

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Barbara Rutecki of Plymouth, whose winning entry describing a romantic date with her husband, Bill, earned the couple a special night on the town Feb. 8. The Ruteckis, parents of four children, won the following prizes:

- Two tickets to a Red Wings game
- Dinner for two at Cafe Cortina in Farmington Hills
- Transportation compliments of international Limousine in Westland
- Candy from Keminz Fine Candies & Gifts in Plymouth
- A dozen red roses from Flowers from Joe's by Carolyn in Livonia.

Rutecki's entry and the story of her and her husband's big night will be featured in the Observer's HomeTown Life section Feb. 14. Please read this special Valentine's Day feature.



Alleged victim threatens suicide

By PAUL R. PACE
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A Farmington Hills woman who brought rape claims against a Farmington Hills dentist checked herself into a Hills motel room with a shotgun Wednesday, threatening to kill herself. According to Police Chief William Dwyer, "excellent teamwork" saved the life of the 27-year-old woman - who in December said she was held captive in an apartment belonging to Hills dentist Donald Quinn. She checked into the Knights Inn motel off Grand River around 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and called the chief detective in the case an hour later.

Detective Kathy Tiano and Assistant Police Chief Chuck Nebus were negotiating with the woman in the motel room long into the afternoon, Dwyer said. Around 3 p.m., detectives brought her a pepperoni pizza per her request. Later, she asked to speak to her priest and psychiatrist.

"What brought is out was her psychiatrist," Dwyer said. "She was the last person to talk to her."

Many times during the day, the woman held the gun beneath her chin, with her finger on the trigger. At one point, she fired a shot into the hotel room and officers rushed the door. When they saw she was still alive but had the gun under her chin, they backed out, Dwyer said.

Finally, the psychiatrist convinced the woman to put the weapon down. She left it near the door, then moved to the back of the room. Nebus recovered the weapon, and the psychiatrist was able to convince the woman to leave, Dwyer said.

Television media cooperated with requests not to broadcast any reports of the matter, because the woman said if she saw her situation on the news, she would kill herself.

The chief said the woman's husband was on business in Boston, but was flying back after being informed of the situation.

Apparently, the woman became depressed because she believes the public and the judge in the case against



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Delivery: As a winter snowstorm gathered strength Wednesday afternoon, Hills Police officers delivered a pizza to a woman who had checked into a room at Knight's Inn Wednesday morning, then threatened suicide.

Please see SUICIDE, A4

Engler pushes high-speed Internet Rocky kicks

By PAUL R. PACE
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The telephone revolutionized communication more than 100 years ago, and with it came government standards to promote reasonable user costs and accessibility to all.

Gov. John Engler believes high-speed Internet must have the same standards if the state is going to successfully compete in the technology market.

Speaking Tuesday at breakfast discussion on the subject at Walsh College's Novi campus, the governor and a panel of business and technology experts spoke to about 300 people in attendance.

"We need to streamline the process for taxes and permits for broadband in Michigan," he said.

Engler is encouraging legislators to make the process for expanding broadband easier by establishing a uniform permit and fee system for rights-of-way to lay lines that carry high-speed Internet to homes and businesses.

He also proposes creating a financing authority to provide loans and grants and to work with private telecommunications vendors to make statewide investment more viable. His third bill would offer tax credits to companies that build out their broadband network.

Engler said the need for this plan is evident by the fact that Michigan lags behind other states in developing broadband.

According to the governor:

■ Michigan has almost 4 percent of the nation's population, but only 1.3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Farmington Hills connection: John Young, Linda Jolicœur, Andy Haliu and Carleigh Flaharty take a break before listening to a panel discussion.

percent of the high-speed broadband phone lines (ADSL).

■ Michigan is 37th in the nation in the percentage of families and small businesses using high-speed lines.

Linda Jolicœur, president of Target Equipment Leasing in Farmington Hills, can't get high-speed cable Internet at the business located at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake through the local provider, Time Warner Cable. So long as it wasn't too expensive, she'd said she'd love to have Web sites come over

faster than using a phone connection.

Uses Internet

"We do use the Internet quite a bit," she said of the company, which loans money to businesses to buy equipment.

She attended the breakfast to learn more about the broadband proposal. She left convinced.

"Ultimately, we'll all be better off with this," Jolicœur said, because of

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off run for U.S. Senate

By JONI HUBBED
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To the theme music from the movie "Rocky," State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills) announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate Monday morning from a very familiar place.

On stage at his alma mater, Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, Raczkowski promised to put Michigan first if he gets to Washington, D.C. - acknowledging that battle will be uphill all the way. If he wins the Republican nomination, he will face 24-year veteran Carl Levin in November.

"A lot of people looked at this and said Carl Levin can't be beat," he told a crowd of students and supporters.

When Raczkowski talked to his parents, his father, Bogdan, first said his son was committing "political suicide." The next morning, however, he was on the phone urging his son to take a run at it.

"He said in Polish... 'I think you can do this,'" Raczkowski recalled. Bogdan Raczkowski was felled by an aneurysm on New Year's Eve and passed away just a few days later. His son now feels his father's spirit with him as he launches what will likely be the biggest political battle of his life.

But the term-limited state representative, who had previously

Please see ROCKY, A3

Grace student suspended after knife incident

Farmington school officials are investigating a complaint that a William Grace Elementary student threatened another student with a small knife during an incident on a school bus Tuesday afternoon.

According to a press release issued by the district, Principal Mark Morawski was notified Wednesday morning that a fourth grade student had a small pocket knife, a camping utensil kit and a fishing utensil kit in his backpack, and showed the knife when another student refused to return an item that belonged to the fourth grader.

The district believes there was no premeditated intent to cause harm with the knife; both the camping and fishing kits also contained small knives.

Following protocols established by a state-wide school safety policy, the parents of the students involved were notified, along with Farmington Hills police.

The student has been suspended and the case was turned over to the Juvenile Division for further investigation.

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Rainbow Awards honor diversity



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Winners, one and all: More than 70 people who have promoted and supported the cause of diversity in Farmington and Farmington Hills were honored at the Rainbow Awards Breakfast. For full story and another picture see Page A3.