

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1994

## FARMINGTON NOTES

### Headlee to speak

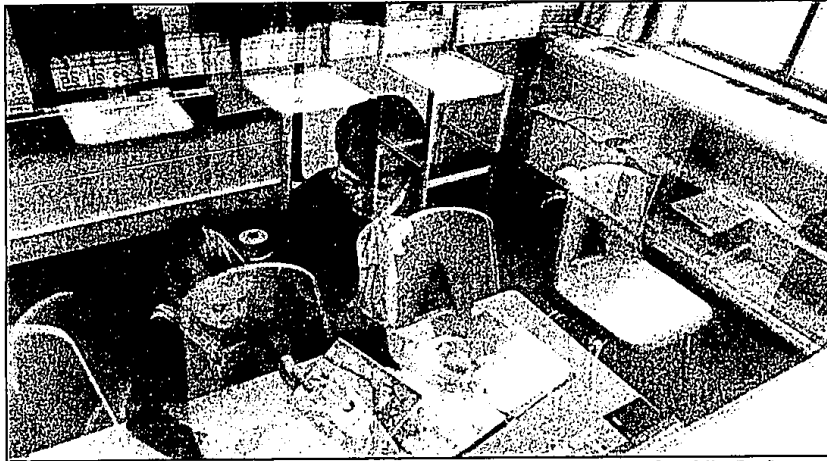
**R**ichard Headlee, chairman of the board of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, will speak on "Management Success" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in the Smith Theater on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. Headlee was chairman of Taxpayers for Tax Limitation, which created sweeping changes in taxation in the state. His name adorns the Headlee Amendment to the state Constitution that restricts taxes and spending.

### Award for Soronen

**J**ody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, has received a Michigan Chamber Professional Award from the state chamber. The award, started in 1990 to encourage high standards among chamber executives, is given to those who have achieved specific educational and training goals.

### She's top volunteer

**J**osephine Jackson of Farmington Hills was the Volunteer of the Month for January at the Detroit Institute of Arts. She began volunteering at the DIA 17 years ago following her retirement from the federal government's Social Service Administration as a field representative. Jackson, the top salesperson for the Volunteer Membership Committee, says selling memberships is her "psychic income." It put her in touch with "delightful people, notables and the unknown, all interesting." Having worked with adults most of her life, she decided Art to the Schools was a way to work with children. She has been chairwoman of ATS and has held various positions on the ATS Board. Hadassah, Reading for the Blind, working with the Jewish Family Resettlement Services, working on book fairs, golf and travel are some of her other activities.



SHARON LEVINE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Working together: Other teachers and a news photographer look through a glass partition to observe teacher Sybil Winters working with first-grader Morgan Golin in an intensive reading program.

## Project reads into learning problems



An intensive program targets Farmington-area first-graders who have trouble reading and writing. A little one-on-one action by teachers will thwart a lifetime of remedial work, it is hoped.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

His sits with a book in front of him, his finger on the page. Through a glass partition, an audience of teachers examines his every move. They have a window to frustration. He looks wantonly to his left, an obvious appeal for help. None is given in this instance.

"Carolyn (Hewes of Larkshire Elementary) is being the good teacher," says Carolyn Lacy to the teachers assembled. "She's being very stoic, which is very hard to do." While the child is grappling with a sentence before him, teachers are grasping the concepts behind a new intervention program called Reading Recovery. Eight teachers in the Farmington

Public Schools have been trained so far. Evaluation director Frederica Frost said there will be a Reading Recovery instructor in all 13 elementary buildings by next year.

The intensive 20-week program targets first-grade students who are having difficulty with reading or writing, and who may otherwise be retained or deemed in need of special education.

Instructors believe one-on-one lessons for 30 minutes a day will prevent a life of remedial work. Children in the program read small books, go over letter identification and word making, and eventually, write stories.

Once a child gains enough skill to learn in a regular classroom, the special work is discontinued. Intervention is key at the first-grade level, Lacy said. It prevents problems with learning from snowballing into larger disabilities by correcting them early.

"We like to call it 'Little tots with little knots,'" Lacy said. Those little knots, though, often tie up children for the rest of their academic lives. Also, consistent classroom failure can lead to other behavioral problems.

Frost estimates the program costs

See **READING**, 13A

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