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FIFTY CENTS



Brian Lang: 'Didn't intend to hurt anyone'

Weapons buff sentenced



A Farmington Hills man, convicted on a weapons charge, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, the minimum under federal guidelines.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Although he will serve some prison time, a Farmington Hills man's sentence won't be based on wartime "hysteria," his attorney said. U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen sentenced Brian Oscar Lang, 22, to 30 months in prison for possessing and manufacturing weapons. The sentence was the minimum under federal

guidelines for the charges, said Lang's attorney, Seymour Posner. He could have been sentenced to up to 130 years.

"That (sentence) was the bottom of the guidelines," Posner said. "I think the judge realized that he (Lang) did not intend to hurt anyone."

Lang was charged in February, one year after police confiscated a cache of weapons at a Farmington Hills

house where the 1987 Harrison High School graduate lived.

Posner said the timing of the raid had more to do with the charges than anything Lang did.

Posner said Lang was a gun collector who was intrigued with firearms and military weapons. The raid, which coincided with the Persian Gulf War, made Lang appear to be a terrorist, rather than an overzealous weapons enthusiast, Posner said.

"The whole thing had to do with the hysteria caused by the war — Op-

See BUFF, 4A

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Sticky fingers: Some Farmington merchants are cracking down on shoplifting. The police couldn't be happier. /6A

COUNTY NEWS

Lesson brought home: Training and retraining reminds area officers that flashlights aren't weapons. /5A

OPINION

'Just too much': The newspaper received two antique gifts from some pretty important people recently. They started the editor thinking about the paper's role in the community. /8A

TASTE

Splendid table: Chef Larry talks with Lynne Rossetto Kasper about her newly published cookbook "The Splendid Table." Her book features cuisine from Northern Italy, and incorporates stories from the region. /1B

Cookie time: Newly released cookbooks offer ideas for holiday goodies to give as gifts, and enjoy. There are even some cookie recipes that your children will enjoy making. /1B

STREET SCENE

Gut check: Warrior Soul singer and Livonia native Kory Clarke checks in with his third release, "Salutations from the Ghetto Nation." /6B



SPORTS

Grid final: Redford Catholic Central attempted to win its third state title in Class AA football Saturday. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Groove Session" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

INDEX

Classifieds . . . C-D On the agenda . . . 10A
Entertainment . . . 7-8B Malls 6E
Auto D Personal Scene . . . 7B
Index 5C Police, fire calls . . . 10A
Real estate . . . C Sports 1C
Employment . . . C-D Street Scene . . . 6B
Crossword puzzle . . . 5C Taste 1B
Obituaries . . . 10A

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Makeup!



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New paint job: Mel Lester of Franklin got a dose of clown white, a wig and a new uniform for his walk with the celebrity clowns down Woodward in the Thanksgiving Day parade. Several other residents participated in the walk; the story and more photos are on Page 3A.

New mayor sees job as pipeline to people

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Nancy Bates looks at the job of mayor as an opportunity to better know citizens and neighborhoods in Farmington Hills.

Bates, serving her second term on

the Hills city council, won the endorsement of her peers at the Nov. 23 council meeting. Although Mayor Jon Grant and councilman Terry Sever had proposed changing the length of

See MAYOR, 2A



Nancy Bates: Faces lots of work



Larry Lichtman: New mayor pro tem

Gill PTA collects books for Florida schools

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

South Florida schools need books to replenish ones lost when Hurricane Andrew roared through last summer.

Gill Elementary PTA is sponsoring and coordinating a program to gather and deliver these books via an Adopt-A-School program headquartered in Dade County, Fla.

"Books will go to three elementary schools (in Florida) which have lost their school library/media centers,"

said Diane Chambers, project coordinator. The drive focuses on books geared to the preschool to sixth grade levels, Chambers said.

School families as well as the Farmington-area community are invited to help by donating new or "gently" used books from home.

"We don't want any books with torn edges or ripped pages," Chambers said. "No junk." The PTA is also suggesting that

parents purchase and donate a book or books from their monthly Scholastic Book Club order and annual school book fairs.

"We would like to place a name plate in each book with the name of the donor family so please make sure to identify each book you donate," Chambers said. "This is something we will be doing all year round."

Gill PTA has also invited other Farmington schools to participate and has received positive responses

HURRICANE

from Hillside Elementary and Fairview Early Childhood.

Books may be dropped off at participating schools or directly to Gill Elementary, which is serving as center base, in the collection box outside the school office marked "Books for Florida Schools."

See BOOKS, 4A

Marriage in the mail

Cameras from a national cable TV network were trained on the Little Wedding Chapel of Farmington Hills in the Orchard/12 Plaza recently.

Cable News Network came out to film a story on the wedding chapel, the first of its kind in a Detroit-area shopping center. The story was shown Thanksgiving Day, said Shari Johnson, part owner of the business.

Johnson, a former advertising saleswoman for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has owned the chapel with partners Sharon Reed and Irene Brzza for about three years.

How many weddings have been performed there in that time? Johnson would say only, "A lot." She added, "It's for couples who want an intimate wedding, maybe for those who want to be married in their own church. It gives them an alterna-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

tive to going to the courtroom."

Arts and crafts show

The Farmington Area Community Women will hold its 19th annual Arts and Crafts Show 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Farmington High School, 32000 Shiawassee.

Participants who bring at least two cans for the Salvation Army will receive a raffle ticket for a savings bond.

Chamber luncheon

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday luncheon will be held

at noon Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, northwest of Eight Mile.

Entertainment will be provided by the Farmington High School choir. Cost is \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members. For more information or reservations, call the chamber at 474-3440.

Memory Lane

From the Nov. 20, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

The State Highway Department began a survey of traffic problems on the stretch of U.S. 16 (Grand River) between Farmington and Kent Lake in an effort to ease congestion on the 17-mile stretch.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.