

A day that was made just for kids, 1B



Summer baseball, 1D

Remembering a young rebel, 11A

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MOVING up. A former Farmington teacher and personnel director for Flint schools the past 14 years was promoted to a top post in the Southfield school district.

Roger Allen, 45, was appointed associate superintendent for personnel services/employee relations June 21. His two-year contract begins Monday.

Allen taught in the Farmington district in the late 1960s and served as president of the Farmington Education Association in 1969-70.

Hiring minorities to fill top Southfield staff positions is an important goal for the Southfield district, he said. "I feel strongly that the school district staff should represent the community and student body. That's an important goal."

DID you know the Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival is 24 years old?

The sponsoring Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce promises something special next year in salute of the silver anniversary of the midsummer fest.

Quote of the week

Do people just have the feeling their vote doesn't count? Is that the reason? Or is everything going well and they're happy?

— Farmington Hills Voter Participation Committee chairman David Haron, about a planned voter attitude and participation survey (see story Page 2).

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We regret any inconvenience that was caused due to a power failure in our building on Tuesday, July 12, 1988.

Thank you for your patience!

Dry spell will jolt water bills

By Casey Hans staff writer

'Last month, I had to add water to the pool 10 times because of evaporation.'

— Theodore Polcyn

The dry spell that brought out sprinklers in record numbers will also cause an increase of another sort.

Just look at your water bills. They'll be twice as high, if they run parallel with water usage. Farmington resident Theodore

Polcyn foresees his summer water bill jumping from \$125 last year to about \$300 this year.

The retiree, who has lived with his wife, Florence, on Birchwood since 1961, uses water to irrigate his lawn, pool, flowers and garden. "Last month, I had to add water to the pool 10 times because of evaporation," Polcyn said.

According to county and local offi-

cials, water use in the month of June nearly doubled from one year before. Farmington Hills residents used 26.5 million gallons per day in June, compared with 14.1 million gallons one year ago. The city of Farmington also reported that usage had doubled.

"That will be consistent across the board," said James Porter, chief of water and sewage operations for

Oakland County. "That's kind of the trend you're going to see."

Local officials agree. "There's going to be some big bills," said Farmington city manager Robert Deadman. "September is traditionally the highest (water billing) month."

"It's our responsibility to make the people aware of their usage."

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Abortion issue splits hopefuls in House race

By Casey Hans staff writer

The issue of whether state money should be spent on abortions for poor women has brought divided opinion in the race for the 69th district state House seat.

One representative of each major party, Democratic and Republican, has declared a pro-choice stance on the abortion issue, according to reaction at recent candidate nights and answers to Observer questionnaires.

Major bond vote in fall

A \$27 million school bond issue slated to go before voters this fall has been approved by the state Board of Education.

Meanwhile, Farmington Public Schools officials are trying to change the date for the bond election to avoid any possible conflict with Robb Hasbani, the beginning of the Jewish New Year.

The election was approved for Sept. 13, but the district is trying to change it to Sept. 19. Officials expect word on the final election date from the state school board this week.

The 16-year bond issue asks for a .08 mill increase. It will include one ballot question asking for approval of the total \$27 million. The owners of a house assessed at \$45,000 — half its market value — would pay an additional \$36 per year for 16 years.

But trustees will be allowed to consider multiple sites for an early childhood center and a new elementary school, if they so choose. The proposal includes \$7 million for these new buildings and another \$20 million in building improvements, many for safety reasons.

These upgrades would include lighting replacement, asbestos abatement, removal of vinyl asbestos flooring and replacing it with new tile or carpeting, handling contamination in lighting ballasts and revising electrical service throughout the district. Work would be done in all buildings.

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In the Republican arena, the only female candidate, Jan Dolan, stands alone with her pro-choice view. "Freedom of choice is a constitutional right," she said. "As long as it's a constitutional right, we should not deny poor women what is allowed for women of wealth."

Her opponents, Michael Bouchard, Paul Weiday and Mike Sarafa, all defend their anti-abortion stance on moral grounds. All said they opposed abortion, Medicaid or otherwise.

Democrat Ken Murray said he "would go along with abortion," especially in cases of rape or incest and "for the mother's well-being." His opponent, John Dolan, said the "issue should not be one of partisan politics" and said he was "philosophically, theologically . . . against abortion."

"I am opposed to my tax dollars being used to pay for abortions," he added.

THE ABORTION issue has become a political hot potato during the last several years, most recently because of a referendum slated for the Nov. 8 general election. The ballot will ask voters to decide whether or not the state's Medicaid system, funded by tax dollars, should pay for abortions for women who cannot afford them.

Pro-choice Republican Jan Dolan said the abortion question is "an emotionally loaded" one.

"I have four children by choice. I would not want that personal a decision made by anyone else," she said. "I also believe in the Constitution . . . that ruled in 1973 the right to privacy is guaranteed, and that right extends to a woman's decision regarding her pregnancy."

"To deny Medicaid funds for abortions discriminates against women because they are poor, and endangers their health and welfare of Michigan's most needy citizens."



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Miss Farmington '88

Kristen Lynn Conley, a spring graduate of Harrison High School, took the Miss Farmington 1988 title last night in Vladimir's. The songwriter and lyricist also took the award for "Most Talented" with the performance of a country and western song she composed herself. Kristina Casar won the title of "Miss Congeniality." Ballerina April Dawn

Lindenmuth was first runner-up to Miss Farmington, and dancer-choreographer Jodi Perian was second runner-up. The new Miss Farmington, daughter of Dick and Joy Conley of Farmington Hills, begins her reign with a routine of public appearances that continues throughout Founders Festival.

Candidates clash on proposed vehicle fee

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Jody Sorosen and Don Wolf aren't traveling in the same lane on the proposed \$18 vehicle registration fee for Oakland County.

The two 53-year-old Farmington Hills Republicans will square off in the Aug. 2 primary for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners 27th District seat. Though both consider roads a top county priority, they disagree on how improvements should be financed.

"I will personally vote for it," said Sorosen, Farmington Hills mayor and 11-year councilwoman, about the Nov. 2 ballot issue.

Wolf, a former eight-year Farmington Hills city commissioner, is opposed to the fee, though he agrees with allowing voters a say on the issue at the polls. Wolf's beef with the



proposed fee is that he considers it an "inequitable tax" because it's not related to actual road usage.

"The occasional drivers must pay the same as drivers who use the roads on a constant daily basis," said Wolf, a community and government affairs representative for Detroit Edison. The fee would fund a variety of road projects and others on fixed incomes, which generally use the roads less, he added.

Both acknowledge the \$18 million would be mostly necessary for the

\$740 million the Oakland County Road Commission maintains is needed in cities, villages and townships. The proposed fee would be levied on every motor vehicle registered to a person or company in the county for 10 years.

"THE ONLY other financing methods would be additional local taxes, which are unlikely to be approved; additional dollars from the state and/or federal dollars, which may or may not be available," said Sorosen, Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director.

She also is a veteran member of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

Other options for financing, Sorosen

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Sharing how they'd bring county 'home'

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Jody Sorosen knows her familiar face in downtown Farmington and long-term local community involvement will be an asset in bringing Oakland County government closer to home.

Don Wolf intends to follow a step-by-step communications plan to bring what he calls the "hybrid" government, characterized

by policy making rather than day-to-day neighborhood operations, to home base.

"I'm in the community all the time. I work here. I live here. I'm accessible," said Sorosen, who will square-off with opponent Wolf in the Aug. 2 Republican primary for the Oakland County board of commissioners 27th District seat.

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