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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Pacific pursuit: A Power Middle School student is trying to raise money to study in the South Pacific. /8A
Giant step: A Farmington Hills arcade owner has bought the Cardiff Giant, made famous by P.T. Barnum. /12A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Second edition: Old duds are gems at Longacre House in Farmington Hills where second-hand clothes are sold to raise money. /13A

OPINION

Just the Fax: We say goodbye to the Farmington Hills state senator, who is calling it quits after 33 years in Lansing. /22A

LET'S GO!

Holidays: Thoughtful and outrageous gifts leave readers "Speechless." /1B

Movies: "Dumb and Dumber" enjoys smart premiere at Fox Theatre. /8B

SPORTS

Hoop it up: North Farmington High battled South Lyon in boys' basketball. /1C

Area's best: North Farmington's Alisha Gordon is highlighted along with the 1994 All-Area Girls Basketball team. /5C

CREATIVE LIVING

Gold from the silver screen: Movie posters, with their artistry as well as the memories they evoke, take a starring role in the eyes and hearts of many people. Posters and other movie memorabilia have a wide appeal. Samples of poster art are at The Print Gallery in Southfield. /1D

Cranbrook Collection: One of the current exhibits at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills features works from the tenure of museum director and art academy president Roy Slade, including the lifelike figure of a body builder by Duane Hanson. /5E

INDEX

Building/Business 1F	Creative Living 1D
Cable TV 10A	Crossword 9E
Calendar 9C	Let's Go 15
Classified 2E-G	Options 28-32A
Auto 13	Personals 8G
Employment 1F,G	Police-Fire 19A
Index 8E, 7F	Sports 11C
Real estate 8E,F	

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Faxon's focus: arts, education



State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, brings a close to a 30-year legislative career. He leaves a distinguished record when it comes to arts and public education.

See editorial, 22A

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Few will argue with the idea that Sen. Jack Faxon has been an independent voice in state politics.

The 58-year-old Farmington Hills resident closes a 30-year career in state government in which the arts, education and public health were the focus. Faxon successfully won elections as a state representative and beginning in 1970, as a state senator, even though he was redistricted out of

Detroit and into more Republican suburbs. But the prospect of running in the heavily-Republican 16th District, easily won by Sen. David Honigman in the November election, was the handwriting on the wall.

"I have a long list of frustrations," Faxon said, adding that chief among them was the partisanship in Lansing that has stopped legislative initiatives in mental health, education and in insurance reform.

But Faxon said he can also look

back with pride for his accomplishments in education and the arts especially.

"Michigan is one of the top five states in funding for the arts," said Faxon, who has in no small way been a staunch supporter of the arts.

"Jack Faxon has really been the guardian angel for the arts," said Corinne Abbott, a longtime arts writer and advocate in southeastern Michigan. "He has been the most influential

See FAXON, 2A



Parental push guides: Turn Minutely of Noel Huxter along some advice to his son, Andrew, 6, at Bonaventure Skating Center in Farmington Hills. Bonaventure is in the first session of its new roller hockey league for kids aged 5-13.

Hockey wheelly rolls on

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

What, no Zamboni? Why that alone is enough to floor the average hockey player.

Where there is no ice, Bonaventure Skating Center on Halsted in Farmington Hills has kids rolling like fire.

The rink with a maple wood floor has started a roller hockey league this winter for children ages 5-15.

The trappings are the same as the game on ice: kids are bedecked in helmets, elbow and shin pads, slapping madly with L-shaped sticks trying to direct a 3-inch disk into a net.

The only exception is that they're on in-line roller skates instead of ones with blades.

That suits players like Matt Whitmer just fine. For him, and many others, ice hockey was something that only other kids played.

"My mom won't let me, and it costs too much," said Whitmer, 12, who goes to East Middle School. "There's not a lot of ice time, and you have to get up early in the morning."

"I don't like to get up early." Added Jeff Braun of Farmington Hills. "The only thing that's a lot different is we don't play with goals. That might make it sound easy, but it's not."

Goals will be added as soon as the special equipment arrives, said Bonaventure manager Charles Findlay.

In the interim, a "Shooter-Tutor" device is placed over the net, which has holes to aim for in the corners. That's the only hangup.

Response to the alternative brand of hockey has been overwhelming.

More than 90 kids signed up for the first session. Cost for the 11-week session is \$130 plus a \$20 membership to United States Amateur Confederacy of Roller Skating. Another session starts in February.

See HOCKEY, 4A

Most Hills officials put faith in PUD option

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

For most Farmington Hills City Council members and planning commissioners, a special negotiated zoning has many more advantages than pitfalls, especially as the city deals

with the odd lots that do not easily fit into typical uses.

But if the price of planned unit developments is going to involve dividing the community over controversial projects, then maybe it's not worth it,

said Planning Commissioner Paul Blisman.

Blisman said at a joint study session Thursday that although the PUD option has worked well, and with little opposition for several projects, the recent turmoil over the 92-

acre Timbercrest PUD at 12 Mile and Middlebelt has been "so painful . . . to the community" that the benefits might not be worth it.

The city is being sued and six of

See OPTION, 2a

Network news

Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a seminar, "How to Make the Most Out of Networking," 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Farmington Training Center, 28000 Thomas St., Rooms 1 and 2. The seminar is based on Ralph Nichols Dale Carnegie Training.

Cost is \$10 a person. People are asked to register by Jan. 10. For more information, call 474-5440.

Holiday help

Throughout the holiday season, food, clothing and personal care items (toothpaste, tissues, etc.) can be dropped off during business hours at Farmington Hills City Hall or police station. Items especially needed this year include food, baby and children's articles. Once collected, the Salvation Army will distribute the items. Farmington Hills city offices are on

FARMINGTON FOCUS

11 Mile, at the corner of Orchard Lake. For more information, call 474-6115.

Commemorative flags

The Farmington/Farmington Hills 50th Anniversary of World War II Committee is encouraging people to fly the organization's commemorative flag until November 1995. Flags are available for \$50 each at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce office. Money raised will help defray expenses of the commemorative committee, which is recognizing World War II veterans and their families. Flags are already on display at both branches of the Farmington Community Library, Farmington

Hills City Hall and at the chamber office. For more information, call the chamber office at 474-3440.

Tennis anyone?

The Farmington Tennis Club, 22777 Farmington Road, will host the Cal Kerwin Memorial Tennis Tournament at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, which is a benefit for the American Cancer Society. A round-robin format will be used in this all-day doubles tournament, open to both men and women. Entry fee is \$25, which includes tournament entry fee, continental breakfast served 7-9 a.m., and lunch. Entry deadline is Dec. 20. The tournament is in honor of Clara (Cal) Ann Kerwin, who was a club member for 10 years. She died of cancer last spring. Her husband, Jim Kerwin, a former Mercy High School girls tennis coach, will participate in the tournament. For tournament information, call 476-5248.