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Observer readers are asked to submit pictures of themselves and their pet(s) for an upcoming special section, "People and their Pets."

MAIL PICTURES TO:

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- Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like your picture returned.
- Be sure to tell us who's who in your picture. A 60-word or less writeup on your pet is optional.
- Submissions must be postmarked by June 30. The Observer will publish as many as possible.

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Hello: The familiar friendly voice of former WJR midmorning man Jimmy Lounce is back on the air at WYUR. / B1

A guess: Where can you find food from dozens of fine restaurants and top entertainment in one spot this Sunday? / B1

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On the march



In tune: Harrison High School's Marching Band (above) as well as North Farmington's band (not pictured) kept the parade on pace. At right, Kenny Kulbaba, 9, marched in place of his grandfather, Pete Kulbaba. He shows a D-Day T-shirt that was given to him by veteran Jack Curd.

Marching for Memorial Day

Rainy, humid weather didn't deter visitors from the annual Veterans Memorial Day Parade, speeches, ceremonies and music in downtown Farmington Monday.

But a 9-year-old boy, Kenny Kulbaba, who walked in place of

his late grandfather, Pete Kulbaba, brought some sunshine to the morning event.

"He did really well," said Kenny's mom, Karl of Farmington Hills. "But he broke down after. It was overwhelming for

Please see MARCH, A2



Mission 2007 plan on target

Farmington school officials say they are on track and making plans for the future to ensure 'excellence and equity' for all students.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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Progress toward achieving all of the goals of the Mission 2007 strategic plan continues on track, according to a lengthy year-end report detailed

during Tuesday night's Farmington Board of Education meeting.

Diving into the report were district administrators Judy White, Cheryl Cannon and Sue Zurvalow, who summarized progress during 1998-99 in instruction, technology-facilities and staff-community relations, respectively.

The Mission 2007 strategic plan was formulated in 1994 to help plan for the future, based on two major pillars of "excellence and equity" for all students. The strategic plan, designed with input from school employees, parents and community members, contained 103 action plans. Prior to this year, 66 of those had been addressed, according to the district.

"This is just a staggering array of initiatives that show excellent progress toward our goals," said Frank Reid, school board treasurer, following the report.

Secretary Linda Enberg noted that

Please see MISSION, A5

Closed: 99 Cent Store leaves center

BY TIM SMITH
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So far, there isn't much evidence to signal the end of one Downtown Farmington Center store and the beginning of another.

It's a handmade sign with one word, "Closed." As of Tuesday, it was in plain view taped inside the front window of

the now-empty 99 Cent Store, at the east end of the center. Another sign should go up soon, touting plans for the anticipated arrival of the Great Harvest Bread Company.

Inside the empty store on Tuesday, someone apparently was handling custodial chores connected with the transition.

"The 99 Cent Store vacated as of May

31st," Farmington City Manager Frank Lauthoff said Tuesday. "Last week, I spoke with the owner of Great Harvest (Ray Novelly) and he anticipates having the building today."

Novelly was asked by Lauthoff to put up a sign as soon as possible, letting customers know Great Harvest will open following extensive renovation.

Please see 99, A5

■ Another sign should go up soon, touting plans for the anticipated arrival of the Great Harvest Bread Company.

Help rescue the Rouge

On Saturday, people will have a chance to change their Hush Puppies in for mud puddles for the annual Rouge Rescue.

Some 200-300 volunteers are expected at the corner of Belfast and Middlebelt roads, which is south of Grand River and north of Eight Mile. Their mission: To unclog two major log jams and unearth debris in the Rouge River.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Work continues until 12:30 p.m. and is followed by lunch.

"We provide them with enough sugar and caffeine and then put them to work," said Jean Barrett of Farmington Hills Public Services Department.

After a solid four hours work and lunch, volunteers are usually ready for a nap, Barrett said.

The contingent includes a mixture of people who turn out every year with a sprinkling of new faces. Volunteers are asked to wear long-sleeved shirts and hard-soled shoes to minimize cuts and scratches while working in the river.

The Rouge River Basin has been designated as an area of concern, more than 1.5 million people in Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties live in the Rouge River Watershed Basin.

Now showing 'Soup's on' at the Civic

BY TIM SMITH
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"Soup's on" at the Civic, as in Soupy Sales. And so far, it's a good recipe for success at Farmington's landmark independent theater on Grand River.

Soupy Sales will perform at 9 p.m. Saturday, June 5, preceded by two other stars of Detroit's 1950s-1960s television heyday — Johnny Ginger and Mary "Wiclie" Welch.

A few \$25 tickets remain, said Civic owner Greg Hohler. Originally, a Friday night performance was scheduled, but it had to be canceled due to slow ticket sales. (Call 248-473-7777 for information.)

"It's been working out well," said Hohler about the booking of Sales in recent years, which is handled through the comedian's promoter. "We've been doing it for three years, four years."

Ginger and Welch will start the show with solo standup routines and then be followed on stage by Sales. Just a month or so ago, the theater hosted three sold-out shows by Gallagher II, the brother of the more-popular fruit-crushing performer.

Although Hohler isn't "giving up the movie business," he emphasized the need to have live performances booked whenever possible. In addition, he rents the Civic out for birthday parties, corporate doings and other endeavors.

Venue versatility for a theater such as the Civic is crucial more than ever because of the explosion of mega-screen multiplexes in the area. There are 108 movie screens within a seven-mile drive of downtown Farmington.

"You need to have Soupy Sales (shows) and

■ 'You need to have Soupy Sales (shows) and I'm doing more corporate rentals... You need to juggle the books to make sure it (the ink) comes up black instead of red.'

Greg Hohler
—Civic owner

I'm doing more corporate rentals," Hohler said. "... You need to juggle the books to make sure it (the ink) comes up black instead of red."

For Saturday's performance, a souvenir booth featuring Soupy coffee mugs and T-shirts will be set up, with those proceeds going to the comedian. But Hohler will pocket the money from popcorn sales.

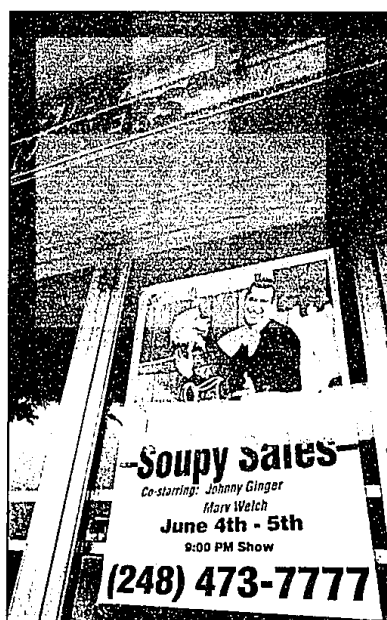
"I'll run my usual concession stand, but they bring in souvenir," said Hohler.

The future of such independent theaters is tenuous at best because of the glut of facilities such as the new AMC-20 on Haggerty Road in Livonia.

"It's hurt us," said Hohler, about the AMC-20. "It's cut us by another 25 percent."

The Farmington Civic is the longest continuous family managed independent theater in metropolitan Detroit, with the Hohler's having opened it in 1940. Hohler said the Penn Theatre in Plymouth, and the Shores movie house in St. Clair Shores are the only other downtown independents still operating.

Please see SOUPY, A5



Starring: Comedian Soupy Sales will revisit the Civic this weekend.



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