

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Coalition meeting:
Adolescent depression and teen suicide are becoming more common. Farmington's Call to Action has a plan to help kids. Please see C-5.



Farmington HomeTown Life, Honored as one of the best lifestyle sections in Michigan

Our past: A salute to Black History month: read about the Wilsons, the first African American family to settle in town. Vintage Farmington. Please see C-5.

Farmington Observer wins honors in contest

The Farmington Observer has won two awards from the Suburban Newspaper of America in their annual national competition.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as a group won 30 SNA awards; the O&E papers are a subsidiary of our parent company, HomeTown Communications Network.

The Farmington lifestyle section (HomeTown Life) edited and designed by Mary Rodrigue won a first place.

In the breaking news category, new Farmington community editor Joni Hubred won a second place for "S'f'd man charged in child sex case."

Hubred was a reporter at the time of the story last year.

Award categories are based on circulation size.

The Observer Newspapers earned second-place honors in the best entertainment/lifestyle section category.

A second place award went to the Observer for business coverage for the

Please see **CONTEST, A4**

INDEX

Apartments/C4
At Home/C1
Automotive/H1
Classified/E,F,G,H
Classified
Index/G2
Crossword/G3
Entertainment/B1

HomeTown
Life/C5
Jobs/G6
Obituaries/A7
Opinions/A8-9
Real Estate/G1
Service Guide/G12
Sports/D1

FHS teen part of Hills drug raid

Police say again they find guns, drugs and money in an affluent Farmington Hills neighborhood.

By JON HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
jhubred@oe.hometown.net

A Farmington Hills couple and their teenage son face drug and weapons charges following a raid on their 9 Mile Road home Friday night.

The seizure of 11.5 kilos of marijuana, \$49,105 in cash, five handguns, two long guns and a sawed-off shotgun marked the second time in less than a month that the South Oakland Narcotics Information Consortium has spearheaded a large raid in a Hills residential neighborhood. This was also the third major drug bust in Farmington Hills in less than a month.

On Jan. 12, Oakland County's Narcotics Enforcement Team arrested a Florida man as he drove through the community with 26 kilos of cocaine in his car. About 36 hours later, SONIC, which consists of officers from Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Novi and the county Sheriff's Department, raided a home on Highmeadow and confiscated three-quarters of a pound of heroin.

Though the latest seizure wasn't quite as large, it did have an unusual twist, Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said.

Please see **DRUGS, A10**



Top of their game: Steve Moreland runs camps and clinics for the Pistons. Matthew Brisker and Brett Valance toss their basketballs high and catch them.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BREZLER

Alameda kids have own hoop dreams

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.hometown.net

Jerry Stackhouse wasn't at Tuesday's Detroit Pistons basketball clinic at Alameda Early Childhood Center. Mateen Cleaves wasn't there either. Heck, not even Hooper the mascot was there.

But Steve Moreland and J. W. Ruff from the Pistons' staff were.

Please see **HOOP, A5**



Push pass: Megan Burkhardt practices her passing.

Year Round School holds open house, tour

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.hometown.net

Parents and staff members of the Gill Year Round Education Program are leading the charge to add crucial enrollment for the Farmington district school of choice. They should soon know how successful their campaign has been.

At 7 p.m. Monday, at Gill Elementary School (where the program is based), prospective parents are invited to attend an informational meeting.

"Come and Safari With Us!" will feature discussions about the program's benefits and extenders as well as a tour.

While Principal Gayle Zimmerer, teacher Vicky Shaw and parent Terry Mass talk to parents, children will take their "safari" throughout the building. Fun activities and refreshments will be provided.

The evening is hoped to bolster interest and enrollment, enough for the school district to keep alive the ninth-year program — an alternative to the traditional school calendar.

One of the likely topics of Monday

night's meeting is the inconsistency of school calendars in the district, primarily because there is no year-round option for middle- or high school-age students, Zimmerer said.

Currently, there are about 100 students enrolled in the Gill Year Round Education Program. Many of those students live in the Gill Elementary School attendance area, but some do live elsewhere in the district.

"Our short-term goal (for 2001-02) is 120-to-130 students," said Zimmerer this week, looking forward to the meeting. "Our long-term goal is to double

our numbers."

Numbers needed

The latter would enable the program having a facility all to itself, said Zimmerer. Currently, the year round program shares the facility at 21195 Gill Road with the traditional elementary school.

Earlier, Zimmerer projected that the school would need another 40-to-50 newcomers for 2001-02 just to reach the desired enrollment goal of 120-to-

Please see **GILL SCHOOL, A4**

Joni Hubred named new Observer community editor

Joni Hubred has been named editor of The Farmington Observer.

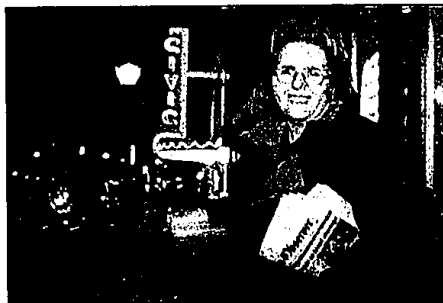
Hubred, who has been the Farmington Hills reporter since December 1999, begins her new post on Monday, Feb. 5.

"It is my pleasure to appoint Joni Hubred as the new community editor for The Farmington Observer," said Hugh Gallagher, managing editor for the Observer newspapers. "Joni brings a strong background in community journalism as a reporter and community editor. Her columns have provided sensitive commentary on numerous local issues. As a reporter for the Observer, she has already developed strong connections with the Farmington community. I

expect Joni to carry on the tradition of outstanding community journalism that the Farmington community has come to expect from The Observer."

She began working for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in April 1999 as a reporter for The Oxford Eccentric. In her native Minnesota, she was managing editor of Lakeville Publishing, newspapers serving the suburban Minneapolis communities of Lakeville and, ironically, Farmington. She managed a staff of 14 there. She worked for Lakeville Publishing for 10 years.

Please see **EDITOR, A4**



On the job: New community editor for the Farmington Observer is Joni Hubred, a veteran of suburban news reporting.

One-of-a-kind

Farmington firm busy building for auto industry

By DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Schenck Motorama in Farmington is completing its seventh year in the city and enters the new millennium busy building one-of-a-kind assembly line tools for the automotive industry.

A visitor to Schenck Motorama this past week would see on the plant floor several complex machines, including:

■ State-of-the-art transmission test stands being built for General Motors Baltimore.

■ A fluid fill system unit for Saturn that adds transmission, brake and coolant and AC fluids to the vehicle.

■ A variety of tools that assemble components to the chassis of the GM 560 truck.

■ A unit that installs sunroof assemblies on the Ford Focus. The tool will be sent to the Wayne Assembly Plant on Michigan Avenue.

■ A complicated tool that will

Please see **COMPANY, A3**



Automation: The company president is Homer T. Harrison, here with a truck chassis tool.

AVALON 1997
XL, 4 door, outstanding condition, moon roof, \$10,895 best

Call your favorite car dealer or contact us at 734-591-0900

WANTED: WORKERS
We are looking for experienced workers for our new plant in Farmington Hills. Call us at 734-591-0900 for more information.

