

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Good fellows (and gals):

Farmington's Goodfellows have deserted the streets, but not their cause: No child without a Christmas. /3A

One holdout: *The city of Farmington Hills, a developer and two homeowners' groups are trying to convince one resident to accept a consent judgment. /3A*

Day for veterans: *Members of an area VFW post entertained veterans and others at the Botsford Continuing Health Center in Farmington Hills. /6A*

COUNTY NEWS

What's your number?: *Starting Dec. 1, telephone numbers in the (313) area code will be switched to a new code number. /5A*

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Win a day in New York City: *If you like to shop, have we got a contest for you! /8A*

TASTE

Meatless meals: *Meet some people who make vegetables the centerpiece of their Thanksgiving feast. /1B*

Wine column: *For desserts in a hurry during the holidays, serve port. /1C*

STREET SCENE

New sound: *What started as a side project for members of three bands, Caleum Bliss has turned into a group that uses nontraditional instruments to produce its sound. /5B*

SPORTS

Grid playoffs: *Harrison played Northville in a Class A regional championship game Saturday. /1C*

Hoop final: *North Farmington was runner-up to Plymouth Canton in the WLAA basketball tournament Friday. /1C*

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Principal draws fire over blazes



Harrison High School's new principal didn't like being asked about two recent arson fires at his school — or why he didn't call the fire department right away.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A fire in a girls' restroom at Harrison High School has shed more heat than light on communication problems between the school and the fire department.

The Nov. 4 blaze, which melted a

towel rack and became intense enough to set off the automatic sprinkler system that extinguished it, took place at about 3:15 p.m., but wasn't reported until the next morning. There were no injuries.

Harrison principal Rande Horn said if he'd had it to do over again, he

would have called the Farmington Hills Fire Department at the time, instead of the next morning.

But fire Chief Richard Marinucci said he isn't sure if Horn, who took over the post this year, understands the importance of letting firefighters do their job.

"We don't want people trying to put out fires and then realizing that it's out of control before they call the fire department," Marinucci said. "His (Horn) seemed to have the attitude that it was an internal problem and none of my business."

Horn said his primary concern at the time of the fire was to evacuate the students (mostly ninth and 10th graders taking a late-afternoon test) from the smoky building and take care of the water dumped by the sprinklers.

"So shoot me!" Horn said when asked why he didn't call the department right away. "We probably did the wrong thing. I understand his (Marinucci's) concern. But I can't believe that I am being bothered about this crap."

See FIRE, 2A

Learning the 'ins and outs' of English



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Working together: Lena Davcy of Belgium and Bo Chan of China complete a project in American culture. They're dressing a pumpkin in their language class in Farmington Community Adult Education.

Classes help foreigners get handle on English

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Tell a student in an English as a Second Language class that someone is pulling their leg, and they may look to see who is tugging at their ankle.

Likewise, when informed it's raining cats and dogs, they expect Spuds MacKenzie and Garfield to come

crashing down from the heavens.

Idioms are one perplexity students in the Farmington Adult Education program have to conquer. Sometimes, the quirky expressions are enough to make their heads spin.

Or, rather, befuddled them.

"Things we take for granted they interpret quite literally," said Diane

Shaw, who is one of the instructors in the program at Farmington Community School. "You tell them you're going to pick up the house before guests come over, and they think you're actually going to lift up the house."

Many cultures

Such light-hearted moments pro-

vide common ground for what otherwise is a wondrous and frightening experience for students.

Many have recently immigrated to the United States. Some have been transferred with their families because of jobs.

See ENGLISH, 2A

Superintendent hopefuls face school board quiz

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

There are seven board members and seven candidates. Questions and answers remain in the Farmington Public Schools superintendent search.

Interviews take place starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Lewis Schulman Board of Education office. Each candidate will be interviewed for 90 minutes. They will be supplied with the questions beforehand.

"Now we're going to look for the

chemistry," said board president Cathleen Webb. "They're all truly outstanding on paper."

"They're going to walk the talk and we're going to see what they say."

The sessions are open to the public and will be broadcast live. Ten minutes will be set aside for public comment during each session.

The interview schedule will go as follows:

On Tuesday:

■ 6-7:30 p.m., Margaret (Dolly) McMaster — Assistant superintendent

for instructional services for Northville Public Schools since 1986, she has served as internal facilitator for strategic planning, director of curriculum, and administrative assistant for instructional services with the district. She was an assistant principal at West Bloomfield High School 1979-81 and a teacher at West Middle School in Plymouth 1966-79. She has a doctorate of philosophy from Michigan State University.

■ 8-9:30 p.m., Michael Shilber — Superintendent of Rockford Public

Schools since 1989, he was superintendent of Livonia Clarenceville School District 1984-89. He was also an assistant superintendent for Brighton Area Schools 1977-84. He expects to complete his doctoral studies in September 1994.

On Wednesday:

■ 6-7:30 p.m., Joe Gonzalez — Superintendent of Jay City Public Schools since 1991, he's served as deputy superintendent, assistant superintendent for personnel and administrative

See QUESTIONS, 2A

Anyone for the arts?

Attention anyone interested in the local arts scene: the Farmington Artist in Residence Committee would like your help.

The committee, sponsored by the Farmington Area Arts Commission, annually recognizes the achievements of area individuals and groups in the arts.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee should call Kathy Bricker (471-0660) or Debbie Grant (478-2566).

For the faithful

The community Inter-Faith Thanksgiving service will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Paul Blomquist of Orchard United Methodist Church. A choir will be being organized for this service, which will be directed by the Rev. Edward Duncan of First United Methodist Church, and the Rev. John Makl of Salem United Methodist Church.

AFSCME election results

The votes have been counted, and the president is . . . Don Gould, a maintenance worker for the city of Farmington. Gould was elected president of the American

Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1456, representing city workers in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Others gaining office were LaVonne Roberts, vice president; Iris Morgan, recording secretary; Matthew Keen, secretary-treasurer; Robert Boyd and Elsie McKeown, executive board members; and Robert Hope, three-year trustee.

The local also voted to donate \$200 to help pay the expenses of Farmington High School's band which hopes to travel to France next year to perform in the Allied Musical Salute to the Liberation of France.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office or faxed to 477-9722.