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VOLUME 109 NUMBER 25



Stress-busters: Here's some advice to help get you through one of the most stressful times of year the holidays. /2A

Season's spirit: The Longacre School community gave the school secretary a Christmas present for which she'll be ever grateful. /3A

Flame-out: There were no injuries, but a ruptured natural gas line blazed highly Thursday on Westmoreland in Farmington Hills. /2A

TASTE

Sparklers: Toast the new year with sparkling champagne and fruity non-alcoholic drinks. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Mail upscales: Changes at Sum-mit Place in Waterford reflect the affluence of the burgeoning communities north and south of the center. /5A

Monkey shines: Her sock monkey storybooks keep this craft tradition going for modern youngsters. /5Å

SPORTS

CMU walk-on: Sam Lowe, who showed his athletic talent at North Farmington, will try to make it at Central Michigan at a walk-on. /1C

Over the break: Farmington's three high school basketball teams, all off to a less-than-torrid. start, will practice over the Christmas break. /1C

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A note to our readers: Combattle and Oil Martin Hart Martin and Combat And Anter A

SLATS, SA

Book bags banned in classrooms

Back packs are popular with students theso days. But, says a Farmington middle school principal, if they're brought to her school, they'll stay in the lockers.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

Frare Warrst They're used to shoulder texts of knowiedge, but a. Farmington middle school pitnejal said book bags had some students looking more like the Huneblack of Notice Dame. More so, said Warner Middle School Principal Dariene Russell, they were cluttering floors and hall-

"Then it became a real issue of safety." Russell said. "Not only was I ing those things and carrying tham all day. I figured if there was a first and one kid tripped and hurt himself, I'm not doing what I'm supposed to do to previde a safe environment." Warner Middle School students, but now they have to empty them out

and store them in lockers. They can't Assistant Principal Kathy McAdar-take them into the haliway or into agh-Hain. classrooms.

classrooms. The new policy started this month. A notice was included in the school's December newsletter informing par-ents of the change. Only a few parents questioned the policy, Russell said. The no-back pack rule is working. "When I go into a classroom, I can see the floor," Russell said.

A similar rule was adopted at O.E. Dunckel Middle School last school year. Health and safety concorns "prompted the change, said Dunckel

"They get huge," McAdaragh-Hain and, "In the morning, when 600 and some students are in the hallway, it's like having outra students with the space they take up."

SEVENTY FIVE CENTS

Officials at both middle schools dony the moves were prompted bé-cause they were worried about kids . carrying illegal items in them. Since the edict, students still use back packs on the way to schools.

See BAGS, 12A



SHARON LAMIEUX/STATT

A special light: Siz-year old Danielle Leverf of Farmington Hills talks to Cinders the clown (Dan Fowler of Plymouth) before taking off on a flight to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus. For a story and more photos, please see page 3A.

Speaker helps students grasp message

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

Looks like Get a GRIP is going to stick

stick The morning drug and alcohol pre-vention program for kids — Genera-tions: Responding to issue and Prob-iens. — recturns with plenty of mo-mentum from last February's event. "GRIP; The Sequel" is set for Sat-orday, March 2, at North Farmington High.

orday, March 2, at yourn samingea High: The program sponsored by Farm-ington Families in Action and Farm-ington Fublic Schools is open to kids in grides four to eight, who are more susceptible to peer pressure. Kevin Wanzer will be the keynote when Wanzer will be the keynote

Revin Wanzer will be active adjusted speaker. Wanzer uses comedy and a down-to-earth tone to reach kids about substance abuse. Wanzer appeared before groups from China; Europe and Canada. He

spin on it. "He made it more eye-opening."

said Melissa Foreman, who saw Wanzer's presentation at the Prido Conference. "Instead of just standing up there and recting the facts, he would say a lot of jokes. Or he would use cramples that were funny." More than. 500 people turned out for the first GRIP, which also took place at North Farmington High. Or-sanizers were expecting around 200.

place at North Fermington High. Or-ganizers were expecting around 300. The format is similar this year. Students and parents attend a morning workshop and then separate break-out sessions. Students Against Driving Drunk chapters at all three high schools put on akits for kids. Teens from Waterford Mott High also gave a demonstration on its conflict resolution. GRIP has taken on a community wide thrust, Enberg said.



Deadly fire's cause obscured by wreckage

BY BILL COUTANT.

By BLL COUTANT. A first that was a double tragedy for a Farming-ton Hills family retains under investigation by firstfichters and pollos. The Dax: 19 first which claimed the lives of Louise Helen Borair, 52, and her daughter Mells-created so much material for first investigators to art through, that as of Thurnday, the cruse of the first heat still not been downlised. "It's still premature to any what caused the first" and Hills First Marshall Steve Hum. "We've done all we can at the scene over the post two days. We've still stilling to witheses." The first, which started sarty in the morning, was reported by neighbors flor a motorist aw it from 12 Mills and told them about it. The man, Ken Berties, and potter no response after heat

It's still premature to say what caused the fire . . . We've done all we can at the scene over the past two days. We're still talking to witnesses.' Steve Hume

Hills fire marshall

ing on the front door of the Bovair home on Qual Hollow Court north of 12 Mile between Farming-ton and Drake." Meliesa Bovair's body was found in a hallway leading to the bedronne by firsfighters who were first on the some: Louise Bovair's body was found on a bed. The Oshland County Medical Examiner roled body women died from sundes inhisiation. - Investigators are not sure whether the fire start-

ed in the stiic and went into the bedrooms below. or the reverse. Hume had not released a cause for the fire or determined whether it was accidental. Farmington Hills police are trying to determine if a TV and VCR were missing at the time of the fire and if that had anything to do with the biase.

that has anything to do with the olars. "We're 80 percent sure that it was accidental," and Hills police Detective Supervisor Sgt. Doug Anderson. "There is prohably a good reason why they (TV and VCR) weren't there. We are just trying to find out why they were gone."

Anderson said someone might have seen the TV and VCR in the house as late as Sunday, but that nam't been confirmed. Hume said the soriousness hasn't been confirmed. Hume said the seriousness of the event is one reason he is being extremely

See FIRE, 4A

was guest speaker at the Internation-ci Pride Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. carlier this year. Some 6,000 kids strended, including throw Farmington High atudents. "They came back just raving about this guy," said Linda Enberg, a Farm-ington Board of Education member who is FTA co-president. When it comes to drugs and alco-hol, Wanzer teaches kids to "just say ha." He stresses the importance of at-bitude, overcoming obstacles and being a role model. Farmington middle school students will get a preview of Wanzer's zany autics when he visits the district Tursday, Feb. 6. The attraction is a different splingen it. I many assessments a different splingen it.

Soc QRIP. 2A