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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

On thin ice: Hills Council members are on the outs with some members of the committee charged with operating the new Ice Arena. /3A

Wanted: pageant hopefuls: Anyone interested in being crowned the 23rd-annual Miss Farmington? /7A

BUSINESS

Business moves: The Observer's Business Milestones column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, openings and other key business news with a Farmington-area connection. /7B

TASTE

Holiday taste: Cooks are meeting the challenge of Passover desserts for the eight-day holiday which will start at sunset Wednesday, April 3. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Full-figure fashion: Manufacturers and retailers are finally listening to women outside the mainstream, says Liz Dillon large sizes advocate. She came to town recently to meet customers of Jacobson's Clairewood Departments. /10A

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Judge orders tether for mom accused in son's drowning



Itsumi Koga, 35, was charged with killing her 26-day-old son Tomoyuki sometime between 11 p.m. Nov. 1 and 2:30 a.m. Nov. 2 behind the apartment she shared with her husband Akihiro and her sister, visiting from Japan.

Itsumi Koga, the Japanese woman accused of drowning her baby in a pond, will be required to wear an electronic tether until her May 6 trial for first degree murder.

Oakland Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper made the ruling on March 20. The electronic tether monitors the defendant at all times and is used by courts when jail is not considered appropriate.

Koga, who was being treated for depression at the time of her son's death, had originally been held in the Oakland County Jail. On Dec. 18, Cooper ruled on a motion by defense attorneys Neil Pink and Carole Stanyar that the woman be transferred to Beaumont Hospital's psychiatric unit in Royal Oak for treatment for severe depression. She was later transferred to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

She faces up to life in prison if convicted.

Cable competition coming



The bell has rung in the cable competition circles. Customers could benefit as Ameritech, a communications giant, enters the cable TV business, proposing more channels.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

NEWS WRITER

Ameritech is poised to answer cable customers' repeated calls for competition.

Ameritech, known as a phone service provider, wants to offer cable service in the Farmington area, said

Community Relations Director Leon Sowell, explaining his company's intentions during a presentation at the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission meeting Wednesday.

Ameritech's service would provide customers with 80-90 basic channels, including the Disney Channel which

is offered as a premium channel in Farmington.

How much Ameritech plans to charge customers for its service hasn't been revealed yet. The communications giant would directly compete with existing cable provider Time Warner. The company — which merged with MetroVision last year — has been sole cable provider for the Farmington area since 1982.

Members of the SWOCC, a regulatory body made up of city officials from Farmington, Farmington Hills

and Novi, are listening to their potential cable suitors.

"We're really excited," said SWOCC Chairman Bill Hartsock of Farmington. "For residents in our community, the number one item on their wish list is to have a choice."

The courtship will take time. A franchise agreement would have to be worked out between Ameritech and the cable regulatory body for Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi. Once a pact is reached, Ameri-

See CABLE, 4A

'They grabbed me, they shocked me big time'



BRANDY LAMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Earthwatch winner: Andy Halberg was pleasantly surprised when Earthwatch announced that he was the winner of a scholarship that will allow him to research rain forests.

Life's a rain forest for obsessed teen

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD

NEWS WRITER

Andy Halberg is, by his own admission, a nature fanatic with a healthy obsession with the environment, particularly the threatened rain forest regions.

In fact, this 16-year-old North Farmington High junior is so enthralled with rain forests that he constructed his own six-foot, scaled

down version — complete with gecko and mutant carp — in the bedroom of his Farmington Hills home.

Yet this year Halberg will realize his ultimate dream: researching and exploring in an actual rain forest half a world away.

Halberg is one of about 160 students throughout the U.S. awarded a scholarship by Earthwatch, one of

the world's largest sponsors of scientific field research projects.

Some 160 expeditions are conducted by Earthwatch each year to study the environment, monitor global change and check endangered habitats and species. From Asia, Europe and Africa to the Caribbean, North, Central and South America to Australia, New Zealand and be-

yond, regions slated for study cover all corners of the globe.

Earthwatch boasts 70,000 members including scientists, engineers, crafts people, artists, educators and students in 30 countries worldwide.

Halberg was granted a scholarship, which will finance the \$1,500

See RAIN FOREST, 2A

Canadians extradite alleged drug dealer held for 6 years

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

NEWS WRITER

After being a central figure of a Canadian Supreme Court debate, a former Farmington resident has been returned to face drug trafficking charges in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Daniel Jamieson, 35, was arraigned

on a bench warrant Thursday on charges he jumped bail after fleeing to Canada in 1987.

After a six-year wrangle in Canadian courts, Jamieson's encounter with the U.S. justice system only appears to be beginning.

Jamieson is charged with delivery of cocaine resulting from a November

1986 case in which two men allegedly sold 273 grams to an undercover Livonia police officer for \$20,000.

The drug bust took place in the basement of his parents' Hayden Street home, concluding several months of investigation by Farmington

See EXTRADITE, 3A



Daniel Jamieson

Cops seek artists

Attention, high school-age artists of the Farmington area: the Farmington Hills Police Department wants to tap your talents.

The Hills Police are accepting entries from students at Farmington-area public and parochial high schools, as well as from area high school home-study students, for the design of its promotional posters and flyers.

The posters will promote the Farmington Hills Police Department's ninth-annual Open House noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 19.

Deadline for entries to the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Section is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

Following are the guidelines for the posters:

FARMINGTON FOCUS

- Entries should be submitted on standard size (22 by 28 inches) white posterboard.
- Colors should be limited to red, medium blue and black.
- Art design must include the following text in large print: "FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE OPEN HOUSE; SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1996, NOON TO 4 P.M."
- The address of the Police Department — 31655 ELEVEN MILE ROAD — also must be included.
- Each entrant must print his/her name, school or "home-study student," grade level, home address and phone number on the back of the entry.
- A first-place prize of \$150 will be awarded. A

second-place prize (\$100) and a third-place (\$50) also will be given. Winners will be notified by mail or phone. All entries will be displayed at the Showmobile at 3 p.m. on the day of the open house.

For more information, call the Crime Prevention Section at 473-9640.

All about care

Area senior citizens take note: A class can teach you how to receive appropriate care in hospitals, nursing homes and from in-home nursing services.

The class will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 26, at the Farmington Hills Senior Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt. Call 473-1830 to register.

See FOCUS, 3A