

Growing from page 9A

is growing — in more ways than one. Although she fairly gushes when talking about gardening and flowers, Lore's business acumen comes to the fore as if automatically keeping her love for nature in perspective.

"We increased business by 5 percent for the first year," she said. "That's unusual when you take over another business. And the industry was down by 20 percent for the same period."

The free seminars on gardening will include a special version for kids this Saturday, to celebrate National Gardening Week and as

a way to satisfy a need for balance, something that the former business major did in college when she minored in philosophy. "This is a time when families seem to be trying to do things together," she said. "I think also that children are used to immediacy. Everything is now. This is a way to show how something grows. It takes nurturing and time."

Another goal for Lore runs counter to specialization. She tries to have all 12 of her employees, whether they work in the florist shop or the greenhouses, know how to do every job.

"This is fun and a challenge," says David Evergreen (his real name), who manages McFarland's and has 14 years in the business. "One day you're doing one job and the next it's something else."

McFarland's offers customers the option of pre-ordering budding plants by telephone, special flower and gift arrangements to suit the occasion and the person, and a greenhouse center that opened on March 15, earlier than in previous years.

Lore plans to keep the center open year-round and include shrubs and other plants not previously offered.

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A prom for seniors



Big night: Ralph Frank and Sally Olds, at right, were king and queen of the "April in Paris" senior prom held recently at Grand River Village in Farmington. About 30 Farmington High School students — including senior Cori McLaughlin, secretary of the student council, shown above with senior Mildred Brown — were on hand.



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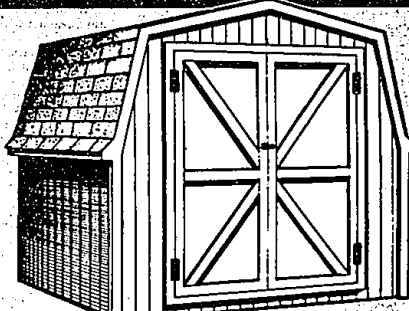
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 Wednesday, May 26...Madison Heights.....1-2 PM

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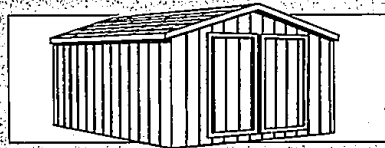
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