

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 105 NUMBER 36

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1994 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 32 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS

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Look for coupons Thursday

- Cut your weekly grocery bill an average \$20 to \$30 a week clipping coupons by Kellogg, Hormel, Colgate, Palmolive and others that will be inserted into Thursday's issue of your home-delivered Observer newspaper.
- While you are clipping turn to the Taste section in Monday's paper for quick and easy recipes your family will enjoy.
- Don't miss out on the savings. To have the Observer delivered to your home, call 591-0500.



IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Kevorkian speaks: The man known as Dr. Death has been given new life. He spoke at an area church Sunday. /3A

Police pride: A smile was a part of the uniform of the day Friday when Farmington Hills police promotions were handed out. /3A

Let's talk love: With Valentine's Day coming up, we're asking readers to fax us their G-rated love stories. /10A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Beach Bound: A Birmingham shop lets you design your own swimsuit for a fit that's just right. /4A

Behind the Label: Sigrid Olsen explains how her passion for print making translates into sportswear with an unusual point of view. /4A

STREET SCENE

Ska-less: Fed up with being exclusively labeled as "ska," Gangster Fun is trying to show people that the horn-laden form of music isn't just a novelty. /6A

TASTE

Weight loss: People who lost more than 50 pounds share secrets for losing weight. /1B

SPORTS

Basketball: Harrison was the only Farmington team on the court Friday night, playing at Livonia Churchill. /1C

Hoop upset: Oakland Community College knocked off first-place Highland Park in college basketball last week. /1C

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Cameras catch school bus rides



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A word to those who take the school bus: Smile — and behave. You could be on candid camera.

Farmington Public Schools buses are being equipped with video cameras as part of a pilot program.

School officials say the camera's

eye will focus on kids who are disruptive so bus drivers can keep their eyes on the road.

Boxes to hold the small cameras are being placed at the front of the buses.

"It works two ways: It will modify the student behavior, and you also have proof if there is a problem," said

Purchasing and Transportation supervisor Bev Hausman.

District officials will monitor the program during the year to decide whether to buy more equipment, Hausman said. The video boxes have been around less than a month, but bus drivers are reporting positive results.

Sold driver Sharon Levier: "Kids are nervous."

The project is costing less than \$8,000, according to Hausman. Boxes are being installed on more than 60 buses.

Not all the boxes will have camer-

as, though. The cameras will be rotated to different vehicles.

Hausman is reluctant to give a specific number of cameras in the district's arsenal.

Kids have a hard time telling the difference. A red light comes on in all the boxes when the bus starts, making it impossible to tell if a camera is inside.

"We need to have students think they are there," she said.

The pilot program is not a result of increased disciplinary problems,

See CATCH, 2A

They know what to do with winter



SHARON LAMM/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Going downhill fast: Winter in Michigan! First it snows, then it's cold and then the ice and sleet come down. But as long as there's snow on the old sledding hill by Farmington School Headquarters, Nick Poll (right), 16, of Farmington, and Rob Christensen, 16, of Redford Township, will be happy.

Officers say parking violation took bad turn

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

What started out as a parking ticket has escalated into a criminal case for a Farmington Hills woman.

Larise Anita Tucker, 35, stood mute at her arraignment Friday on charges of assault and battery, resisting and obstructing police, fleeing and eluding police, malicious destruction of police property and reck-

less driving. A not-guilty plea was entered in her behalf.

Police and volunteers in the department's handicapped parking enforcement program testified Friday in 47th District Court that Tucker refused a ticket for parking in a handicapped space at the First of America Bank on Orchard Lake Road.

Then things turned ugly, they said. Program volunteers Bill Shortt, 72,

and Stanley Leeman, 63, had begun writing the \$100 ticket Wednesday at about 3:30 p.m. on Tucker's 1990 blue Ford Festiva.

Shortt testified Friday that the car backed into the police department car used for handicapped violations, hitting him. He was not seriously injured. The driver then was able to drive away.

After running a check on the plate,

police traced the car to Tucker, who lives in an apartment complex. When two Hills officers, along with a wrecker, came to tow the car, Tucker came out, got into the car and locked the doors, officers testified.

Despite requests from officers, the woman refused to unlock her car, police said, and then started the engine

See PARKING, 2A

Slick storm sends residents slip-sliding away

BY BILL COUTANT
AND LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITERS

With conditions suited for a Zamboni driver's education course, Thursday didn't slip by without a few incidents in the freezing rain.

Farmington Public Schools' secondary classes were let out at 1:30 p.m. in order to keep buses running on schedule. Elementary students

were excused at their regular time.

"We very, very rarely send elementary children home early because of their age and the number of people working," said Building and Student Services director Don Cowan.

"To send elementary students home to an empty house and for our walkers to have been outside in those conditions would have been a mistake."

Bus drivers managed to navigate through the mess.

"We did well today," said Julie Teddy, supervisor of drivers. "We didn't need one tow truck."

Teddy credits parents, who provided information about road conditions. One parent gave a bus driver some windshield washing fluid to clear off the windows.

Mercy High School let students out

at 10:15 a.m., but Our Lady of Sorrows middle and grade school had a full day.

Farmington Public Safety Department responded to four traffic accidents within a two-hour span Thursday morning. A person was taken to Botsford Hospital after an accident on M-102 and Nine Mile at 8:18 a.m.

See ICE, 2A

Slippery service

Thursday's freezing rain put the Observer's delivery "on ice" last week, but our carriers and drivers tried to weather the storm. "We would like to thank our carriers and drivers last Thursday for their efforts on getting out the papers on a difficult day," said Larry Geiger, Observer circulation manager. "We apologize for any inconvenience," he said.

Money for quake victims

This Northridge Meadows Apartments is in Northville, Mich., not southern California, but owners and residents of the local complex hope to raise \$10,000 for victims of the recent California earthquake.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Sixteen people were killed Jan. 17 in Northridge, Calif. — the epicenter of the quake — when the Northridge Apartments collapsed.

"That was a rare coincidence, both complexes having the same name," said Eva Pieper, resident manager of the Northville Northridge. "Those people need us, and we're trying to make a difference in their lives. Something like this could have happened to us just as easily."

Pieper, who also owns Shear Impressions hair salon in the Nine Mile/Middlebelt area of Farmington Hills, said she has been soliciting contributions from her salon customers with offers of \$20 gift certificates for contributions of \$100 or more.

Other local businesses are involved in the drive. For example, Printed Impressions in the Eight Mile/Orchard Lake area has donated fliers and printing work.

"Two upcoming events will benefit the fund drive, Pieper said.

The owner of the Legend's nightclub in Detroit will auction two fifth-row Red Wing hockey tickets and a limo ride to and from dinner for two at Pegasus restaurant Feb. 11. A local radio station may handle the auction, Pieper said.

On Feb. 10-11, Tremors, a nightclub in the Holland Inn of Livonia, will hold an auction and a free buffet with the cover charge going to the Northridge Relief Fund.

Pieper said that, thanks to a sympathetic airline official, drive backers may fly to California and write checks to those in need.