

Reward doubled in Hills ATM murder, robbery attempt

The reward has been doubled for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons

responsible for the murder of a River Rouge man at the Comerica Bank on Northwestern Nov. 14.

The \$15,000 reward has been increased to \$30,000, by the bank (\$15,000), FBI (\$5,000) and security company (\$10,000), said

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Anyone with information about the robbery should call the command desk at (810) 473-9594.

"This is a capital crime," Dwyer said.

8 not enough

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Only eight seniors signed up to take calculus this year in Clarenceville Public Schools.

Eight wasn't enough to run a full-fledged class, so the district turned to a new way of teaching it tried last year with a small group of students who studied Japanese through Madonna University.

The new way involves three TV sets, camera, microphones, fiber optics and even a fax machine set up in a small room in the Clarenceville High library.

It involves a similar technological set-up at such distant spots as Schoolcraft College or Madonna.

And this year it involves Schoolcraft math teacher, Larry Williams, who stands in front of his camera at Schoolcraft and teaches calculus five days a week after school hours to the eight Clarenceville seniors.

"Can you see me? Hear me?" Williams asks before his latest lesson begins. The eight students, sitting at two tables in the small room, see Williams on their TV screen and hear every word he says.

For six years now, Clarenceville has used "distance learning." Lessons in

math and economics have been piped in from such faraway places as North Carolina and Nebraska through the Satellite Education Resources Consortium. These classes are generally held for low-enrollment courses.

What is new is the two-way communication that now exists. Before, students could only hear the teacher. Now, teacher and students talk back and forth, asking and answering questions, even adding humor to the task of teaching and learning a tough subject.

Clarenceville used the new two-way communication system for the first time last year in a Japanese class aired from Madonna. The calculus class is Schoolcraft's first TV venture with Clarenceville students.

In past years, when low enrollment kept the district from offering a class, students also would drive to Schoolcraft to take the class, said Sharon McDonald, Clarenceville's cable TV manager.

This year, five of the eight seniors could not get to Schoolcraft during the school day, so the district turned to the TV set-up, McDonald said.

In the TV class, students get both high school and college credit.

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WL school meeting is canceled

Tonight's scheduled regular meeting of the Walled Lake Board of Education was canceled and will not be made up, said district spokeswoman Carole Kreutzer.

The next meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Educational Services Center, 850 Ladd Road, Building D.

"We're only required to have one meeting a year," explained Kreutzer about why the session won't be re-scheduled.

Kreutzer, who is administrative secretary for Superintendent James Geisler and the school board, is recovering from a bout of bronchitis that she said kept her out of commission for a month.

"There wasn't that much on the agenda that had to be taken care of anyway," Kreutzer said.

The Dec. 5 meeting will be the board's only session of the month.

Accused killer troubled police

Farmington Hills police are frustrated by the tragic murder of a Ford employee that should not have happened.

Police Chief Bill Dwyer said what bothers Hills police most is that the man charged with the shooting death of Darrell Izzard at the Ford Wixom plant, had given an indication of things to come when he lived in Farmington Hills as a teenager.

Gerald Atkins, 29, had committed two break-ins during his teen years before joining three friends in his parents house while they were away and shooting at passing cars and nearby houses.

"We had warrants for assault with intent to commit murder," Dwyer said. "We had a strong case and there was a lot of interest on the prosecutor's part in the case."

But those felony charges were never brought against Atkins, who later joined the U.S. Army Reserve, something he could not have done with a felony conviction.

Dwyer said the accused killer would then have had jail time as well. He was not jailed for the 1986 shooting incident, but pleaded to a malicious destruction of property even though several motorists and residents were nearly hit by bullets.

"One of those bullets could have easily hit someone," he said.

Atkins is accused of murdering Izzard and wounding two Oakland County Sheriff's deputies Nov. 14. More than 100 officers from several agencies, including Farmington Hills, were involved in Atkins' capture.