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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Battle rages: A five-hour brawl Monday ended in a stalemate when Oakland Community College trustees failed to fire Chancellor Patsy Calkins but did agree to give her an overdue performance evaluation. /2A

Power moves: By enacting a rezoning request for property on Power Road north of 11 Mile, the Farmington Hills City Council made moot part of a lawsuit brought by a developer. /3A

OPINION

For safety's sake: Farmington Hills' millage for upgraded a police and fire department seems justified. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Past and future: Local potter John Glich celebrates 30 years of artistry in Farmington Hills with an open house. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Great outdoors: Michigan Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit V, now showing in Southfield, presents a variety of works from artists from around the state. Some of the participants recently exhibited or have permanent pieces on display in this area. /1B

SPORTS

Soccer scene: North Farmington claimed a 4-1 victory over crosstown rival Harrison in boys soccer Monday. /1C

Grid picks: Observer sports writers make their picks for Week No. 4 of the high school football season. /3C

LOTTERY

The Lotto is worth at least \$2.7 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, Sept. 20, are:

DAILY 3:

991

DAILY 4:

4148

CASH 5: 1, 3, 14, 21, 28

LOTTO: 5, 6, 18, 21, 43, 47

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Man faces trial in pot case



Larry Willer, accused of operating a sophisticated marijuana-growing operation in the basement of his Alta Loma Street home, faces trial in Oakland County Circuit Court.

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

With a little prompting from Judge Fred Harris, special prosecutor Renee Gucciaro got to an issue that could put a Farmington man in prison for up to 15 years.

At Larry Alan Willer's preliminary exam on charges of drug manufactur-

ing (growing marijuana with intent to deliver), Gucciaro asked Officer Thomas Lindberg of the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team if the 83.83 kilograms (about 180 pounds) of marijuana discovered in the basement of Willer's Alta Loma Street house could be for personal use.

"That would be the equivalent of

well over 1,000 marijuana cigarettes," said Lindberg, a Novi police officer. "A heavy marijuana user uses two-to-three cigarettes a day. It would not be before he could use this much."

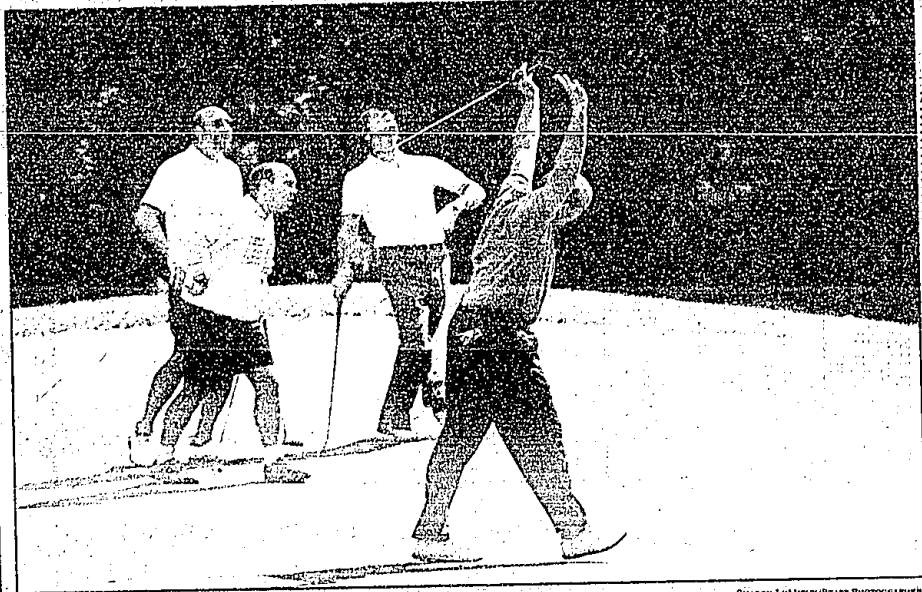
Lindberg, the only witness called at Monday's exam in Farmington's 47th District Court, said NEP officers found 321 marijuana plants, ranging from 6 inches to 3 feet in height, in three rooms of Willer's basement.

The officer estimated that the pot had a street value of between \$200,000 and \$321,000.



See POT, 6A
Larry Willer

Birdies fly in benefit golf outing



BILLIAM LAMBLIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's a success: Chris Michels of Troy's Handieman Co. makes a shot for a birdie as the rest of his group watch. They are (from left) Dave Vorhes, Michael Laskey and John Faleris.

Golf outing a winner, a dinner, a keeper

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

The inaugural Farmington Hills Police Benevolent Association Golf Classic was such a success that golfers actually had to be turned away.

And the outing — which raised more than \$30,000 that will go to the families of deceased Hills police officers — drew nothing but praise

from the participants and organizers.

"You can't put a name on this type of tragedy (the deaths of two young Hills officers from cancer)," said District Judge Fred Harris, one of the organizers. "But look at this response. Look at all of the people who stayed until the end."

And at the announcement by Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer of the money the event had

made, the full house at the Links of Novi Golf Club clubhouse stood and applauded.

Dwyer said he had hoped the event would raise about \$25,000.

In addition to the contributions of the 228 golfers and an additional 75 or so who showed up for the buffet dinner at the conclusion of the golf Friday, sponsors donated prizes up for auction, including a second base autographed by Detroit Tiger greats

Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker that went for \$2,000.

"We (firefighters from Station 4) also auctioned off the tickets for our foursome," said Hills firefighter Richie Levine, who plunked down the money for the base. "I haven't told my wife yet (about the base)," he said with a tentative grin.

Contributors donated up to \$2,500

See GOLF, 3A



Tina Biggar

Tips on missing woman, suspect sought

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police do not believe that a missing Oakland University coed became a prostitute after interviewing several hookers as part of a school study.

"We have never said that," said Inspector Tom Godwin after reports engaged in prostitution herself. "There is nothing in her life that suggests that, nothing we can find."

The woman's father, U.S. Coast

Guard Commander Bill Biggar, has asked the public's help and offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to her whereabouts.

Police have talked not only to friends and family who the psychology student regularly kept in touch with, but also other acquaintances.

So far, there has been little to show why the 5 foot 7, 145 pound blonde disappeared. Police began the search Aug. 24, the day after her boyfriend reported her missing.

Her clothes and other personal pos-

essions were left intact in her Mulwood Apartment at Drake and 10 Mile. Officers questioned a transient, 42-year-old Kenneth Ray Tranchida, who had the keys to her 1987 light gray Honda.

Police believed Tranchida was an acquaintance, but wanted to question him again after discovering the car in the lot of the Angie Apartments on Shiawassee and Middlebelt in the southeast section of the city.

See TIPS, 4A

Business on the rise

Michigan Flagpole's products are turning up in some trendy locations — and a lot of people seem to be saluting.

The small (seven employees) Farmington Hills company installed four, 36-foot flagpoles at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame that was dedicated recently in Cleveland. The firm also provided the flagpole at Jacobs Field, Cleveland's baseball stadium.

Closer to home, Michigan Flagpole, owned by Tom Bayles, has erected poles at the Detroit Zoo, Domino's Farms and a 100-foot pole for the city of Pontiac.

"We also have a bid in for the Winter Olympics," said Mike DeLafay, Michigan Flagpole vice president. "That would be for 150 flagpoles — big ones, too, 60-footers. But we haven't heard yet."

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Any cans or bottles?

Members of the Gym-J's, a gymnastics team sponsored by the Farmington Area YMCA, and their families will hold a bottle and can drive Saturday, Sept. 23, to raise money for upgraded equipment.

The gymnasts and their supporters will be collecting bottles and cans in the south parking lot of the YMCA on Farmington Road north of 13 Mile. Team members also will be going through nearby subdivisions to pick up donated bags or boxes of returnables.

For more information about the project, call the YMCA at 863-4020.

More open skating

More open skating time has been added at the new Farmington Hills Ice Arena in Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile Road.

Ice skaters may use the two rinks from 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23. On Sunday, Sept. 24, open skating is on the schedule on both rinks from 3:00-6:30 p.m.

"It's been just very busy," said Art Trotter, the arena's assistant manager.

An outing with Visions

The staff and parents of Visions Unlimited, a post-secondary program for young adults with developmental and physical disabilities,

See FOCUS, 5A