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Drug bust snares 3 at pizza shop

Police from Farmington Hills and two other departments arrested seven people and seized cocaine and marijuana at a pizza shop in Southfield where police believe an employee was selling drugs.

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"He was certainly was not working at Papa Romanos to deliver or make pizzas; He was there only for his business of delivering cocaine and marijuana," Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said.

Six others were arrested on charges ranging from outstanding traffic warrants to possession of cocaine.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY
Graduation day: All three Farmington high schools are graduating at Compuware Sports Arena on Beck Road in Plymouth Township today.

MONDAY
Vote today: Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 8 for the Farmington school board election. Two of five candidates will win four-year terms.

TUESDAY
So long: A reception for retiring Power Middle School assistant principal Norm Luebke is from 4-6 p.m.

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Car crazy cutie



Babe in car land: Sixteen-month-old Bailey Adkins of Livonia plays in the trunk of her grandpa and grandma's 1966 Pontiac GTO at the first "Cruise the Grand" classic car show in the downtown Farmington parking lot just south and west of the corner of Farmington and Grand River. The car show is set for every Monday until September. For more on the first event, please turn to Page A2.

5th-graders down; 8th up on MEAP

Farmington school district fifth- and eighth-graders had mixed success in the science and writing portion of the 1998 Michigan Educational Assessment Program, administered in January and February.

According to the just-released MEAP scores, 52.1 percent of fifth-graders scored satisfactorily on the science portion, down from 54.8 percent in 1997.

In writing, the fifth grade results dropped from 89.3 percent satisfactory in 1997 to 83.3 percent. Still, that was good enough for third place among Oakland County districts.

More eighth-graders did well on both science and writing than in 1997. The percentage of students scoring satisfactorily in science jumped from 21.1 percent last year to 37.1 percent.

In writing, the improvement went from 84.8 percent in '97 to 88.9 percent in '98, the fourth best in Oakland County.

Landmark flamingos take flighty passage

A Farmington Hills landmark has flown the coup.

The lanky pink flamingos that adorned the entrance of the Middlebelt Road mobile home park are gone but not forgotten.

An office manager doesn't have an official explanation, but is willing to wing it.

"They're sleeping; they're taking a rest," said Renee Verlin, office manager. "They may come out of their sleep or they may not. Or they might migrate to Florida to be in a warmer climate."

Pink flamingos - the birds - proliferate in tropical paradises such as the Bahamas. They have long legs, webbed feet and a duck-like bill with a bend that looks like it came out on the wrong end of a bar fight.

Whether on front lawns or the title of a John Waters' film, plastic pink flamingos are considered to be the ultimate in kitsch.



Perched: This is how the park's entrance once looked.

Which only leaves their absence at the Farmington Trailer Park open to wild flights of speculation.

Please see PINK, A4

Vote Monday to settle board race

As co-chair of Farmington High School's all-night graduation party Sunday, Cathy Webb will be up until dawn, working to make sure the send-off is a fun, safe success for her son, James, and other FHS graduates.

And those red-eyes efforts will come after the school board vice president spends all day Sunday at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township, where the district's three high schools will hold back-to-back-to-back commencement ceremonies.

Then, she'll be at the polls Monday morning. Webb, one of five candidates vying for two, four-year terms on the Farmington school board, had better hope there's either a place to take a nap or some lively conversation going on.

If Monday's election follows the pattern of the last two years, it could be a snoozer - with a very small turnout deciding the race.

"I might have to meet you for a heavily caffeinated beverage," said Webb, an eight-year board

Where to vote? Check out the Farmington school district precinct map, A4

Only about 2-to-4 percent of the 59,355 registered voters in the district are expected to decide the outcome of the election. The field of candidates are Webb and 20-year board veteran Jack Inch, along with challengers Melody Jaske, Jackie Katz and Anwar Mahmood. There are no ballot questions to be decided.

Jaske is a part-time sales assistant who serves as treasurer of the district PTA council. Katz, a mother of four who holds a teaching degree, is subdivision representative to the Forest PTA. Mahmood is a physician who serves on the Farmington Hills commission on Children, Youth & Families. Inch is a professor at OCC; Webb is a retail advertising artist.

In 1996, the election drew 1,697 voters (2.6 percent).

Please see VOTE, A8

A grand job
Farmington Hills-based Competition Graphics team members won't just be watching the PPG Neon Charity Challenger during the ITT Automotive Detroit Grand Prix this weekend.

FARMINGTON FOCUS
Bullard, R-Milford, is seeking re-election to the 15th District Senate seat which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills. He faces a GOP primary challenge from state Rep. Barbara Dobb, R-Commerce Township. Voters will decide the race Aug. 3.

Bullard backer
State Sen. Bill Bullard recently got the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township.