



Farmington Observer

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Here's Headlee on 'A'



Richard Headlee, Farmington Hills tax fighter, says he's not taking an official stand on Tuesday's tax vote. He adds, though, that Proposal A seems to be the lesser of two evils.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Call it the Headlee hopscotch. The Farmington Hills-based tax fighter is dancing around taking a public stand on Proposal A. Headlee was asked point blank by an audience member during a question-and-answer session Tuesday

night at Oakland County Community College what he thought of the ballot proposal March 15. Headlee hedged. He promised the governor he wouldn't get involved in the campaign. But what about the latest effort at school finance reform? "It's a matter of whether you want your right arm broken or your left arm

broken," Headlee said. "I guess that would depend on whether you are right-handed or left-handed."

The retired chairman of Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co. was at OCC's Smith Theater to speak on strategies for management success. Polls indicate success of Proposal A could fly or fall with a Headlee endorsement.

According to a poll by Gov. John Engler's office, 35 percent of the respondents said they're waiting for Headlee's opinion before deciding.

See HEADLEE, 3A



Richard Headlee

TAXING ISSUE

Do you support Proposal A — the school finance plan on the March 15th ballot? Why or why not?

Call 953-2011

Rotary dial may be used

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Something to celebrate: Farmington Hills and the Sisters of Mercy shared the limelight recently to mark the sale of more than 27 acres of Mercy property to the city for just over \$3 million. /2A

Multicultural forum: Two speakers attempted to destroy stereotypes while building bridges of understanding in the Farmington area. /13A

OPINION

Specifics, please: Yes, the people should vote on the ice arena. But what kind of an ice arena would they be voting on? /16A

SPORTS

Nice on ice: Dwight Parrish of Farmington finished his sophomore hockey season at Ferris State University with a flourish. /1B

March Madness: Farmington basketball teams were in action Wednesday in the district tournament at Bloomfield Hills Lahser. /1B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Right to die: A Farmington Hills woman accidentally started Friends of Jack Keorkian after deciding she had enough of people who opposed him. /1C

Ultra-feminist shines: Guest columnist Marian McCracken, a longtime National Organization of Women member, reviews today's conditions. /1C

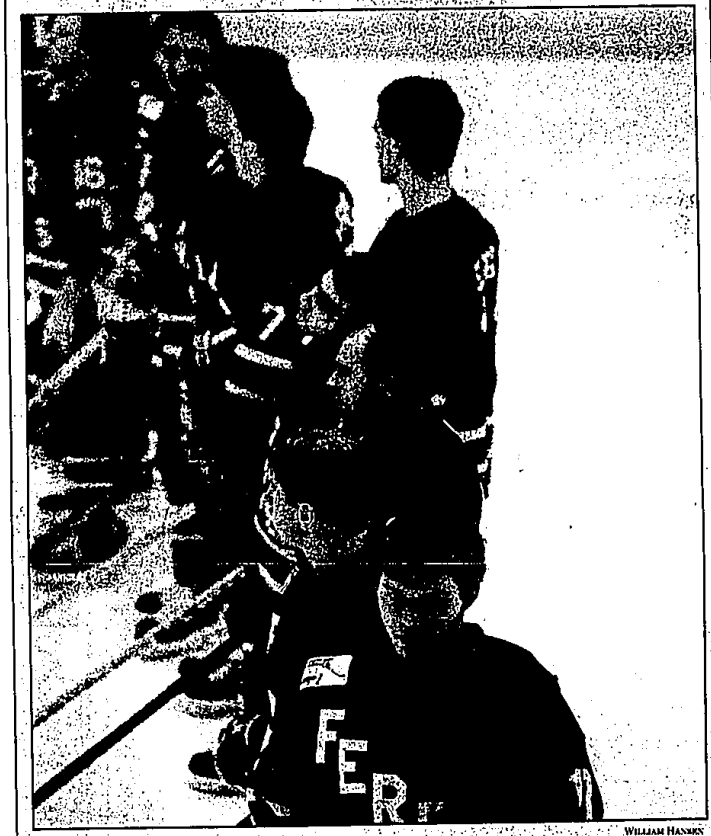
INDEX

Building/Business 1F	Creative Living . 1D
Classifieds . . . D-G	Crossword . . . 7E
Auto F,G	Entertainment . . 5B
Index 8E,8F	Obituaries 3A
Employment . . . F,G	Opinion 1B-17A
Real estate . . . E,F	Police, fire calls 11A
Cable 15A	Personal Scene . . 7G

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Doing great at Ferris State



Standing out: Farmington's Dwight Parrish (bottom) helped his Ferris State University hockey team upset the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Saturday. For more photos and a story about Parrish, please see Page 1B.

New schools superintendent signs on dotted line

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

He's signed and sealed. Now all Robert Maxfield has to do is deliver. Maxfield, 52, begins his new job March 28, Maxfield and the Farmington Board of Education agreed to a three-year contract with an annual salary of \$118,000. He signed the pact and was returning the contract in the mail, according to board president Cathleen Webb.

The deal also calls for use of a leased car and a term-life insurance policy. At Berkley School District, Maxfield was paid \$97,500 a year. "I'm pleased; it's very fair," Maxfield said. "I appreciate the Farmington board's vote of confidence. I look forward to getting started."

Maxfield was hired by the board in December. He asked to start in March to help with the transition in finding a new superintendent in Berkley. Former Huron Valley school chief Clifford Scherer has served as Farmington's interim superintendent. Maxfield has made his presence known in the district, attending the recent Farmington Leadership Council and Friday's Students Operating Schools program at the Farmington Training Center. "It's a great feeling," said Webb re-

garding his attendance at Friday's function. "I felt I could listen to him without having to critique him." Maxfield served as Berkley schools superintendent since 1988 and was previously the district's deputy superintendent. He also was principal at Clawson High and has taught in Berkley, Birmingham and Detroit. Maxfield and his wife, Sara, live in Birmingham. They have two children, James and Scott.

See STING, 10A

Agency Issues ID cards

Six mile, senior citizens of the Farmington area. An Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency photographer wants to snap your photos. The photographer will be at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, March 18. Call 479-1822 for a reservation. Photos will be used for identification cards needed for participation in the OLHSA senior discount program. County residents who are at least 60 years of age may apply for the cards, which show photograph, name, address, birth date, Social Security number and signature. Discounts are offered locally and nationwide on items such as prescription drugs, eye glasses, automobile parts, rustproofing, cleaners, hair care,

FARMINGTON FOCUS

clothing and restaurants. For more information on OLHSA activities, call 1-800-482-9250.

Art competition changed

The site of the Farmington Area High School Student Art Competition has been changed to Farmington High School, 32000 Shilwaukee. The date is still Wednesday, March 16. Interested students should bring their artwork to the school cafeteria between 5-7 p.m. Wednesday. The competition is sponsored by the Farming-

ton Area Arts Commission and is open to high school students residing in Farmington and Farmington Hills. Entry forms may be obtained at both city halls and at the Hills Special Services Department.

Memory Lane

From the March 11, 1954, issue of the Farmington Enterprise: Judge John J. Schulte Jr. warned motorists that his Farmington court was cooperating with the statewide "Obey Traffic Laws — Keep Your License" sponsored by the state Safety Commission. Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48326, or dropped off at the newspaper office.