

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Roll 'em: The cameras are rolling in Oakland County — especially in Farmington Hills — as a film industry flourishes. /3A

Arena on ice: Take a good look at some of the other cities that have gone into the ice arena business, experts advise. /4A

COUNTY NEWS

We the people: President Bill Clinton launches his dialogue with Americans from our town. /9A

OPINION

More on fights: SOSAD came to town for a meeting at the Farmington Branch Library. Hope the people listened. /20A

Bite by bite: Farmington's old order changeth. Pass the peas, please. /21A

SPORTS

Boys basketball: Farmington Harrison put its Western Lakes win streak to the test Tuesday night against powerful Westland John Glenn. /1B

County swimming: Farmington boys swim teams competed for county honors last weekend in the annual Oakland County championships. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Theater: "Nunsense" is habit-forming for playwright Dan Goggin, who is directing "Nunsense II" at the Birmingham Theatre. /6B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Relationship quiz: Just in time for Valentine's Day — Troy psychologists give you the clues to see how well you and your main squeeze are doing. /1C

Campbell's Soup Kid: A West Bloomfield 3-year-old, who looks just like the soup company's famous kid, has been picked as a national contest finalist. /2C

INDEX

Building Scene . . . 1F Crossword . . . 4E
Business . . . 10-12B Entertainment . . . 6-9B
Classifieds . . . E-G Obituaries . . . 18A
Auto . . . F-G Opinion . . . 20A
Employment . . . F-G Police, fire calls 19A
Real estate . . . E-F Personal scene . . . 6G
Creative Living . . . 1D

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Stop violence now, speaker says



Martin's message: Allen Martin of SOSAD has something to say about school violence.



The man from SOSAD — who knows something about violence in schools — came to town Monday to speak on that subject. "Think of prevention before it gets to the point where you are afraid to send these kids to school," he said.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Allen Martin of Save Our Sons And Daughters (SOSAD) came with a message: Act now to stop violence in the schools.

Martin spoke Monday to an attentive gathering of parents, students and officials at the Farmington Community Library.

The meeting was sponsored by Citizens Against Violence in the

Schools. Members of the newly formed group are trying to bring awareness to what they see as a growing problem.

Martin emphasized their assertion. "Think about prevention before it gets to the point where you are afraid to send these kids to school," Martin said. "If the problem is minor now, then fine. Start dealing with the prob-

See VIOLENCE, 6A



Reaching out: Dave Clinard, a Farmington High School senior, says he wants to reach out to fellow students by helping with self-esteem issues.

Neglect case points to wider problem

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Although they often don't make big news, child neglect cases are a common feature even in cities like Farmington Hills.

The case of a Farmington Hills woman accused of keeping her twin 6-year-old children chained inside her upscale Colony Park West home

while she went shopping has brought the issue back into the public eye. A St. Charles, Ill., couple accused of locking their children in their house while they took a Christmas vacation to Mexico gained national attention as the home alone case.

The Farmington Hills woman, Gloria Hanna, could face either felony or misdemeanor child abandonment

charges. Oakland County prosecutors had not decided on the charge as of Wednesday.

According to Farmington Hills Police, there were 60 reported cases of child abuse or neglect in the city last year. Investigating abuse and neglect cases falls into the hands of the Department of Social Services.

"We investigate all types of complaints — physical, sexual, emotional and neglect," said Don Mussen, director of child protective services in Oakland County. "About half of the cases are neglect or problems of supervision where the children are left home alone."

Mussen said the Hanna case, in

See ALONE, 2A

Millage OK doesn't end schools' worries

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Voters said yes by a 4-to-1 margin. The tax renewal passed. Farmington Public Schools has money for long-term planning.

So why do school officials look like

ANALYSIS

they just swallowed a chalkboard eraser?

In the schools' post-election glow, a buzzard circles overhead. In its beak

is a proposal by Governor John Engler that would cut school property taxes by 20 percent over three years.

Out-of-formula districts, like Farmington, would not receive a dime to make up the difference.

"The renewal helps us accomplish all we can do locally to stabilize our funding situation," said assistant superintendent for finance Bruce Barrett.

"What we have no control over is a

See ANALYSIS, 2A

Center closes home for pregnant women

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center will no longer operate Marillac Hall, a residence for unwed mothers-to-be and part of the Farmington Hills scene for more than 40 years.

Marillac Hall, which had housed about 25 young women, was closed at the end of January, along with Louisa Hall, another St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher facility which provided post-natal care for young mothers and their babies.

"It was a difficult decision for us to

make. It was a difficult decision for us to make. . . . We'll continue to serve pregnant teens, but we'll have to do it on more of an outreach basis."

Jean Vickers
Director of Professional Services
St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

make," said Jean Vickers, director of professional services at the center at 12 Mile and Inkster roads. "We'll continue to serve pregnant teens, but we'll have to do it on more of an out-

reach basis."

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center — operated by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul with a \$8-million budget — also cares for

about 60 abused and neglected children, but that operation won't be affected, Vickers said Tuesday.

She said that recent state cuts in revenue to social agencies under Gov. John Engler made the closings necessary.

"The cuts to social services have made it impossible for us to continue," she said.

However, Robert Cable, a program consultant for purchased care, part of the state Department of Social Ser-

See MARILLAC, 6A

Cotton won't seek re-election

John "Jack" Cotton will not run for a third term on the Farmington School Board.

The longtime educator made the announcement at Tuesday's board meeting. His second four-year term ends in June.

Cotton, 69, cited business commitments as one of the reasons for stepping aside. He owns The Travel Agent in Bloomfield Hills.

"There's a time for everything. Eight years is eight years," Cotton said. "I was talking with a couple of

former board members just the past two or three weeks. We're all of the opinion . . . our interest began to wane after six years."

The announcement is expected to open the field for candidates in this June's election. Trustee Helen Dishary is also up for re-election.

Cotton worked 27 years as an athletic director for Farmington schools. After retiring, he successfully ran for the school board in 1986 and was re-elected in 1989.

Also, he was a college professor at

Wayne State University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. He served as an assistant football coach at the university.

He plans to be involved with his alma mater's athletic program in a fund-raising role.

The decision not to run for a third term was made awhile back, Cotton said. He waited until Tuesday to make the announcement, though.

"It has been a great eight years, Jack," said school board president R. Jack Inch. "We'll miss you."



John Cotton