

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Crash 'n' gas: There were no injuries but a senior citizen complex had to be evacuated after a motorist hit the building and severed a gas line. /A10

OPINION

The Observer says: Endorsements for the offices of Farmington Hills City Council, 19th District County Commissioner, county prosecutor and circuit court judge appear on today's Editorial Page./A14

Letter ript: The Observer's fax machine is one hard-working piece of equipment what with all the letters from readers on the election and other subjects./A14-15

COMMUNITY LIFE

Still a booster: The Grand River corridor in Farmington Hills is getting a boost thanks to the efforts of John Anhut, an economic pioneer in the area./B1

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Special event: Concours d'Elegance features a celebration of the American automobile./E1

Let the music play: Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents classics and pops in a series of concerts at Meadow Brook Music Festival./E1

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Debate ends with a flourish

Republican and Democratic candidates for the 37th District State House seat were quizzed on subjects like PAC money and assisted suicide at a well-attended debate Tuesday.

BY WILLIAM COULTAN
STAFF WRITER

Candidates didn't hold back much in Tuesday's 37th House seat candidate forum.

Paula Creed of the League of Women Voters, which sponsored the televised forum, said she was amazed by the near full-house at the Farmington Hills City Council

Chambers.

"We've had times when we could count the audience on one hand," she told the audience before the cameras rolled.

The four Republican and two Democratic candidates trying to succeed Rep. Jan Dolan were more assertive than in earlier debates. Audience questions covered wide-

-ranging issues, starting with abortion rights and assisted suicide.

Republican Cathleen Webb and Democrats Carl Christoph and Stephan Dibart were pro-choice advocates. Republicans Linda Jolicoeur and Andrew Raczowski were pro-life and Republican Terry Sever was pro-life with the exceptions of incest, rape and where the woman's life would be in danger.

Webb called assisted suicide a "political hot potato" that should be put before voters as a ballot proposal.

Christoph said that residents should "ignore the messengers,

(Attorney Geoffrey) Fieger and (Dr. Jack) Kevorkian."

"I think we should consider a regulated situation," he said. "I would be in favor of assisted suicide."

Sever said dying with dignity was often confused with tax-supported assisted suicide, something he would oppose.

Raczowski said he took the American Medical Association's position and opposed assisted suicide.

Jolicoeur said abortion was being used as a form of birth control by

See DEBATE A3

Even the pooch gets his looks during Friday funfest



Corry Law, 9, of Farmington Hills shares her chocolate chip ice cream with her dog, Buddy. Left is her sister, Caitlin, 9. Below, the Colonna family plays around the fountain in the Downtown Farmington Center. From left is Braxton, 15; Gabriella, 10 months; Michael (the father); Vinnie, 7; Michael, 10; Brenda (the mother); and Britany, 11.

Fridays are fun in Farmington



BY WILLIAM COULTAN
STAFF WRITER

It may not be a trendy hot-spot of night life like Royal Oak or Westland, but downtown Farmington is just fine with a lot of people.

On a summer evening, a walk uptown for ice cream, a movie, a drink and a little shopping is the most of the charm

for Farmington residents.

"We can't have a lot during the summer after ball games," said Farris Law, who was treating her children to ice cream at Baskin-Robbins. "My kids are involved in softball, basketball, volleyball and dance."

Corry, 9, Caitlin, 9, Jamie, 13, and their miniature schnauzer, Buddy are among many who look forward to the treat.

"I came for the ice cream to watch my

See FOCUS A3

Bed check keeps girls from blast

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

They went to Olympics in Atlanta to ruffle their pom poms, but they themselves — like thousands of other visitors — were the ones left shaken.

Eight Farmington-area teens were part of an 80-member all-star pom pom contest girls of which was scheduled to perform Saturday in Olympic Centennial Park — the site of an early morning bomb blast that killed two and injured more than 100.

Some of the girls had been in Centennial Park seven hours before the bomb went off around 1:30 a.m.

Their pom pom performance was canceled as the congregation area for Olympic revelers was immediately closed so FBI investigators could look for evidence.

The pom pom crew held out hope for performing on Sunday, but the park remained cordoned off. The girls arrived home Monday disappointed, but not dejected.

"It made me think about the risks in general of going down there," Tracy Finlayson said.

"We're disappointed. That's why we went there in the first place," said Lauren Helisek, a senior at Farmington High. "But we're glad we were safe."

The group stayed at the University of Georgia in Athens, 40 miles away from where the bomb exploded. None of them were near the site when the blast occurred. They had a bed check of 11:30 p.m.

At 6 a.m., city police informed girls of the bombing and the subsequent cancellation of their performance.

"Some of the girls were scared," said Nicole Butling, who is a senior at Farmington High. "I wasn't woken up at first because it was 40 miles away from where we were staying."

"But then I started listening to other girls who were saying, 'What if they tried to bomb us here? We had

See ATLANTA, A3

Concours coming up

Several Farmington-area classic car collectors will be showing their prize autos at the Concours d'Elegance, the annual classic automobile show benefiting Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, on Sunday, Aug. 4.

Local participants and their cars are: William J. Charney, 1929 Duesenberg; Gene Kinnear, 1969 Dodge; Tim Allen (of KJ), Steward, 1966 Shelby; and Ed Meurer, 1941 Cadillac.

The Concours will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 4 at Meadow Brook Hall on the grounds of Oakland University.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

ID cards for seniors

Farmington-area senior citizens who have reached the age of 60 may receive a photo identification card issued by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA).

Photos will be taken and cards issued 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Aug. 14, in the Gamma Building of Detroit Baptist Manor, 30245 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The card, which displays photo, signature and

the Oakland County seal, entitles the senior to discounts from various merchants. Each card also shows name, address, birthdate and social security number.

For more information, call Baptist Manor at 539-1526, or OLHSA's toll-free Human Service Network at 1-800-482-9250.

Individuals who would like an OLHSA photographer to come to their community center should contact Heather Bailey at 858-2395.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.