

Baby boomers take on parenthood, 1D



Basketball results

Schools hear views on overcrowding, 2A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

**NO toboggans.** To ensure safety, toboggans are no longer allowed on the Shawwassee Hill, an area at Shawwassee and Farmington roads commonly used for sledding during winter. "Safety is a concern and, therefore, it has been decided that tobogganing will not be permitted," said Graham Lewis, Farmington Public Schools superintendent. The area is jointly prepared for winter activities by the school district and the city of Farmington. The hill is on school property.

**ROUND two.** Bids are due Friday for the first phase of \$1.5 million in streetscape improvements in downtown Farmington. Initial bids were taken during 1987, when the project was supposed to start. But only one bid was received and the DDA rejected it. The bid will be awarded at either the regular DDA meeting Feb. 2 or a special meeting Feb. 12. The entire downtown improvement is expected to take up to five years.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week -- In an unprecedented move, the Farmington Hills City Council, at Police Chief William Dwyer's request, adopted a 35-day emergency loitering ordinance. The ordinance was sought to help move along teenagers who lingered aimlessly in and around shops and restaurants along Orchard Lake Road.

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**Dream for peace**  
Melissa Fross (standing) and Courtney Batherson are just two of Rotts Londen's Wooddale Elementary third graders celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., a national holiday observed today. The Farmington Public Schools class studied a unit on black history, then created special T-shirts. Courtney's shirt asked for "a dream for peace"; Melissa's said King's dream "can come true." All the third graders are wearing their shirts today. The wall display was done by Wooddale teacher Ethel Herron. For details of a Detroit-area discussion offering "Perspectives on Apartheid," see Page 3A.

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington senior high school principals believe it will be business as usual for student newspapers, despite the U.S. Supreme Court decision giving them broad power to censor student newspapers. "My first reaction was that there really won't be any changes," said Gerald Potter, Farmington High principal. North Farmington principal Don Cowan and Harrison principal Clayton Graham agreed. The principals said generally, there have been no problems or need to censor student writers. "The journalism advisers are always giving them a lot of counsel," Graham said. "They have a good rapport with students." Lisa Girbach, student editor of "The Blue and White," the monthly Farmington High student newspaper, said that she and her staff never have been censored. "Our adviser reads everything," she said.

## Principals see few changes as result of U.S. court ruling

The Supreme Court's Jan. 13 ruling does bother Girbach a bit. "I just get the feeling that teenagers don't have any rights." BY A 5-3 vote, the justices ruled that a Hazelwood, Mo., high school principal did not violate students' free speech rights by ordering two pages deleted from an issue of a student newspaper. "A school need not tolerate student speech that is inconsistent with its basic educational mission even though the government could not censor similar speech outside the school," Justice Byron R. White wrote for the court. The dissenting justices accused the court of condoning "thought control," adding, "such unthinking contempt for individual rights is intolerable."

## Local hats cocked for Brotherton post

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The announced retirement of veteran Republican state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton of Farmington has fueled speculation about who's waiting in the wings to throw his hat into the political race. Brotherton's formal retirement announcement last week brought responses only from the Republican camp. But members of the Farmington Democratic Club said their party most likely will have a candidate by the May 31 filing date for the Aug. 2 primary. The presidential and general election is Nov. 8. Only longtime Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jan Dolan is publicly firm in her decision to seek election to Brotherton's seat. Other Republicans, including Farmington Hills resident Paul Weldon, former president of the Farmington Republican Club, and Michael Bouchard, president pro tem of the Beverly Hills Village Council,

are still considering. "Yes, I am running," said Dolan, 59. "I certainly know the communities in the 69th district. I know their needs." Dolan said she already has taken out nominating petitions. "I've had a lot of encouragement from colleagues over the years to give it a try."

BOTH WELDAY and Bouchard say they are very interested in the race. "I haven't formally announced," said Weldon, 29, who worked as Brotherton's legal assistant in 1981. "I'm still very seriously considering the race. I think I have a great chance." Bouchard is a Bloomfield Township police officer and owner of a private investigation and security company. "I am actively exploring the possibility of seeking the seat. I have to see what type of support groups are out there," said Bouchard, 31.

In an interview this week, Brotherton, 65, said he has been aware that others were awaiting his decision. "I'm sure there are some waiting and others quietly planning and positioning themselves."

Brotherton has represented Farmington and Farmington Hills for 14 years and the communities of Southfield Township, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin Village for six years, following legislative redistricting.

DOLAN HAS served on the Farmington Hills City Council since 1975. She served as mayor in 1978 and 1985.

Bouchard has served on the Bloomfield Township police force for 10 years and on the Beverly Hills council for two years. "I want to represent the communities on a full-time basis," Bouchard said.

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## Kemp-Robertson tops 18th GOP delegate tally

By Tim Richard

A janitor at 5:10 Friday morning turned out the lights to end a rump convention of unhappy George Bush delegates in the 18th Congressional District. Minutes earlier, they had walked out of the main convention in the Bloomfield Hills Lahser High auditorium, and the Kemp-Robertson majority adjourned it with a 2-1 victory. "Our coalition has held together

magnificently," said Paul Weldon of Farmington Hills, an operative for New York Congressman Jack Kemp's campaign. "We had a strong organization. In the last few days, we turned up the juice. We called everyone twice or three times."

NO OFFICIAL tally of the 11-hour convention was available because Dallas Haun, the exhausted chairman, piled reams of caucus reports in a box for sorting out later. Weldon's unofficial tally, supported by the Observer & Eccentric's

numbers, gave Kemp 59 state delegates; 56 for TV evangelist Pat Robertson; 49 for Vice President Bush; and one for Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas.

If it holds during credentials fights at the Grand Rapids convention Jan. 29-30, the result will be a stunning loss for Bush, because the 18th is Michigan's largest Republican district, and it's home to the Grand Old Party's mainsteam establishment.

The state convention will pick 77

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## Local student papers get good grades

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

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Lisa Girbach

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Joanne LaFleur, owner of Creative Corners of Learning in downtown Farmington.

## She's in business selling education

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Joanne LaFleur has traveled an educational path from teaching children with special needs, to her new career as a downtown Farmington merchant, which began last month. Even her new business, an education store, will bring the Farmington Hills parent new teaching challenges. Working with students one-on-one over the years has become a priority for the 10-year teaching veteran. "I like to see what you can get out of them," she said. "I like to take their interests and go with that, helping them meet the special needs inside them." "I think all kids are gifted in one way or another." LaFleur is known for her activity in gifted education programs throughout Michigan, including the Michigan Association for the Ac-

### people

demically Talented and the Farmington Association for Children with Exceptional Talent, or FACET, of which she is vice president.

IN ADDITION, she holds a master's degree in gifted education. She and her family have lived in Farmington Hills for five years. December was a turning point for LaFleur, when she opened Creative Corners of Learning, a school-aids store in downtown Farmington, where her wares are designed to help not only students, but also teachers and parents.

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