

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Teen writers honored:** The Farmington Community Library's Teen Creative Writing Competition Awards Ceremony will be held Monday, April 30 at 7 p.m. This year, 136 entries were received for the contest in four categories: 11-14 years, Poetry; 11-14 years, Fictional Prose; 15-19 years, Poetry; 15-19 years, Fictional Prose. Winners will be announced in Thursday's Observer.

## WEDNESDAY

**Final Battle:** The Farmington Community Library's annual Battle of the Books will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Costick Activity Center in Farmington Hills. Of the 166 teams competing in the Semi-Final Round, 60 will participate in the Final Round, where 6th through 8th graders will answer questions about 10 books. A costume contest is sponsored by the Farmington Friends of the Library. The event is held in conjunction with the annual Festival of the Arts.

## SATURDAY

**Humor and music:** The Chenille Sisters will bring their fabulous harmonies to the Costick Center in Farmington Hills tonight. For ticket information, call (248) 473-1857.

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# FHPD unamused by 'kidnapping'



When Farmington Hills police were called to investigate a possible kidnapping, they had no idea both the perpetrator and his victim were playing a practical joke on the woman who reported the "crime."

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER  
hneedham@oc.hometown.com

When a woman called 911 Wednesday night telling police that a man had been bound with duct tape and placed in a vehicle trunk by another man, Hills police responded to what they believed could be a kidnapping or homicide.

Police tracked down the man's residency and name through a car rental company and sent officers to his home.

But when the alleged perpetrator, a 31-year-old Oak Park man, was questioned, he reportedly said, "It was just a joke."

The woman wasn't laughing. The woman was staying at Extended StayAmerica, 27776 Stansbury, when

the Oak Park man came to visit saying he had a "surprise" for her. He took her outside and showed her the bound and gagged man in his trunk.

He told her that he had shot the man because the man had tried to shoot him. Not too long afterwards, she called 911.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said the Oak Park man, a school administrator from the River Rouge school district, bound and tied up his friend, a 26-year-old Detroit man, to play a joke on the woman, whom the Oak Park man had dated previously. Dwyer said police don't believe that the woman was in on the joke.

"We don't think this is a joke," Dwyer said. "It's very upsetting that our time would be wasted on a prank situation like this."

He also said he was concerned that the two men involved are both educators. The Detroit man is a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools.

"Here we've got people that are educators that would go this extreme," Dwyer said. "It's no laughing matter — they're not teenagers. You wouldn't expect something like this."

In March, a Belleville High School teacher was arrested for calling in a

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## Banking on It



Checks and balances: Dakota Hassa waits his turn at the check machine as Marissa Mashinske processes checks.



Lifeline: Katie Nicoll uses her Dad for a lifeline while playing "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." Director of Marketing Debbie Mashinske fills in for Regis.

## Check it out

### LOC welcomes young visitors

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oc.hometown.com

Money does grow on trees. The young people who came to Take A Child To Work Day at LOC Federal Credit Union Thursday in Farmington proved it. One of the first activities of the day was constructing money trees which were later displayed at the counters.

Children were in different parts of the building during the day, eagerly helping a parent, grandparent or friend who worked there.

"We've done this for about six years," said Debbie Mashinske, director of marketing.

Her daughter, Marissa, 6, along with Dakota Hassa, 5, son of Kari Hassa, vice-president of

marketing, helped teller Donna Ramsey man the drive-thru teller's station. Tasks were rotated at the teller line, drive up, loans, member service and check encoding stations.

"We have seven children this time," Mashinske said. "We rotate positions and change every 20 minutes."

The rotation allows them to see how other areas work and not just the area of their sponsor, she added.

Agos of the visitors ranged from 5 to 15. Others who took part were Jamie Young, 10, Sara Flanigan, 9, and Katie Nicoll, 6.

All seemed delighted at playing in the "grown-up" world of banking. "I did it all by myself," Marissa exclaimed when she encoded

checks. Elise Caruso, 6, assembled member packets while her grandmother, Sandy Inch, a member services representative looked on.

Randy Rorabacher, 15, took his turn at the teller's station. "I did this last year," Rorabacher said. "I think it is a helpful way to help younger and older kids know what it is like to work at a credit union," he said.

Children received informational packets to help them understand money and savings. A savings goal sheet showed how much money, minus interest, they would earn if they saved regularly. Depositing 50 cents will earn \$13. A \$12 weekly deposit will earn \$312, they were told.



1-800-GRANDMA: Elise Caruso is ready to use her lifeline as Director of Marketing Debbie Mashinske places the call to Elise's grandma, Sandy Inch.

## Residents at 8 Mile, Inkster warned about rats

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oc.hometown.com

Farmington Hills officials ask residents in the Eight Mile and Inkster area to take extra care to prevent rat infestation.

The city received two reports of rats in the area bounded by Inkster, Rensselaer, Byron and Emmett.

"These are isolated cases," said Dana Whinnery, assistant city manager.

Both Evelyn Malloy of the city's zoning department and Whinnery visited



## 'Pajama Game'

Andy Smith (Sid), Ben Ryberg (Hines), Lia Ventura (Babe) and a cast of thousands (maybe dozens) perform "Pajama Game" at North Farmington High School. The show opens next Thursday night.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

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