

IN THE PAPER TODAY



Sold! Bernie Brandon, Todd Lipa and Terry Deichert celebrate the auction's success.

Why is this man smiling?: Sunday night's auction benefitting the Longacre House in Farmington Hills included some unique and well-dressed items up for bid. / A3



Achy-breaky: Come join the toe-tapping, foot-stomping country line dancers at the Farmington Hills Senior Center. See our award-winning HomeTown Life section. / C-5

Say I love you: Tragedies like the one that injured two local youths remind us to value children's time and opportunities / A8

OPINION

Say I love you: Tragedies like the one that injured two local youths remind us to value children's time and opportunities / A8

ARTS & LEISURE

Theater: Farmington High School grad York R. Griffith is counting on "The Adding Machine" to bring new patrons to Planet Ant Theatre in Hamtramck. / B1

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KELLY'S LAWN and landscape. Receive 1 free cutting w/signage contract. Call today for free est.

I had a very good response. I would definitely use the OAT again.

J. W. Wittbold

Gunpowder blast injures teens



Police are warning about the dangers of home-made explosives after a 16-year-old from the Hills and an 18-year-old Livonia man were seriously injured while trying to cook up a bottled fireworks recipe.

BY JONI HUBBARD
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Two teenagers were injured Sunday when one of them accidentally ignited black gun powder in the basement of a Farmington Hills home.

According to police reports, the boys, ages 16 and 18, were trying to make

fireworks that they planned to detonate later in a field. Police Chief Bill Dwyer said the incident may be part of a dangerous trend that involves kids, chemicals and the Internet.

"It appears there's an increase with kids experimenting with these types of devices," he said. "We're experiencing an increase in kids using the Internet

to learn how to use them."

The 16 year old, a resident of Farmington Hills, told police he and his friend, a Livonia resident, had bought black gun powder at Meijer on Eight Mile and Haggerty earlier in the day. They placed the powder in a glass jar and attempted to attach a wick, however, the mouth of the jar was too wide.

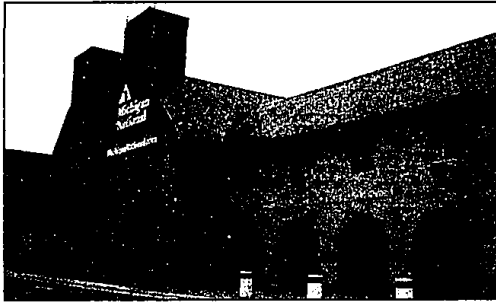
The report indicated the 18 year old was using a cigarette lighter to melt wax in an attempt to secure the wick when the explosion occurred. The younger boy's parents, who were upstairs with an aunt and younger sibling, heard the explosion and raced

downstairs to find the basement clouded with smoke.

The 18 year old was bleeding from numerous cuts to his face and body and appeared to be going into shock. The adults worked together to elevate his feet and put pressure on his wounds to stop the bleeding. The younger boy suffered minor cuts.

Both were treated at Botsford Hospital. A Livonia police officer was called to the hospital. He, in turn, contacted Hills police when he learned the explosion had taken place at a home there.

Please see EXPLOSION, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Moving? Michigan National officials aren't sure what will become of their headquarters on Inkster Road in Farmington.

Michigan National sale announced

BY JONI HUBBARD
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The acquisition of a landmark Farmington Hills bank may lead to a change in one of the city's largest and most visible commercial buildings.

Standard Federal Bank and Michi-

gan National Bank will operate as one entity under the Standard Federal Bank name and logo after they combine operating systems this fall. Michigan National spokesman Rob Darmanin said Tuesday the company has

Please see BANK, A2

Minister charged with criminal sexual conduct

In 1989, ordained minister Derwin Luther Success organized a peace march to protest acts of racial hatred - the kind he and his family had been subjected to since moving to Farmington in the mid-1980s.

A dozen years later, Success himself faces charges of performing criminal acts. Success was arraigned on Friday, March 30, before 47th District Judge Fred Harris, on seven counts of felony CSC.

Success, 44, who remains in the Oakland County Jail, faces four counts of first-degree CSC and three counts of third-degree CSC and will have a preliminary examination at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in 47th District Court.

Judge Harris denied bond after an investigation by Farmington Public Safety Department detectives. First-degree CSC is punishable by up to life in prison.

At the arraignment, an attorney for Success entered a plea of not guilty on the minister's behalf.

The suspect's wife and the alleged victim both came forward to report the history of assaults on March 21, stated

a press release issued Friday by the police department.

In the police reports, it stated that the wife became suspicious after finding a bag of used condoms, two tubes of spermicidal ointment and unopened condoms among her husband's belongings. She accused him of having an affair, an allegation he denied.

Subsequently, the victim told Success' wife she was being sexually

Please see CHARGED, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LESLIE

1989: Rev. Derwin Success spoke at a rally after his family was harassed.



Hands on: Michelle Heller mixes dough for tea cakes.

Field trip of dreams



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Capturing memories: Fifth-grade teacher Karen Quigley hugs student Kathryn Wittbold as Kathryn's mom, Mary Wittbold, takes their photograph.

Unforgettable

Teacher values 'hands-on' lessons

This story continues our series following Highmeadow Common Campus teacher Karen Quigley during her first year as a faculty member.

BY TIM SMITH
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Fort Malden is the Canadian destination of an annual field trip taken by Highmeadow Common Campus fifth-grade teachers and students. Friday's trek to the one-

time British army fort in Amherstburg, Ontario likely will always be the most memorable one for teacher Karen Quigley.

That's because the home stretch of Quigley's first year as a teacher at Highmeadow included an unforgettable, educational junket across the Ambassador Bridge into Canada. Not only did the teacher and her students jointly experience a significant piece of international history, they enhanced a special bond that has gotten stronger

throughout the year.

"I think it's wonderful," said Quigley, after hearing another round of blanks loudly discharged from the musket of Fort Malden tour guide Robert Honor.

Please see FIRST BITE, A2



Hup 2-3-4: Bob Coleman leads his classmates in marching.

