

# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Inside job:** Heeding the advice of administrators and faculty, OCC trustees looked inside to find a new chancellor. /7A

TASTE

**Chinese New Year:** Welcome the year of the rat at local restaurants, or plan your own party. /1B

**Taste Buds:** Food has a way of saying "you're special." Prepare a romantic meal with a recipe from the movie "The Bridges of Madison County." /1B

SPORTS

**Grid signing:** Adam Tanielian makes it two scholarship football players for Farmington High this year. /1C

**Season's best:** Farmington High's gymnastics team hit a new high Thursday, topping its previous best score. /1C

SPECIAL SECTIONS

**Healthy outlook:** Look for our special-supplement preview of Health Day '96 among today's inserts.

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## Activist awaits Kevorkian



Janet Good, a Farmington Hills resident who suffers from cancer, hopes that Dr. Jack Kevorkian — the well-known Dr. Death — has the compassion to help her if she needs it.

BY PAT MURPHY

STAFF WRITER

As Janet Good watches the trial of Dr. Jack Kevorkian unfold, she will have more than a passing interest.

"I may need his services," said the Republican feminist, who last year was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer and given a year to live.

The disease has spread to her liver, Good said, as the trial of Kevorkian was scheduled to begin today in Oakland Circuit Court. And if she starts suffering the terrible nausea and extreme pain often associated with advanced stages of the disease, she won't hesitate to ask assistance from her old friend.

"I've already approached him (Kevorkian) about it," Good said Friday from her home in Farmington Hills. "He didn't answer directly," she said.

While Kevorkian hasn't expressed his views on Good taking her own life, her family has.

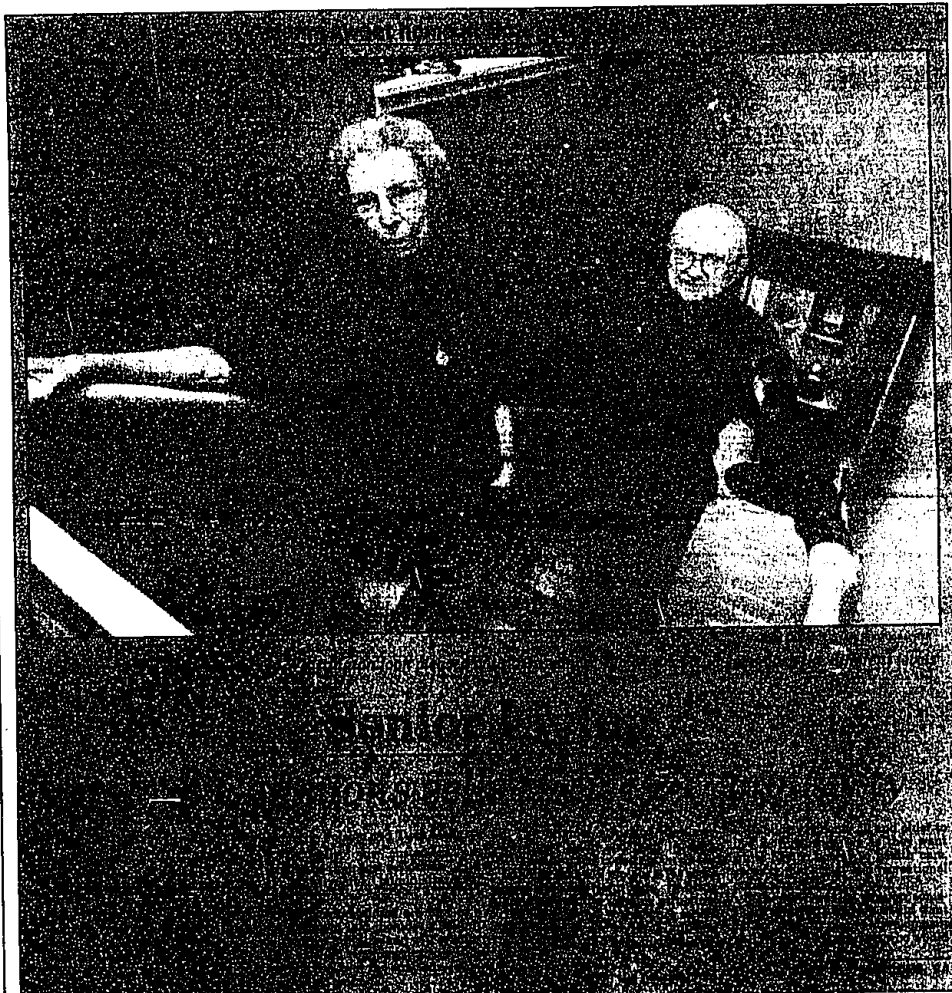
"We all talked about it," said the 72-year-old grandmother of six, "even the grandkids were involved. We all agreed that I should have the choice of going peacefully with dignity."

Will she be at Kevorkian's trial?

See GOOD, 5A



Janet Good



## State drags lead providing schools with writing test

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

Talk about your secrets: There's the recipe for Big Mac sauce and the whereabouts of O.J. Simpson's duffle bag. And then there's the MEAP writing test, which is being kept under Fort Knox-like guard.

From March 4-22, Farmington Public Schools fifth and eighth graders take the new writing exam along with the revamped science portion of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests. What's on the writing part is anyone's guess.

The state education department has not sent the manuals or formats for the writing portion. School officials expect to see those some time next week.

"It makes it difficult for planning," said Carolyn Mahalak, director of Assessments and Special Projects. "You don't know how much time to allow for students to take the test."

Farmington officials had the advantage of seeing a preview of the new test as part of a pilot program. Fifth graders at Beechview and Kenbrook elementaries and eighth graders at O.E. Dunckel Middle took pilot writing tests last year.

Then students wrote three pieces in periods of 25, 35 and 45 minutes. Children sit in a group and come up with an all-encompassing topic and then write a rough draft and later a final version.

Students felt comfortable with the test, Mahalak said.

"The only thing they weren't used to was the construction of writing under the clock," Mahalak said.

As a result, teachers have included writing assignments with time limits this year.

Mahalak believes the for-real MEAP writing test will be similar to the pilot but adds "that's a guesstimation."

School officials recommend students be well rested and to give the test their best effort.

Like the high school proficiency test, the MEAP

See TEST, 9A

## No jiffy decision made in academy choice

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

Farmington high school students could be the subject of international intrigue.

Farmington Board of Education is considering a move that would allow students to attend a Bloomfield Hills Schools-operated academy in international instruction.

The International Academy opens this fall. At Tuesday's board study session, Principal Bert Okma gave a presentation on the school for grades 9-12, which will have a heavy emphasis on foreign language with technological and business curriculum.

The academy is a state-funded public school of choice. Schools of choice differ from charter academies,

which receive state money but privately run.

Farmington Public Schools would first have to join a consortium of districts in order for students to attend. There is a \$6,000 start-up fee and consortium districts buy "shares" in the academy for \$2,000.

For each share, a school system can send up to five students. Cost per

child is \$6,800, which is roughly what Farmington spends per pupil.

Students would have to provide their own transportation. The academy is in a former elementary school near Adams Road and I-75.

Trustee Dave York doesn't like the idea of students leaving the district.

See ACADEMY, 5A

### Meet the Jaycees

The Farmington Area Jaycees, a community service organization for adults 21-39 years of age, will host a program about Jaycee activities at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at The Longacre House of Farmington Hills on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

The event is open to the public. Jaycee projects such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Wine Tasting Social, softball team will be discussed. For more information, about the group, call 477-6227.

### Love those skills

Dr. John M. Cotter will speak on "Love Skills For Men and Women" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the 2E A and B Classroom in Botaford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

Cotter, whose specialty is clinical psychology, has joined Botaford Hospital's Department of Neurology. For more information about Tuesday's event, call 653-0770.

### A taxing situation

Larry Williams, Farmington Hills' deputy city treasurer, reminds residents that Wednesday, Feb. 14, is the last day to pay winter property tax bills. Many taxpayers paid their tax bills in December to coincide with the federal year, Williams said.

"For those who have not paid, Feb. 14 is the last day to do so without incurring a late penalty," he added.

Taxes can be paid at the treasurer's office in the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

### Lunch with the Chamber

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, will speak at the Friday, Feb. 16, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel on 12 Mile Road west of Orchard Lake. Cost is \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members.

See FOCUS, 9A