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IN THE PAPER TODAY

The Immigrant experience: It's an emotional tug-of-war, say those who know. Sadness of leaving home and a familiar culture often clashes with the excitement and fear of settling in a new environment. /A3

TASTE

Thanksgiving side dishes: When asked to bring a dish to pass for Thanksgiving dinner, local chefs dish out family favorites. /B1

Wine column: Steve MacRostie, owner and winemaker at MacRostie Winery in Sonoma, Calif., has a passion for wines from the Carneros appellation. /B1

SPORTS

Football playoffs: Farmington Harrison attempted to win a Class A regional championship Saturday against Trenton High School. /C1

SPECIAL SECTION

Holiday Shopping: See special supplement inside today's paper for guide to holiday shopping right in your own backyard.

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Suspect had troubled Hills past



The man accused of going on a shooting rampage in a Wixom Ford plant has a Farmington Hills background — and a history of trouble in this community.

By WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

For one school administrator, the shooting death of a Ford employee by a former Farmington Hills resident was especially tragic.

"The ironic thing is that not only did I know the ex-student (accused killer Gerald Atkins, 29), but I was a friend and ex-neighbor of Darrell

Izzard (57)," said Don Cowan, Farmington Public Schools director of K-12 education.

Cowan had been principal at North Farmington High School while Atkins was a student there. Atkins never graduated, Cowan said.

"I don't recall a lot of the specifics about Jerry," he said of the accused

murderer. "He was a pretty intense kid. He was in and out of schools."

Atkins, who is accused of shooting Izzard to death in the Wixom Ford plant Thursday, had a history of trouble dating to his early teens.

He had been charged as a juvenile with a break-in at North Farmington High School on Feb. 20, 1983, according to Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. He had escaped from Children's Village and had been recaptured.

He was charged with a Feb. 5, 1984 break-in of a house on Orchard Lake and after being caught in the

attack of the house.

But the most serious incident took place on April 7, 1986, when Atkins, then 18, and three other teens were shooting at passing cars from a window of his parents' house on 13 Milo near Halsted.

Atkins had also run away from home. His parents told police at that time that they would get mental health counseling for him.

Police said the teens had been drinking and smoking marijuana at the time and had begun shooting out the window that afternoon, hitting

See ATKINS, A8

Clues few in deadly robbery

By WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police are still looking for a suspect in the fatal shooting of a River Rouge man in the early hours of Nov. 14 in a robbery attempt at the Comerica Bank at 30840 Northwestern.

Everisto Dwayne Bosley of River Rouge, 26, was shot and killed by an assailant and was pronounced dead at 3:51 a.m. at Providence Hospital.

The shooting took place as the armored vehicle was parked with the driver, 29, inside and an armed guard, 52, standing near the victim who was working on the ATM machine.

Police said the assailant came up behind the victim and told him it was a hold up. The victim turned toward the gunman and was shot. One shot from the assailant's gun hit him in the right side of his chest.

The gunman escaped without being shot by the guard, who was standing near the victim. The gunmen fled on foot, possibly to a nearby vacant house. A police tracking dog lost the gunman's scent near the house.

Neither the guard nor the driver were injured.

There was not money stolen in the attempted robbery.

Police do not believe the robbery was connected to one about four

See BANK, A2



Crime scene search: Wayne Beerbower (left) and John Markey look for clues at the Comerica Bank branch on Northwestern Highway Thursday morning.

New senator no psychic on school issues

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Willis Bullard, R-Milford, brought his crystal ball to the Farmington Board of Education, but not enough glass cleaner.

The future on many school issues remains cloudy, the senator said. Bullard, who was elected in June, gave an update on educational issues before the state Legislature to interested board members at a study session Nov. 12.

He discussed — but offered few predictions on — schools of choice, vouchers, state aid and the yet-to-be felt ramifications of a court decision awarding 58 school districts, including Farmington, back money for underfunding mandated programs such as special education.

The disputed money involves several millions of dollars — Farmington's share is \$21 million alone — which the state does not have.

If forced to pay up immediately, some speculate school districts could receive less state aid as a result. "I hope something is worked out to ease the burden on the state," Bullard said.

Good news is state revenues are 4.5 percent above last year's. As a result, \$1 billion is added in a state "rainy day" fund, Bullard said.

Overall, Bullard touted himself as a supporter of public education. He's against a voucher system that would allow public money to pay for private education. More so, the state constitution prohibits it, Bullard said. Three-fourths support is needed in both the House and Senate to change the law.

"I don't see that happening," Bullard said. School of choice are only preferable if local school boards can opt in or out, he said. Keeping on the theme of local control, the Senator is also wary of value education.

See BULLARD, A2

Hometown honors hometown gal



Mary Bush

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Mary Bush — who's known to bag a buck — captured the 1996 Citizen Year Award without a shot.

Rather nominators provided a volley of platitudes for the avid hunter and Farmington City Council woman, who will receive the award at Wednesday's annual Farmington/Farmington Hills

'I guess to sum it up, I'm shocked and honored.'

Mary Bush
—Citizen of the Year

Chamber of Commerce dinner at The Relish Grill. Citizen of the Year is based on community service, which comes natural to Bush. Her family roots go back 170 years

to the Farmington area. Bush grew up in the former Farmington Township.

"I think what makes this place special is that I've lived here most of my life — this is my home," said Bush, who was in the Upper Peninsula for the opening of the deer hunting season during the weekend. "I wouldn't want to live

See BUSH, A2

Craft Show coming

The North Farmington High School Band & Orchestra Boosters will present the group's sixth-annual Winter Arts & Crafts Show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at the school, 32900 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Admission will be \$2 per person.

The juried show will include more than 100 artists and craftsmen from the Midwest. Works will include painting, pottery, glass, jewelry, photography, leather, enlignography and more.

Proceeds from the show will benefit the instrumental music programs at the high school.

The music groups, directed by Carl Gippert, have won numerous awards at national and international festivals. In recent years, the groups have performed in Germany, Boston, Toronto and Washington, D.C.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Proceeds also help provide scholarships, musical instruments, instruction, supplies, etc. Lunch and free parking will be available.

Holiday hours for museum

The Farmington Historical Museum, 33805 Grand River, soon will be decorated for the holidays and open to the public on an expanded schedule.

Hours will be 1-5 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 8, 15 and 22, and Wednesdays, Dec. 11 and 18. Admission will be a \$1 donation per person.

Group visitations can be arranged by calling 476-6267 or 473-7275.

Santa's coming!

If there's a nip (not to mention a snow flurry or two) in the air, can Christmas be far off? No indeed. Farmington-area folks may want to know that the annual Holiday Hunting event will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, in downtown Farmington.

As in the past, Santa will arrive by helicopter at 11 a.m. with a welcoming committee of the mayor, Miss Farmington and the Farmington High School marching band.

Santa will be walking the streets and stopping in the stores from 1-5 p.m. that day. He will be assisted by "elves" handing out candy to children,