

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Parking patrol: Volunteers are helping Farmington Hills police enforce handicapped parking rules in the city./2A

COUNTY NEWS

Keeping a promise: L. Brooks Patterson got the thumbs up sign from the county board for a special staffer to work on problems of south Oakland communities like Southfield and the Farmingtons./5A

More to come: How Oakland University's board and campus carries out the new open meetings policy is now the issue./12A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

To market, to market: Downtown Farmington and Rochester consider going back to their roots to lure shoppers./8B

SPORTS

Boys basketball: Farmington Hills Harrison played for the Western Lakes Activities Association consolation title Saturday./1C

District hoops: Observer Sports Editor Brad Emons handicaps the area boys basketball teams in the post-season tournament./1C

TASTE

Better brews: Harry Patsalis offers tips for brewing cafe-quality espresso and cappuccino in the oh-so-popular automatic espresso machines./1B



Winner Dinner: Rodger Langley shares the recipe for an elegant chicken dish that's named after his daughter, Anais./1B

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HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

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Newspaper folds, owes money



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Jeff Setzer got the news the hard way that the place he worked in Farmington is out of business.

The sales representative for an ad shopper newspaper, The Homefront News, arrived at 9 a.m. Friday to find

a gone-bankrupt sign on the door.

Setzer said the paper's demise will be bigger news to those area businesses who paid for advertisements to appear in the March 17 issue.

"I'm afraid the people I took checks from I'm going to have to say to them,

"Look, we've both been had," Setzer said.

Setzer estimates he took in \$3,000 in checks from advertisers, which he turned over to Derek Gendron, described as the owner of Homefront Delivery Corp.

Gendron, whom colleagues said lived in Mulrwood Apartments in Farmington Hills, returned a call.

Asked about the business going bankrupt, Gendron said, "Don't believe what you hear."

Pressed further, Gendron said, "I

have to get back with you later," and hung up.

The Homefront News was supposed to publish every first and third Wednesday of the month. Just one sample issue was printed, though.

The newspaper's office at The Winery building on Grand River was empty. The bankruptcy note included a forwarding address in "Washington, Va."

Farmington's Public Safety Department is investigating the matter.

See PAPER, 4A

Two happy cagers



Cheers: Special Olympians Cheryle Colton (left) and Kathy Myrtle cheer on their Farmington basketball squad during a recent tournament game at Farmington High.

Special Olympics not just games

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

In many ways, Kirk Mason is a typical American teenager — he goes to school, works part-time at a McDonald's, has a steady girlfriend and is active in school sports.

But Kirk is different. His coach, Todd Lips, would say he's special. In fact, Kirk Mason is mentally challenged, a condition once referred to with the more stigmatizing "retarded" label. After an automobile accident when he was 9 and the resulting closed-head injury, Kirk has found it harder for him to keep

pace with his peers both on and off the athletic field.

Thanks to Special Olympics, Kirk has found the acceptance of friends, an avenue for his athletic skills and the confidence that he often lacked when he tried to compete with mainstream high school athletes.

"I was in swimming and JV baseball," he said. "I couldn't learn things as fast. People were always laughing behind my back."

The ugly truth that he would never quite be accepted among mainstream athletes led Kirk, 19,

to try Special Olympics. He has not regretted that decision.

"My dad wanted me to be in regular athletics," Kirk said. "But when he found out what I wanted, he said, 'It's your life. Do what you want.'"

"Everybody treats everybody equal (in Special Olympics)," he said.

Found satisfaction

Kirk, his friend and fellow weightlifter junior Chris Radloff, 18,

See SPECIAL, 6A

Jewelers charged with larceny

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

An Ohio salesman thought he accidentally left behind a case of jewelry at a Farmington Hills jewelry store but was told he didn't.

Now the co-owners of that store, Artisan's at the corner of Grand River

CRIME

and Drake, face charges that they kept the misplaced merchandise and sold about half of it.

Paul Vatch Terzerian and Dennis James Meloyne pleaded not guilty to larceny over \$100 at their Feb. 14 arraignment. Their preliminary examination is set for 8:30 a.m. March 22 in the 47th District Court. If convicted, they face up to five years in prison.

Farmington Hills police made an undercover purchase of some of the missing jewelry from the store on Feb. 10.

The salesman, Michael Goldhegen, told police he discovered that he had lost a case of jewelry valued at more than \$22,000 some time after leaving Artisan's on a sales trip in April 1992.

He went back to the jewelry store to see if he had left the case behind and was told he hadn't. Goldhegen has been paying back his company out of his own pocket ever since the incident, according to police.

Detective Darnel Krause said

See JEWELERS, 11A

Architect makes tall statement: no clock

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Architect Tom Lyczkowski hopes he's making a towering statement.

He's erected an 8-foot chunk of masonry in front of his historic home on Farmington Road. He hopes it'll show what he sees as the folly of the clock tower planned for the Masonic Temple corner, about a half a block south.

The 33-year-old Lyczkowski is certainly no fan of the real thing — the controversial 23-foot clock tower that has so many Farmington residents steamed these days.

"It's kind of a mock up of what they're proposing," said Lyczkowski

■ 'It's kind of a mock up of what they're proposing. I'm trying to make people aware of what's going on.'

Tom Lyczkowski
Farmington

of his creation which has a phony clock face and a mansard roof. The thing is strapped to the historic site sign in front of his house. An international stop sign — a circle with a diagonal slash through it — is on the clock.

The real clock tower also will have a mansard roof to match the architecture of the Masonic Temple at Farmington and Grand River.

"I'm trying to make people aware of what's going on," Lyczkowski said. "People need to be spurred on to take a look at this. Yes, there has been a lot about the clock tower in the paper, but not everybody reads the paper."

Lyczkowski, who lives with his wife Kimberly McWilliams in the historic Dr. Ezekiel Webb House, was one of several residents who spoke out against the \$50,000 clock tower at a

meeting of the Downtown Development Authority Board last Tuesday.

His reasons for opposing the clock?

"It isn't sensitive enough to the Masonic Temple," he said, "and it isn't really needed. The Masonic Temple is focal point enough for that corner."

Like many residents, Lyczkowski feels that that corner needs some renovation, such as landscaping. But he's definitely against the clock tower.

Lyczkowski, who grew up on the east side and earned a degree in ar-

See ARCHITECT, 2A

For whom the bell tolls

Farmington City Council members will pay up on a bet with the Farmington Hills City Council by serving their counterparts dinner on March 11.

The two councils and their staffs tried to see who could ring up more money in donations to the Salvation Army's bell ringing campaign.

The Farmington crew picked the Kmart on Grand River and Halstead last Dec. 12 as their day to ring. They brought in \$358.65 at that location.

But Farmington Hills Council members and staff brought in \$391.15 at the Kmart on Orchard Lake Road on Dec. 5.

"The real winners were the poor, who benefited from the competition," said Steve Brock, assistant to the Farmington Hills city manager. Details of

FARMINGTON FOCUS

the dinner were still pending at press time.

Award for woman planned

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will accept nominations of Farmington-area women until Friday, April 30, for the inaugural Athena Award.

The new award, sponsored by the chamber and the Bob Saka Oldsmobile dealership, will be given to the woman in the community "who has demonstrated support of the goals of professional women," said a chamber letter. Nominees must be involved in chamber activities.

Criteria for selection includes "unselfish assistance to other women, provision of valuable service to her business/profession and to the community," the letter continued.

Nomination forms are available at the chamber office, 3341 Grand River, Farmington, during normal business hours. For more information, call the chamber at 474-3440.

The award — a modernistic statuette perhaps representing Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom — will be given at a luncheon May 27 at The Botsford Inn.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21893 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office or faxed to 477-9722.