

Finding the sport in swashbuckling, 1D



North wins league, 1C

Kids learn a word a day in Spanish, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 12

Monday, November 13, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Fifty Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48924. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

PICK your favorite. Farmington Public Schools officials are seeking nominations for the fourth annual Newsweek-WDIV Outstanding Teacher Award.

Parents, students, staff and residents can submit nominations. Forms are available at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 33200 Shawwassee, Farmington. The nomination deadline is Nov. 20. The winner will be announced in January.

NEWLY elected councilwoman Nancy Bates of Farmington Hills had a quick reply when co-host Jody Soronen, on the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission's Election Night Live on Tuesday, asked how she felt now that the campaign had come to a close. "I could do cartwheels!"

Memory lane

25 years ago:
• Farmington Township attorney Joseph Brennan has asked for summary judgment in a lawsuit filed by nine citizens protesting pay raises approved for the three top township officials.
• Superintendent Gerald Harrison recommends hiring a reading resource teacher to work with elementary teachers in an effort to improve reading instruction in Farmington Public Schools.

— Farmington Enterprise, Nov. 19, 1964

This week

NEWLY elected members of the Farmington Hills City Council will begin their new terms tonight. City clerk Kathy Dorman will swear in Aldo Vagozzi, Jon Grant, Ben Marks, Larry Lichtman and Nancy Bates.

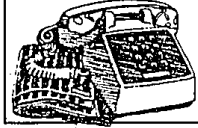
what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 7C
- Building Scene . . . Sec. F
- Classifieds . . . Sec. C, E, F
- Index . . . 8E
- Auto . . . Sec. C, E
- Real estate . . . Sec. C, F
- Employment . . . Sec. E, F
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 3E
- Entertainment . . . 5D
- Obituaries . . . 5C
- On the agenda . . . 9A
- Police/fire calls . . . 4A
- Sports . . . Sec. C
- Street Scene . . . Sec. D
- Taste . . . Sec. B

The CLASSIFIEDS

Classified makes good dollars and sense. Get the most for your money—buy or sell classified.

591-0900
Use Your MasterCard or Visa



Civic theater to add screen

By Dobbie Sklar
special writer

The historic Farmington Civic theater in downtown Farmington will boast a second screen by mid-January in hopes of attracting more moviegoers in a highly competitive market.

Like the corner grocer that competes with the major supermarket, "subsequent" movie theaters (ones that show movies at lower ticket prices) are constantly battling with larger movie theaters.

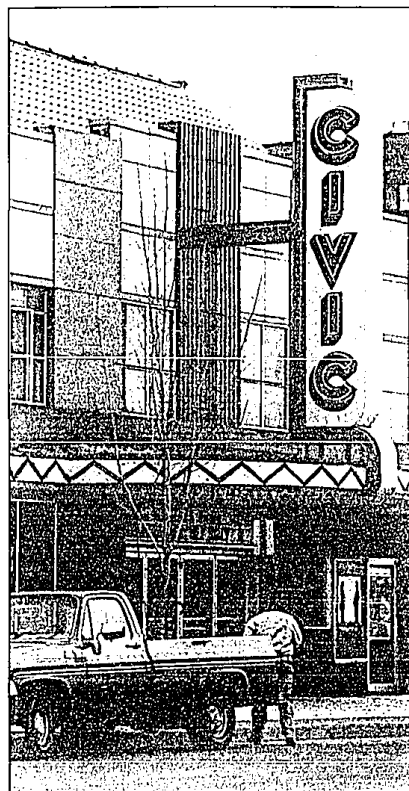
"I'm actually calling it 'twinning,'" said Greg Hohler, theater owner. "My business has dropped by about 35 percent in the past six years; this is one of the major reasons why I'm building an additional auditorium.

"We'll have two auditoriums, which will enable us to have two shows every night once the second auditorium is completed."

The new theater, an upper balcony will have 178 seats. The original theater will lose 80 seats, or the first five rows; there will be about 435 seats remaining in the main auditorium. Construction plans have received city approval, Hohler said.

"We believe that the expansion will bring more and more people into the downtown area," said Wendy Sittsamer, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Please turn to Page 3



The Farmington Civic on Grand River is a downtown Farmington landmark.

RANDY BOHST/staff photographer

Cops, schools probe alleged sexual assault

Parents react, 2A

By Casey Mann
staff writer

An unidentified Wooddale Elementary employee was temporarily removed from work with pay Nov. 3, after a student accused him of sexually assaulting her, schools officials confirmed last week.

Neither Farmington Public Schools officials nor Farmington Hills police would release details of the alleged assault because of the continuing investigation.

Lt. Richard Murphy confirmed the police are investigating the allegation but added that "nothing is substantiated."

Police stressed that Wooddale students are in no danger.

The extent of the alleged assault to the 10- or 11-year-old girl could not be confirmed. Police Chief William Dwyer said multiple incidents were reported, but he would not comment on the exact number or dates involved because of the investigation.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC Schools employee relations director Sue Zurvalic stressed the employee has not been officially charged with anything and that the allegations are being thoroughly investigated, independently, by the schools, the police and Oakland County Protective Services.

She said the employee is receiving full pay, and that the temporary removal is not a "disciplinary measure," but rather a precaution.

"When a very serious charge is made against an employee, we, in effect, remove them from the workplace until our investigation is completed," she said.

Zurvalic said school officials re-



David Coffin
Wooddale principal

'I believe, as do the police, you should not worry about the safety of your child at Wooddale.'

— Principal David Coffin
letter to parents

acted immediately after receiving information about the allegation on Friday, Nov. 3.

"When the accusation was made Friday morning, the employee was removed from the situation," she said. "It's for the safety of the employee and the situation. We have only an accusation at this point. We don't have proof of anything."

Please turn to Page 2

Weak support hurt proposals — library

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Community Library officials believe active support from city administrators and city councils could have improved the chances of success for two library financing proposals Nov. 7.

But library officials also believe the proposals took a beating because of voter opposition to the two state education proposals also on the ballot, the proposed new library's location and confusion over the proposals.

"I just think it would have been better for us to have had vocal support (from the cities). We shouldn't be separated. In the sense we are working against each other. Good city services are good city services, including the library," board president Charlotte Yaverski said.

Farmington and Farmington Hills

'I just think it would have been better for us to have had vocal support (from the cities). We shouldn't be separated. . . Good city services are good city services, including the library.'

Charlotte Yaverski
board president

city councils publicly endorsed the library's proposals for a new main library and operating taxes. But

Yaverski said support should have been more overt from both the city councils and city managers.

Library officials, however, acknowledged the work of individual council members and candidates participating in the Citizens to Support

port the Library campaign organization.

THE CITY managers and mayors had mixed responses about the library board's concerns.

Farmington Hills Mayor Terry

Please turn to Page 3

New vote likely — 'question is when'

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Disappointed by the defeat of two ballot questions, library board trustees said Thursday they have no choice but to continue seeking voter-approved financing for libraries.

Farmington-Farmington Hills voters will probably be asked again for money to operate an independent library system and to build a new main branch.

"I don't think it's a question of do

we want to go forward. It's a question of when," library trustee Robert Plummer said.

On Nov. 7 voters defeated two ballot questions for the 17-year-old, two-branch system.

The \$14.5-million bond proposal lost by a 215-vote margin. But the operating tax proposal lost by an almost 5,000-vote margin.

"We didn't pass, but we are still left with our problems," board president Charlotte Yaverski said.

Please turn to Page 3

Area Germans cheer opening of the Wall

By Holon Niemiec
staff writer

German-born area residents are cheering the easing of travel restrictions in East Germany, including at the Berlin Wall, a symbol of East-West political tensions for 38 years.

Sigrun Kast of Bloomfield Hills was born in East Germany, and though she is excited about the changes, she said she is hoping her countrymen will refrain from leaving the German Democratic Republic and instead stay to rebuild.

Her husband, Wilhelm, was born in West Germany and is pleased with the liberalization coming to the country neighboring his native land.

Ingrid Baumgardner, deputy consul at the German Consulate in Detroit, said the West German government is enthusiastic about opening the borders.

"This is only the starting point. We are hoping that there is further democratization of

that country, including free elections," Baumgardner said. "The East German government understands by now that they can't close in everyone. They've got to make living in East Germany more attractive."

Dr. Klaus Schrammeyer, consulate director and a Bloomfield Hills resident, was not available for comment.

SIGRUN KAST grew up in East Germany. After World War II, her father became active in politics, which landed him in jail. Sigrun and her family fled to West Germany when she was 14 years old and after her father was released from prison.

She has a brother and sister who still live in East Germany. Both her brother and brother-in-law are Lutheran ministers there. Talking to her brother early Friday morning, she learned how East Germans were celebrating the new freedoms.

"I talked to my brother and brother-in-law and then I got so excited and wound up," Mrs.

'This is only the starting point. We are hoping that there is further democratization of that country, including free elections.'

— Ingrid Baumgardner
deputy consul

Kast said. "My family is very committed to the country and they are staying there. The big worry is all those people leaving."

With restrictions easing, Mrs. Kast said, now is the time for East Germans to form their own government and determine their own destinies, though the mass migration from the Communist country is going to result in a serious manpower shortage.

In addition to the problem of mass exodus,

Mrs. Kast said, those who leave for West Germany may get a rude awakening.

"BEING A REFUGEE is not fun," she said, speaking from experience. "There will be some kind of backlash because the refugees will need housing and jobs and the West Germans will resent taking jobs and housing away from their people."

Restrictions on East Germans have been getting lighter over the past five years, Mrs. Kast said. Travel into East Germany always has been possible, as she has visited her family every two or three years.

What has changed is the ease for East Germans to travel. Five years ago when her son was married, Mrs. Kast's brother and sister were allowed to travel to Bloomfield Hills for the wedding. Three years ago, Mrs. Kast's entire family — brother, sister, spouses and children — were allowed a visa to come here for her daughter's wedding.

Please turn to Page 5