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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Holiday tour: At Farmington Hills' Heritage Park, they're gearing up for the annual holiday tour fund-raiser. It runs through Sunday. /4A

No monsters, please: The Farmington Hills City Council wants to create a commission on children and families without creating a bureaucratic monster. /2A

COUNTY NEWS

Reminders: Red ribbons serve as reminders to drinking drivers again this season. /5A

OPINION

Season's spirit: Show up in downtown Farmington Saturday and see if there isn't some holiday spirit there. /20A

No new taxes: Thomas R. Ricketts, CEO of Standard Federal Bank, turns columnist this week to explain why an increased real estate transfer tax would have detrimental effects on Michigan's economy. /21A

SPORTS

Hoop preview: North Farmington is getting ready to start the 1993-94 boys basketball season next week. /1B

Grid review: A look back at Harrison High's successful football season and a look ahead to next year. /1B

CREATIVE LIVING

Cranbrook convergence: Works by three alumni from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills are featured in an exhibit at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum. /1D

Capital idea: An ornament by ceramist Claudia Tann of Farmington Hills is one of the decorations on the 1993 White House Christmas tree. Closer to home, Tann is participating in the holiday sales show continuing at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. /1D

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Superintendent field narrows to 2



The Farmington Board of Education has narrowed the field to two — C. Robert Maxfield and Thomas Shorkey — in its search for a new superintendent of schools.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

They interviewed on the same night. Now they're the only two left in the running for the same job: Farmington Public Schools superintendent.

Berkley School District superintendent C. Robert Maxfield and East

China School District superintendent Thomas Shorkey are the two finalists. Both had their preliminary interview with the board Nov. 18.

Maxfield's second board interview took place Wednesday; Shorkey's is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight in the Lewis Schulman Administrative Building. A reception open to mem-

bers of the community will take place 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas.

Board members will visit their respective districts next week. Board president Cathleen Webb said a decision could come by Tuesday, Dec. 14.

The board settled on the pair out of a pool of seven preliminary finalists in a special meeting Monday.

chemistry will work," Webb said. "I think these people, in my mind, are a fit Farmington in personality and leadership skills."

Maxfield and Shorkey are from out-of-formula districts with similar enrollments. Both worked their way through the system.

Maxfield has been superintendent of Berkley since 1988. With the exception of a six-year stint as principal at Clawson High, he has been with the Berkley district since 1973.

See SEARCH, 6A

Richard Headlee keeps an eye on education



ILLUSTRATION BY MARVIN TEEPLES

Headlee rollback

Tax crusader takes look at past battles

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

To be Richard Headlee means being thankful and becoming the president of a highly rated insurance company despite never having sold an insurance policy.

It means having your name attached to every school millage. It means dispensing pearls of wisdom and nuggets of political insight.

But being Richard Headlee also means wearing a black hat or two.

When you make a name criticizing those in education and govern-

ment, no matter how truthful, adversaries are willing to fit you with a fedora of darkness.

In a conversation with the unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate and outgoing president of the Farmington Hills-based Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company, those haters whiz by with the same speed of the vehicles on I-696 outside his office window.

Let's start with education. He's the architect of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, which is enough alone to

make his likeness a pinata at any school superintendent's birthday party.

He's no MEA fan. Headlee states emphatically he doesn't like the tactics of the Michigan Education Association, the powerful teachers union whose sway he contends has even permeated the sanctity of the League of Women Voters.

He also takes issue with school boards who are loose with the truth at millage vote time.

Those issues alone already have Headlee's hat rack of *chapeau noir* ready to tip over. But he's not the educational ogre portrayed, he contends.

"If you have a case you won't find Dick Headlee being an unsympathetic tarpayer," said Headlee, who has turned over the reins of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance to Gary Gilmer. "I won't tolerate deceit."

See HEADLEE, 3A

Eatery's liquor license request comes up dry

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It was a bad Monday for Ruby Tuesday. A favorable vote on a request for a liquor license wasn't favorable enough, leaving a restaurant chain with a prime Farmington Hills location — but an uncertain future.

The Farmington Hills City Council voted 4-3 in favor of granting its last Class C liquor license to Morrison Restaurants Inc. for a Ruby Tuesday restaurant that would be built at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake on the former Roman Terrace restaurant property.

However, by city ordinance, five "yes" votes are necessary for approval. The vote left attorney John C. Polasky, who represents the restaurant chain, with few options. He had already found that the state has no resort licenses left and could not find a licensee in escrow that the company could transfer.

■ 'I do not feel that he (Polasky) made much of an effort. If I thought that he had no other way of getting a license, I might have voted for it. But I'm not convinced that he really pursued all of his options.'

councilman Terry Sever

part for fear that the city would be out of options. "I'm more concerned that in two, three or five years we would not have any options," Sever said. "I do not feel that he (Polasky) made much of an effort. If I thought that he had no other way of getting a license, I might have voted for it. But I'm not convinced that he really pursued all of his options."

in denying the license was the possibility that the city might need it to attract a developer or franchisee to run a restaurant if an ice arena were built in the city. A special committee is studying the feasibility of such an arena.

"I do believe a restaurant could be the deciding factor," he said. Bates praised the Ruby Tuesday restaurant proposal and said she planned to see what she could do in Lansing to work toward making a resort license available.

A state Senate bill that would reinstate a resort license is bogged down in committee because of a clause that only allows 30 days for a city to lodge opposition to a resort liquor license being granted in its boundaries. There is also a bill in the House that contains a provision to reinstate the resort license.

"The law allowing resort licenses is about to sunset (lapse)," Bates said.

See LICENSE, 6A