

# Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**What they want:** More than 30 people responded to an Observer coupon asking what types of businesses are needed downtown. /3A

**Just like Clinton:** Farmington High's Matthew Michalski followed in the President's footsteps with a trip to Boys Nation. /7A

**Hot smokes!** Farmington Hills police came upon a van containing 1,673 cartons of untaxed cigarettes valued at more than \$40,000. /9A

## BUSINESS

**Business decisions:** The Business Milestones column lists some Farmington-area people and firms involved in recent activity. /5A

## TASTE

**Morning meal:** In hot weather, a cool, no-cook cereal breakfast is appealing. /1B

**In the swim:** Local swim club members pool their resources to make Sunday dinner. /1B

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Goodbye gals:** Jos. A. Bank decides to drop its women's clothing lines to develop and expand the men's division. /6B

**Birmingham Bash:** Downtown merchants organize their annual fall spectacular to raise money for a cancer survivors scholarship fund at Beaumont Hospital. /6B

## SPORTS

**Post-season play:** The South Farmington Blues chase a Mickey Mantle district championship. /1C

**Tourney time:** Regular-season champ Hines Park attempts to win the collegiate baseball playoff title. /1C

## LOTTERY

The Michigan lottery numbers for Saturday, July 29, are:  
 ■ Daily 3: 691  
 ■ Daily 4: 2579  
 ■ Lotto: 13, 21, 41, 3, 14, 39

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# Police charge teen in vandalism



An investigation of what many thought was racially motivated vandalism has resulted in the arrest of a Farmington Hills teen. Hills police say the culprit, like the victims, is African-American and the crime was gang-related.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police filed a petition for the arrest of a 15-year-old Hills youth in what had first appeared to be racially motivated vandalism of an African-American couple's house in the northwest

part of the city over Memorial Day weekend.

"We had had almost daily requests from the media and others about this case," said Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "Possibly (two) others could be implicated. The investigation is going to continue."

Despite what appeared to be the racial epithet of "white power" spray painted on an upstairs hall wall, Dwyer said police believed the incident was gang related from the start. The 15-year-old authorities arrested Friday is an African-American who lives nearby on the same street as the Jacksons.

"We think because Mr. (Bruce) Jackson reported graffiti near his house, he was targeted," Dwyer said.

The suspect could spend up to four years in a juvenile correctional facility

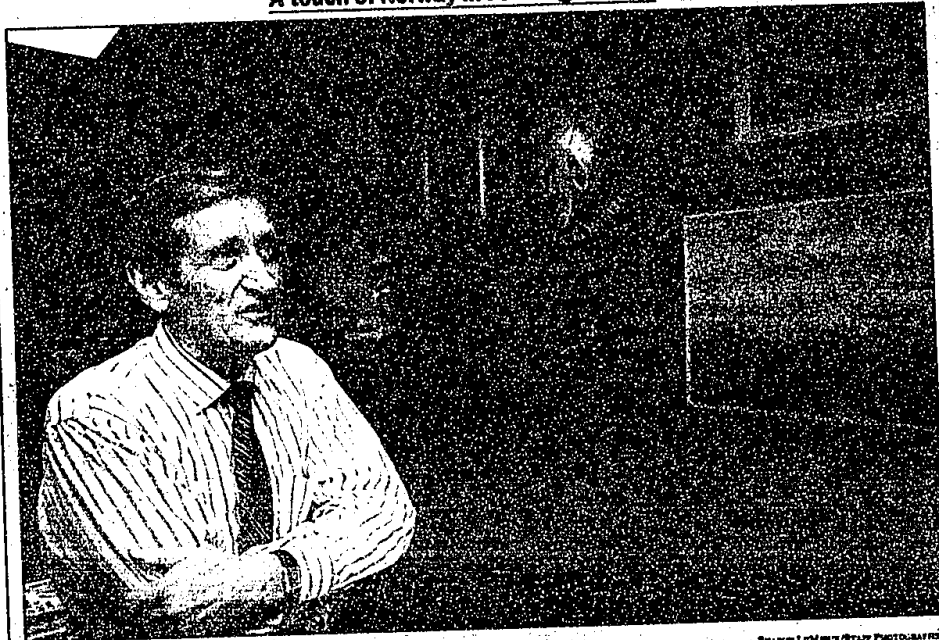
for the vandalism that caused more than \$100,000 in damage.

Bruce and Luenetta Jackson have not been able to return to their house and could not be reached for comment.

In the aftermath of the vandalism, the Jacksons received several letters and calls of sympathy and offers of financial assistance. The Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural Multiracial Community Council, the Christian Businessmen's Committee

See VANDALISM, 2A

## A touch of Norway in Farmington Hills



SHAWN LEBLANC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Consulate on Crestview: The Norwegian Consulate and Norval Engelsen's Farmington Hills office are one and the same. The seal of Norway is on the wall.

# Business doubles as Norwegian consulate

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Norval Engelsen decided it was a good time to take a sabbatical from his job as an accountant in Bergen, Norway, on a three-to-four month mission to visit relatives in the United States.

That was in 1964.

"I liked it so much that I've been here since," says Michigan's honorary Norwegian Consul.

Engelsen and his wife Soija came to visit his Uncle Louis in Detroit and other relatives in Minnesota and Iowa.

"I was going to get a tourist visa," he says. "But when I said I would

probably be staying longer than three months, they suggested I fill out immigration papers."

Shortly after arriving, Engelsen found himself a partner in former Norwegian Olympic alder Stein Erikson, and the two began an import business centered at Boyne

Mountain specializing in Norwegian skis.

But Uncle Sam took Erikson for a tour of duty and Engelsen found himself with a young family and no job.

See CONSULATE, 2A

# Romney remembered as role model

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Whether you knew him by reputation or in person, through business, government or volunteer work, George Romney made an impact in your life. Romney, who died Wednesday, was active to the end. And he is fondly remembered by his many friends in the Farmington area.

"He promoted volunteerism in such a dynamic way," said Nancy Bates, a Farmington Hills resident and councilwoman who had worked with the former governor to promote

volunteerism here. "When he came into a room, he filled it up."

That was still the case when Bates enlisted Romney's aid in kicking off the volunteer center at the Farmington Hills Activities Center. Romney, for whom volunteerism was an individual's civic responsibility and not a province of government, pursued volunteerism just as he had business and political success.

The former American Motors chairman of the board and former presidential candidate died while exercising at his Bloomfield Hills home

— at age 88. Even in his twilight years, the governor retained the trademark combed-back hair and confident smile of the man who used to walk in parades in his shirt sleeves. But there was a passion to his call for volunteerism.

"One time I was able to talk with him for about two hours," said Todd Lips, Farmington Hills Citizen of the Year in 1994. "We sat in the community center and talked about people

See ROMNEY, 2A



George W. Romney

# Schools policy targets 'hard core' class skippers

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

High school students who skip class will likely be tripped up by a new district initiative. A Farmington Public Schools attendance policy being developed calls for students to make up one hour of instructional time for every undocumented absence. Before, students who had excessive unexcused absences were placed in study hall.

District officials believe the program will deter "hard core" skippers, especially those who cut classes they don't like. "There were kids who would say 'I'll just skip four times and I won't have to go to that class,'" said Harrison Principal Rando Hora. "We

have eliminated that as an option." Overlapping, car trouble, or missing school without a parent calling in are considered unexcused. Students who refuse to make up the instructional time will be subject to an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Students will not have to make up classroom time for excused absences. Those can include illness, religious holidays, death in the family, doctor's appointments, prearranged absences and school activities. A parent has to report excuses within 24 hours.

With the change, the district complies with the 1995-96 state requirement for instructional minutes.

Details as to how and when students will make up the instructional time are still being worked out at the three high schools. At North Farmington, sessions will take place at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

North Farmington High has experimented with similar attendance policies for the past two years.

At first, students were required to make up class time missed regardless if the absence was excused or unexcused. Last year, the policy was amended to include only unexcused absences.

While full-day excused absences remained unchanged, unexcused absences declined significantly last year at North.

See POLICY, 2A