

A&J Precision expands with acquisition

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

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A&J Precision Tool in Farmington Hills plans to expand its operation by buying the assets of a Madison Heights tool company that specializes in military and aircraft components.

David Every, president of A&J Precision Tool Co. Inc., located at 23135 Commerce Drive, and Donald Cohagan, president of Cohagan Tool Company, this

week issued a letter of intent to acquire the assets of Cohagan Tool.

The deal is expected to be finalized by the end of March, said Every. A dollar figure for acquisition is not being released.

Every said he expects to keep most of the 10 employees from the Cohagan operation at the Farmington Hills site.

BUSINESS NEWS

"With the softening of the economy, our small businesses are getting compressed, and we're trying to find ways to make the downturn into a stronger company," said Every. "The addition will be a tremendous help, and it will put us on a much more solid footing as we go forward."

Cohagan, a Farmington Hills

resident, said he's happy with the acquisition and plans to be a plant manager at A&J.

He said his company has been in business for 61 years and up until about two years ago operated in Southfield.

A&J employs 40 people and makes production and prototype parts and components for the auto industry.

With the acquisition, the company will have more than 36 machine spindles and the capability to produce 24 hours a day.

FFIA holds fundraiser

Farmington Families In Action is holding its annual Spring Splash fundraiser. Colonial Car Wash owners, Mark and Holly Owen will donate 50 percent of the proceeds from Spring Splash to Farmington Families In Action.

During the months of February and March, car wash coupons worth \$5.75 will be sold throughout the community and

are good for any size vehicle throughout the year. Colonial Car Wash has donated over \$17,000 to F.F.I.A. since initiating this fund-raiser 11 years ago.

F.F.I.A. is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of community members for its operating revenue. Its mission is to educate the community about the dangers of substance abuse.

Detective work brings hit and run driver to justice

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A young Farmington Hills girl was hit by car last week, and the driver didn't stop.

But through good old-fashioned detective work, the driver was found within days with only pieces of car's broken side mirror used as evidence, said police.

The girl, 13, suffered minor injuries after running out into the road trying to help her dog, which had been struck moments earlier by another car outside the family's home on 10 Mile near Inkster around 7:45 p.m. Jan. 31.

The dog died, and Farmington Hills police only had the mirror fragments left as evidence after the other car hit the girl.

Police said officers took the pieces of a local car dealership, and employees there help figured out what make and color the vehicle was.

Inquiring whether any local body shops were working a silver Cadillac, police found the car and the driver and plan to bring their case to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office soon, seeking charges against the 69-year-old Farmington Hills woman they believe struck the girl.

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TREATING THE PAIN OF FIBROMYALGIA

Since the events of September 11th, doctors are seeing more patients with new fibromyalgia, and noting that many patients with the diagnosis already are experiencing increased pain. As a result, the medical community is pushing its resources to treat this condition.

The difficulty physicians face is that at this time no therapy exists that consistently relieves the aching and depression that are the features of fibromyalgia. Muscle relaxants cause drowsiness, and antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications seem to add to the fatigue. Small doses of these medications given at night often allow a person with fibromyalgia to obtain sleep. However, sleep is interrupted, and the deep sleep that is most restorative continues to elude the individual.

Anti-inflammatory drugs give disappointing results. Likely the reason is that the type of inflammation that these drugs treat is not the prevailing cause of aching in fibromyalgia. The same lack of efficacy holds for cortisone injections into itchy sites given limited benefit, but trials using daily steroids by mouth yield results no better than placebo pills. Furthermore, prolonged use of steroids over months to years, has deleterious effects that make prescribing this class of drugs more of a harm than help. The same holds for drugs to control pain such as codeine, darifenacin, diazepam, or valium. The aching of fibromyalgia is long-lived and constantly changes in intensity. Narcotic dosing too often leads to dependence and addiction.

The best treatment for fibromyalgia remains exercise and physical therapy. The results are not dramatic but steady.

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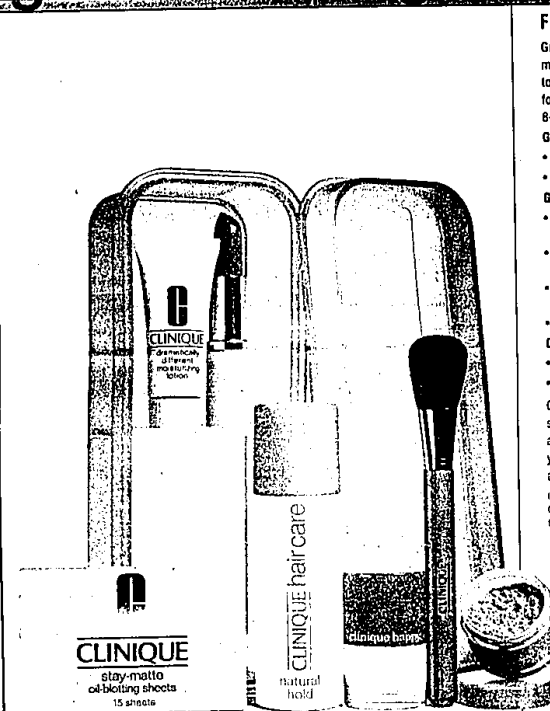
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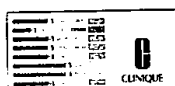
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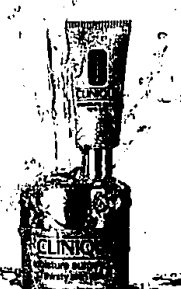
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