

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Threads of sadness: Members fashion quilt to mark MADD's 10th anniversary in Oakland County./7A**

**Hate crimes: Area minority leaders hope Michigan's ethnic intimidation law will protect them despite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling./5A**

## SPORTS

**All-Area softball: The top area players in high school softball are honored today with the presentation of the All-Observer team./1B**

**Summer baseball: North Farmington-West Bloomfield and South Farmington baseball teams were busy on the diamonds earlier this week./1B**

## BUSINESS

**Mail orders: One consequence of doing business by mail with out-of-state catalogs is sales tax avoidance. However, that could change in the future as conventional retailers push for changes in federal law./12B**

**Breakfast served: Olga's Kitchen, with several restaurants in metro Detroit and headquarters in Troy, started serving breakfast several months ago. Company honchos developed a plan to stand out from a market cluttered with competitors./12B**

## SUBURBAN LIFE

**Teen-age mother: Pregnant teen from Farmington, her boy friend and family talk about her unplanned pregnancy./1C**

**Schools helping: Area school districts can provide counseling and other ways to help expectant teen-age mothers with their pregnancy and their schooling./1C**

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Theater: The Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild's presentation of "Albertine in Five Times" is a show not to be missed. See the review./5B**

**Eating out: Family-owned Rochester Cafe offers affordable family meals in a casual and friendly atmosphere. Deep dish Sicilian pizza is a house specialty./5B**

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# State testing reveals gender bias

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Because passing state skill tests will soon be a requirement for graduation in Michigan, Farmington educators are looking carefully at test results and how they can be improved.

Part of that means bridging the "gender gap."

Although Farmington scores above state and county averages on the tests in reading, math and science, a recent report by the district's Office of Assessment, Evaluation and Special Projects shows the district must find a way to bridge the inequities in learning be-

## SCHOOLS

lieve to improve this," Superintendent Michael Flanagan said.

Some of the results include:

- In reading, fourth grade boys outperformed girls in Informational Reading and Total Reading categories by about eight percentage points. Though there was little difference in grade seven, by the 10th grade, girls were outperforming boys in the Story category by more than 16 percentage points and in Total Reading by more than four points.
- In math, boys outperformed girls in grades four and seven and 10. In grade four, there was a 12 percentage

point different, in grade seven about eight, and in grade 10 about five points.

Point different, in grade seven about eight, and in grade 10 about five points.

• In science, boys and girls performed at approximately the same levels in grades five and eight, but by grade 11, boys had a significant advantage of nearly nine percentage points.

Trustee Helen Prutow said she was surprised at some of the results, which go against traditional gender theory which shows boys strong in math and science and girls in reading and verbal skills at all levels.

See TESTING, 2A



Tour: Students Brian Fisher (left) and George Glover look through the glass.

## Love that lab!

A lab comes to life for school children thanks to a businessman who combines wry humor with a love of teaching. The man is Frank McLaughlin and the business is Analytic & Biological Labs.

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER



The building looks like any other along Independence Circle in Farmington Hills. But behind the

See LAB, 2A

## A kiss coming



Graduation fun: Kristen Ayres, a Farmington High graduate, has a kiss and hug for little brother Mike following ceremonies at the Cobo Center. For a story and more photos of the FHS graduation, please see Page 3A.

# House candidates tip their presidential picks

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

If the upcoming presidential election ends up being decided by the U.S. House of Representatives, how would the 11th District candidates vote?

Joe Knollenberg, who is running for the Republican nomination along with former Oakland county circuit judge Alice Gilbert and state Sen. David Honigman, Walter O. Briggs IV, and Michael Meyer are seeking the Democratic party's nomination.

"He's the proper person to be supported," said Knollenberg, an insurance executive from Troy.

"In my view, he (President Bush) will get the votes," said Knollenberg. "I believe strongly he would be the best president."

Knollenberg said as a businessman he has a kinship for successful entrepreneur/underdog candidate H. Ross Perot but is not sure how to view him.

"I think people have to look at him under a microscope," he said. "I don't have a complete sense of where he is."

Gilbert sees her role differently. "I would vote for the district," she

said. "I would vote as the district would vote."

Honigman said, "I'm a Bush supporter." But he added, "I'd be honored to represent the people in my district."

On the Democratic side, Briggs said, "I would be inclined to look at how the district voted, but ultimately I would vote by my conscience."

Briggs, who is making his second bid for the congressional seat, said he has "somewhat mixed feelings" about Perot. He has dealt with Perot's former company, Electronic Data Systems, and was not impressed with the business dealings.

Meyer, a teacher in Novi said the candidate with the most votes would be his choice.

**Joe Knollenberg**  
Republican candidate

See PICKS, 1A

## Kids and pets

For the 25th straight year, the Plaza Veterinary Hospital and Pets 'n Particulars will sponsor a children's pet show in conjunction with the Farmington Founders Festival.

This year's pet show comes as a part of Kids' Day at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, on the stage of the Showmobile at the Farmington City Park, Power and Shiawassee roads.

The show will include the following categories: ugliest pet, best trained pet (30 seconds to perform), most articulate pet, pet with waggiest tail, best dressed pet and owner, oldest pet, best presentation of a caged pet and fattest pet.

Trophies will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in each category.

Entry forms are available at the parks and recreation department playgrounds, the children's sections at both Farmington libraries, the Chamber of Commerce office on Grand River, the Farmington Area YMCA, pet shops and veterinary offices and re-

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

lected restaurants and businesses in the area.

The sponsors will have a float in the Founders Festival parade on Saturday, July 11, to give the entrants a chance to display their pets to the community.

## Botsford and blood

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills was awarded a fourth place in the annual Bloodhound Awards given to hospitals with the highest performance in American Red Cross mobile unit blood drives.

Botsford collected 32.2 units of blood for every 100 full-time employees. River District Hospital in St. Clair earned first place with 71 units, Cottage Hospital of Grosse Pointe was second with 34 and St. John

Hospital-Macomb center was third with 32.5. The competition was co-sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Hospital Council and the American Red Cross.

## Memory Lane

From the June 26, 1992 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

- Ground beef was advertised at 49 cents a pound at the Fil-Mar Market on Grand River near Eighth Mile. All brands of cigarettes were \$1.82 per carton at the same store, and Domino cane sugar was 89 cents for a 10-pound bag.
- Attraction at the Civic Theatre was "Torzan and the Leopard Woman" and "Tarzan and the Amazons" starring Johnny Weissmuller.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48335, or dropped off at the newspaper office.