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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Drill bit: Farmington Hills City Council members will host a hearing on a proposal to drill for oil and gas in the city, during the regular council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at city hall.

TUESDAY

Jingle all the way: Youngsters are invited to celebrate the winter season with Doug Scheer and Jingle the Magic Elf at the Farmington Hills Library on Dec. 9.

WEDNESDAY

Get immunized: The Oakland County Health Division hosts free shots for Farmington and surrounding areas from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 10.

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New holiday heights



STAFF PHOTOS BY HEYAN MITCHELL

New record crowd sings in holidays

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday's annual "Holiday Sing" in downtown Farmington was attended by probably the biggest turnout in the history of the event, which dates back more than 30 years. Area Girl Scouts were responsible for most of the large turnout. Approximately 450 girls from 30 troops in Michigan Metro Girl Scouts Neighborhood 32 showed up to bring gifts and money for the needy, hang homemade animal feeders on the large evergreen tree near Farmington City Hall and — of course — sing traditional holiday songs about jingle bells and dreidels.

But there were parents there, too. "The kids really got involved in what it all means," said parent Michelle Andrinski of Troop 1057, based out of Gill Elementary School. Her 6-year-old daughter, Nicole, is in a Brownie troop there. "It's something they can do to feel part of the season."



Hangin' on the green: Above, Kara Etimetz, 9, of Novi uses a ladder to attach her animal feeder high in the decorated Christmas tree at Farmington City Hall. At left, scouts drop off gift for the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

Concurring was parent Christine Mitchell, whose 7-year-old daughter, Ashley, is a member of Flanders Elementary School-based Troop 3618. "I wanted her to know what the spirit of Christmas is all about."

Nearby, scouts were flinging their feeders toward the big tree, trying to propel them as high as they could so that the birds and squirrels could enjoy snacks on virtually any branch. Some of the

Please see **SING**, A6

Outbreak fatal for market



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

While checking firmness of grapefruit, a shopper offered a bittersweet eulogy for a market's imminent closing. "I'm going to miss you, you were convenient," she said to a manager, who nodded in agreement.

Cattleman's Farmers Market in the Uptown Plaza — whose air conditioned transmission of the bacteria that led to the Legionnaires' outbreak a year ago — will close Sunday. A lack of sales is being blamed.

Non-salaried and many salaried employees — nearly 50 in all — have been offered positions at other Cattleman's stores in Hamtramck, Oak Park, Taylor and Eastern Market.

"I'm sure (the Legionnaires' outbreak) had something to do with it," said David Robbart, Cattleman's spokesman. "The store wasn't doing a lot of volume before the (Legionnaires') outbreak. It made a bad situation even worse."

Regular customers, which included many from the Farmington area's sizable senior population, liked the market's fresh meat and produce as well as its proximity.

They continued to shop there after the county health officials pinpointed the building's water cooling unit as the source of the Legionella bacteria that led to four deaths and 30 people to be hospitalized in October 1996.

Cattleman's officials disputed those findings. The store is being sued by 30 of the victims or survivors in Oakland Circuit Court.

On Friday, shoppers were saddened by the news as

Please see **STORE**, A4

'Zero hits'

Farmington police's annual alcohol sting finds no violators

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The results of a late October sting operation in Farmington indicate that the growing public sentiment against underage drinking is extending to businesses, said Farmington Director of Public Safety Gary Goss. Goss told the Farmington City Council Monday night that there were "zero hits" out of more than 20 businesses where alcohol is available. The public safety department instructed teen-agers to go into those businesses to try to purchase alcoholic beverages. The sting took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 28-29.

"We've been doing this for 11 years and this is the first time we had zero hits," Goss said. "The community is becoming more aware of underage use becoming less acceptable and businesses are moving forward with the community in this area."

In the 1996 sting, there were two violations, he said. According to Goss, the problem of underage drinking was brought more into the open following an Oct. 25 house party in the Chatham Hills subdivision. Police accounts from that night stated that party-goers paid \$5 at the door to drink all the beer they wanted. A

Please see **STING**, A6

FHS captures state honors

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High School recently was selected a Michigan Exemplary School, one of 14 in the state to receive the honor.

The school now is a candidate for national honors, said principal Jim Myers, who is understandably thrilled about the selection. FHS was officially congratulated by the school board during Tuesday's meeting.

"I think we were picked for a multitude of reasons," Myers said. "The innovativeness of the staff, a lot of the new things the staff has developed and put into place. The fact we've been studying how we teach and what we're teaching for some time."

He listed the September 1996 move to block scheduling as well as a litany of multi-subject courses such as Principles of Engineering; Learning Through Interdisciplinary Knowledge, LINK; Pursuing, Applying, Connecting and Thinking, PACT; Publications and Processes; and Student Managed Academic Resource Time, SMART.

According to Myers, the Michigan Department of Education judged the high school in seven major areas, including: delivery of instruction; physical makeup of the campus; test scores; philosophy of integrated subject material; and how the school addresses students who are either low or high achievers.

Being picked by the state, Myers said, is significant, because it shows the FHS community that their school measures up. "It's a verification of what we believe," Myers said. "We believe we're a good school and that we serve our community well."

Myers said representatives from all 14 selected high schools will be invited to attend a dinner ceremony with Gov. John Engler, to take place sometime during 1998.

In 1992-93, North Farmington High won state and national exemplary school honors.

New arts coordinator brushes up on city needs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

As new cultural arts coordinator, Sally LePla-Perry is starting at a blank canvas with an empty palette of yet to be filled ideas in her hand. Both will soon be covered, if her background is any indication.

LePla-Perry is a self-described "high energy" person; Her credentials would cause other resumes to self-immolate by comparison.

The therapist, attorney, corporate planner and cultural arts devotee started in the newly-created, part-time position Nov. 24. LePla-Perry will coordinate cultural arts

activities for both Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"I'm not coming in with any preconceived notions, except that there is a place for cultural arts," LePla-Perry said. Cultural activities are at the forefront of her life.

She sings in a church choir; plays piano, organ, violin and viola; and teaches art appreciation to elementary students. She's also an avid supporter of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Institute of Arts and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

All that and the Grosse Pointe native manager has to go with it.

Please see **ARTS**, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY HEYAN MITCHELL

Long resume: Sally LePla-Perry brings a varied background — attorney, therapist, etc. — to her new job.

Helping the needy

It's that busy time of year but anyone who can find time to give something back to help the Salvation Army is invited to stop by Farmington Hills City Hall or Police Station during business hours.

Take food, clothing, personal care items like toothpaste, tissue, etc. to either municipal building — both at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake — to be distributed by the local Salvation Army. Especially needed are food, baby and children's items.

Carry a tune, resolve a conflict

Singer-songwriter Scott Kalechstein will display his unique knack for making up personalized tunes

FARMINGTON FOCUS

on the spot at two Farmington schools Monday. Conflict resolution is the theme of his program, "Putting the Pieces Together: Learning to Get Along Through Song."

Kalechstein, 34, a resident of Encinitas, Calif., will present his program 9 and 10 a.m. at Eagle Elementary School and 1 and 2 p.m. at Highmeadow Common Campus.

He has 10 cassettes and five compact discs to his credit, including "Putting the Pieces Together."

Among song titles are "Love, Hate and Chocolate Pudding Pie," "Cool to be Kind," "Teddy Bear" and "Oops."

Elks feed vets

The Farmington Elks Lodge 1986 and the Elks National Veterans Service hosted 25 veterans from the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center recently for a beautiful lunch at Old Country Buffet in Ann Arbor.

Local Elks who coordinated the project during Veterans Remembrance Month (November) were Chairman Stan Melmer, Gene Fendoleit, Rick LeFevre, Dan Beaubien and Dick Mullen, Exalted Ruler.