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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**'Let's Talk':** A popular cable TV talk show is being turned into a town hall-type meeting, and a large crowd is expected. /3A

**A grand opening:** A gala grand opening is planned for the new Farmington Hills Ice Arena in Founders Sports Park. /3A

**Court goes to school:** Justice was served at Farmington Harrison High — literally — as the auditorium was transformed into 47th District Court. /3A

## TASTE

**Community gardens:** A lot of people prefer to grow vegetables for the opportunity to dig, weed and water, and for the joy of sharing the experience with their neighbors. /1B

**Taste Buds:** Chef Larry Janes answers reader requests for chicken soup, and tips for making soft, chewy cookies. /1B

## SPORTS

**Grid battles:** Farmington High took on Plymouth Salem, and North Farmington clashed with Westland John Glenn in high school football. /1C

**High hoopla:** Mercy High played Ladywood in an important Catholic League girls basketball game. /1C

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Winkleman's wisdom:** Guest retail columnist Stanley Winkleman comments on the current retail scene. /5C

**Beating cancer:** Merchants in one Oakland County community pulled out all the stops to establish a scholarship fund for kids who beat cancer. /5C

## LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$3.8 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Saturday, Sept. 23, are:

- DAILY 3:**  
023
- DAILY 4:**  
7214
- LOTTO:** 40, 37, 35, 20, 10, 6

## INDEX

- Classifieds . . . D-F
- Announcements . . . 3F
- Autos . . . 5F
- Car report . . . 1F
- Crossword . . . 3D
- Employment . . . 5D
- Home-Service . . . 4F
- Pets . . . 5F
- Real Estate . . . 1D
- Rentals . . . 3D
- Malls . . . 5C
- Movies . . . 3B
- Obituaries . . . 7A
- Personals . . . 5B
- Police . . . 8A
- Sports . . . 1C
- Taste . . . 1B

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# Man sought in student's death



Farmington Hills' Tina Biggar, missing for the past month, has been found dead in Southfield. Where is Ken Tranchida, her acquaintance and the suspect in her death?

BY MARGARET O'BRIEN and BILL COUTANT  
 STAFF WRITERS

They've found the body. Now the search is on for a suspect. With the discovery Thursday of the body of missing Oakland University student Tina Biggar — and the Oakland County Medical Examiner's ruling that she was a homicide victim — police are intensifying what has become a nationwide manhunt for the prime suspect, Kenneth Tranchida. "This is a major breakthrough in the case," said Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer after the discovery of the body of Tina Biggar near a small house a half-mile east

of the body of Tina Biggar near a small house a half-mile east of Lahser on the north side of Nine Mile in Southfield. "He (Tranchida) has been our prime suspect for a long time," Dwyer said. Hills detectives Pat Comini and Al Soderland were checking on an anonymous tip that led them to the house, which had been sold by Tranchida's aunt two years ago. The house was vacant and mail was being left next door, Dwyer said. "They knocked and nobody answered," Dwyer said. "It was good detective work to look around the area."

Lahser on the north side of Nine Mile in Southfield.

"He (Tranchida) has been our prime suspect for a long time," Dwyer said. Hills detectives Pat Comini and Al Soderland were checking on an anonymous tip that led them to the house, which had been sold by Tranchida's aunt two years ago. The house was vacant and mail was being left next door, Dwyer said. "They knocked and nobody answered," Dwyer said. "It was good detective work to look around the area."

The officers found the body on the east side of the house, which is about 170 feet from the road.

"It's unlikely that the smell of the decomposing body would have been strong enough and with winter coming on, it could have been months before the body was found," Dwyer said.

**Dead about four weeks**

The woman had been dead for about four weeks, the examiner's office said Friday, and Southfield police.

See DEATH, 5A

## Mock crash delivers smashing message



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMMON

North Farmington assembly: Stephanie Wylie, a senior at North Farmington, plays dead on the football field after being involved in a pretend auto accident.

## Mock accident's message hits home with teens

BY TOM BARR  
 STAFF WRITER

Many all life's accidents turn out this well, Stephanie Wylie said. She only pretended to be dead, and three of her friends escaped with nary a scratch.

The scene was witnessed by just about the entire North Farmington High School student body at the recent "mock accident" on the school's football field. "The intent of the Sept. 19 safety assembly was to show students the consequences of drinking and driving," said Theresa Canning, a flight nurse with Midwest Medflight, an Ann Arbor-based ambulance service that organized the event with the help of the local police and fire departments.

"We had a good reaction from the kids," Canning said. "It really seemed to hit home." and there were a lot of tears afterward. People were crying. I got the idea from some of these students, and some of the teachers too. I knew someone would be in an accident involving drunk driving."



Student body: North Farmington students fill the football bleachers to witness the mock auto accident.

See MESSAGE, 4A

## Barnett: Save property values, way of life

BY BILL COUTANT  
 STAFF WRITER

Vicki Barnett says she believes local government should put its citizens' concerns first.

The proposition sounds simple enough, but sometimes has gotten lost in city council politics, said the Farmington Hills City Council challenger, one of five candidates for three council seats in the Nov. 7 election. "There should be no compromise with our property values and with our way of life," said the 41-year-old mother of two.

A former professional singer, Barnett lives with her attorney husband Mark Stockloff and their two children

## HILLS COUNCIL RACE

where she continues to be active politically. Barnett has worked for Republican former President George Bush and former Democratic presidential candidate Morris Udall.

She's worked for former State Sen. Jack Faxon, worked with the Committee to Increase Voter Participation and ran an unsuccessful campaign against state Sen. Dave Hongrean last year. In 1993, Barnett led a successful statewide petition drive to preserve school funding.

"This is a little bit easier," she said

of campaigning in Farmington Hills. "It was a big (state senate) district." Barnett called the city's approval of the controversial Timbercrest development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt a "bad precedent" because the planned to build roads and sewers that would have been the developer's responsibility under normal zoning.

That, she said, led in part to voters turning down a special tax to buy



See BARNETT, 2A Vicki Barnett