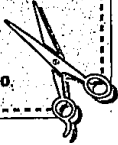


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• Cut your weekly grocery bill an average \$20 to \$30 a week clipping coupons by White Castle, Kraft, Procter & Gamble and others that will be inserted into today's issue of your home-delivered Observer newspaper.

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Searched out: *Harrison High English teacher Kathy Nyberg heads the call.* /9A

How's business?: *Just fine, say some north Farmington merchants who assess holiday sales.* /11A

OPINION

Ponke murder: *Some hard questions have to be asked about how it could have been prevented.* /16A

Ah, the satisfaction: *Guest columnist Samantha Rowland is proud to be a member of Harrison High School's championship band.* /17A

SPORTS

Hoop results: *North Farmington tried to win again Tuesday while Farmington and Harrison attempted to rebound from losses.* /1B

ENTERTAINMENT

Movies: *We offer a review of "Intersection," starring Richard Gere, Sharon Stone and Lolita Davidovich.* /8B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Wounded Knee: *A picture story illustrates life on an Indian reservation. Two Metrovision cable producers visited the landmark location.* /1C

Guest column: *Phil Singer, an anthropologist, writes about alternative medicine.* /1C

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SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Healing process: In a newly decorated office, Dr. Alan Bredin (right) works with his staff Kathy Babcock (left), who trained Jackie Ponke 20 years ago; Monica Rubin, and Jean Hanley, who was trained by Jackie Ponke 13 years ago.

Paint can't cover brush with death



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The smell of fresh paint greets visitors to Dr. Alan Bredin's office, but the dentist and his employees realize a new coat of latex can't cover up memories of a beloved colleague.

Monday was the first full day back for Bredin and employees at the Freedom Road office in Farmington where assistant Jackie Ponke was murdered Jan. 8.

Bredin, a Redford Township resident, reopened the completely re-

decorated office Jan. 19 to see a handful of patients and to catch up on paper work, which used to be handled by Ponke.

"We are positive, aren't we?" Bredin asked assistant Monica Rubin and Kathy Babcock. "I think we're all doing good."

Instead of allowing the workplace to be a painful reminder, Bredin hopes the remodeled office is part of a new beginning.

Since the murder, he and three employees have gone to weekly counseling sessions. Some said they didn't want to go back. The therapist

suggested changing the office completely or moving altogether.

There for 20 years Bredin chose to stay at the place where his practice has been for 20 years.

"It's good (to get back to work)," Bredin said. "It's like a craftsman. You can concentrate on your work. It's just the in-between times. It's when I wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning and I see her bloody face."

Bredin said the therapist has told him he's still angry and depressed that nothing could be done to stop the tragedy. "I am angry. . . She was like a daughter to me."

An impending trial and news of a lawsuit filed by Jackie Ponke's fam-



Jackie Ponke

See DEATH, 3A

Critics give Hills arena proposal icy response

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A report on a proposed ice arena has already drawn fire, even before the Farmington Hills City Council has discussed it in regular session.

The report, the culmination of a year-long study by a 35-member committee chaired by Mayor Larry Lichtman, recommends that the city build and operate a multi-purpose indoor

facility that would include two ice surfaces.

Several committee members came forward to endorse the report's conclusions and urge the council to build an arena. But the idea of an arena, built on city land and run by the city, was not well-received by everyone.

"If this is such a wonderful project, businessmen should be beating down our door to build it, and they aren't," said Hills resident Mary Buha.

But many, including committee members, who spoke in favor of building an arena, said they had only become convinced that it could make money for the city and provide recreation for its citizens after studying the idea.

"I was dead set against the city owning an ice box that would leak money," said Dennis Fitzgerald, a

committee member and outgoing parks and recreation commission chairman.

"I'm convinced that the city could operate this at a reduced cost (from that of a private concern) and have control. After what we've seen with cable (TV), that's something you can't put a price tag on. This could be

figured into the process, which Supowit works out using a Quattro Pro spread sheet.

A person's estimated income is multiplied by the ballot proposal's income tax rate of 4.4 percent and the Legislature's call for 6 percent.

The same amount of income is used as a basis to figure out the ef-

See ARENA, 3A

Man: Computer program takes byte out of ballot plan

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills resident says spare the calculator battery and give the No. 2 lead pencil a rest.

Jeff Supowit will gladly crunch some numbers with Arnold Schwarzenegger vigor for those confused by the March 15 ballot proposal. The business attorney said he has the formulas at his fingertips.

Supowit got the idea after getting some new computer software and listening to countless radio talk shows trying to explain the complicated scenario.

"It seemed like everyone was talking about this," Supowit said. "It seemed like everyone was guessing on this instead of applying real numbers."

Some seven to eight variables are

figured into the process, which Supowit works out using a Quattro Pro spread sheet.

A person's estimated income is multiplied by the ballot proposal's income tax rate of 4.4 percent and the Legislature's call for 6 percent.

The same amount of income is used as a basis to figure out the ef-

See COMPUTER, 3A

'Winter Fantasies'

The Farmington Area Philharmonic (formerly Group du jour) will present "Winter Fantasies" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, at the Mercy Center's Dublin Hall, 29600 11 Mile, about a half mile east of Middlebelt.

The orchestra, conducted by Farmington Hills resident Karen Nison Lane, will offer an evening of music to soothe the midwinter blues.

Tickets, available at all Metrobank locations and at the door, are \$10 and \$12 and the price includes refreshments. Children under 5 will be admitted free. For more information, call 478-2075 or 478-6897.

... for people of Conscience'

June Thomas, an associate professor of urban planning and geography at Michigan State

FARMINGTON FOCUS

University, will speak on "A Race Unity Agenda for People of Conscience" at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas, Farmington.

The program, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Council.

Community forums on cultural and racial issues are sponsored each month by the group. The next forum — "The Arab/Chaldean Community Among Us" — will be held Tuesday, March 8.

Memory Lane

From the Jan. 28, 1964, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

ton Enterprise:

- Bob Clark was named general chairman of the annual Junior Chamber of Commerce minstrel show, and James Warner was appointed show director. The show was to be staged March 20 in the auditorium of Farmington High School.
- Attraction at Farmington's Civic Theatre was "The Big Heat" with Glenn Ford and Gloria Grahame.
- Cpl. John C. Brunk, son of Mary L. Brunk of 21630 Parker, recently returned from Korea after spending a leave in Japan. While in Japan, he telephoned his mother.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21838 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.