



IN THE PAPER TODAY

Election results: For local vote totals, call 953-2024 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday following Tuesday's primary.

VOTE TOTALS

Timing is everything: One day before the primary, a state legislative panel is in Birmingham to hold a public hearing on election ethics. /11A

OPINION

Readers write: Farmington Observer readers speak out on several subjects. /10A

TASTE

Culinary Olympics: Local chefs practice razzle-dazzle culinary techniques to wow the judges at the World Culinary Art Salon in Frankfurt, Germany in October. The event, dubbed the Culinary Olympics, draws chefs from around the world. /1B

Chef's Secrets: Meet Carol Haskins, executive chef at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. "Cooking is an art," she said. "Every plate should be a work of art." /1B

SPORTS



Dream court: The George family has a basketball version of Field of Dreams in its backyard where it installed a full-court, blacktop surface. /1C

Tourney final: The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League determined its post-season tournament champion Friday night. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Window on Washington" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Killer taunts victims' families



Guiltily charged, said the Circuit Court jury Friday, as the murder trial of Edward Hopkins of Farmington Hills came to an end. A comment, supposedly made by Hopkins, led to some post-trial commotion in the courtroom.

By **SUE BUCK**
STAFF WRITER

A jury of seven women and five men may have written the script for the rest of Edward Hopkins' life Friday. Life in prison with no parole for the Farmington Hills resident — that was the jury's verdict in Oakland County Circuit Court Friday morning.

Hopkins, 25, was found guilty on two counts of first degree murder and two counts of felony firearms in the 1991 shooting deaths of Detroiters Latorrie Lee Carter, 18, and Ricardo Preston, 17, at his house on Inkster Road near Eight Mile in southern Farmington Hills.

Family members on both sides re-

portedly wept when the verdict was read.

"At least I'm alive," observers said they heard the convicted Hopkins say to the victims' family members as he was led out of Judge Robert Tempelin's courtroom.

Hopkins' statement drew angry words from Carter's father, Maurice, according to assistant prosecutor Roman Kalytiak.

Kalytiak called Hopkins' outburst "deliberate provocation."

"The defendant at no time showed remorse," Kalytiak said.

Tom McGinnis, Hopkins' court-ap-

pointed attorney, acknowledged the post-verdict commotion.

"Mr. Carter had to be held back by the deputies. He ripped off one sheriff's badge (accidentally while being restrained)," McGinnis said.

Temper flare

Bad feelings between the families surfaced during Hopkins' preliminary exam in the 47th District court last October. Tempers flared and Judge Fred Harris ordered the three families to stay away from each other.

See **GUILTY**, 4A

Teens shot at Mercy Center

By **TOM HAER**
STAFF WRITER

The flier announcing the "Shake What Ya Mama Gave Ya" dance Friday night at the Mercy Center promised "full security" for the event, which attracted 300 young people.

Unfortunately, that security didn't include the Farmington Hills Police Department. Had the local cops been notified of the event, said Police Chief William Dwyer, perhaps some urban violence could have been avoided.

As it was, two youths were shot and wounded and another suffered a cut hand after he put punched out a window. He apparently was trying to escape the chaos resulting from a fight and threats of shootings just after 11 p.m. Friday.

The shooter — described by police as a black male about 19 — was still at large Saturday afternoon.

"I'm upset with the Mercy Center," Dwyer said early Saturday at the facility on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt. "They should have called. We'd have been glad to help."

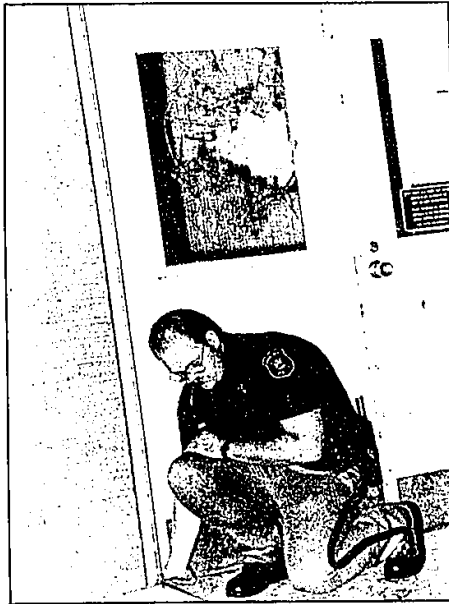
"We would have provided special patrols. With those patrols, perhaps the shootings could have been prevented. Police presence is a great deterrent."

Told of Dwyer's statement, Norma Todd, who handles bookings for the Mercy Center, said, "Had we known about potential problems, we certainly would have called the police. In fact, we probably wouldn't have taken the booking."

"But there was no reason for us to believe there would be trouble. Look, this is our business. We have dances, parties, receptions every week, and we don't call the police. There's no trouble."

The Mercy Center is owned by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy.

See **SHOOTING**, 2A



STAFF PHOTOS BY ART EMANUELE

After the party, Farmington Hills police officer Rick Gobel takes a measurement outside the Mercy Center after a shooting Friday. A partygoer at the Mercy Center put his hand through the window.



Where victim fell: Officer Ronald Shanlan kneels where one of the shooting victims fell Friday at the Mercy Center.

Together a long time

If marriages aren't really made in heaven, then how about at the Red Bell Nursery School?

That's where it all started 20-some years ago for Michelle Harrison and Preston Wesley Ports III, who tied the knot Saturday at Martin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

"It started at the Red Bell," said Martie Ports, mother of the bridegroom, "and it just followed the trail. They've gone together since 10th grade. They went to Michigan State University together."

"They have so much in common. If this marriage won't work, no marriage will."

Michelle and Wesley are Harrison High graduates. He in 1988, she in '87. Another thing they have in common: They're both children of teachers at Power

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Middle School in the Farmington District.

Martie Ports teaches French and advanced English at Power. Mary Harrison, Michelle's mother, teaches life management (home economics).

The newlyweds both work for the federal government in Washington, D.C. They'll make their home in Alexandria, Vir., following a short honeymoon in Maryland.

Safe for walkers

The city of Farmington was honored July 29 as a winner in the 53rd-annual AAA Michigan's Pedestrian Protection Program.

"We are proud to recognize the city of Farmington with a Pedestrian Safety Achievement Award for going 14 years without a pedestrian death," said AAA Michigan Community Service Manager Gerald Beach. "Ensuring the safety of pedestrians is clearly a priority in this community."

A panel of traffic safety judges considered death and injury rates, legislation, enforcement efforts, traffic engineering, school and traffic safety programs, public information and education.

Frank Laubhoff, director of public safety, and Mayor Bill Hansack attended the ceremony at AAA Michigan headquarters in Dearborn.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21688 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Family day lauds history

By **CAROL HANS**
STAFF WRITER

Circle Saturday, Aug. 22, on your calendar for an afternoon and evening of family fun in Farmington's Shiawassee Park.

"Family Day in the Park" is being organized by dozens of community volunteers as part of 125th Anniversary Celebration of Farmington's incorporation as a village, which occurred in 1867.

Events include something for just about everyone, and will carry an 1860's historical flavor.

Old-fashioned miniature boat races on the Rouge River, free games and crafts with an old-time flavor, a chicken barbecue, a bovine raffle, an old-timers baseball game, a historic dance demonstration, hayrides and square dancing will be the order of the day.

Best of all, everything except the barbecue and raffle is free, including a popcorn and lemonade wagon sponsored by Metrobank.

"The overwhelming part of this is . . . that it truly is a community effort — that's what's made it fun," said Farmington city councilwoman Shirley Richardson who has spearheaded the 125th anniversary effort with the backing of about 48 community volunteers and various groups.

Past highlighted

The Aug. 22 "Family Day in the

See **FAMILY FUN**, 4A

Election results on hotline

Tuesday is primary election day and as a service to our readers, the Observer election hotline has been established for your convenience.

Beginning on Wednesday morning, those interested in obtaining the latest update on election results can call 953-2024. This voice information service will allow a caller to select results from any of the several races covered in the Observer circulation area.

The service will run through Friday. Farmington-area voters will go to the polls to help decide several important races.

Of local interest is the non-partisan race for the judgeship in the 47th Dis-

See **ELECTION**, 2A