

FARMINGTON Observer



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Experts offer
advice for
dealing with
terrorism
anxiety.
Health, C6

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Granholtm spares schools, not arts

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jennifer Granholtm on Thursday proposed a balanced 2003-04 state budget which erases a \$1.7 billion deficit by executing more than \$1 billion in spending cuts on the backs of the arts, higher education and state municipalities, while projecting \$500 million in new revenues.

Granholtm, in presenting her proposed

\$38.6-billion budget to a joint session of the House and Senate appropriations committees, said the budget was derived with input from citizens across the state, with whom she visited after her State of the State address last month.

"We've asked the citizens for their input, and we've explained the crisis to them," Granholtm said. "The input I've received is reflected in the pages of this book (the executive budget). This is the citizens' budget, the citizens' money, and

they should have a voice in how their money is spent."

Art funding grants were hit the hardest, as Granholtm announced a 50-percent reduction.

"To me this is a painful cut," Granholtm said. "But, while they are important, they may not be vital in the same way feeding a child is vital, or giving heart medication to a senior is vital."

Granholtm said she is most proud her budget didn't cut the K-12 education

foundation allowance, money for at-risk education or preschool and early learning initiatives.

"That we were able to preserve the funding for educating our children despite this fiscal crisis is a loud, resounding statement of my priorities, but echoed and amplified by citizens across this state," Granholtm said.

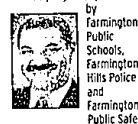
However, the Merit Award Scholarships will drop from \$2,500 to

PLEASE SEE GRANHOLT, A7

OUTTOWNS

Awards

Television news anchor Frank Turner will share his own "turn around" story at Wednesday's Turn Around Awards program, sponsored



by Farmington Public Schools, Farmington Hills Police and Farmington Public Safety Departments and the Farmington Observer.

Awards, which include a Lucite Turn Around star, certificate and goody bag, will be presented to 26 honorees at Farmington Hills Manor.

Having established his own apostolic Bible based ministry, Turner also leads marriage recovery seminars (www.frankturner.org). However, the road he traveled to get there wasn't easy.

After 25 years of drug and alcohol addiction, depression and anxiety, divorce and bankruptcy, Turner said, his final humiliation was

his much-publicized firing from a 5 p.m. anchor job at Channel 7 in 1999. After his baptism in 1999, Turner returned to the Channel 7 anchor desk.

Nominated by school staff and others, students are being honored for having made significant changes in their lives, which may include improved grades or better school attendance.

Local sponsors include RE/MAX Affiliates, Farmington Area YMCA, Farmington Exchange Club, Farmington Hills Manor, Farmington Hills Special Services, Farmington Optimist Club, Focal Point Photography, Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home, M. & Mrs. Fred Jarvis, Metrebanik, Oakland Community College, Westey Berry Florists and Sue Zdyrski.

COHA location

The upcoming Council of Homeowners Associations for the Farmington/Farmington Hills area scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, will have a change of venue.

It will be held at Farmington Hills Fire Station No. 1, located at 37525 Nine Mile. The meeting is expected to include board elections.

Crop Walk

The 18th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Crop Walk will be held Sunday, May 4, beginning at First United Methodist Church in downtown Farmington.

An informational rally for this event will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Hardin Park United Methodist Church, 29087 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

For more information, contact Mary Bedion, (248) 848-1752.



Maria Borri, Judy Wloch and Kathleen Donnelly are planning a Titanic fund-raising event to benefit their Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit organization. The March 21st event, "A Night to R.E. Member" will be held at the Detroit Science Center. Guests may view the Center's "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit" or watch the IMAX film "Titanic."

Titanic event to benefit Dreamzzz

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Some children in the Detroit area are so poor they don't have their own pillow and blanket when they go to sleep.

A Farmington-based group has announced a major fund-raising event to help remedy that situation.

Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit will present "A Night to R.E. Member" beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, March 21, featuring "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit" at the Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R in Detroit. Guests can also watch the IMAX film "Titanic."

Judy Wloch and Maria Borri, both of Farmington Hills, are organizing the event. Sponsors are Ford Motor Co., which donated \$50,000 in cash, and WJR, which has contributed more than \$50,000 in air time.

"Our mission is to help children sleep

PLEASE SEE TITANIC, A7

Parents plan to open enrollment

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Parents had questions and concerns March 4 about an out-of-district schools of choice plan Farmington Public Schools expects to pilot at William Grace and Flinders Elementary Schools this fall.

The Board of Education is expected to vote on the plan March 19.

While officials said they are taking a proactive approach to dealing with a declining student population, parents who spoke stressed they are taxpayers in the district while nondistrict parents are not.

Parent Sharon Bussell said she asked three times to be on a fact-finding committee but was not invited. Instead, she did her own research on the topic and provided a packet of color-coded information to board members.

"People are not informed on this

PLEASE SEE ENROLLMENT, A8

Local man charged with embezzlement

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Ralph Kevin Maly, former president of the Farmington Rockets Jr. Football Inc., was arraigned March 1 in 47th District Court on a felony charge of embezzlement.

He faces a preliminary exam at 8:30 a.m. March 10 before 47th District Court Judge Jim Brady. Court records show Maly, 45, had no attorney at the arraignment. A plea of not guilty was entered

for him. Police say Maly posted bond, which was set at \$5,000 or 10 percent surety.

If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, said Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor John Pietrofesa.

"We're dealing with \$18,000 from the league," Pietrofesa said. Police, who describe Maly as uncooperative, allege he embezzled funds from the youth football and cheerleading organization.

Investigators attempted to set up several interviews before seeking a warrant for arrest, said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

"I don't know the whole story," said Maly Wednesday. "I've been with the organization for seven years."

He held off making comments until he could speak to his attorney, who is out of town.

Maly had the responsibility of order-

PLEASE SEE EMBEZZLEMENT, A4

Residents struggle over support for Iraqi war

BY PAUL R. PAGE
STAFF WRITER

To war or not to war - that is the question.

Area residents say it's a tough decision to make as the United States braces to attack Iraq in an effort to disarm and remove Iraq President Saddam Hussein from power.

For Paula Lipnik of Farmington Hills, the thought



Hedow Lipnik of a pending war is a family matter. Her younger brother is in the Army, stationed along

with 250,000 U.S. troops in the Middle East.

"I am worried about him," she said. "I'm worried (Hussein) will show no mercy on our troops. It's brutal." Lipnik was among several Farmington Community

Library patrons asked Friday about the impending war with Iraq and President Bush's public address on Thursday.

Lipnik said she's a peaceful person, but finds it difficult to make a decision on whether war is the answer.

"I think Iraq will bomb Israel if we attack them," she said.

On Thursday, Bush made

PLEASE SEE RESIDENTS, A8

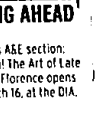
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LOOKING AHEAD
New exhibit
In Thursday's A&E section:
Magnificent! The Art of late Renaissance Florence opens Sunday, March 16, at the DIA.



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