

Tornado sirens to be tested April 17

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents will hear a piercing sound at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 17.

With the dawn of tornado season, the warning siren system and tone alert receiver system will be tested at that time and date to ensure the system is operating properly in Farmington and Farmington Hills. The system will be monitored and

any malfunctions will be reported to Oakland County for repairs.

The test will take place during Michigan Tornado Week, April 14-20, as declared by Gov. John Engler. On that day, the sirens will only be a test. It won't be the real thing. That's why police and fire departments are asking residents not to call their dispatch or emergency numbers during the test.

"Each year the departments get swamped with calls wanting to know why the sirens are sounding. When this occurs, it ties up all the police and fire telephone lines and could affect an emergency call for help," according to police.

POLICE and fire officials ask residents to be aware during the tornado season. Michigan has the third highest average number of tornado deaths each year, with a total of more than 227 since 1950. Residents are asked to remember that:

• Most tornadoes occur in the months of April, May, June and July in the late afternoon or evening.

• A tornado watch means conditions exist for the development of a tornado. Watches give you time to plan and prepare.

• A tornado warning issued by the local Weather Service Office means a tornado has actually been

sighted or is strongly indicated by radar. A warning is indicated by a steady, three-minute tone on the siren system. If a warning is reported, you must seek shelter immediately.

Oakland County has designed a

Tornado Siren Warning program to warn citizens in the event a tornado warning is in effect. This has been accomplished in conjunction with local municipal units of government by installing sirens in major population areas.

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Program challenges students to read

Eighty-two percent of fourth and fifth graders in all Farmington Public Schools were challenged to read again this year through the district's Book Parade reading motivation program, sponsored by the media services department.

This is the fifth year of the program, in which students are offered a variety of 16 challenging books, which they can then discuss with their building's media specialist.

This year, 1,317 fourth and fifth graders participated, reading a total of 10,557 books, said Peggy Schmidt, director of media services for the district.

A total of 639 students read nine or more books, so will be invited to hear children's author Bill Wallace at one of four presentations in April. A total of 296 students read all 16 books and will receive an outstanding children's book for their own in honor of their achievement.

The program has expanded greatly since it began during the 1986-87 school year.

Then, only 83 students read all books, only 788 students participated, and only a total of 5,721 books were read which has now nearly doubled.

Students compete in marketing tournament

Students from North Farmington High's Distributive Education Club of America, a vocational marketing club, made an impressive showing at state competition at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn in March.

Competing against other district winners from throughout Michigan, four of the 15 North students earned the right to compete at nationals in Denver this month.

Marg Harwin took first place in Vehicles and Petroleum; Jenny Goudsmit and Karl Horenstein placed first in their written event in public relations focusing on school pride and unity; and Kerri Schuur placed third in the area of Fashion Merchandise, a written-oral event focusing on a promotional campaign for Lord & Taylor stores.

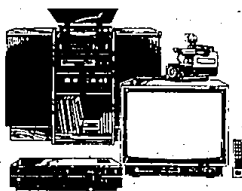
Three other students placed in the top 10 in the state. They included: Todd Carey in Advertising and Display Services; Lisa Lewis in General Marketing Supervisory level; and Lisa Schreiber in General Merchandising Supervisory level.

Other competitors included: Jeff Selik, Jennifer Lydon, Mark Galen, and Danielle Gill. This year's DECA-Bowl Team was comprised of Tara Moran, Jodi Portney, Ann Schwartzberg, and Erin Auslander.

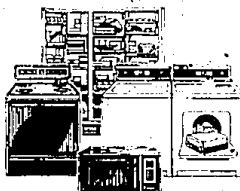
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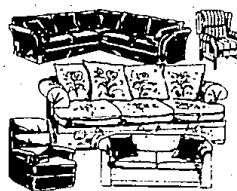
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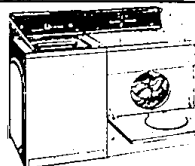
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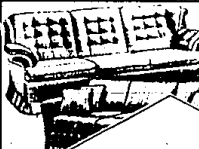
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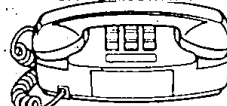
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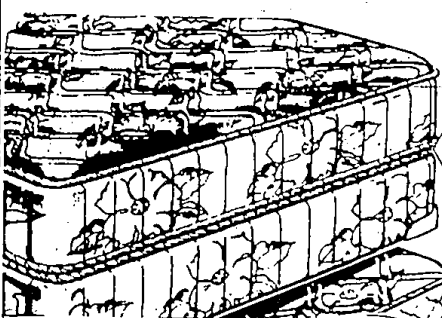
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