FARMINGTON FOCUS

Thanksgiving and trash

early elear yel Refuse and recycling will not be collected in Farmington and Farm-ington Hills on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. Thurnday's collection will be picked up Friday, and Friday's will be removed on Saturday.

Now bair this!

ave a good hair day and help the needy at the same time by participating in the Crowley's Hair Salon/Focus:HOPE food

drive.

Crowley's Hair Salon is accepting donations of canned food at its shop on the second floor of Crowley's at 12 Mile and Farmington roads in

Farmington Hills through Dec. 11. Those who donate will receive 15 percent off all hair-care

donare will receive the products.

Donated food will be delivered to Focus:HOPE, a metro Detroit civil and human rights organization that offers a supplemental food program and training for disadvantaged youths.

More more information, call Crowley's Hair

Let's hear it for Dan

an Schoening is November's "Applause! Applause!" winner at Botaford Continuing Health Center, a 179-bed nursing facility in

Farmington Hills.
Schoening, a Redford Trownship resident, is a

maintenance supervisor at BCHC. His duties in-clude maintenance and grounds work at BCHC as well as at the nearby Botsford Commons retire-ment community apartment building, independ-ent homes and all-purpose community center. Every month, BCHL honors an employee with the "Applause! Applause!" award.

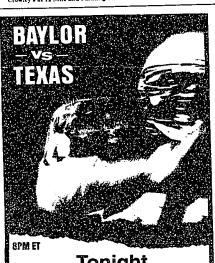
City union doings

on Gould, crew chief of the city of Farming-ton's Public Service Department, was re-elected president of the local of AFSOME (American Federation of State, County and Mu-nicipal Employees), the union that represents many Farmington and Farmington Hills employ-

ees, in a recent election.

Rebert Buschma of the Farmington Hills Assessors Office, was elected vice-president of the local Charles Eudy of the Farmington Water Department was re-elected secretary/treasurer. Pat Carlis

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 4479-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: packy@oconline.com.



Tonight Channel 31

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FAX LINE: 1-800-967-5904

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Although postpartum depres-sion is a recognized medical con-dition, its standing in law is un-certain.

certain.

But the lessue could play a role in the murder trial of Japanese national Itsomi Koga for the death of her 26-day-old son, To-

death of her 20-day-onl son. Imayuki.
"We really don't have any statute that speaks to that issue,"
said Farmington Hills Attorney
Raymond Casars, who specializes
in criminal defense and has expetence with innocent by reason of
insanity. "My guess is that the

about five years and came to Farmington Hills three years ago. Akihiro Koga works as an engi-neer at the Nissan automotive reasearch and development facili-

defense will use the insanity

plea."

Cassar said American courts do Cassar said American courts do not have a statutory basis, or case law experience, to treat the condi-tion, which can lead to severe de-pression and other problems. As a consideration in a capital offense, a strong case could be made, he

a strong case could be made, he said.

"The fact that it is a recognized medical condition means it isn't something an attorney just dreamed up," he said. "It could be a viable defense even though it has not been recognized as such." Adding to the credibility of such a defense is the fact that

Great Britain has long recognized the nature of postpartum depression. That country's infanticide Act of 1939 does not permit the prosecution for murder of an infant by its mother for 12 months from its birth.

In "Depression After Child-birth," British suther Katharina Dalton described three types of tragedies after child birth.

"(They are) those occurring shortly after birth while the mother is in an acute psycholic state; those occurring with the return of menstruation; and, thirdly, the many domestic feuds."

Koga had been under a doctor's

Depression is viable force in baby's death care for depression, which could be brought up as further evidence of temporary insanity. According to Farmington Hills police, the woman had told them the baby had been crying a great deal due to colic.

The child was found in a pond behind the apartment where Koga, her husband Akihiro and sister Midori Taganaki had been staying in Farmington Hills.

"But there is a problem with that defense," Cassar said, "Post-partum depression lasts from 30 to 60 days. So they've got to show that she was in that time frame."

Exam from page IA

M According to testimony, the night before the death was a quiet one for the family. Akihiro koga returned from work at 6:30 p.m. The Kogas ate dinner while Takayagi took care of the

reasearch and development facility bete.

The defendant's older sister, Midori Takayagi, said she came to Farmington Hills from Japan Oct. 10 to be with her sister after the birth of the baby, Oct. 7.

According to her testimony, the night before the death was a quiet one for the family. Akhiro Kega returned from work at 6:30 p.m. The Kogas ate dinner while Takayagi took care of the baby.

Later, Takayagi ate and showered and went to bed around 11 p.m. Nov. 1.

showered and went to bed around it p.m. Nov. 1.

Were there are problems?" asked Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Paul Walton.

"There was nothing wrong that day," Takayagi answered.

Left him at marsh

Let's third at marsh
In his testimony, Akihiro Koga
said he had fallen asleep shortly
after 11 p.m. after helping his wife
feed the haby. He wake up about
3½ hours later to find his wife
and baby, whose crib was in the
bedroom, gone.

After finding her in the living toom, Akihiro asked his wife where the baby was. He did not quite believe her answer, he said.

"I left the baby at the marsh," he said she told him.

After asking several times, he said he woke Taksayagi, and the three dressed and drove the car nearer to the pond. He end Takayagi had to help his wife dress and helped her down the stairs of the apartment, he said.

After first searching around the pond without success, Akihiro Koga said he started looking, with a flashlight, in the pond. Walton asked what part of the baby's body he first saw.

"The soles of his feet," he said, adding that the baby was upside down in the water.

The three took the baby back to their Citation Club Apartment, e located on Meridian in the 13 Mile/Haggerty area, and tried to

revive it. But the "cold, limp" child could not be saved.
Akihire Koga said that his wife had told him she left the baby at the pond and never said she threw him in it. He had made a throwing motion when, without an interpreter, he described to police how the baby had gotten into the pond. But that was a misunderstanding, he testified.

Footprints in the mud

rootprints in the mud
Farmington Hills police officer
Wayne Beerbower testified that
foot prints in the mud and dirt
around the pond matched those of
shoes worn by the three people
including a lone set of tracks belonging to the defendant.

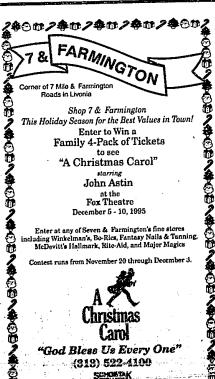
Judge Parker said she would take briefs from the defense and prosecution and would hear final arguments Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. She also kept a gag order

on all of those involved in the case, for now.

Attorney Tom Cranmer, who represents Akihiro Koga and Takeyagi, asked that the judge allow them to have their possports, which had been held by the court. He said Takeyagi had been scheduled to return to Japan Thurnday (Thankagiving) and that since ahe hed already testified, she should not be needed here.

But Parker honored Walton's request, for now, that she may be needed for further testimeny and once out of the country, she could

needed for lutther testimenty and once out of the country, she could not be ordered to appear. Three has been interest in the case in Japan, but not the kind of intense Japaness media seruliny that other stories involving open-see nationals have received. "It is not a big story in Japanese change student was killed," and Kough (La., where a Japanese change student was killed," and Sumiko Miyamoto of TV Asahi na New York, N.Y. "The dricumstances seem to be unfortunated. Itsomi Koga, 34, had been under a doctor's care for depression before the teath of her son. The baby was her first.



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