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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Assessing things: The assessment notices are in the mail, if not already in residents' mailboxes, according to Dean E. Babb, Farmington Hills city assessor. /4A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Community service: Several area malls will serve as jail sites for the 11th annual Great American Lock Up to benefit cancer patients and their families. /8A

TASTE

World Culinary Salon: Local chef prepares cookbook to benefit the Michigan Culinary Team. /1B

Focus on Wine: Area chefs create ultimate wine and food matches. /1B

SPORTS

Post-season play: Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball team tried to win its fifth consecutive district tournament Saturday. /1C

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Schools give uniform 'no' on dress



Some people — President Clinton, for one — want to dress public school students in uniforms in an effort to eliminate class distinctions and curb gang violence. The idea isn't popular with local public school officials.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The idea of uniforms doesn't wear well in Farmington Public Schools circles, but private school officials say it's already a nice fit in their classrooms.

President Bill Clinton has called

for uniforms in public schools as recently as Feb. 24 in his weekly radio address.

Proponents see similar dress as one way of curbing gang violence in public schools. Gang members often distinguish themselves by hats or jackets they wear.

Others say school uniforms would also help eliminate class distinctions, which can make children feel inferior who come from lower income backgrounds.

Uniforms are restrictive and quash individuality, say those against the idea of school uniforms.

Farmington Public Schools administrators are quick to sew up any speculation that they're even considering such a uniform dress policy in the wake of Clinton's repeated calls, and that response many students are glad to hear.

"It makes people feel more com-

fortable (to wear their own clothes) and it shows their personality," said Harrison Junior Anna Chalagianis.

Said North Farmington student Beth Ludorf: "I wouldn't like it. It would become monotonous."

Others said having students uniformly dressed might seem good in theory, but doubt it would go over.

"Everything seems to get flawed in practice," North Farmington High senior Emily Poole said. "It would cause more competition than less competition because everyone would look alike."

See UNIFORMS, 2A

'River of Love' flows through Farmington



World Day of Prayer: Olive Lush takes a simulated teardrop from Arlene Adams, who holds the bowl at Farmington's First United Methodist Church. They joined women from 170 countries Friday to celebrate the international World Day of Prayer. A blue cloth on the altar symbolized the River of Love, said Norma McLellan, who chaired the event. The women prayed for justice and peace.

Kevorkian trial draws to a close

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

As closing arguments begin in the case of Dr. Jack Kevorkian today, both sides were expected to again hammer away at the retired pathologist's reasons for counseling Merlan Frederick and Dr. Ali Khalili on ending their lives in the fall of 1993.

Kevorkian wanted to assist Frederick and Khalili commit suicide, prosecutors repeatedly insisted last week as the trial entered its third week in Oakland Circuit Court.

Kevorkian testified that he knew Frederick and Khalili would die as a result of breathing carbon monoxide gas. But he said his primary intention was to end their agony . . . death was a secondary consideration.

Tears would sometimes come to his eyes, Kevorkian testified, as he helped people end their suffering by ending their lives. But it was his obligation as a physician to help, Kevorkian testified, even if it meant the patients would die.

He would prefer that Frederick and Khalili choose to live, Kevorkian testified. But they chose to end their agony by ending their lives, he said.

"My desire would be to see the patient pull the clip and take off the mask," Kevorkian said, referring to the mask Frederick and Khalili wore linking them to the poisonous carbon monoxide gas that eventually caused their deaths.

"I actually instructed them to do that," Kevorkian said. They could change their minds — remove the masks — at the last minute, even when they were "drowsy" as the gas rendered them unconscious.

Kevorkian, an internationally known advocate for assisted suicide, said he has been contacted by hundreds of people wanting to end their suffering by ending their lives. He has acknowledged helping 27 people end their suffering by ending their lives.

"They never say they want to die," Kevorkian said. "They say they want to end their agony. It's not nice to see a human being die. But those (bad) feelings are ameliorated when you see the agony is ended."

See KEVORKIAN, 4A

Warner student spells way to s-t-a-t-e f-i-n-a-l



Gabe Yashinsky
He's 'exuberant'

By LARRY PALADINO
STAFF WRITER

Gabe Yashinsky won it all with "exuberant" — but exhibited no exuberance over the moment.

The Warner Middle School eighth-grader had no frustration with "prostration" wasn't despondent over "despondently" didn't seem very intense over "intensively" and was rather staid over "placid."

Perhaps it was that calm demeanor that helped propel him to the championship of the area spelling bee at Schoenhals Elementary School in Southfield.

Gabe survived 19 rounds Wednesday, outlasting 25 other contestants to advance to the state final March 26 at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. The national final is in Washington, D.C. in May.

"He's like a sponge. He just pulls

things in," said Gabe's mother, Debbie.

She sat in the audience with Gabe's grandfather, Rube Weiss, the famous voice from radio commercials and old-time radio shows like "The Lone Ranger" and "The Green Hornet."

"It might be genetic. I was a good speller, too," said Weiss, who said he won his school spelling bee when he was a seventh-grader at Dwyer Elementary School in Detroit.

After Gabe successfully spelled e-x-u-b-e-r-a-n-t, Fred Leibowitz, Southfield Public Schools' supervisor of secondary education, handed him the microphone and asked for a victory speech.

"Thank you," was the extent of Gabe's speech.

Entering the 16th round there were four hopefuls left: Gabe and three others from Farmington schools, Sar-

ah Lash of St. Fabian, Julia Power of East Middle School, and Paul Romine of Gill Elementary.

Other participants from Farmington Schools were: Victor Drenfield, Steppingstone Schools; Rich Morales, Our Lady of Sorrows; Danielle Liebowitz, Wood Creek Elementary; Anne Kopicko, Power Middle School; Drew DeOrto, Flanders Elementary; and Karthik Chivukula, Eagle Elementary.

First place finisher Gabe Yashinsky "is a great reader," his mother said. "From the time he could pick up a book he liked to read. He's a lover of words. A couple years ago in a social studies Olympiad his team finished first in the state. He loves geography, too."

See SPELL, 2A

She's a first and a last

Little Sarah Grace Davenport is lucky: It'll take her four years to get one year older. She'll no doubt grow to appreciate that.

Sarah, who entered the world at 9:59 a.m. last Thursday at the Special Delivery Center of Botolph General Hospital in Farmington Hills, was the hospital's first baby born on the last leap year of the 20th Century.

Of course, Sarah will have a birthday every year like everyone else. However, her birth date — Feb. 29 — comes but once every four years. Therefore, she'll be walking and talking, will have cut her baby teeth and have breezed through the "terrible 2s" by her official first birthday.

Sarah is the daughter of Ross and Susan Davenport of Livonia. Ross is a Navy officer and Susan is a homemaker. The Davenports also have

FARMINGTON FOCUS

a 2½-year-old daughter.

Discipline — positively!

Cheryl Anderson, child psychologist, will speak on "Positive Discipline" at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the chapel of Warner Park Methodist Church on 11 Mile Road west of Middlebelt.

Anderson, who has a master's degree in counseling and social work, will speak on the nature of discipline, the difference between discipline and punishment and the six methods of discipline. The free program is sponsored by the Nardin Park Community Nursery School, which is cele-

brating its 25th anniversary. The nursery school, housed in the church, is "a private, non-profit organization in which parents play a key role," said Lana Zebrowski, publicity chairman.

Some school functions are Father's Night, Pajama and story night, open house and field trips. For more information, call the school at 476-8900.

Speaking of flora

Kay Briggs, longtime Farmington-area resident, will speak on the flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands at a meeting of the Farmington Area Naturalists at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the Spicer House in Heritage Park on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road. The event is open to the public.

See FOCUS, 3A