

# Farmington Observer

Thursday  
January 20, 2000

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 113 years

HomeTown  
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK  
Putting you in touch  
with your world

VOLUME 113 NUMBER 34

Published Monday • 60 pages • http://observer.earthlink.net

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Robbery suspect held, awaits charge

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@homecomm.net

This much is certain: Two cartons of cigarettes were stolen about 4 p.m. Tuesday from the Sunoco gas station at 31233 Grand River, and a 37-year-old Berkley man will be charged in connection with the incident.

But whether a handgun was used to steal those cigarettes is a thorny question yet to be determined.

The question might be answered sometime Thursday in 47th District

Please see ROBBERY, A8

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

### ENTERTAINMENT

Community bands: Enjoy two great community bands on Sunday when the Farmington Community Band and Birmingham Concert Band present a joint concert. /E1

### INDEX

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| At Home              | D      |
| Classified Index     | H1     |
| Autos                | J3     |
| Home & Service Guide | J2     |
| Jobs                 | H5     |
| Rentals              | H3     |
| Community Life       | B1     |
| Crossword            | H2     |
| Obituaries           | A10    |
| Opinions             | A16-17 |
| Sports               | C1     |

## Lauhoff honored by coalition

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@homecomm.net

In February 1997, when Estralee Michaelson urged the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils and school board to step up drug and violence prevention initiatives, it was Frank Lauhoff who hit the nail on the head.

At that meeting the Farmington city manager implored other community leaders to get to work on tackling those issues.

Nearly three years later, coalition executive director Michaelson formally honored Lauhoff during Tuesday evening's Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition meeting at the Farmington Training Center.

Please see HONORS, A10



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZELER

**Story time:** When asked about sexism in the media both Secretary of State Candace Miller and Attorney General Jennifer Granholm denied experiencing overt problems, then told funny stories about their mothers' reactions to their daughter's accomplishments.

## Rising stars

Granholm, Miller won't commit to gov's race



The two highest ranking state officials talked business at OCC Tuesday.

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER  
pmurphy@homecomm.net

If Jennifer Granholm and Candice Miller ever run against each other, there would be no mudslinging and no negative campaign advertising.

Michigan's attorney general and secretary of state each said as much Tuesday after their joint appearance before the Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of

## FARMINGTON HILLS

the Society of Professional Journalists at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

It was a cordial encounter, with Granholm and Miller complimenting each other and talking about shared experiences — like the sexist comments and letters they received early in their careers as Michigan's highest

Please see STARS, A7

## King's birthday builds bridges

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@homecomm.net

Dancers from Detroit joined East Middle School students Monday to perform a moving, enthusiastic Martin Luther King Jr. program that the slain social rights leader would have been proud of.

The fourth annual program at East, titled "Building Bridges," combined music, dance and drama with the day's prevailing message of unity and brotherhood.

Among the highlights was a rendition of "Emmanuel" by the New Creation Liturgical Dancers, an artistic ministry of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. Under the direction of the Rev. Emily Purdue, a troupe of eight costumed dancers twirled and glided gracefully on the gymnasium floor.

From the wings of the gym, Hervey and Veronica Jenkins proudly watched their daughter Christina contribute to the performance. "It was a beautiful program," said Hervey Jenkins as East students left the gym to return to their classrooms for further discussion about King and his impact on today's society. "It keeps us conscious of a dream. What they always said was to keep the dream alive, and this certainly does that."

East seventh graders Amber Brown and Darrell Lewis also were uplifted by the program, hosted by the Farmington district school's



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZELER

**Song and dance:** Above, the Tabernacle New Creation Liturgical Dancers perform, while at right "Serengeti: An African Rhapsody" is performed by the combined Seventh and Eighth Grade Band, directed by David Drake.

multicultural committee.

In particular, they liked a student-performed drama based on King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Clusters of students stood at different stations in front of a computerized collage of King, created by the eighth-grade art class of teacher Illia Magurek (who last week left the Farmington district school to move to Chicago).

The spotlight bounced from one cluster to another. When a specific group of kids became illuminated, students recited a portion of the famous 1963 speech.

At the conclusion of the "Dream Collage" drama, written by East

teacher Catherine Cordle, all of the small clusters melded into one total unit, repeating King's plea to "stand up for freedom together."

"That part when they did the skit," continued Amber afterward, "it just put something in everybody's mind that they have to treat everybody equal."

Darnell remarked about how "everybody was joining in unity."

Among school district officials attending the program were Superintendent Bob Maxfield and Priscilla Broutelle, president of the board of education.

"This was the best," Maxfield said.

Please see KING, A11

## Survey: Cultural arts in demand

BY JONI HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbard@homecomm.net

An extensive survey of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents has provided a mountain of information to direct local programs and activities.

But as Hills cultural arts coordinator Nancy Coumoundouras pointed out, "It's only a beginning."

Conducted by mail and telephone last summer, the survey was designed to help a committee representing both communities develop a Cultural Arts Master Plan. Pollsters at Business Research Group in



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZELER

**Results:** Cultural arts director Nancy Coumoundouras talks about survey results.

Birmingham asked questions ranging from overall opinions about community arts and cultural activities to levels of interest in specific events. "They were relatively parallel," Coumoundouras said of the phone and written surveys. "We were

Please see SURVEY, A8

## Participate in partisan primaries by registering

BY JONI HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbard@homecomm.net

If you ask local Republican Club President Ben Marks, the upcoming partisan primaries ought not be so political.

While that might seem like an odd sentiment coming from one of the Farmington area's partisan leaders, consider that both Republicans and Democrats will be allowed to vote in each other's pre-election ballots. The GOP will hold its open primary Feb. 22 and Democrats their caucus on March 11.

To participate at all, however, citizens need to register by Jan. 24. Both parties have begun efforts designed to get people off their duffs and into the process of representative government.

"You can only lead them to the water," Marks said. "You can't make them drink."

City clerks in both Farmington Hills and Farmington aren't expecting a huge rush on registrations, but that's not to say the number of voters won't

increase. Of more than 80,000 citizens, 65,000 are registered to vote in Farmington Hills; of 10,170, 7,711 have signed up in Farmington.

"We'll pick up a number of them this year," said Hills Clerk Kathy Dornan. "We see more activity in presidential election years."

While some folks will jump on the bandwagon for the primaries, Dornan and Farmington City Clerk Patsy Cantrell expect the real push to come in time for the November general election.

"We haven't seen any kind of increase that's notable yet," Cantrell said.

Michigan Republicans and Democrats select their candidates differently. The slate of candidates in the Feb. 22 primary will include the Democratic and Reform parties as well, but those ballots include only the names of Lyndon LaRouche Jr. and Donald Trump, respectively.

The Republican Party section, on the

Please see PRIMARIES, A10

Looking for a new job?  
Find a great one that's just  
right for you in the  
Employment Section of  
today's  
HomeTown Classifieds



6 53174 10005 4