

Farmington Observer

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Engler's answers appearing May 15

Our interview with Gov. John Engler was pushed back a second time because of the major road plan announcement last week.

We have been assured that our new appointment, tomorrow, is set in stone. So, please look for the governor's responses to your questions in the Thursday, May 15 edition.

Thank you to the dozens of readers who participated and gave us a broad and interesting list of questions to ask. We are looking forward to the answers, too.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Pay for parks: Farmington Hills officials debate needs and wants for a parks and recreation millage renewal this fall. /A6

Traffic tangles: Plans for a new Super Kmart housing complex in Farmington Hills near Northwestern and 14 Mile worry West Bloomfield neighbors. /B3

SPECIAL SECTION

Women's health: See what local hospitals are doing to serve women's health needs in this special insert in today's paper.

INDEX

Agendas	A2	Malls & Mainstreets	B4-5
Arts & Leisure	C1	Movie Guide	C4
Automotive	J	New Homes	F1
Bus. & Finance	E1-4	Oakland Digest	A4
Classifieds	G-2	Obituaries	B3
Contests for sale	36	Politics, Op. eds.	A6
Index		Road Watch	A4
Crossword	G4	Sports & Rec.	D
Real Estate	G1	Taste	B1
Rentals	G5		
Jobs & Careers	H1		

Conspiracy out in golf course vandalism case

BY WILLIAM COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Five young men accused of causing about \$50,000 in damage at the San Marino Golf Course in April will face some of the original charges in circuit court, but not the most serious one.

Attorneys for the young men met with Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Sidney Ryan Monday morning, before waiving the preliminary exam before Judge Marla Parker in 47th District Court.

The five were originally charged with conspiracy to commit malicious destruction of property, two counts of malicious destruction of property and two counts of illegal entry for the vandalism of several golf carts, a truck, a shed and the golf course itself. The vandalism took place on consecutive nights beginning April 2.

"There was no agreement prior to going over there (to the golf course) to commit a crime," said attorney Larry Kaluzny, representing the youngest defendant, William Zima, 17, of Farmington Hills. "There was an agreement to go over there."

Kaluzny said the prosecutor was willing to drop the four-year conspiracy charge, which also allows up to \$12,000 in fines, because of that difference.

Ryan said the defendants still face the other charges and plan to petition for youthful training status. If allowed, that would require them to pay restitution for the damage, serve probation and possibly do community service in exchange for getting the felony conviction removed from their records.

Malicious destruction of property is a four-year felony and illegal entry is a 90-day misdemeanor.

Zima, Michael Paul Tomey, 18, Robert John III, 18, and Stephen John Munro, 19, all of Farmington Hills; and Ryan Nicholas Hubbard, 19, of Livonia all waived their right to an exam and were bound over to Oakland Circuit Court for arraignment at 1:30 p.m. May 27 before Judge Nancy Grant.

Ryan said once they enter pleas in circuit court, the conspiracy charge will be dropped.

One count each of the vandalism and illegal entry charges were dropped against John and against Hubbard, because they are not accused of being at the scene during both of the incidents, Ryan said.

Bond was continued for the five. Zima is free on \$25,000 personal bond and the other four are free on \$5,000 personal bond.

At the request of their attorneys, Judge Parker modified a curfew order on the defendants that would allow them to be out later on their graduation and prom nights.

"Although they could possibly learn something from losing some privileges, your clients are presumed innocent," Judge Parker said in granting the exceptions to the 10 p.m. curfew.

Flood policy savings not flowing

BY WILLIAM COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Although the Kendallwood subdivision sits atop a massive drain project designed to protect the area from flooding, it hasn't yet translated into lower insurance costs.

A Hills real estate agent said she

was surprised to learn, while negotiating the sale of a house in the Kendallwood subdivision, that flood insurance was still required.

"I thought, isn't that what that expensive drain project was about?" said the woman, who asked not to be identified.

The Minnow Pond drain project was installed during the summer of

1994 between 12 and 13 Mile roads under Kendallwood between Farmington and Orchard Lakes.

The area, which had been platted and developed before a flood plain had been legally established, had been hit by severe flooding, especially in 1989.

The 8 1/2 foot diameter drain pipes were laid under the road in

stages in order to collect flood water from even a 100-year flood, but 15th protection hasn't yet translated to an end to flood insurance.

"The map has to be change by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)," said Tom Biasoli, director of public services. "We had to submit a whole bunch of calcula-

Please see FLOOD, A7



What a mom!

Best mom: Observer contest winner Jenna Berndt, 10, shares a smile with her mother, Linda. Jenna wrote: "I think she is doing a very good job raising us."

Mom's tops with these kids

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

If entries to the Farmington Observer's Mother's Day contest are an indication, it's fair to say that there are a lot of great moms out there.

Moms who tuck in their youngsters every night with a hug and a kiss. Moms who make spaghetti and chicken noodle soup and barbecue spare ribs. Moms who don't get too upset when their kids act up. And moms traveling far and wide to get their kids to dance or piano lessons, hockey games or soccer practice.

By last Friday's contest deadline, 67 kids, ages 12 and under, had responded to our question: Tell us why your mom is the best in 100 words or less. Some were brief, a few wrote poetry. Joe Schiavi, 11, of Northville, drew a charming picture of his mom, Cynthia Bryant. All entries were heartwarming. A salute to all the moms represented!

In the end, Jenna Berndt, 10, of Farmington Hills, was selected for the grand prize: a \$50 certificate for dinner donated by the Botsford Inn of Farmington Hills.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEONARD

Please see MOMS, A7

'Athena' winner succeeds while juggling business, family needs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Linda Jolicœur finds the line separating business and family becomes faint as time goes on.

The Farmington Hills entrepreneur — who has guided her equipment and leasing firm from a diminutive outfit operated at her home to one that posted \$4.2 million in sales last year — believes her husband, four children and nine employees are part of the same team at Target Leasing Equipment.

"When you work with seven and

eight people, they're not just employees," Jolicœur said. "You cannot detach yourself emotionally from them. They become an extension of your family."

Some would marvel at Jolicœur's business acumen; others might simply respect her ability to juggle both family and work.

This year's recipient of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Athena Award is being lauded for those attributes and more.

Jolicœur will be presented with the honor during a dinner 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14, at Best Western Executive Suites, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, Olympic Gold Medalist Sheila Taormina is the guest speaker.

Jolicœur is being recognized for more than moving adroitly between home and office, though.

"I guess what impresses me is she can handle so much and still find time to help other people and be involved in the community," said Nurton Ural, owner of Ural Interiors Inc. and who nominated Joli-



More honors: Linda Jolicœur won an Athena Award in 1992 from the Oakland Division of the Greater Detroit chamber.

Please see BOND, A7

Please see ATHENA, A7

Swan attacker sought

Neighbors in the Heritage Village complex are looking for the person who shot and killed a nesting female swan late last month.

An anonymous donor has put up a \$500 reward to find the assailant.

Jim Balderas, a resident of Heritage Village near Freedom and Drake in Farmington, said the attacker shot the swan in the head at close range with a pellet gun. They don't know if the swan eggs will hatch. Balderas said, since the male swan is sitting on the eggs. They're due to hatch six to nine days.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Farmington Public Safety Department at 474-4700.

A SADD message

Farmington area students heading to prom later this month will get a sobering message with their corsages.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The Farmington High School Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) chapter is working with three floral shops and sponsor Thayer-Rock Funeral Home to insert three different cards into purchases of corsages and boutonnières.

Messages are clear: "Is a beer worth the price of your life?" says one. "The other says, 'Your actions can be someone else's fate' and 'Drink, drive, die.'"

All of these were thought up by members in the club at one of the meetings," said Janella Horton, FHS SADD president. The cards were printed in the school district's print shop.

Florists distributing the cards will be "Hearts & Roses" on 12 Mile, Springbrook Gardens on Power Road, and Farmington Florist on Grand River.

Parade is deadline

Overshadowing the colorful tulips and other flowers planted this past week in the big brick planter in front of the Farmington Masonic Temple is a pile of bricks and the orange/white cone barricades.

But that won't last long.

Soon, subcontractors for the Road Commission of Oakland County should be replacing the brick pavers and stone aggregate at the four pedestrian corners of Farmington/Grand River. The work will definitely be complete by the Memorial Day Parade on May 28, according to Farmington City Manager Frank Lushoff.

Workers tore up the walkways to install of the FAST-TRAC traffic camera and computer system at the intersection. Pedestrian crosswalk push buttons will remain on light poles except in front of the Village Mall, where a "DDA-green" post will be built.