

FARMINGTON Observer

Sharp team
Skill with knives helps Salon team take culinary competition. Taste, B1



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OUR TOWNS

Favorite



Time's with

We want to hear about your favorite outing with your father, whether it be a camping trip, a baseball game or a quiet morning spent together fishing at a secret watering hole. If you have pictures of the event, great, because we'd love to see them. We plan to publish these stories on Father's Day, June 15.

Please send your stories and pictures to Renee Skoglund, Observer Newspapers, 26251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; fax: (734) 591-7279; e-mail: rskoglund@oe.hometown.com. Call her at (734) 953-2128. Please respond by June 2.

Route closed

Grand River Avenue will be closed to traffic between Orchard Lake and Gill roads from 9:45 a.m. until about noon Monday, May 26.

The annual Memorial Day Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Grand River just west of Orchard Lake Road and proceed to Memorial Park which is on Grand River just west of Farmington Road. Alternate routes of travel include the M-5 expressway, and freedom and Shawassee roads, said Mike Wiggins, deputy director of public safety.

City of Farmington residents should also plan to put their garbage out one day later next week for pickup.

Art corridor

The wildlife photography of Ron Meyer is currently on display at Farmington Hills and Farmington City Halls.



The exhibits, on display through June 24, are part of the "Art in the Corridor" series, sponsored by the Farmington Area Art Commission and City of Farmington Hills Special Services Department. Farmington City Hall is in downtown Farmington, on Liberty at Grand River. For information, call the Hills Cultural Arts Division, (248) 473-1857.



BILL BRISLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

City swap

The annual Mayor's Exchange Day brought officials from Saline to Farmington Thursday, after local officials enjoyed a day in the western Michigan community the previous week. Thursday's visit included lunch at John Cowley & Sons on Grand River, then a tour of the Civic Theater. Above, Saline Mayor Gretchen Driskell and Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell discuss the state of the downtown area.

Despite student pleas, drama prof's out

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

More than a dozen students pleaded Monday with the Oakland Community College's Board of Trustees to keep the college's theater director in her current position.

The arguments didn't change the board's position. Carol Thomas King, who has led the theater department at Farmington Hills' Orchard Ridge campus for the past two years, says she is being unfairly let go because of personal conflicts with management at the college. If the board wouldn't immediately reverse management's position, students asked members to at least consider an investigation into the matter.

PLEASE SEE PROFESSOR, A7

Farmington Optimists honor Bateman, Tobin

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Anthony Bateman and T. Derek Tobin are the 2002 Optimist Club Police Officers of the Year.

The officers will be honored at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at Evans Restaurant, located at 12 Mile and Drake Roads in Farmington Hills.

Police Chief William Dwyer

will recount the officers' meritorious acts and career accomplishments, including a serious injury Bateman sustained last year.

On Feb. 16, 2002, the metro area was hit with an ice storm that forced the closure of many area roads. The M-5 expressway near Orchard Lake was closed temporarily until it could be salted by road crews. While picking up road

flares after the road re-opened to traffic, Bateman was struck by a van, which propelled him 147 feet. He landed on pavement.

Tobin witnessed the accident and immediately called for assistance, then went to Bateman and detained the driver who struck Bateman.

The fallen officer suffered injuries to his vertebrae, knees, ankles, shoulder, head

and multiple internal injuries. The 39-year-old driver of the vehicle was charged with failure to use due care and caution when passing stationary emergency vehicles, a felony, and also with delivery and manufacture of marijuana after officers discovered 14 pounds of marijuana in the van he was driving.

ppace@oe.hometown.com | (248) 477-5400

Hills resident dedicates 63 years to Sisters

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

It's nearly unheard of for an employee to give 63 years of dedicated service to the same company.

But Ruth Smith of Farmington Hills can boast just that. In fact, she has been involved with her employer, Sisters of

Mercy, her whole life, and even in retirement continues that dedication.

Smith or "Ruthie" as her friends call her, was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids and attended Holy Name School.

During a summer break in the ninth grade, she worked at Mount

PLEASE SEE SMITH, A8



BILL BRISLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ruth Smith straightens up the gift shop.

LOOKING AHEAD

Predator or scavenger?
In Thursday's Arts section: Robotic dinosaurs tell the tale of T. Rex at Cranbrook Institute of Science.



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