

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**History buff dies:** Ed Thayer's two great loves were gardening and local history. He'll certainly be missed by his friends on Farmington's Warner Street. /9A

**House of horrors:** Police have painted a grim picture of what was found in Raymond Ponke's house in Oxford. Ponke will be tried in the slaying of his wife, Jackie, in a Farmington dental office. /2A

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Showroom sparkle:** Darakhian Jewelers is all moved in and feeling quite at home in new state-of-the-art surroundings. /6A

**Valentine treats:** The malls and mainstreets have plans for those shopping for love gifts. /6A

## TASTE

**Delicious desserts:** Hearts everywhere beat with love for Sanders hot fudge. /1B

**Wine column:** Eleanor and Ray Heald introduce tasty, affordable wines from southern France. /1B

## STREET SCENE



**Bands coming:** This month brings a deluge of top national acts to Detroit, including Nick Heyward. A few of the bands hope their shows go better than previous Detroit gigs. /5B

## SPORTS

**Mat tourney:** Farmington-area wrestlers competed for team and individual honors Saturday in the Third Annual Observerland Tournament. /1C

**Hoop results:** Farmington faced a tough opponent Friday in Westland John Glenn as it tried to snap a two-game losing streak. /1C

## INDEX

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Classifieds . . . B-D  | Malls . . . . . 6A      |
| Auto . . . . . D       | Personal Scene . . 7B   |
| Index . . . . . 7B, 7C | Police, fire calls . 2A |
| Employment . . . C-D   | Sports . . . . . 1C     |
| Real Estate . . . B,C  | Street Scene . . . 5B   |
| Crossword . . . . . 3C | Taste . . . . . 1B      |

## HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 477-5450  
 Newsroom Fax: 477-0722  
 Sports: 953-2141  
 Reader Comment Line: 953-2342  
 Classified Advertising: 591-0900  
 Display Advertising: 591-2300  
 Home Delivery: 591-0500  
 Cable/TV Weekly: 953-2182

# Schools neutral on tax plans



Local school officials aren't taking a stand on the upcoming school finance proposal. That's understandable. Either way — increased sales tax or income tax — the local district comes out relatively unscathed.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to the March 15 ballot proposal, Farmington Public Schools is an innocent bystander. The district does not intend to take a position on either the ballot proposal or the statutory backup plan. Instead, school officials have put to-

gether a table for residents explaining the breakdown of each plan. The document is available at the district office.

Also, Farmington Public Schools will host a forum 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center.

Rick Simonson from Oakland

Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Finance Bruce Barrett will discuss the ballot plan.

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills; and state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills; have been asked to attend.

"What both of these plans give us is next year's funding," Barrett said. "They don't tell us about the year after or the year after that."

Barrett agrees it beats what was in place from July 24 until Dec. 24, which was nothing. The state aid act is already in place

Chart, stories, 3A,5A

for the 1994-95 fiscal year. The Farmington district will see a modest 2 percent increase in funding, \$160 more per student.

Both plans possess subtle differences, ones that could later loom large for schools. Under the ballot proposal, schools could not bond unless it's for complete renovations. That means things such as computers, remodeling and

See TAXES, 3A



Mind games: Michael Mack of St. Fabian School in Farmington Hills brandishes sword and shield during his team's interpretation of the "Iliad" at Farmington High School.

SHARON LEMMONS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Kids have good minds to compete

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

With the gods shaking things up from Homer's "Iliad" along with pingpong balls rattling in their heads, students rolled through the Odyssey of the Mind showcase at Farmington High.

Some 300 people watched as Farmington Public and parochial

## ODYSSEY

school kids plowed their way through a series of complex problems Jan. 29.

The annual showcase is a practice run for the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition, which takes place Saturday, Feb. 26, at Waterford Mott High School. Farmington area OM'ers traditionally fare well, reaching national and world stages in the past.

"They look very good," said Sylvia Kambouris, a parent coordinator for Odyssey of the Mind. "It looks like the coaches have done an outstanding job in preparing their teams."

"There's a lot of color and a lot of creativity in their solutions."

Kambouris is mum to what levels the creative juices are percolating; she said she doesn't want to tip off the competition.

Some of the riddles the students had to tackle included designing three devices, which when combined could play music. They also had to perform a recital with this instrument and complement their tune with an illustration.

Teams also had to depict a scene from Homer's "Iliad" and present another scene using an historical 20th Century theme, including one or more gods from the classic. Students also had to create a work of art for both.

On the technical end, teams had to construct a device out of balsa wood. The piece could only be 8 inches in height, but at the same time support as much weight as

See ODYSSEY, 4A



Sen. Jack Faxon

## Delays keep Faxon, changes in air

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

For state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, his district's reappointment is getting to be like an old April Fool's gag.

"I have no idea what they'll come up with," said the veteran legislator. Theoretically, the state Legislature is supposed to reapportion districts based on census figures.

"It didn't happen before the last (1990) election," Faxon said, "so they thought they'd have plenty of time before the next election (this November)."

■ 'I have no idea what they'll come up with.'

state Sen. Jack Faxon

But for whatever reason, he delays because of priority items such as tax and school finance issues or partisan one-upmanship, Faxon, 57, faces the same problem: He's really not sure where his 15th District will be. He's not alone.

Sen. John Kelly, D-Detroit, said all of the districts in southern Oakland

County and all of Wayne County, including his First District, have become political hot potatoes.

"Nobody knows where they're running," Kelly said, adding that actually he knows where he'll be running because he's making a bid for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Don Riegle.

After some legal battles that included a 3-1 decision by the Michigan Court of Appeals and a 7-0 Michigan Supreme Court decision requiring the redistricting in a timely manner, the

See FAXON, 2A

## Wrestler hit with broom handle; teen questioned

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A 16-year-old Farmington High School student was questioned by police after a North Farmington High wrestler was struck in the head with a shortened broom handle Thursday.

The incident took place in the Farmington High parking lot shortly after 8 p.m. Thursday following a dual meet between Farmington and North Farmington.

Nick Grant, a junior at North Farmington, had

### Wrestling results, 2C

his left cheek bruised in the incident. North wrestling coach Tony Silveri said Grant did not retaliate after being struck.

Silveri said Grant would miss the Observerland tournament at Garden City, held Saturday.

"He's a little groggy," Silveri said.

During a match with a Farmington High wrestler, Grant was being backed by a spectator, Farmington police deputy director Mike Wiggins

said. Grant encountered the teen afterward in the hallway on the way to the school bus.

The two began talking when the teen took out the weapon from the sleeve of his coat and struck Grant, police said. Police believe the broom handle came from a custodian's closet.

The attacker fled. He was later questioned and released to his parents' custody.

The police department will petition Oakland County Probate Court to bring a charge of felonious assault, Wiggins said.