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Chili champs



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Hot stuff: Ray and Marilyn Frederick of Farmington Hills are champs when it comes to chili. Please turn to page B1 for more on the culinary champs.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Meet: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 31555 11 Mile. The meeting is open to the public.

TUESDAY

Agenda: The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission will meet at 7 p.m. at Farmington Hills City Hall. Time will be set aside for public comment.

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Man accused in stabbing faces additional charges



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The man accused of stabbing a Farmington Hills man to death returned to the apartment - with the victim's body still there - two days after the murder trial. Driving Mikhail Ellis' Jeep Cherokee, James Summerville then drove to a Detroit pawn shop to sell the victim's VCR May 5, prosecuting attorney Mike Bilkovic said in 47th District Court Friday.

Summerville is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Ellis,

A 28-year-old man is headed to trial in Oakland County Circuit Court in connection with the stabbing death of a Farmington Hills man in May. He is also charged with additional counts of auto theft and credit card theft.

whose partially decomposed body was found seven days after the killing. Ellis was stabbed 46 times.

Summerville, 28, was bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court after his preliminary exam concluded Friday. Prosecutors added two more counts of auto theft and credit card theft to the first-degree and felony murder charges.

Prosecutors theorize Summerville went to the victim's residence and knocked him unconscious with a ceramic vase before returning from the kitchen with kitchen knives to stab him repeatedly. Police found three knives - two of which were broken - at

HEADED TO TRIAL

the scene.

The pair ended a two-year relationship in December 1997 but kept in contact, witnesses testified.

Summerville's attorney argued for his client to be bound over on second-degree charges, saying there isn't enough evidence to support premeditation.

The defendant's sister revealed her brother said he may have been raped by Ellis. The two spoke after he was arrested in Minneapolis.

"I can't recall if he said he was raped or he almost was raped," said Shirley Summerville during cross-examination by her brother's attorney Cyrille Hall.

Please see STABBING, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Accused: James Summerville is going to trial in Oakland County on murder charges.

What's my line?



Who are they? That's a question that has some local historians and Dick Carvell, chairman of the Farmington Museum committee, are seeking to answer. As far as anyone knows the ladies could be sisters, who are working in the young telephone switchboard office in the upstairs of the former bank building, now the Village Mall at Farmington and Grand River. It's believed the photo was taken in 1926. If you have more information, contact Carvell at 476-6257.

Schools review child care

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Some parents shell out the same amount over one year to send a child to day care as they do for college tuition. Thousands of dollars. That was something that made Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield stand up and take notice.

"Clearly, there are a lot of people out there spending huge bucks for child care," said Maxfield, during Thursday night's Community Town Hall Meeting about the district's early childhood program at Farmington High School. "And we have to ask ourselves, 'Do we want to be a player?'"

Sessions such as Thursday's will go a long way toward answering that question. About 40 parents, community members and staffers from the district were at FHS for the two-hour brainstorming session.

Input gathered during the session will be digested by the district's early childhood study committee, with a formal recommendation expected to go to the school board in December, Maxfield said.

One target is for any improvements and additions to the already successful program to be available to parents in early 1999, when they start scoping out their options for the following school year.

Please see CARE, A3

St. Mary, Mercy unite

The Felician Sisters of Livonia and the Sisters of Mercy, Detroit Regional Community - based in Farmington Hills - have agreed to unite their health care operations.

The two organizations signed a letter of intent Friday to create a long-term sponsorship between the two Catholic health care systems.

"As we reflect on the scope of our ministries, the realities of an aging congregation and our commitment to Catholic health care ministry, we believe that a regional sponsorship arrangement with the Sisters of Mercy, combined with the regional health care delivery system of Mercy Health Services is the best way to enhance and preserve the Catholic health care ministry of St. Mary Hospital," said Sister Mary Donna, provincial minister, Felician sisters and corporate board chair of St. Mary Hospital Board of Trustees.

Mercy Health Services, based in Farmington Hills, is the fifth largest Catholic health care system in the United States.

"We are pleased to be working with the Felician Sisters and St. Mary Hospital," said Sister Linda Worthman,

Please see UNITE, A4

All right! Grace students help pick hot toys

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

When the holidays roll around, don't be surprised to see new toys such as "Puppy Racers" and "Power Chutes" in the stores.

If they are, you can thank a group of 20 William Grace Elementary School pupils, who recently participated in the



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Future builder: Asia Hassan builds Gizmos and Gadgets during a national toy survey.

11th annual Duracell Kids' Choice National Toy Survey.

More than 500 children, ages 4-11, took part in the Sept. 11-25 survey, with the goal of giving toy companies advice from the "real toy experts" before deciding which games they should promote the most.

The top 10 will be revealed nationwide Oct. 15. Those that pass muster will be the best bets to encourage social interaction, creativity and provide long-lasting play appeal. All are battery operated, of course.

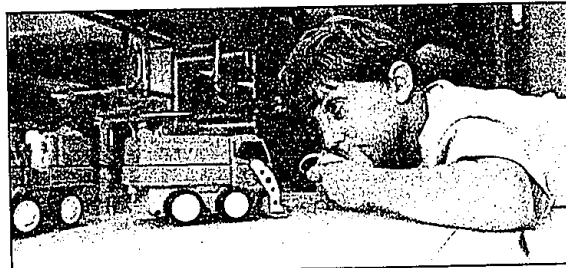
"Go!" shouted 7-year-old Bryan Heard, playing a game of "Puppy Racers" with Zack Zatsick, also 7.

They were punching down hard on big buttons, which propel plastic canine contestants around a winding track, pushing balls to the finish line. It is similar to the ball racing games viewed on the big screen at sporting venues such as the Palace of Auburn Hills.

"You can bang it hard," Bryan said, trying to be heard above the noise and commotion in the cafeteria of the Farmington district school.

Playing with a much-lower-key game across the room were Molanie Witz and Kelly Collins, both 8. The nylon

Please see TOYS, A4



Get ready ... got Justin! Justin (above) plays with a Power Chute remote control toy truck while Jessica Manville (at right) tries out a musical game called Chicco Kids, such as at Grace, are considered to be the real toy experts. The top 10 toys will be revealed Oct. 15.

