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Farmington Observer

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Clarenceville hopeful: Of the three candidates for Clarenceville's top job, Thomas Tattan comes from the biggest district. /3A

Quite a walk: Two area families have become avid supporters of the WalkAmerica event that benefits March of Dimes programs. /3A

TASTE

Focus on Wine: Extremism for quality wine is not a vice. /1B

Eating well: New cookbook shows you how to "Be Good to Your Gut." /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Super service: The Furniture Source makes a believer of one home furnishings shopper. /10A

SPORTS

Track preview: Farmington Harrison should be among the contenders for the boys league championship again this year. /1C

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Police finger vandal suspects, no arrests yet

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police have two suspects under investigation in connection with the vandalism of several houses, cars and a Century 21 office in the northern part of the city. No one has yet to be arrested.

"This looks like gang graffiti, with the inverted swastikas," said Detective Lt. Doug Anderson. "I don't think this was an ethnic intimidation problem. We think these were kids out on spring break."

Anderson was talking about the spray painting of the swastikas and "B.S." symbols found on several mail boxes, a car and four houses on Eastfield, north of 13 Mile. The symbols were also spray painted on a picnic table and the porch at the Century 21 building nearby on Orchard Lake.

In addition, several hood ornaments were taken from cars parked at the Orchard Place Condominiums.

"I'm glad we had our porch light on," said Linda Cleves, whose house was spared. "Our neighbor did not have a light on. And they were hit."

But Cleves' mail box and her daughter Lisa's 1996 Chevy Celebrity were damaged. Lisa, 16, was busy Wednesday afternoon trying to remove the red paint from her car.

"It came off the windows pretty easily," she said. "But the rest is a lot more difficult."

Linda Cleves, who attends a Baptist church, said she didn't think the vandalism was a hate crime.

"It's just some kids on Easter break," she said. One of her neighbors, who is Jewish, said he hoped that it wasn't a hate crime.

"But I think it would be even worse if it is just somebody toying with what they've seen elsewhere," said Mike Mintz. "I sure hope it isn't (ethnic intimidation)."

Lil' Brother watching state races



Candidates in the wide-open Senate and House races should remember one thing: The home folks will be watching them closer than ever — and expecting accountability.

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Pack your bags for Lansing, but don't forget the folks who sent you. You will be held accountable. That's the message city and school officials are offering to whomever ends up in the state House and Sen-

ate from the Farmington area. "Local governments have made it clear that they're not going to sit down and just take what comes at them (from Lansing) anymore," said Farmington City Manager Frank Laubhoff. Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vag-

nozzi and Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield echo that sentiment. Locally, it seems there has been dissatisfaction the last couple of years with edicts from state government.

There'll be two new faces in Lansing from Farmington-area state districts this year, beginning in June when the vacant 16th District state Senate seat is filled and continuing in November when a new state representative is elected to the 37th House District. The Senate position fell open when

Republican Sen. David Honigman resigned, citing ill health. By order of Gov. John Engler, a May 13 primary will eliminate three of the four Republican incumbents. Only one Democrat has filed. A special election will be held June 4. Campaigns already are underway.

The sprawling 16th Senate District includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield, as well as several municipalities to the west. The 37th House District — long

See WATCHING, 2A

Two men bound over for arson, murders

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It was as if Arthur Hollingsworth Coyce was whistling past a graveyard as he came into 47th District Court Friday, his pursed and hands shackled, for his preliminary examination on charges that he murdered two Farmington Hills women and torched their home in December.

Judge Marla Parker bound over Coyce and his co-defendant George Tyrone Davis, both 23, to Oakland Circuit Court on charges of first-degree murder in the killings of Louise Bovair, 62, and her daughter Melissa, 21, at their Quail Hollow home Dec. 19, 1995.

The case had been delayed while a forensic exam was conducted to determine if Coyce of Farmington Hills was competent to stand trial. He was declared competent.



Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Madzia argued that Coyce planned the murder and arson "to get revenge" on his former girlfriend who had left him in June of 1995 and become close friends with Melissa Bovair.

Jose Fanego, representing Davis, and Gregory Wilkins, representing Coyce, did not dispute an autopsy finding that both women had died as a result of the fire and both had been murdered. A TV, VCR, two "boom boxes" and jewelry that had belonged to the woman had been found in Davis' apartment by police after the fire.

Farmington Hills Fire Marshal Steve Hume testified that with multiple origins of the fire, the pattern of the fire, and the autopsy showed that Louise Bovair had been burned with a flammable liquid. Michigan State Police lab results showed that a flammable liquid had been used to start the fire was proof of arson.

Matt Harrison, a friend of Coyce at the time, said he had cried on the phone and asked her if they could talk in the early hours of Dec. 28, after seeing his former girlfriend. Coyce is charged in a separate case with abducting and raping his former girlfriend just before talking to Harrison. "He asked if I remembered hearing about the fire," Harrison said. "He said, 'I did it.'"

Harrison said she was scared and confused after his emotional confession, but agreed to drive him home. Bloomfield Township police stopped the car and arrested Coyce. "He sufficed with them and the of-

See MURDER, 4A



Benefit concert coming

The Michigan Flute Orchestra will perform at "Evening Elegance," a benefit concert to help provide music scholarships given by The Farmington Musicals, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 19, at North Congregational Church, 36620 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets for the concert and an "afterglow" are \$11 for adults and \$6 for students. For ticket information, call Priscilla Marino at 626-8238.

Post office open late

Attention, Farmington-area taxpayers who put off filing their income tax return: The Farmington Hills Post Office, 92465 W. 12 Mile Road, will offer late-night pick-ups tonight,

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Monday, April 15 — the tax deadline. All mail deposited into the specially-marked collection boxes before 11:59 p.m. Monday, April 15, will receive the April 15 postmark.

In addition, some Detroit-area post offices will offer retail services during late hours tonight. The closest to the Farmington area is the Southfield Post Office, 22200 W. 11 Mile Road.

On indoor air pollution

Walt Lyons, an "indoor meteorologist" and an expert on air pollution, will speak on the subject at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23,

at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 38123 W. 10 Mile Road.

Lyons will discuss the links between indoor air pollution and allergy and asthma. He will highlight three steps for improving indoor air quality: remove the source, ventilate and dilute. To register, call 1-800-354-6770, Ext. 778. For more information, call 473-5042.

All about militias

The role of militias in Michigan and American history will be discussed by Stanley Sobick, professor emeritus of history at Wayne State University at a Wednesday, April 24, meeting of the Farmington Historical Society.

See FOCUS, 2A