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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Moth fighters: Farmington Hills will join Oakland County in an effort to control gypsy moths. /3A

"Presumed Guilty": Those who attended a Farmington forum on race Tuesday dealt with perceived bias by the police. /3A

The winner is? You'll just have to drop in at Page's Food & Spirits in downtown Farmington Saturday night to see who did win the drawing for two prized tickets to the Barbra Streisand concert. /3A

Police funeral: Downtown Farmington's main corner was closed to traffic Monday morning as uniformed police officers said goodbye to one of their own. /13A

OPINION

Sunny Saturday: The Farmington area needs the "active" park that officials will dedicate this Saturday morning. /20A

SPORTS

Right on track: Former Farmington High athlete Shell Gaul did well in the Great Lakes Conference women's meet. /1B

Diamond dandy: Farmington High pitcher Nick Latra had a big day Monday, leading the Falcons to victory. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Theater: Terrific performances brighten SRO's "Ten Little Indians." /9B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Headache, be gone! An area doctor has found success treating some of his patients. /1C

No fires, please: Michael Garr, Farmington Hills firefighter, offers some ideas and tips for fire prevention. /1C

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Sen. Jack Faxon

Fed-up Faxon bows out



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

After a long and distinguished career in the Michigan Legislature, state Sen. Jack Faxon has found redefining and the frustrations in the "bitter partisanship" that now dominates the chamber are too much to bear.

Charging that the atmosphere in the state Legislature has become "bitterly partisan," Sen. Jack Faxon has failed to file for re-election, thus ending his 33-year career in state politics.

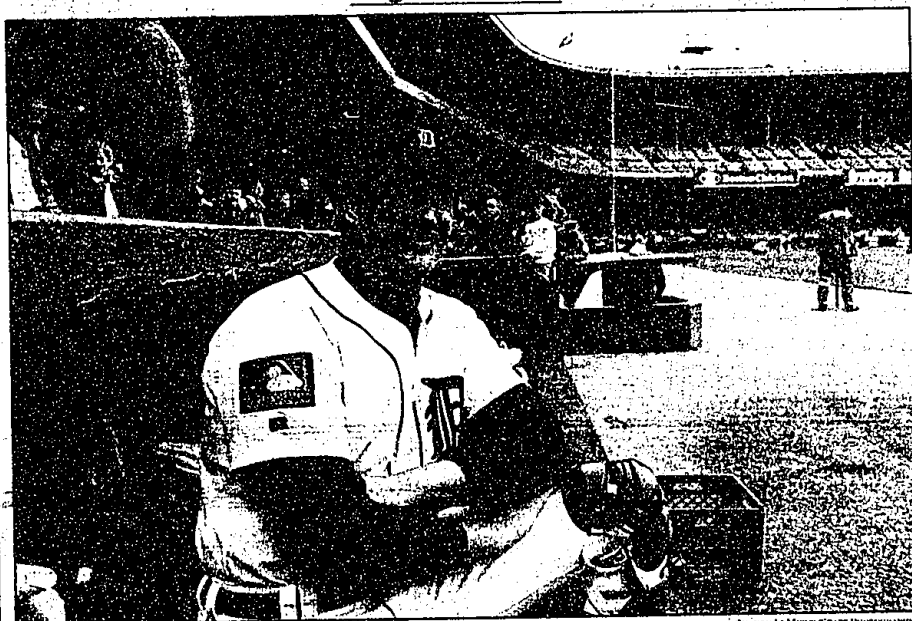
Faxon, who would have faced an uphill fight with incumbent Sen. Dave Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, did not file petitions to be placed on the Aug. 2 primary ballot, ending his 33-year career in the Legislature. "People were calling me at the last minute asking me to run again," said the Farmington Hills Democrat

Who's running, 2A

Tuesday from the Senate floor. "I would not be able to do anything in areas, like education, in which I have a lot of skill. The atmosphere here has become so intensely, bitterly partisan." Faxon, 67, said that in the 1970s when Democrats were in the minority, he was still given "respect," and the chance to work on legislation in the arts and education.

See FAXON, 2A

A Tiger from the Hills



SHARON LAMORE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stadium workplace: Bullpen coach Dan Whitmer likes to dress up for Halloween in Farmington Hills, but at work he wears the uniform of the Detroit Tigers.

Bullpen coach pitches in for neighborhood fun

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Squashed in a steel cage, he looks like a caged animal. His eyes peer at the field outside. Suddenly, the phone rings. He jumps to answer. The voice on the other end is a familiar one. The instructions are succinct in this call to arms.

He pulls the mask slowly over his face and exits the fortress. The audience of 20,000 or so barely notices. The anonymous life of a major

league bullpen coach: Farmington Hills resident Dan Whitmer is perhaps more known around home than behind home plate. Whitmer lives in Kimberley subdivision with his wife, Lori, and three children, Matthew, 11, Taylor, 8, and Chad, 6.

They've been there four years, and they love it, Whitmer said. "What wisdom can a bullpen catcher pass on to members of his subdivision? How to wear a mask, for one."

"In California, where I'm from, we always dressed up for Halloween," Whitmer said. "I got dressed up for Halloween. Now a lot of the guys in the subdivision are starting to do it. 'We have a lot of fun.'"

Last Halloween, Whitmer went out as Gentle and a friend went as Aladdin. Their wives went as a harem.

In full costume, they went out for a night of bowling at Bel-Aire Lanes.

All three sons play Little League

on South Farmington Baseball teams. Because of travel and night games, he only sees his sons play two or three times a year.

"I'd like to see them play more, but I just don't have the chance," Whitmer said.

Sometimes, he'll take a box of baseballs that have been deemed too ratty for major league batting practice and pass them out to the kids.

See TIGER, 12A

Inch wants students to measure up

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

R. Jack Inch is the punctuation at the end of a sentence.

When he speaks at Farmington Board of Education meetings, even Yogi knows it's over and the Fat Lady can rest her pipes. The issue is settled.

In a setting where long-winded discussions are the norm, Inch has developed a reputation for getting to the point.

Inch calls it being concise. Some

SCHOOL ELECTION

might perceive such directness as being gruff.

"I had a person tell me I'm so stern, I look like a Supreme Court justice," said Inch, who is seeking a fifth term on the school board in the June 13 election.

Inch doesn't always tell people what they want to hear.

He solicited state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, at a board meet-

ing, saying that she and other legislators must have been on a "feeding frenzy" when they passed a bill eliminating property taxes for school funding in July.

He can be blunt

He bluntly told a gathering of Beechview Elementary parents that the concept of a neighborhood school would be a thing of the past because of state cuts in funding. Parents were



See INCH, 11A

R. Jack Inch

Police seek assistance in spotting gang problems

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Safety officers wanted to make one thing clear: Gangs are not running rampant in the city.

They intend to trip them at the starting line. But they need residents' help. "Last week I presented Farmington police to call Tuesday's Neighborhood Watch meeting at Flanders Elementary School.

More than 70 residents attended from Farmington Meadows subdivision, where gang graffiti was spray painted during a vandalism spree April 30.

Two teens, ages 14 and 13, who confessed to the

vandalism are not gang members or gang "wannabes," police said. Petitions were sent to Oakland County Probate Court, asking that the juveniles be charged with malicious destruction of property.

"That didn't appease some residents. 'Unless they do some community service, they're getting away with it,' said Don Flynn.

"It beats caning," added another resident. Instead of retribution, police were asking for residents to focus on vigilance in looking for signs of any possible gang activity. Cmdr. Chuck Lee pointed out it was tips from two residents that led police to finding the two teens.

Residents learned the meaning of certain gang

symbols and signs. They also watched a video of a Channel 2 news series, which focused on gangs infiltrating the suburbs.

Detective Dan Dellar said things such as plumbing grades, an affinity for a particular color of clothes and a new set of friends are some tipoffs to parents.

Dellar also asked residents to look for such things as kids loitering behind the school or on a street corner. Police are enforcing curfew and tobacco ordinances with a "zero tolerance" attitude, Lee said.

See GANGS, 4A