



Tree time

Frank Rashid (foreground) of Farmington Hills has been selling Christmas trees from the corner of Freedom and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills for 13 years. He has grown and sold Christmas trees for

three times as long. His farm is near Traverse City. Helping him above is Douglas Lindemuth of Farmington Hills. Buying the tree is former Farmington resident Barb Kalczyński, now a Whitmore Lake resident.

SHARON LAMFUK/staff photographer

New principal is appointed at North Farmington High

By Casey Hans staff writer

A high school administrator from the Ypsilanti school district was appointed Tuesday night as the new principal at North Farmington High School.

Deborah Tenjeras Clarke, Farmington Public Schools' first female high school principal, is now an assistant principal at Ypsilanti High School. At North, she will replace Don Cowan, who moves to the central office to handle administrative and operation functions.

Although saying the appointment was an important step in giving young women in high school a key role model, superintendent Michael Flanagan stressed that Clarke is "the best person for this job. Not the best woman — the best person."

"This is one of the most important appointments we will make in this district," he added. "I can't think of a more difficult job, including my own, than that of high school principal."

Clarke was one of two finalists for the job from 13 semifinalist candidates interviewed by a district committee. A total of 65 applications were paper screened to the 13, who were interviewed. Flanagan was given the two finalists, both external candidates, from which he made his recommendation.



Deborah Tenjeras Clarke coming to North

with the Raiders.

Student Round Table president Tyson Richardson, a North Farmington principal with a Raider Pride Pin, offered for her appointment to the new post. "I think she's earned this outstanding accomplishment," he said.

Clarke called the appointment a "dream come true." A 16-year veteran in education now living in Dexter, she has worked as a general education teacher, special education teacher, reading coordinator and

most recently as assistant principal.

In that capacity since 1985, she has supervised transportation, communication systems, curriculum development, budgeting, school improvement, testing and staff development.

SHE SAID Ypsilanti High and North Farmington have similarities in their diverse cultural settings and advanced academic opportunities. She plans to focus on curriculum first, and believes that "for a school to be effective, everyone has to be involved with the kids."

"I'm very student-oriented. I care a good deal about kids," she added, saying that she had worked one-on-one to help some of her students in Ypsilanti. "I don't give up on kids."

Several years ago, Clarke began a recruiting campaign in Ypsilanti to bring more minorities into the high school music program. She wants to involve North Farmington students in the learning process.

"I think it's a way of being proactive," she said. "When people start talking with each other, as you know, barriers break down. The fears and myths are dispelled."

Clarke holds a master's degree in Administration and a bachelor's degree in special education for the emotionally disturbed, both from Eastern Michigan University. She is expected to begin her new job sometime in January.

Public offices to close for Christmas holiday

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, will mean several closings next week.

Farmington City Hall and the 47th District Court in Farmington will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Farmington Hills City Hall will be closed Monday but open Tuesday, City Manager William Costick said, clarifying holiday hours the Observer printed previously.

ing institutions will be closed Monday.

Trash collection in Farmington Hills will be pushed back one day next week. In Farmington, trash normally collected Monday will be collected as part of Tuesday's regularly scheduled pickup.

There will be no window service, post office box service or residential/business mail delivery Monday, according to the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices.

Normal holiday mail collections will be made and special delivery and express mail service will be provided, postmaster Kenneth Harris said.

THE NEW principal was introduced at a special board meeting held before the regular meeting Tuesday night, where trustees asked her questions, then officially appointed during the regular board session.

"I am so delighted to be here," she told a full board room. "I can't wait to get to the building a work

Kenbrook kids collect mittens

Kenbrook Elementary students are giving to those in need this holiday season.

Throughout the first part of December, students at the Farmington Hills school collected mittens, hats,

gloves and scarves for the needy.

They were given to representatives of the Salvation Army following a winter assembly Dec. 19, after the fourth grade program called "Holidays Around the World."

Farmington Observer

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
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The Farmington Community Library will be closed Saturday through Monday.

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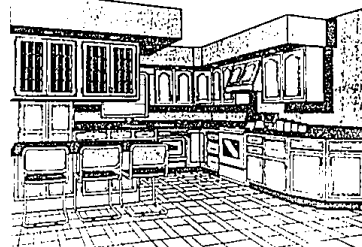
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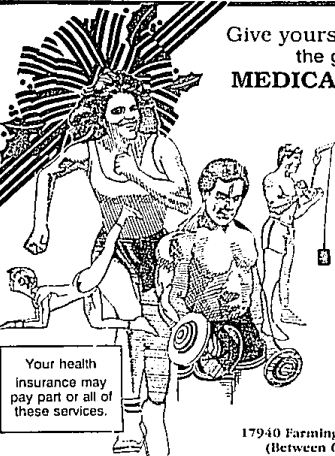


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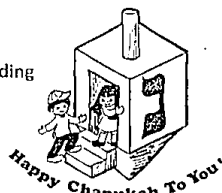
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