



IN THE PAPER
TODAY
WEDNESDAY

State official visits: State School Superintendent Tom Watkins visits William Grace Elementary at 1 p.m. Wednesday to observe how the school includes special education students in general education classrooms. His visit is in response to a request on behalf of a parent whose child attends William Grace.

THURSDAY

Botsford benefit: If spring planting is on your "to do" list, stop by The Botsford Foundation's Spring Plant Sale on Thursday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Botsford Inn parking lot located at 28000 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions about planting requirements and offer ideas for container gardening.

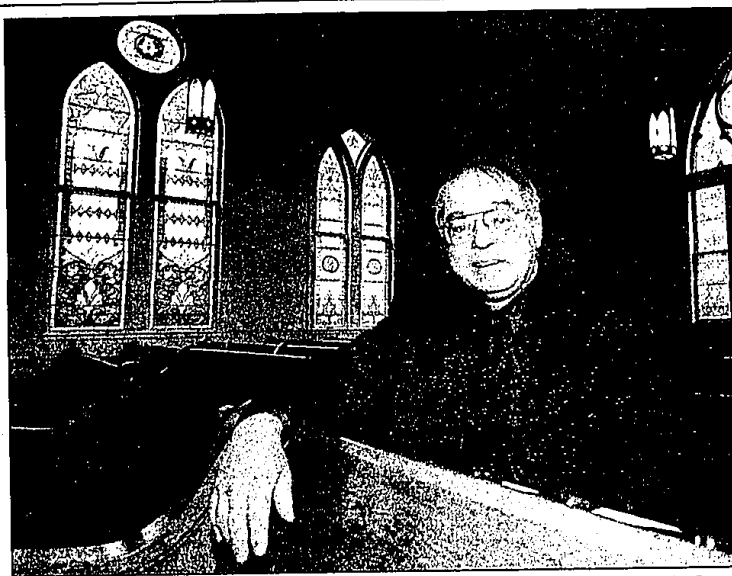
INDEX

- Apartments/D5
- Automotive/F2
- Classified/D,E,F
- Classified Index/D3
- Crossword/D4
- Jobs/E1
- New Homes/D1
- Obituaries/A9
- Police Calls/A8
- Real Estate/D1
- Service Guide/E6
- Sports/C1
- Taste/B1
- Travel/B7

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
Local office of nationwide construction firm.....

The response to our ad was very good!
M.K., Livonia

HOME TOWN CLASSIFIEDS WORKS
1-800-579-SELL



Historic celebration: The Reverend John Maki is pastor of Salem United Church of Christ, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

Salem UCC celebrates centennial

By PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
ppace@oe.homecomm.net

The Salem United Church of Christ on Oakland Avenue in downtown Farmington is celebrating its centennial this year.

Despite having its steeple zapped by lightning nearly 20 years ago, it has withstood the test of time and served as a faithful cornerstone to hundreds of worshippers, many for several generations.

The church maintains the original engraved wooden pews, pulpit and altar from 100 years ago and still invites its parishioners with a message in stained glass over the front

door: "Evangelische Saloms Kirche," German for Evangelical Salem Church.

Rich with heritage, Salem's founding members were German immigrants. In fact, visitors from Germany today often attend services there because it reflects the evangelical churches in their native country, said Salem pastor, the Rev. John Maki, who reads and speaks the German language.

According to parishioner William Rowe, the church used German as its language until 1923 when two services, one in English and one German, were offered. In 1933, the German services were cancelled.



While the church is 100 years old, the congregation formed in 1876, with parishioners using other

Residents get a look at judicial hopefuls

By PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
ppace@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington area residents got their first peek at the seven people aiming to be the next judge of the Farmington area's 47th District Court.

Among the promises offered by the candidates were creating a user-friendly court, being a judge who would get out in the community and the schools, and getting tough on domestic violence and drug and alcohol offenders.

The forum was hosted by the Farmington Area Republican Club. Barry Howard, retired chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, moderated the forum Wednesday evening at the Farmington Hills City Hall where it was broadcast live on Channel 8.

Candidates who filed petitions with the Bureau of Elections are:

- Paul Blizman, Farmington Hills

5/12

Please see JUDGES, A4

Thompson admits violation

By PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
ppace@oe.homecomm.net

Convicted pedophile Jim Thompson was in Oakland County Circuit Court Friday to answer charges of violating his probation as a result of Farmington Hills charges of second and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.

He was extradited from Portland, Ore., in March by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Thompson pled guilty for violating his probation before Oakland County

Please see PROBATION, A4

Every day is Mother's Day at Farmington Bakery

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington Bakery owners Becky Burns and Jeff Pavlik call their daughter "Rosie the Bakery Baby."

The name is apropos because Rosie Burns Pavlik, 10 months old, has had an inside look at the bakery on Grand River in Farmington since she began accompanying her parents when she was six weeks old. A playpen, high chair and toys signal every day is "Take Your Child to Work Day" for the Farmington Hills couple.

"When we first came in it was for two to three hours a day," Burns said of her time with Rosie. "Now we come in for four to six hours a day, mostly in the afternoon."

Pavlik works about 60-70 hours a week; Burns averages about 30-40 hours, which includes record keeping.

They've owned the bakery four years. After juggling the new business for two weeks with her full-time job as a reporter for the Eccentric Newspapers in 1998, Burns decided to devote herself to making life for people in the Farmington area a bit sweeter.

From 1997-98, Burns covered Southfield Public Schools and Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin. But she couldn't be happier with her decision, especially now that she's a mother.

Flexibility

While other mothers struggle to find appropriate day care and fret about being away from the baby for long hours, Burns has flexibility and sets her own hours.

"It's nice working for myself," she said. "It's also nice for Jeff because in a lot of



Take your daughter to work day: Becky Burns and daughter Rosie in the Farmington Bakery.

Please see ROSIE, A4



Mother's Day: Sara Rockwell wrote the winning poem about her mom Elizabeth.

Senior wins contest with poem about family life

By JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
jhubred@oe.homecomm.net

Sara Rockwell wanted to find a way to tell her mom how much she loved her before heading off to college this fall.

"I was thinking about how much chaos goes on at home, and how much we appreciate her," said the 17-year-old winner of the Farmington Observer's "Mother's Day Poetry Contest."

She did it in nine stanzas that honestly reflect life in a family of 10. Each of her siblings - Isaac, 2; Mary, 6; Alice, 8; Philip, 10; Kristen, 12; Paul, 14 and Mark, 16 - is represented. The younger kids attend Our Lady of Sorrows; Paul's at Brother Rice Academy

Other entries in the Farmington Observer's Mother's Day contest are on Page A5 and A6.

and Mark attends Advanced Technical Academy charter school.

Their mother, Elizabeth, and father, Tom, had no idea Sara was working on the poem, although Kristen helped edit it.

"She was doing it in secret," Elizabeth said. "If she hadn't won, I don't think she would have showed it to me."

"I would have on Sunday," Sara countered with a playful smile.

A senior at Marion High School.

Please see WINNER, A5