or visit popular area tea rooms and hotels which serve afternoon tea. /1B

STREET SCENE

Clean fun: Transparent Red has felt the pain of drug abuse and uses drug-inspired fliers to promote its shows. But the message the band offers in its music is drug-free. /5B

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Jewelry store's future clouded



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Artisan's Jewelers, whose owner and manager face criminal charges, is not exactly out of business, but hours have been reduced.

The business, in the Mulwood shopping center at Drake and Grand Rivers, had been closed most of last week — with no explanation to customers or suppliers, said Farmington Hills detective Darrel Krause.

"She'd brought in a watch for repair and came back to find it closed. I went out there, and the place was locked and everything was gone." Although the phone had been disconnected, on Friday, a woman who said Artisan's owner Paul Terterian called and told her to open the store to return merchandise to customers, said the store would be open until 6 p.m.

\$100 in Oakland County Circuit Court, would be in later that day.

Lisa Kreza said she had dropped off a watch for repair at the store and returned to find it closed.

"I came back and it was closed," Kreza said. "Someone in the store said they'd be open in three days. Then Thursday I came back and the sign had been taken down. I was concerned."

See ARTISAN, 2A

Dustin's big day!



Wheeling around: Dustin Jager learns to ride his two-wheeler for the first time last week in Farmington's Shiuwassee Park. Of course, Dustin's mom, Sandy Jager, was on hand to play a supporting role. They live in Farmington Hills.

SHARON LAMBERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

2 women held in robberies

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A woman told people in the two Farmington-area tanning salons she robbed that she needed the money to buy food for her baby.

Two Redford women have been arrested in connection with Thursday night's armed robbery at Sun Skin Tanning Salon on Grand River in Farmington.

The pair was taken into custody in Detroit, less than an hour after a woman in a black satin jacket revealed a gun and robbed an employee of \$217 at Sun Skin Tanning Salon on Grand River in Farmington.

The woman told the employee she wasn't going to hurt her. She needed money to "feed her babies."

"She's not a pro," said Farmington Public Safety detective Christine Guinan. Police found a large sum of cash and a BB gun in the car during the arrest. A telephone receiver was found in the woman's purse, which is believed to have been taken from Sun Skin Tanning Salon during the robbery.

Warrants are being sought for both women by the Farmington Public Safety Department.

A woman claiming she needed money for baby food showed a pistol and robbed the Tan Fester on Grand River in Farmington Hills on Wednesday. A sum of \$172 in cash was taken.

Farmington Hills police are investigating.

Livonia police are also investigating the pair, along with a male, in similar robberies.

Livonia police spotted a Mustang with two women, matching the description. The suspect was described as a white female with curly, shoulder-length hair.

Livonia police followed the vehicle, which turned onto I-96 and headed east. The Livonia police asked for assistance from Detroit police, who arrived at Hamilton and Elmhurst to make the arrest.

The armed robbery in Farmington was the first since April 1992.

See DITZHAYZ, 2A

Get the fax:

Are you looking for that special place to take your mom on Mother's Day? The Observer & Eccentric can help you sort through the options. For just a \$3.50 charge on either your Visa or Mastercard, we'll fax or mail you a list of restaurants in Wayne and Oakland counties that are offering special Mother's Day menus complete with phone numbers, hours and prices. To order, call 3-800-947-5904 using a Touch-Tone phone and request item 0456. Have your charge card number handy when you call.



Helen Ditzhazy

Educator wants no recess from board

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Helen Ditzhazy wanted to become a veterinarian. Instead, education became her favorite animal.

"My mother said, 'Girls don't become veterinarians,'" said Ditzhazy, 66, seeking a third term on the Farmington School Board in the June 14 election. "So, my mother was a strong woman. I went into education."

Check that: Ditzhazy has become

enclosed in education. She has bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State, a doctorate from the University of Michigan and an advanced management degree. She's been a residential hall adviser, a teacher, a counselor, an assistant high school principal, a high school principal, an assistant and deputy superintendent.

Currently, Ditzhazy is a professor

in finance at Eastern Michigan University.

With all that, Ditzhazy decided to run for the school board eight years ago. She wanted to see another side of education.

She likes the view. "I do think there's still work to be done that I have some expertise and influence to do," Ditzhazy said.

Go 'Uptown' with Ernie

Ernie Harwell, radio voice of the Detroit Tigers and a Farmington Hills resident, will sign autographs and meet people at the "Spring Into Uptown" promotion noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at the Uptown Farmington Center on Grand River. Other celebrities will be on hand for the event, which will include sidewalk sales, live music, contests at participating stores, face painting, pony rides (unless it rains), a coloring contest, free balloons and free spinal checks.

Participants can win free tickets for four box seats to a Tiger game and gift certificates for dinner and an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn. Proceeds go to the Special Olympics.

Those wanting autographs from Ernie Harwell should bring their own paper, balls or bats.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The play's the thing

"The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter," a one-act comedy, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11-12, in the auditorium of Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads, Farmington Hills.

The play involves the tribulations of a group of amateur actors attempting to perform an old-fashioned melodrama. Karen Spoon, making her directorial debut, has considerable experience in local high school productions.

Tickets may be bought in advance at the high school for \$3 and at the door for \$4.

Memory Lane

From the April 30, 1993, edition of the Farmington Observer:

Pat Killen pitched a five-hitter to lead Clarenceville past Farmington High, 9-4, in the prep baseball opener.

Lucky Strike cigarettes were advertised at \$1.95 a carton at the Fil-Mat supermarket on Grand River near Eight Mile.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.