

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Our far-flung Festival

News of the just-completed Farmington Founders Festival traveled far and wide last week, thanks to favorable winds and a red balloon that didn't leak its helium.

A balloon — labeled "Corvette or cash" to promote the raffle that supports the festival — was found in Meadville, Pa., near Erie. That's about 250 miles east of the MetroBank office on Grand River from where it was launched last Thursday.

Upon finding the balloon, the Meadville man phoned the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

"He wanted to know if he'd get anything for finding the balloon," said Jody Soronen, who runs the chamber and directs the Founders Festival. "I had to tell him, 'Unfortunately, no.' But it was nice of him to call."

Election events listed

Farmington-area voters take note: Four election-related events are coming up this week:

■ A fund-raiser/picnic for Carl Christoph, one of two Democrats running for the 37th District State House seat, 4-7 p.m. Monday, July 15, at Heritage Park on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads in Farmington Hills. The Democratic and Republican house primaries will be settled by Farmington and Farmington Hills voters Aug. 6.

■ A candidate forum for Farmington Hills City Council hopefuls Massie Kurzeja and Jerry Ellis at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, in the council chamber of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The forum, sponsored by the Council of Homeowner Associations of Farmington Hills, will be cablecast live on Channel 12 with call-in telephone numbers for viewers. Hills voters will

decide the non-partisan race Aug. 6.

■ A candidate forum for Democratic House candidates Carl Christoph and Steve Dibert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The event, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees, will be cablecast live on Time Warner's cable Channel 8 and rebroadcast several times before the Aug. 6 primary.

■ A dinner sponsored by Linda Jolicœur, one of four Republicans in the race for the 37th District State House nomination, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Relish Grill restaurant, 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Speaker will be Jim Barrett, president and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Donation is \$100 per person. For ticket information, call 488-2600.

The governor said yes

Two Farmington residents, L. Bryn Fortune and Molly Brennan, have been named to state commissions by Gov. John Engler.

Fortune, employed by ARC Michigan, a state organization on mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, was appointed to the Commission on Disability Concerns, which advocates for the rights and concerns of disabled. Fortune is also Oakland County coordinator of the Family Support Network of Michigan.

Brennan, who has been a resources and planning manager for General Motors, was reappointed to the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, health and Sports.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOMINIC CORTAVANO

Pop goes the company: Harrison student Natalie Zien (right) sells a can of pop to summer school student customer. Students in Richard Steele's economics class were hawking their wares for charity.

Pop-top capitalism aids charity

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington summer school economics students have learned to pop the top on capitalism by selling soda.

Students in Richard Steele's class are hawking cans of soft drinks as well as bagels and candy suckers during breaks at Harrison High as a project. High school-aged kids are learning about supply and demand, managing inventory, and price

controls.

Money from sales will be donated to Farmington Neighborhood House and another yet-to-be-determined charity, Steele said.

"It's better than lecturing them," said Steele, who has coordinated the class project for three years. "This way they have a hands-on tool."

One of the biggest lessons learned is in price setting. Students sell cans of pop for 65 cents each or two for a dollar.

That's well below the vending machine price of 75 cents a can.

As a result, vending machines have been locked during the day and used by Michigan State students in the evening, summer school principal Steve Koponen said. By having the leverage on beverage, students have learned about monopolies, too.

Pop sales average 120 cans a day, Steele said. Students will operate the pop and snack stand until classes close later this month. Already,

they're watching supplies to make sure they're not caught holding excess inventory.

Each week, different students scour supermarket chains such as Farmer Jack, Meijer and Kroger looking for sales on pop. Another kid searches for a deal on ice.

One student managed to land enough ice to stock his parents' freezer as well as for the soft drink supply.

"They're quite resourceful," Steele said.

What an honor: Sailor with Farmington link meets Secretary of the Navy

Navy Petty Officer Second Class Daniel Gratton, son of Lawrence and Pauline Gratton of Farmington, was one of several sailors chosen to meet personally with Secretary of the Navy John Dalton, during his recent visit to Norfolk, Va.

The civilian head of the

Department of the Navy, the secretary is responsible for the operation and efficiency of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

During his visit, he met with hundreds of sailors and folded questions from them on a variety of topics.

Dalton assured his listeners that he is aware of their dedication and is committed to keeping the Navy on track for the future.

"President Clinton has selected Admiral Jay Johnson to become our next Chief of Naval Operations at a time when we are facing enormous challenges," he said, to me and to you."

Arthritis Today

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THE ARTHRITIC HAZARDS OF BEING A GRANDMOTHER

Being a grandparent is a blessing. Spending time with the grandchildren is a joy particularly since at the end of the visit, you, as a grandparent, can return the infant or child to the parents. However, that can be a disadvantage; you don't have the daily experience of lifting the child. Your muscles are not in shape as are the parents who pick up the child every day while the infant grows from 5 lbs. to 15 lbs. and up. Nor do you as grandparent learn the best way to dress the child, an awkward stance at the changing table leads at too often to a strained back the next day.

Another hazard of being a grandparent is a fall. Bottles, sweaters, glossy baby books and baby's toys, too often find their way to the floor. These items become land mines for you to step on and fall over.

Yet another difficulty that impedes the joy of grandchildren is fatigue. As long as young children are awake they will be in motion. You understand the divergent their accompany the child designed for streets, stairs, high chairs, and hard floors. You have no choice but to constantly guard against the child's outburst injury.

After the grandchildren's visit your aches may not reflect arthritis so much as a workout for a sedentary.

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