

Workin' '9 to 5' and beyond . . . 1D



Observer Relays, 1C

Moms in family make pirogi, 1B

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ROGER McCoy, WKBD-TV 50 news anchor, moved from the newsroom to East Middle School in Farmington Hills Tuesday. Addressing 180 students, he focused on Channel 50's Earthwork public service campaign, local action group efforts and Earth Day topics studied by the students.

JANICE Patterson of Farmington Hills got more than the miracle of compound interest when she bought a certificate of deposit from First Nationwide Bank. "Talk about your extra dividends!" she exclaimed. She won \$200 awarded by the Southfield-based bank, which held prize drawings for customers who bought or renewed CDs as part of a promotion.

Memory lane

25 years ago:
• The Farmington post office ranks 22 among Michigan post offices in the sale of savings bonds.
• The transaction whereby the city of Farmington will acquire the former Peoples State Bank of Farmington Building will become final when the Public Debt Commission of Michigan gives its approval of a \$8,000 loan.
— Farmington Enterprise, May 9, 1965

This week

LEADERS in Michigan's historic preservation movement will gather at the 154-year-old Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills Friday and Saturday for the spring forum of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

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Look for the Farmington Hills Suburban Cable Weekly



NOW in every Monday issue!

Murder victim threatened girlfriend

By Darrell Cloom
staff writer

Anthony Bonelli may have believed he had to kill 17-year-old Kristina Marie Fracchia to save his relationship with another girlfriend, Venise Asmar, with whom he made plans to start an Italian restaurant, Asmar said Thursday. Fracchia visited Asmar's parents and told them that Asmar and Bonelli had been having sex, and Fracchia repeatedly made threatening telephone calls to her rival's workplace, Asmar testified Thursday as Bonelli's murder trial entered its second day.

"She'd say, 'Look, bitch, you'd better stay away from Anthony because he's mine,'" Asmar, 17, said during the trial in Oakland County Circuit Court. Asmar admitted she asked Bonelli to "take care of the situation" but denied that she ever told him to physically harm Fracchia, whose drowned body was found in Orchard Lake on March 17, 1989. "I never asked anyone to do anything to Tina," Asmar said. "I didn't even know her."

ASMAR, WHO often gazed at Bonelli during her testimony, testified that Bonelli cared deeply for her

and that he was protective of her. "If someone wanted to hurt me, I think he'd see to it that I wouldn't be hurt."

Asmar said Bonelli had told her that he planned to take Fracchia to Orchard Lake and kill her.

"I told him he was crazy and why would he do that," Asmar said, adding later, "I didn't think he was serious."

Bonelli came to Asmar's school the day after Fracchia was killed and told her, "I took care of it. Don't worry," Asmar said.

Asmar's voice broke and she cried when defense attorney James Andary asked her a question about

Bonelli. "He said he would die before he would lose you, didn't he?" Andary asked.

"Yes," Asmar replied. Asmar said she and Bonelli had talked of their future together and hoped to open an Italian restaurant. But Bonelli's behavior changed dramatically in the days prior to Fracchia's death, Asmar said.

"He changed. He didn't talk anymore. He was always tired and going to sleep. Sometimes he'd get really mad. After I found out about Tina, if I asked about Tina he'd get mad," Asmar testified. "He was always depressed. He was always in a bad mood."

BONELLI SOMETIMES failed to take the anti-depressant medication that had been prescribed for him, Asmar said.

On Friday, jurors listened attentively as assistant prosecutor Fred Miller played a tape-recorded statement and a videotape in which Bonelli confessed to Orchard Lake Police about Fracchia's death, Asmar said.

"To me, it's a nightmare," Bonelli said in the tape-recorded statement, adding later, "All I know is that my

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Lou Bressler in the lot of his Car Gallery in Farmington Hills. He's leaning against a 1958 Chevy Impala. In the background is his son, Barry, washing down a 1960 Cadillac, which is next to a 1965 Mustang.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Where vintage cars are always in season

By Amy Rausch
staff writer

Lou Bressler delivered two cars, sold two others and bought three more on a recent Thursday. And all by 2:30 in the afternoon.

Owner of Car Gallery, an automobile dealership that specializes in cars from the 1950s and 1960s, Bressler says it's all in a day's work. Since opening the Grand River business in mid-November, the Farmington Hills resident works an average of 80 hours a week, moving back and forth between his car business and as owner of a manufacturer's representative

people

group for the lawn and garden industry.

"But he loves every minute of it. 'It's crazy, but I love it,'" he said. "Antique cars are really a people business — from both the buyer and seller's point of view."

"If you don't like people, it's not something you want to have, unless you keep it in the garage," Bressler said. "You take it out and stop at the first light and 18 people are yelling questions to you."

BRESSLER'S DAYS are anything but typical. Bressler, 51, travels south and west, stopping in South Carolina, Florida and Arizona to take a peek at Mustangs, Thunderbirds, Chevys, Cadillacs and Fords from the '50s and '60s.

"I like going all over," he said. "Sometimes, you might buy one out of 12, sometimes, 10 out of 12."

Bressler buys the cars from tips, at auctions and even off the street. But they must be in excellent condition. "We buy them as nice as possible. I won't buy them and restore them," he said. "I want them all done."

And he's always on the go. Recently, Bressler left to look at cars in Phoenix on a Wednesday morning, stopped in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, returned Saturday at 3 a.m. and was back to work by 8 a.m.

Cars from that era are popular, especially with baby boomers, who make up about 70 percent of Bressler's business. "They remember riding in these cars as a child," he said.

Spring and summer are a popular time for looking at the cars. "Since the weather broke, it's really been exciting," he said. "I know that's what we needed."

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3 challenge Faxon for Senate seat

New Southfield councilwoman Denise Alexander has turned her "maybe" into "yes." She will go after the Republican nomination for the state Senate seat in the 15th District — the one Farmington Hills Democrat Jack Faxon intends to fight to keep.

With the May 15 candidate filing deadline for the Aug. 7 primary election just eight days off, it looks like a three-way race on the GOP side of the ticket.

So far Faxon is unopposed for the Democratic nomination in his bid for a sixth state Senate term. He was first elected to the Senate in 1970, after six years in the House.

On the GOP side, all three candidates are members of city councils: Ben Marks and Terry Sever in Farmington Hills, and Alexander in Southfield. Marks and Sever announced their candidacies in early April.

"I feel I have to run," Alexander said. "There are just too many issues important to this city and to me this year. I'll be in a better position to address them" in the state Senate, she said.

Village, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, Northville, Wixom, Oak Park, Farmdale, Huntington Woods and Royal Oak Township.

Both Marks, a builder-developer, and Sever, a printer, have served terms as mayor or while on the Farmington Hills City Council. Marks, a six-year councilman, is a former planning commissioner. Sever has been a councilman for five years. Both are 44-year Farmington Hills residents.

ALEXANDER, A practicing attorney who has lived in Southfield 12 1/2 of the last 16 years, was



Denise Alexander

elected to the Southfield City Council in November after serving on the city's planning commission.

At the state level, she would be in a better position to address some of the same problems that face the city of Southfield, she said.

Issues include Southfield's viability, maintaining a dialogue with the schools and community, education funding, property tax reform, transportation, crime, traffic, the environment and funding for drug programs.

"We need to focus on one thing at a time and seek creative solutions."

Faxon said he will continue to champion the return of a fair share of state tax dollars to Oakland County schools.

Sever said he will step up his fight for tougher laws to make it harder for minors to obtain alcohol.

Marks said he is preparing a campaign position statement.

Needed: school space

By Casey Hans
staff writer

At least one middle school and two more elementary schools in the Farmington district desperately need classroom space, and buildings throughout the district are short of storage.

Power Middle School and Gill and Larkshire elementaries are overcrowded and will need a total of six portable classrooms this fall. Flanders and Longacre elementary schools already use portables as classrooms.

"There is an immediate need for classrooms," said Roger Gault, assistant principal at Warner Middle School and a member of a district-wide Facilities Task Force studying building usage in the district. "And with new technologies and curriculums . . . there is a great need for storage space in nearly every classroom."

The district's high schools are also short on gymnasium space. North Farmington principal Deborah Clarke reported, with students coming in as early as 6:30 a.m. to get practice time.

THE FACILITIES Task Force offered an interim report to the school board Tuesday with general im-

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Residents say no guns

By Joanne Meliszowski
staff writer

To state Rep. Jan Dolan's surprise, an overwhelming number of residents she surveyed in the 69th district want limits on assault-type weapons.

"Ninety percent want limits. That's very strong feelings," said the Farmington Hills Republican. "They don't see the National Rifle Association's justification for assault-type weapons. They said they saw no need for them to be in private hands."

The desire to restrict certain types of weapons was loud and clear in the results of a survey Dolan conducted in January of residents in her district, including Farmington and Farmington Hills. The district includes Southfield Township.

Of 39,174 questionnaires mailed in January, more than 3,634 were returned, which is considered a good response, Dolan said.

The questionnaire was designed to gather voters' opinions on recommendations and proposals for the control of drunk driving and crime. The questionnaire also addressed right-to-die issues, solid waste and recycling and abortion.

"Other representatives said to do a survey because it gives you an idea of what people are thinking," Dolan said.