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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Learn not to burn: Farmington area firefighters are making a special effort to get the word out about fire hazards as the indoor heating season begins. /3A

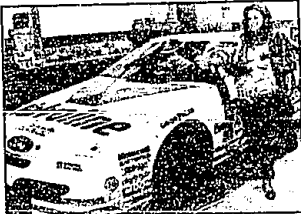
TASTE

Buffalo cookbook: Ruth Mossok Johnston of Franklin is blazing new culinary trails with her "The Buffalo Cookbook." /1B

Taste Buds: Chef Larry Janes shares an abundance of ideas for enjoying this year's squash crop. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Retail advice: Consultant Ronald Leonetti addresses a meeting of leaders of family-owned businesses with words of wisdom for the '90s. /8B



Rough racing: NASCAR fans are delighted with all the souvenirs and apparel available at a new store in Livonia. /8B

SPORTS

Grid showdown: The Harrison Hawks battled Northville in a key Western Division football game Friday. /1C

Boys Bowl: Catholic Central and Brother Rice put their unbeaten records on the line Sunday in their annual contest. /1C

LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$6.2 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Saturday, Sept. 30, are:

DAILY 3:
425

DAILY 4:
0149

LOTTO: 29, 36, 42, 23, 22, 13

INDEX

Agendas 5A	Merchandise . . . 8D
Classifieds B-D	Malls 5E
Announcements . 5D	Movies 5B
Autos 7D	Obituaries 5A
Car report 1D	Personals 7B
Crossword 11B	Police, fire 6A
Employment 5C	Sports 1C
Home-Services . . . 8D	Taste 1B

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Suspect's statement challenged



Despite an admission of guilt, Ken Tranchida's lawyer said the case against his client is far from over. Tranchida's mental state will likely be the key to his defense.

BY WAYNE PEAL AND MARGARET O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITERS

Kenneth Tranchida's admission to a judge — and possibly to police — that he killed Oakland University student Tina Biggar was a "legal suicide" that should be thrown out of court, Tranchida's attorney said.

"Just as he physically tried to commit suicide, his statements were a kind of legal suicide," said Michael Modelski, the court-appointed Bloomfield Township attorney representing Tranchida. "His state of mind has to be considered."

Modelski said Tranchida's mental state will be a key issue during this

week's preliminary exam. "What he said in court is not going to be held against him," Modelski said. "What we're looking at now is any statements he might have made to police."

Also at issue is whether Biggar's death was accidental or deliberate. Unconfirmed reports have circulated that Biggar died after her head accidentally struck a metal safe.

"Even if he were involved with her death, there are other issues that must be determined," Modelski said. "Was it second-degree murder? Was

it manslaughter? This is far from over."

During arraignment Thursday in Southfield's 46th District Court, Tranchida, 41, said he killed Biggar.

"I've pled guilty already, your honor. I'm willing to face my dues," Tranchida said before 46th District Court Judge Stephen Cooper.

The body of the Farmington Hills woman was discovered Sept. 21 behind a Southfield house where a Tranchida family member once lived. Tranchida was arrested in Detroit's

See ARRAIGNMENT, 2A

Happy 50th — and take the day off!



SHARON LEMELER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mass exodus: Mercy High School students cheered after Cardinal Adam Maida's declaration: In honor of the school's 50th birthday, the students could have Monday (today) off. Maida, with Monsignor John Quinn, celebrated Mass at the school Thursday.



Richard Marinucci

Chief gets national prestige

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci went to the annual convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters in Louisville, Ky., as one of 11,000 members. He returned knowing that he will soon lead the organization.

Marinucci, 41, was elected second vice president, meaning that in two years, he will take over as president of the organization that includes members from all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and other nations. The vote was conducted on Sept. 12.

"It's a real honor," said the soft-spoken Dearborn native. Two of Marinucci's closest associates, Deputy Fire Chief Pete Baldwin and Lt. Mike Garr, said it's a testament to the chief's abilities.

"He was endorsed by our firefighters, the Southeastern Michigan Fire Chiefs (Association), the state fire chiefs and a lot of other organizations," Baldwin said. "You just don't run for office at that level. You have to serve on committees and do a lot of work."

Garr said the accomplishment will bring recognition to the city as well as to Marinucci.

"The name Farmington Hills will be known throughout the country and elsewhere," Garr said. "It's a comment on his ability as a fire chief and especially as a manager."

Marinucci said membership has helped him learn about methods other departments use in their operations.

See CHIEF, 3A

Police: Man made threats in drunken driving arrest

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills man is being charged with drunken driving — but not with ethnic intimidation, as police had suggested — after his arrest Thursday by Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer and other officers.

Gregory Sheldon Brown, 37, of Farmington Hills, stood mute on a charge of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol at his arraignment Friday afternoon in Farmington's 47th District Court.

Police had asked prosecutors to charge Brown with ethnic intimidation as well as drunken driving, but prosecutors only brought the second charge. Prosecutors could not be reached for comment Friday.

Police claim the suspect had plenty to say when Dwyer and other officers arrested and booked him, then took him to Botaford General Hospital for blood tests to determine his alcohol level.

Officer Kevin Dwyer said the man, an African

American, called his arrest "O.J. style" at the scene.

He initially agreed to a field sobriety test, which he could not complete, and then tested at 0.19 percent blood alcohol level, police said. A 1 percent blood alcohol level is legally too drunk to drive.

The man became more belligerent, making threats against the white officers and their families, police said. Some of the threats were tape recorded during his booking, and several witnesses at Botaford Hospital heard the comments, police said.

The police chief said he was driving home, just out of the police lot at 11 Mills and Orchard Lake, when he heard a report to dispatch of a drunken driver driving a maroon 1993 Ford Aerostar north on Orchard Lake from Shiawassee at about 8:15 p.m.

Dwyer drove south on Orchard Lake, spotted the man, made a U-turn and followed it north to the light on the bridge over I-696.

"I was concerned, thinking what had just hap-

pened to a 13-year-old boy who had been hit by a drunk driver," he said, referring to a fatal accident on 10 Mile Sept. 25. "This guy was forcing cars off the road. I really think something bad would have happened if he had continued."

Judge Fred Harris set bond at \$10,000 or 10 percent of Brown's arraignment later Friday afternoon. No date has been set for a pre-trial examination.

Brown's attorney, Richard Rosenberg, said he had not had a chance as of Friday night to talk with his client about the arrest and subsequent booking.

"I expect he has (bonded out) or will have shortly," Rosenberg said.

Brown, according to Hills police, was convicted in 1978 of homicide with intent to murder with a weapon in Southfield. He was sentenced to a year probation and a \$200 fine.

In 1983, records show Brown was convicted of malicious destruction of property, interfering with a police officer doing his duty, and disturbing the peace.