

## Senior patrol



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEERLE

**Graduation Day: Farmington Hills Senior Police Academy graduate Fran Manning received a certificate of achievement from Hills Chief Bill Dwyer during ceremonies held March 29 at the police station. Seniors studied a number of law enforcement topics, from criminal investigation and crime scene processing, to crime prevention and 9-1-1 dispatch. Also pictured are Assistant Chiefs Richard Niemisto, Chuck Nebus and Marty Bledsoe.**

## OU to offer SAT workshops April 23

SAT I college entrance examination workshops are offered by Oakland University's College of Arts and Sciences. The workshop meets for five consecutive Mondays, starting April 23, at

Seaholm High School in Birmingham.

Meetings times are 6-9 p.m. each Monday. Cost is \$175. For a brochure and to register, call (248) 370-3125.

## Jury convicts in Farmington Hills man's death

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER  
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An Oakland County Circuit Court jury Friday returned a verdict of voluntary manslaughter in the trial of 29-year-old Jason Shepherd of Warren.

A second day of deliberations brought the decision from the 12-person jury. Shepherd had been charged with second-degree murder for driving his car into Ayad Salmo, 28, of Farmington Hills in the parking lot of West Bloomfield's Orchard Mall last May 7.

Salmo died in a Pontiac hospital four days later.

Shepherd for Shepherd is set for May 9 in the court of Judge Gene Schnelz. Voluntary manslaughter is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The four-day trial concluded at 2:30 p.m. Thursday and jury deliberations began at that time.

Prosecuting and defense attorneys agreed with many of the details presented in the testimony but differed over Shepherd's state of mind when he drove his 1997 Dodge Neon toward a group of young men playing hockey in the mall parking lot.

"We feel there is no adequate justification for what he did," Assistant County Prosecutor Greg Townsend said. "With his actions, he (Shepherd) created a high risk that someone could get seriously hurt or killed and that meets the criteria for second-

degree murder."

Defense attorney Larry Kaluzny said Shepherd regretted the unfortunate accident and did not intend to kill anyone.

"He was going to work and not looking for any trouble," Kaluzny said. "He was panicking, nervous and fearing for his life because he was attacked, hit with a hockey stick and his car was dented."

According to witnesses, Shepherd was reporting for his work shift at Hillier's shortly before midnight while a dozen men were playing hockey in the parking lot in front of the store. Trouble began when the game ball, two players, Shepherd and his car all came together at once.

Shepherd, Kaluzny said, did not see the ball but saw two men running toward his car, so he hit his brakes. Shepherd parked his Neon near Hillier's, sat in his car and waited for his supervisor to open the store doors to let him in.

While he waited, some of the hockey players — who interpreted Shepherd's driving through the parking lot as a threat — confronted him. Shepherd got out of his car and a fight ensued.

"There's different views about who threw the first punch," Kaluzny said, "but the police recovered a broken hockey stick, broken headlight glass and found fresh dents in his car."

After an initial confrontation, the hockey players were walking away when Shepherd climbed

back into his car and started driving at them, Townsend said.

"They were walking away, but then he went after them with his car," said Townsend, who added Shepherd should have called police following the first confrontation instead of "taking the law into his own hands."

Shepherd drove his car around the hockey players who were trying to find cover behind other cars and light poles, then he hit Salmo. The impact thrust Salmo's head into the Neon's windshield.

Salmo was taken by ambulance to North Oakland Medical Center. His father, Abalahad Salmo, said his son was conscious and talked with friends and family the next day, but his condition later took a turn for the worse when brain swelling increased.

"He was there (in the parking lot) only about 10 minutes," Abalahad Salmo said. "He wasn't playing hockey, he was there watching his brother (Nash) play."

Salmo's family continues to grieve Ayad's loss. The second of four children, he was his father's "right-hand man" in running two Detroit party stores.

"All our family is mad," said Abalahad Salmo, a first-generation Chaldean-American who moved his family to Detroit from Iraq in 1976. "He was a very nice son. He never gave me a hard time."

Voluntary manslaughter was one of five possible verdicts the jury considered, and the second most serious offense after second-degree murder.

## NFHS club raises funds

The North Farmington High Humanitarian Club raised almost \$11,000 for Muscular Dystrophy in an all-night party attended by 600 students.

"There was swimming, volleyball, food, raffles, with prizes donated by local businesses," said Kathleen Malmer, teacher and service coordinator.

Malmer said two seniors spearheaded the drive: Dan Panoch and Andrea Coleman.

"They started last year and raised \$8,000," she said. "Then they immediately began planning this year's event."

## OBITUARIES

## ERNESTINE A. DOLAN

Services for Ernestine Alberta Dolan, 71, of Farmington were held April 7 at St. Gerald Church in Farmington with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating.

Mrs. Dolan was born Oct. 7, 1929, in Westphalia, Mich., and died April 6, 2001, at Evergreen Health and Living Center in Southfield. She worked as a psychiatric nurse for the state of Michigan and was a member of St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington.

She is survived by husband, Warren; sons, David (Carolyn) and Rick; daughters, Mary Beth (Timothy) Luxon and Kristeen (Ralph) Dolan-Poley; one sister, six brothers; and seven grandchildren.

Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

**VIOLET E. FLORENCE**  
Services for Violet Eleanor Florence, 82, of Westland will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Florence was born July 18, 1918, in Dearborn and died April 6, 2001, at Oakwood-

Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

She is survived by son, Thomas; daughter, Nancy (Tony) Lucero; sisters, Helen Bauer and Lillian Heinken; grandson, Eric; and great-grandson, Garrett.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United Way. Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

**MARILYN B. DWYER**  
Services for Marilyn B. Dwyer, 66, of Plymouth will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth with the Rev. Richard Kelly officiating.

Mrs. Dwyer was born June 21, 1934, in Detroit and died April 5, 2001, in Plymouth. She worked for Ford Motor Co. and enjoyed traveling with her husband. She also enjoyed sewing and knitting.

She is survived by husband, Jim; children, James (Cheryl) Dwyer, Daniel (Jeanne) Dwyer, Susan (Ron) Thompson, Terrence (Sandy) Dwyer, Jeffrey (Kim) Dwyer, Kelly (Rob) McCoy

and Kerrie (Andy Zale) Dwyer; brothers, James (Jan) Morse, Richard (Joanne) Morse and Ronald (Nancy) Morse; sisters, Adele McVeigh and Carol Steane; and 17 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Care Unit, 3003 South State Street, Room 8070 Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

**PHILLIAINE M. LAHIFF**  
Services for Philliaine M. Lahiff, 57, formerly of Farmington Hills, will be held at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 11 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington.

Mrs. Lahiff died April 4, 2001 at Menzies Hospital Countryside in Florida.

She is survived by son, Bryce; daughter, Gwen Thacker; mother, Frances Klotz; brothers, John and Robert Karabees; and grandson, Valero.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Arrangements made by Moss Feaster Funeral Home in Clearwater, Fla.

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