

Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Last one in's a . . . : Dig out the bathing suits and ear plugs . . . the swimming pool at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills is open again. /3A

TASTE

Easter eats: Festive, light Easter lunch menu celebrates spring. /1B
Focus on wine: Ray & Eleanor Heald answer reader requests. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Be our guest: Shopping at Hudson's new Somerset Collection store will be like visiting an old friend's country manor home according to the designer. /8A

Salon solutions: A Farmington Hills company offers the latest treatments for problem hair and skin. /8A

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2 suspects in 'dead buyers' society bound over on charge

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Two men accused of parlaying a dead man's identification in order to buy a new car walked their right to a preliminary examination March 27. Keith Tolbert, 37, and Carl Keith Stanton, 32, both of Detroit, waived their right to the prelim in front of Judge Maria Parker in 47th District Court in Farmington. They face up to 15 years in prison if convicted of the charge of false pretenses.

The two were charged with buying a new Toyota Land Cruiser at Bob Saks Toyota on Grand River using the identification of a dead man. Toyota Motors Credit of Livonia traced the identification to a dead man and informed the sales manager who tipped off police.

The men were arrested March 14 at the dealership. The two cars they had driven to the location had also been purchased using the identification of two other dead people.

Tolbert is free on \$1,000 bond. Stanton is free on a \$10,000 personal bond.

The men will be arraigned in Oakland County Circuit Court at 1:30 p.m. May 15.

"The deceased was from Oakland County and his widow is upset," said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott. "It hasn't been that long (September of 1996) since he passed away."

Detective Sgt. Tim Swanson of the Farmington Hills police said his department has turned up other car purchases using the same method.

"We're turning up more of these," he said.

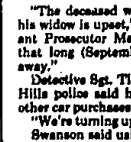
Swanson said using the identification of a dead person to buy a car with a minimum down payment and then taking it out of state and selling it can bring the criminal several thousand dollars quickly. The new state title is hard to trace and the credit company usually doesn't check until payments are delinquent. By that time, the damage is done.

The credit company had been alerted to the practice and was able to catch it before the sale was final.

Keith Tolbert



Carl Keith Stanton



Schools hemming up on Home Ec?



Cooking and sewing "are not the most pressing skills we need to be teaching kids," says an official in the Farmington School District. Some parents didn't hesitate to disagree.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

They're not Betsy Ross or Betty Crocker, but talk of removing sewing and cooking from the Farmington School District's Life Management curriculum has needed and steamed a few parents.

A mother of an East Middle School

student is concerned about the idea. She spoke out against removing the sewing and cooking portion of home economics at the board of education meeting March 26.

Revisions are being made to the curriculum, Farmington school officials said. The 10-week courses teach children nutrition, hygiene, how to

manage time and other day-to-day skills.

School districts are under pressure to add foreign language and technology at the middle school level, said Judy White, the district's curriculum director. Some things have to go.

"One of the things we're considering eliminating is sewing and cooking," White said. "We believe at this point and time they're not the most pressing skills we need to be teaching kids."

Kathy Harwood understands society is changing. However, the Farmington Hills parent believes that's

one more reason to teach kids how to cook a meal or sew on a button.

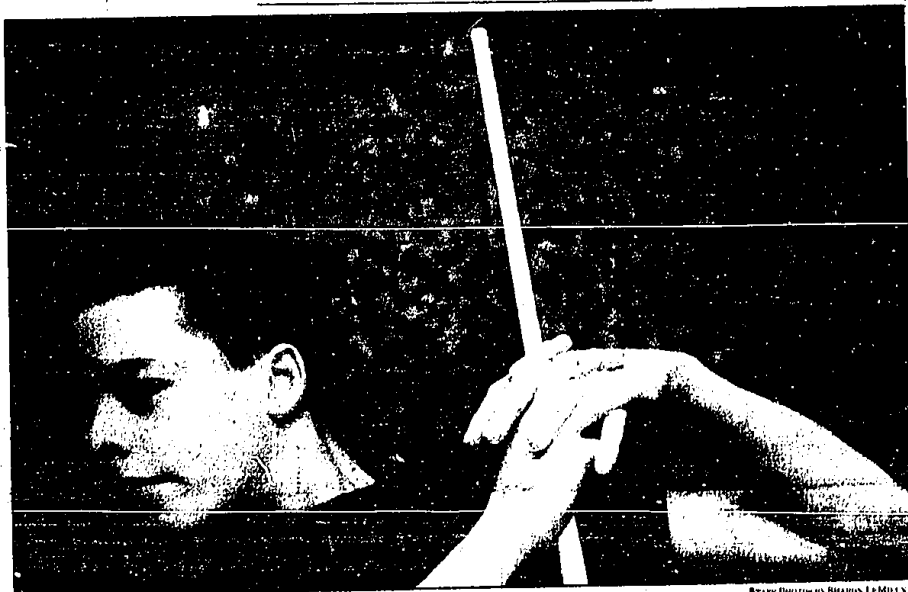
"I'm concerned the kids are coming home and they won't know the safety features on how to operate the appliances," said Harwood, who spoke at the board meeting. "We have a lot of families where both parents work."

"I don't care if it's cut down to five weeks. I want them to have exposure to these things."

Susan Carron Simon, who has a daughter in the sixth grade at O.E. Dunkel, agreed.

See HOME EC, 2A

Center draws teens for after-school fun



STAFF PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN LEMLEY

Taking his cue: Ben Orr waits patiently for a turn at the pool table. Another youngsters admits he "took cuts" in front of him.

Kids take charge of own program

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The opening week of the Farmington Hills Decentralized Youth Program was more than a little chaotic.

Midweek, a late winter snow storm closed schools. That didn't stop kids from coming, although not as many came. But program Director Todd Lips noticed a new problem.

"We hadn't thought about a bike rack," he said with an embarrassed grin.

And there were other things, like some early scheduling problems with buses taking kids from the city's middle schools to the Coast Activities Center where the program is housed.

The YMCA will also host the kids from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday this week and two other sites are in the works. Friday activities will be planned in the near future.

The program, which was a dream

of the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families, became reality March 11 thanks to a promise of \$385,000 in federal grant money coupled with city matching funds of \$250,000 and the creation of a foundation that is raising money to keep the program going.

The gym is full of boys and girls playing basketball and volleyball.

"They're very good to work with," says Demetrius, a Farmington High School student who towers over the younger hoopsters, including two who have real basketball potential. "They really like to play."

And, for the most part, that's what it's about for these students. They either take the bus, or in cases when they couldn't wait, they've hoofed it to the center to play ball, play music, play video games, swim, talk, and even study.

"We just want them to have a

See PROGRAM, 7A



Blockade: Trevor Gaines (left) is a counselor in the after-school program, but that status isn't enough to block a shot Alex Haines.

Victim's mom: Sentence too short for death

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

When Stephen Klenke, 11, takes to the baseball field this summer without his brother and friend, David, it just won't be the same.

The boy's older brother David, 13, died after being hit last September by a drunken driver. That man, Christopher Phillip Smith Jr., 23, was sentenced to 6-30 years in prison after being convicted of manslaughter. He



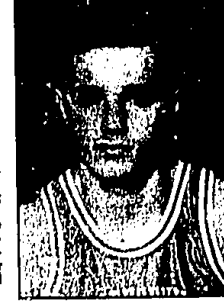
David Klenke

Family copes with senseless killing of son

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The family of Luvie Lucas sat around their television Friday morning in rapt attention while watching tapes of newscasts about his murder.

"A mother and father are supposed to like their kid, but he was a kid everybody liked, at school, at work — everybody," said Prentice Lucas, father of the slain Clarenceville High School graduate.



Luvie Lucas

See KLENKE, 7A

See LUCAS, 7A