

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Survival: Some cancer survivors are sharing experiences and learning how to help themselves and others who suffer or have suffered from the disease./13A

COUNTY NEWS

Weighty issues: Waterford resident Robert Dustman goes from radio news at WWJ to weightlifting to public relations for Brooks Patterson./7A.

Toy shortage: Organizers of the Toys for Tots holiday charity report that collections are far behind the rate realized last year./5A.

Helping hand: The state will give funds to the multi-community project to rejuvenate the Eight Mile corridor./11A

ENTERTAINMENT

Musica Viva! Pianist Dickran Atamian opens the Musica Viva! series with an all Beethoven program. Reviewer Avigdor Zarompr says that Atamian possesses an abundance of artistic spirit and potential./9B

"The Nutcracker": Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and Plymouth-Canton Ballet company delivers a near flawless rendition of "The Nutcracker." The sets were consistently impressive considering the limits a community production inevitably faces./7B

SPORTS

Volleyball action: Farmington High lost to West Bloomfield in the final round of Saturday's Farmington Hills Harrison volleyball invitational./1B

Hopkins makes all-area: Harrison senior center Heather Hopkins capped her high school career by making the All-Observer first team./5B

CREATIVE LIVING

Animal magnetism: Two Southfield men have gone wild over art with their West Bloomfield shop. The business offers a variety of items, all with animal themes, by area artists./1D

INDEX

Building Scene . . . F
Business . . . 1C
Cable Connection 6A
Classifieds . . . D-G
Auto G
Real estate . . . E-F
Employment . . . F
Creative living . . . 1D
Crossword . . . 3E
Entertainment . . 7-9B
Obituaries . . . 6C
Opinion 20A
Police, fire calls . 4A
Personal scene . . 8F

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Beating at school angers mom



By Sue Buck

STAFF WRITER

A Clarenceville school district consultant, whose son sustained a closed head injury after being punched in Farmington High School last week, is calling for an end to violence in schools.

Jeanne LaFleur, a consultant to

Clarenceville district's gifted and talented program, wants to begin a networking group of parents, teachers and administrators and the community at large to work together on ideas that may help to make some very positive differences in children.

"I'm very angry about what hap-

pened," LaFleur said. She is considering a lawsuit.

According to principal Jim Myers and a Farmington police report, Kenneth LaFleur, 16, and another boy, 16, both Farmington Hills residents, were walking down a hallway before classes began on Dec. 8 when they bumped, apparently accidentally.

The boy told police and school officials that when he turned, he saw LaFleur looking at him. He then walked back and punched him, according to the report.

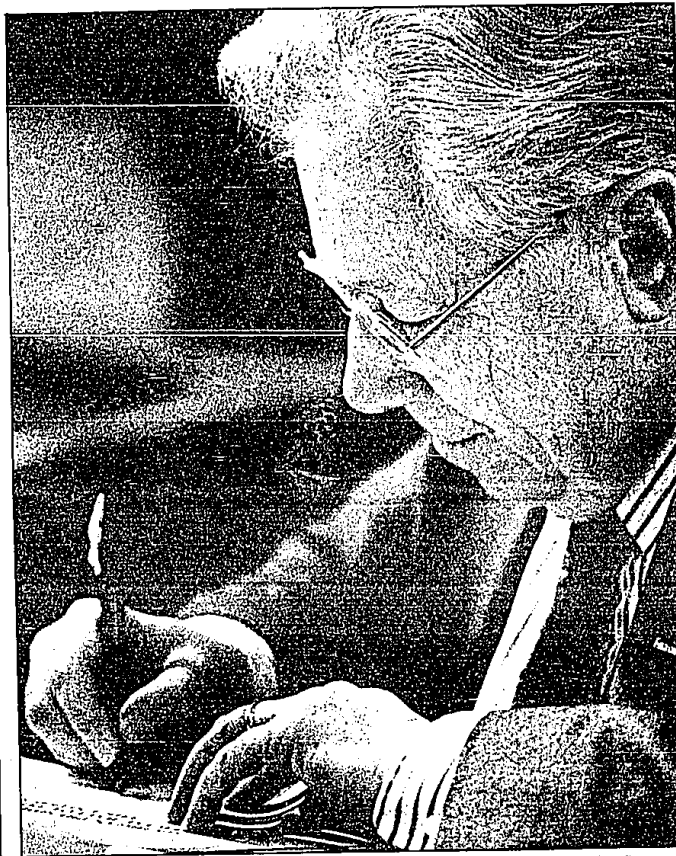
Police filed a petition for aggravated assault with Oakland County Pro-

bate Court. No date has been set for the hearing, said Gary Goss, deputy director of the Farmington public safety department.

Goss and Don Cowan, director of building and student services, said about 12 fights have occurred in Farmington High School this year. However, the police were called to the school for only two of the incidents. An ordinance violation was issued in the other incident. Cowan said that this is the same amount of fights as occurred last year. These fights occur

See BEATING, 2A

His vote counts



BILL HESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Electoral College vote: Farmington Hills City Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi casts one of 18 ballots at the Electoral College balloting in Lansing Monday. Vagnozzi, a longtime Democrat, represented the 11th Congressional District in the voting, which will make the presidential election results official. For more on Vagnozzi and the Electoral College, see Page 3A.

Organizers cancel debate on school tax plan

By Sue Buck

STAFF WRITER

Suppose someone called for a debate, but nobody wanted to come.

That's exactly what happened this week when Citizens for Quality Schools, a ballot issue committee, decided to call off its Dec. 16 debate to discuss the February school tax proposal.

No school administrators were invited to the debate. But school board members were.

The program was set for cablecast at 7 p.m. on Channel 8 from the Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.

Robert Ranney, group president, booked the room on Nov. 11. On Jan. 19, the Farmington school

district will cablecast its own informational program about the election scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 2. The proposal would consolidate the 35 operating renewals in a single ballot issue. The Jan. 19 cablecast is on Channel 10.

Ranney said that "by mutual agreement" he decided to cancel the

debate. "A one-sided debate wouldn't serve the public interest," Ranney said.

Dave Tietmeyer, a Farmington Hills city employee who directs videotaping, said that when he called Ranney on Monday to discuss the program format, he learned that the event had been cancelled.

church's front lawn near the road 7-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Wednesday, Dec. 23, and on Christmas Eve after the 5 p.m. family service.

The public is invited to come and see the tabernacle celebrating the birth of Jesus and listen as Christmas music tells the story.

Memory Lane

From the Dec. 18, 1952, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Lots of activity at the post office isn't new. Farmington Postmaster Charles Habermehl reported long lines in front of customer service windows. The post office had to hire 20 temporary workers for the holidays.

■ Farmington Goodfellows collected \$1,437.80 from their annual paper sale.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

or to chat at the snack counter over a coffee.

"This is our second year of participation in this event and the residents thoroughly enjoy themselves," said Janet Baker, who administers recreational programs. "It puts everyone involved into a festive spirit."

Re-enactment

Members of the Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, between 13 and 14 Mile roads, will portray the Holy Family and shepherds in a life-size creche set-up on the the

Shopping spree

Nine residents from the Botsford Continuing Health Center searched for the perfect holiday gifts and enjoyed many festivities at the Farmington Hills Target store Dec. 9.

Along with five BHC staff members, the residents enjoyed assisted shopping from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., a period Target devoted exclusively to them and more than 400 other senior citizens.

The BHC residents were in the true spirit of the season. Rosalie Costick found an ideal present for her 10-month-old grandson, Sarah Kogan had her picture taken with Santa Claus and Helen Owens described herself as being completely "shopped out."

Others paused to listen to the performances of various choirs and bands from area middle schools