



FARMINGTON Observer

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Out-Towns



Military families

The Food Bank of Oakland County wants to ensure that no military family goes hungry while loved ones are away on duty. Anybody experiencing a food shortage is encouraged to contact FBOC for assistance. For more information, call (248) 332-1473.

The Food Bank of Oakland County is one of 197 America's Second Harvest National Food Banks. Last year, the FBOC distributed 6.3 million pounds of food throughout Oakland County. Its mission is to alleviate hunger and poverty by securing, storing and distributing food, information, personal care items and household products to emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in Oakland County.

Jeopardy!

Jason Siefert of Farmington Hills will be traveling to Chicago to audition for "Jeopardy!"

Siefert is a sixth-grader at Warner Middle School and an honor roll student.

Ice-Capades

Freezing rain hit the community north of Ten Mile Road on Thursday night. This closure of ice coating pine needles was taken near Thirteen Mile Road and Halstead. Farther north the



Ice caused trees to fall, slicked up the roads and closed schools, but no power outages or serious accidents were reported locally.

Rent-A-Donation

Enterprise Rent-A-Car along with the help of The American Red Cross will host a blood drive on Friday, April 18 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Rent-A-Car located at 29301 Grand River. For more information, call (248) 426-1400 ext. 241.

Goshorn, Swaim enter Board race

BY SUE BRUCK
STAFF WRITER

Two more candidates have filed to run for the Farmington School Board.

Farmington Hills residents Cheryl Swaim, co-owner of Falcon Stamping, Inc., a small metal stamping business in Howell, and John Goshorn, a Ford Motor Co. employee, will run in the June 9 election.

Goshorn ran unsuccessfully in 2001.

They join Karen Bolsen, a Farmington Hills resident and co-chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Council, who filed in February.

Both Swaim and Bolsen filed nominating petitions. Goshorn took advantage of the law change this year and paid a non-refundable \$100 filing fee,

according to Judy Steinhebel of the Farmington Public School District.

Nominating petitions are due 4 p.m. Monday at the school board office.

There is one open four-year seat, because School Board President Linda Enberg decided not to run for re-election after two terms.

Swaim holds a bachelor of science degree from Oakland

University's School of Business Administration, with a marketing major and an economics minor.

She is a former radio reporter who reported news in both Ionia and Port Huron.

Swaim's husband, Joel, works in sales for Saks Fifth Avenue.

They have a son, Jon, in the sixth grade at East Middle School and a daughter, Shannon, a third-grader at

Beechview Elementary. Swaim has lived in the district 14 years.

"The two items that came up which started leading me to other areas of the school system were senior project as a graduation requirement and open enrollment Section 105," Swaim said.

She has no problem with the senior project concept as an

PLEASE SEE RACE, A8



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wooddale students presented several songs for the crowd of students, parents, school officials and local politicians during the Blue Ribbon school celebration.

Wooddale celebrates Blue Ribbon achievement

BY SUE BRUCK
STAFF WRITER

Wooddale Elementary School in Farmington Hills, which made a first-class effort to show its excellence, was honored as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Friday.

They welcomed local and state officials who came bearing compliments.

The school learned of the award in January. State Board of Education officials presented the school with an engraved plaque that bears a blue flame.

State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi brought

PLEASE SEE ELEMENTARY, A6

Bromm's assignment: Pentagon

BY SUE BRUCK
STAFF WRITER

Patriotism never ebbs and flows with Fred Bromm.

The 40-year military veteran displays the flag from his home library window and proudly considers himself "twice the citizen."

A colonel who was the grand marshal for last year's Farmington Memorial Day Parade, Bromm will be mobilized with the U.S. Army for two years in Washington D.C.

"I'll work in the Pentagon in direct support of our efforts in the free world — with particular emphasis on the Mideast and homeland defense," said Bromm, 57.

He will work with the army materiel command in support of fielding and resupplying all systems.

While Bromm has no qualms about war-time duty, he said, "War is the nightmare of the soldier."

In the military since age 17,

PLEASE SEE BROMM, A6

Gaines gives advice to aspiring novelists

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Award-winning author Ernest J. Gaines had six words of advice for budding novelists.

"Read, read, read, write, write," he said.

Gaines spoke Thursday at the Farmington Community Library auditorium on 12 Mile.

About 200 people were in

attendance for the event, sponsored by Metro Net Library Consortium, which encourages readers in the metro area to read and discuss a specific book each year.

This year, Gaines' award-winning novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*, was chosen.

The story, set in 1940s Louisiana, is about two black men — a death-row inmate wrongfully convicted of murder and a teacher at a

plantation school — who struggle to live and die with dignity.

Gaines told the audience he grew up under the care of his crippled aunt for his first 15 years, on a sugar plantation in rural Louisiana. He is the oldest of 12 and was responsible for reading and writing letters to his older relatives, who were illiterate.

"After writing down, 'We're fine, how are you?' I realized I

had to start asking questions," Gaines said. "What I did trained me as a writer."

Moving as a teen to California, he said his father asked him what he was going to do with his time, having seen Gaines hanging out on the street corner with his friends.

"I could either go to the movies, the YMCA or the

PLEASE SEE GAINES, A6

Southfield's TV Orient taps into Arab satellites



JERRY ZOLTSEFF/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TV Orient owner Wally Jedan closely monitors satellite feeds from the Middle East, including Iraq, so he gets a more complete picture of how the Iraqi war is progressing.

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Inside TV Orient's Southfield studio there is a buzz of activity. Phones are ringing. People are coming and going. And the air is filled with a jumble of Arabic-speaking voices emanating from the many televisions spread along one wall.

TV Orient's satellites pipe in news programs from all over the world, especially from the Middle East. TV Orient's staff constantly monitors networks such as Aljazeera and the Lebanese Broadcasting Company, as well as news from Saudi Arabia, Egypt,

Syria and Iraq.

And as is the case in America, the news from the Middle East these days almost entirely centers on the war in Iraq.

TV Orient owner and general manager Wally Jedan has watched so much news since the war began nearly three weeks ago, bags are starting to form under his eyes.

"All I'm doing all day long is watching the news. I've been staying up until 4 a.m., and the first thing I do when I get up is turn on the news. We pick up about 20 Arab satellites, so we are monitoring a lot of information," said

PLEASE SEE STATION, A4

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LOOKING AHEAD

Living History
In Thursday's At Home, read about how a West Bloomfield residence, built in the late 1840s, was restored and reintegrated.

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