

Lawsuit from page 1A

Raymond Ponke repeatedly will be an appeal. "We felt there was a duty there," Gagniak said. "The judge felt there was no special duty between employer and employee. He (Bredin) did create a duty. "All he had to do was lock the front door and he refused to do that. If he had done that maybe she would have been alive today." The suit against Raymond Ponke — who is serving a life sentence for the murder — is still open. Raymond Ponke has not responded, Gagniak said. A separate negligence suit is expected to be filed against the Oxford police this week, Gagniak said.

The legal action against Bredin upset many people, especially those who saw him as something of a father-figure to Jacqueline Ponke. Jacqueline Ponke worked 18 years as Bredin's office manager. He hired her when she was a Farmington High co-op student. Two law firms offered their services free of charge to fight the lawsuit, Bredin said. "Because, they said, this is what gives lawyers a bad name," Bredin said. Bredin lost \$25,000 in business in months following the murder.

He also had to lay off one of five employees after a 20 percent drop off in patients. "We're coming back," he said. "The last few weeks have been tremendous." Bredin said there are no hard feelings toward Jacqueline Ponke's brother, Dennis Lutz, who is overseeing his sister's estate. Dennis Lutz couldn't be reached for comment. "The lawyers were guiding him into a source of some funding for Ashley," Bredin said. "I think the lawsuit was immoral and not founded legally. Irregardless, it's not Dennis' problem."

Clarenceville school officials have taken the first steps in deciding whether to put a bond issue before voters in 1995. The Clarenceville Board of Education Thursday named two trustees to sit on a committee that will investigate technological and building needs and then decide how to fund them. The two committee members are trustees Butch Bowden and Dale Weighill. Superintendent David Kamiah also will ask previous committee members whether they wish to sit once again on the reactivated study committee. "We have made no decision whether to go for an issue, and I don't know what the decision will be," Kamiah said. "There's no recommendation made yet, and no idea of the money we'd seek if we did have a bond issue." The committee will meet for the first time in December. For three years now, Clarenceville has been struggling with how to pay for much-needed building renovations and technological equipment. In 1991, the district asked for voter approval of a \$19 million bond issue to fix up its four schools and invest in computer and related technology. Voters rejected the request by a 3-to-1 margin. The \$19 million bond issue would have required an addi-

Schools panel to study needs

BY MARIE CHESTNEY STAFF WRITER

CLARENCEVILLE

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ditional four mills to pay the debt. When voters rejected the millage, the board appointed an 18-member committee consisting of administrators, teachers, parents and residents to study what to do next. The committee never officially recommended a second millage request. The district also surveyed residents to see if widespread support existed to spend money to update classrooms with technology. The surveys showed residents support spending money for both technology and to make buildings more energy-efficient. "Placing a bond issue before our voters has been on hold for approximately three years for any number of reasons," Kamiah said. "Certainly one of the reasons was the unknowns about public school financing and also the fact that the district had to have a Headlee override." "I personally feel that the district needs to present a bond issue successfully in order to place facilities in proper condition and to be ready to provide educational programs for Clarenceville students in line with the next century." The district includes portions of northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills and northwest Redford.

ON THE AGENDA

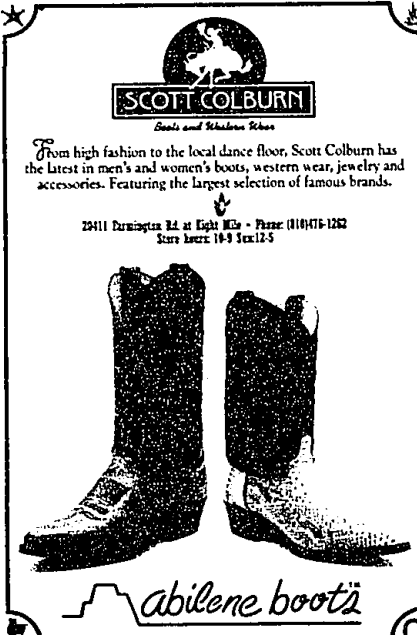
Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Downtown Development Authority
Farmington City Hall, 473-7278
8 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1

Agenda items include:
 ■ Financial report
 ■ Approval of payments
 ■ Executive director's report
 ■ Executive director's salary adjustment
 ■ Lease renewal of DDA office
 ■ Halloween Fun Fest report
 ■ Downtown merchants helping hand to the Greenery residents report

Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman Center, 489-3300
8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1

Agenda items include:
 ■ Staff recognition for Nov. 22
 ■ Highmeadow Common Campus recognition for National Exemplary School
 ■ Appointment of assistant superintendent — Nov. 22
 ■ Report on Teacher Exchange Program — Nov. 22
 ■ Resolution: Name change for law firm Hardy, Lewis, Pollard & Page, P.C.
 ■ Retreat follow-up.
 ■ Review Board Mission Statement.
 ■ Preview of school presentation for Nov. 22 — Larkshire Elementary.
 ■ Awarding of bids:
 - North Farmington High School - Phase I.
 - Farmington High School - Gymnasium curtain.
 - Single source - Administration building.
 ■ A preliminary report from superintendent evaluation committee.



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