

Trimmings make the season bright, 1B



GLI on ice, 1C

Have a pleasant holiday season!

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Farmington FOCUS

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IT was an unlikely setting. Ginopoli Restaurant in Farmington Hills is where Jack Morris ended his 1986 quest for a long-term, megabucks free-agency contract Friday night. That's where the star pitcher decided to greet the media after taking a plane home from New York following a meeting with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. By week's end, Morris was turned down by all four teams he had hoped to sign with: New York, California, Minnesota and Philadelphia. Using an office phone near Ginopoli's kitchen shortly before midnight Friday, Morris called Detroit Tigers general manager Bill LeJole and agreed to salary arbitration for the 1987 season. He'll become a free agent again at the end of next season.

READY to judge. Farmington High instrumental music director Grant Hoemke is one of 45 musicians chosen to participate in the statewide adjudicator workshop sponsored by the Michigan School Bands and Orchestras Association. The workshop is for new adjudicators (judges) now eligible to adjudicate for the numerous band and orchestra festivals offered by the association each spring.

MOVING up. Schoolcraft College has named Torree Thomas of Farmington Hills as assistant dean for educational services. She will assume her duties Jan. 3. Thomas joined the Livonia college in 1978. She has served the college as purchasing director.

BEWARE. The intrusion alarm system at the Farmington Historical Museum will be updated. The new \$1,200 system is expected to provide added protection to the former Warner mansion, on Grand River, west of Farmington Road. The city will obtain quotes before awarding the bid. The new system will allow the exterior alarm to reset itself after 10-15 minutes to conform to the city's new alarm ordinance, according to an administrative report.

FIRE Station 3 in Farmington Hills is slated to grow. The city council has awarded a contract to Urtan Construction Co. of Auburn Hills to add 2,940 square feet of floor space and two fire vehicle bays to the Wheeler Street fire hall. The cost will be \$88,971.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Chilling temperatures and icy winds Saturday afternoon did not stop 15 Farmington Hills residents — members of Citizens for a Decent Community — from picketing Keiko Health Spa to protest alleged prostitution.

More pupils spur school study

'We have to look for more permanent solutions (to an increase in students). We certainly can't stick our heads in the sand.'
— Mary Lou Ankele, assistant superintendent

By Casey Hans, staff writer

Farmington school officials are seeking long-term solutions to house an increased number of students that began in September. The addition of a third early childhood center and the possible movement of kindergarten classes from elementary schools to the early childhood level is strongly being considered for the future, according to

officials. Traditional boundary changes, done in years past, are not the answer, according to those studying both the use of school buildings and trends in early childhood education. "We did it (boundary changes) last year, and it didn't even last two weeks into the school year," assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele said. "We have to look for more permanent solutions. We certainly can't stick our heads in the sand."

With the two school committees still in preliminary stages, members are reviewing uses of the district's buildings in efforts to make permanent plans for the younger children entering the district. They are not expected to take their findings to the school board before March, according to Assistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter, chairman of the committee studying building resources and boundary changes.

NUTTER FORMED the committee in September following an unexpectedly large student enrollment. An increase of 377 students in the elementary and middle schools was logged the first week, causing confusion in bus runs and a shortage of teachers in some grades. The increase was 363 more than officials projected. Expecting the increase trend at

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A holiday treat



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Students at Farmington Public Schools' East Middle School visited their neighbors to the south at the new American House Retirement Residence Dec. 18 to share the spirit of the holiday season. The visit included holiday

songs sung by seventh and eighth graders under vocal music director Larry LaRue's direction (above). For the story and more pictures, see Page 3A.

Ex-teacher is headed to trial on drug count

By Casey Hans, staff writer

David Michael Schultz played the middleman, transporting about 10 ounces of suspected cocaine to a Farmington house, where it was sold to an undercover police officer Nov. 13, according to district court testimony Friday.

Schultz, a Farmington Hills resident and former Bloomfield Hills Middle School teacher, was not involved in the actual sale of the suspected drug to Livonia undercover officer Jeff Perkins, nor was he paid for his actions, according to information presented during Schultz's preliminary examination in 47th District Court in Farmington. Schultz, 24, and Daniel William Jameson, 26, who lived in the basement of a Farmington house on Hayden where the drug deal took place, were arrested following the sale and

charged with one felony count each of delivery of a controlled substance. Schultz faces trial in Oakland County Circuit Court as ordered by District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington following his exam Friday.

Jameson waived his exam, also scheduled for last Friday, and also was bound over for trial. Arraignment for both men is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 5, before Oakland County Circuit Judge Hilda Gage. **SCHAEFFER CONTINUED** bond at \$16,000 for each defendant. The two men — neither of whom has a previous criminal record — remain free having posted the necessary 10 percent bail, despite objections from assistant Oakland County prosecutor Robert Hedges. This was Hedges' third district court request for a higher bond. The original warrants were signed and bond was set by District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington. "I'm reluctant to second-guess another judge," Schaeffer said. "I'm going to leave the bond the same."

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Where are shoppers? merchants ask



By Chris Rizk, staff writer

Computers are out but software is in. Jordache jeans are still the fashion and the ever-popular stuffed animals are still on the top of Christmas shopping lists.

That's the verdict being delivered by Farmington and Farmington Hills merchants, some of whom report a dismal holiday season. "It's the weather," said Kathy Verstraete, manager at the Dress Barn in the Downtown Farmington Center. "It's been too nice, and it doesn't feel or look like Christmas."

Verstraete, who has weathered more than one Christmas season at the women's discount clothing store, described this year's sales as "good but not great." "What we need is more snow to get shoppers in the spirit," she said, adding that more of the mood-setting white flakes would help sales in the Downtown Farmington Center. Regardless of the less-than-expected sales, popular clothing items remain the same: jeans, sweaters, both men's and women's and holiday dresses. Traditionally, Verstraete said,

'It's the weather. It's been too nice — and it doesn't feel or look like Christmas.'
— Kathy Verstraete, Dress Barn manager

sweaters remain the easiest gift, next to jewelry, for men to pick out for their spouses or girlfriends.

"GUYS USUALLY come in, pick up size 14 dresses and end up bringing their girlfriends back in after Christmas, saying that they are only a size three," she said. "This year, they are coming in with the sizes in hand before they buy." Hadley Arden manager Lynn Kelly agreed that while sales have been brisk for Christmas, they have not reached the levels expected. Holiday sweaters, glittery New Year's dresses and soft, pastel-colored holiday dresses are this year's hottest sellers. One difference in shopping patterns, Kelly noted, is the abundance of cash orders as compared to credit

sales of last year. "That could account for shoppers picking up only one or two items instead of whole wardrobes," said Kelly, whose shop also is in the Downtown Farmington Center.

And while most stores are waiting

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Busy times: Hills creates rank of deputy fire chief

By Bob Sklar, staff writer

Farmington Hills' first deputy fire chief is an eight-year veteran of the fire department. Peter Baldwin, a lieutenant since December 1984, will assume the full-time post Jan. 1. The annual pay will be \$43,200.

"Peter has worked hard and has proven his dedication to the fire department. He's sincerely interested in improving fire service and in re-

ducing our fire loss," Chief Richard Marinucci said in announcing Baldwin's selection.

Baldwin, 33, was chosen to be second in command from among five department applicants because of "his background, experi-

ence, education and philosophes on fire service — and because he has done a good job as a lieutenant," Marinucci added.

Baldwin envisions himself doing, "in large part, what I'm already doing."

"Basically," he said, "we've got a well-run operation. Hopefully, we'll continue to provide a good quality of fire service at a reasonable cost to the public."

IN 1983, Baldwin was named Co-Firefighter of the Year for helping rescue a 78-year-old woman from her burning apartment in Farmington.

As deputy chief, Baldwin will help oversee day-to-day and emergency operations, including Marinucci to handle such time-consuming administrative duties as planning and budgeting.

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Peace

Warmest wishes of peace during this special season.