

FARMINGTON Observer

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OUR TOWNS

Salon employees help nab suspect

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police say a 39-year-old Romulus woman tried to ditch authorities after robbing a Hills bank Thursday afternoon by slipping into a nearby hair salon for a cut and dye job.

bank robber's description happened to visit.

Police arrested the woman about 90 minutes after the robbery and are crediting the hair salon employees with help in her capture.

No one was hurt in the robbery that occurred at the Bank One at 12 Mile and New Market just east of Farmington Road around 2:40 p.m.

According to police, the woman confessed to investigators that she robbed the Farmington Hills bank and the Livonia Standard Federal on Farmington Road on Wednesday.

In the Farmington Hills robbery, the woman told the bank teller to follow her orders and she would not be harmed, according to police.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said they are investigating the correlation of the woman's method of

changing into different clothes in the back alley after the robbery to that of another woman bank robber's method of operation.

A 40-year-old Detroit woman was caught in August using the same style of avoiding detection after robbing four area banks in a matter of days, including one in Farmington Hills.

Dwyer said six bank robberies have

PLEASE SEE ROBBERY, A6

Look for stamp

State Treasurer Douglas B. Roberts is warning Michigan residents to beware of illegal cigarette sales.

In an Aug. 19 statement, Roberts said that on at least two occasions recently, advertisements have appeared in local newspapers promoting the sale of "tax-free cigarettes," either through the Internet or by calling a toll-free phone number.

"It's important to know



BILL BRISLER/OBSERVER

State officials warn it is illegal to purchase cigarettes that don't have Michigan's tax stamp.

these advertisements violate both Michigan and federal law," Roberts said. "In addition, any individual who buys these 'tax-free cigarettes' is also violating state law, and would personally be responsible for the full amount of the tax plus penalties of up to 100 percent of the tax."

According to Michigan law, any cigarettes sold directly to consumers in Michigan, must include the state cigarette tax and display a Michigan cigarette stamp on each pack.

Not only are consumers liable for the above-mentioned tax and penalties for each illegal pack of cigarettes, possession of 15 or more cartons of unstamped cigarettes constitutes a felony, punishable by up to five years in jail and a \$50,000 fine. Roberts added that the Michigan Department of Treasury will pursue enforcement of those who choose to sell and/or purchase contraband cigarettes.

Formula / success

Farmington Public Schools will present "Formula for Success" workshops this week, for parents, students and community members. Motivational speaker Chad Foster, author of "Teenagers - Preparing for the Real World" will speak about the pursuit of dreams, making good choices, community service, networking and other means to help students succeed in life.

On Wednesday, Oct. 16 and Thursday, Oct. 17, Foster will make presentations at Harrison and North Farmington High Schools, to both high school and middle schools students. He will also speak at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16 to K-12 parents and community members in a special presentation at Farmington Training Center.



Michelle Kubiak and Ian Hall listen to debate about Palestinian-Israeli relations.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRISLER/OBSERVER

FHS teachers planned symposium after Sept. 11

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The first thoughts of holding an international symposium at Farmington High School began after Sept. 11, 2001, with a conversation in the social studies department.

What followed was a committee of eight FHS social studies and foreign language teachers organizing the event and tracking down speakers. Teacher Lucy Koviak played a major organizational role.

"They worked almost daily to put it together," said Principal John Barrett. Because the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) testing determines much of what is taught, global and international studies are less emphasized.

Barrett wants to change that. The hope is to schedule more of the type of discussion students participated in during the Oct. 3

PLEASE SEE SYMPOSIUM, A8

Commission seeks new members

The Farmington Commission on the Environment, established in April of this year, is seeking new members.

Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, the commission will be working with community members and local government to advise and encourage protection of the environment.

"We hope to focus on areas of blight, the image the city presents, tree preservation and public education," said committee chair Carol Eve Hyska. "We will be working on a local cable presentation to be produced by the end of the year."

In addition, the commission oversees the Remembrance Tree program which encourages planting a tree to honor someone's current accomplishments, celebrate the birth of a child or an anniversary, or in someone's memory.

"It's a living way to celebrate and event or person and enhance the community at the same time," Hyska said. Remembrance Tree chair is

PLEASE SEE ENVIRONMENT, A3

State representative race focuses on schools

Vagnozzi: No to vouchers, charters

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

State representative candidate Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democrat, says there are three things that set him apart from his opponent, Valerie Knol in the 37th District race.

"Experience, experience, experience," said Vagnozzi. Veteran politician Vagnozzi, 77, who's served as both Farmington Hills Mayor and Councilman is running against the 32-year-old Republican in her first bid for public office. He also served on the Farmington Public School board.

Vagnozzi, who opposes vouchers, is endorsed both by a school superintendents' group and the teachers unions. He was active in the local ballot campaign to defeat vouchers about two years ago.

The vote was 70 to 30 percent against vouchers in the Farmington area.

PLEASE SEE VAGNOZZI, A6

Knol clarifies her views on vouchers

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Valerie Knol, a Republican candidate in the 37th District state representative race believes her views on the issue of school vouchers may be misunderstood.

She's running against Aldo Vagnozzi, 77, a former Farmington Hills mayor and councilman and former Farmington Public Schools board member.

"I will clearly explain to you that I do not support vouchers for good school districts like Farmington/Farmington Hills," said Knol, a manager at Johnson Controls in Plymouth Township. This is her first bid for public office.

She defines a good district as one which isn't falling based on the state's accreditation system. She also supports President George Bush's federal, "No Child Left Behind" program, which will allow for those falling school districts to have a tutor to get

PLEASE SEE KNOL, A5



Vagnozzi



Knol

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