

Daughter, mom reopen Grand Cafe

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER

A dynamic mother-daughter duo has breathed life back into a kitschy corner of downtown Farmington.

Harrison High grad Christa Rutherford and her mother, Thelma Seville, both of Farmington, will re-open the Grand Cafe on Grand River Saturday. The celebration, from 4 p.m. to midnight, will feature music, 10 gourmet flavored coffee selections and a revamped menu.

"We're going to have kind of the same theme, with a little bit more adult atmosphere," Rutherford said.

The Grand Cafe, a popular hang-out for younger teens,

Who: Farmington residents Christa Rutherford and her mother, Thelma Seville
When: Saturday, March 8, 4 p.m. to midnight
What: Grand re-opening of the Grand Cafe
Where: 33316 Grand River, in the lower level of the historic Cook Building

offered a smattering of events, including a psychic who offered readings one night each week.

Rutherford plans a more structured entertainment

schedule, bringing in a comedy show once a month.

"The decor has changed quite drastically," she added.

Lined by former owner Lance Kawas, Rutherford managed the Cafe for about a year and a half before moving out of town. She and her mother had been looking for a small business - a flower shop or coffee shop - to run.

They had someone keeping an eye out for properties on the market, and when she got the call about a small space on Grand River in downtown Farmington, Rutherford knew the address very well.

"I said, 'Ohmigod, we'll take it,' she recalled.

She also owned a small business when she was 17, working

as a promoter in the music industry. Business management has always appealed to her.

As for sharing ownership with her mother - Rutherford said if they got through the two weeks before opening the Grand Cafe, they can get through anything.

"It'll be like going into business with my best friend, and people do that all the time," Rutherford said.

Live entertainment will be provided Saturday by DJ Shround, who will spin some "really smooth house beats."

The Grand Cafe is located in the lower level of the historic Cook Building, 33316 Grand River.

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SOS Day goes on without 'shadowing'

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in more than a decade, Farmington Public School students won't shadow school administrators Friday on Students Operating Schools Day.

The format is changed, with lunch at 11:15 p.m. at the Farmington Training Center first, followed by a Student Town Hall Meeting, "Middle to High School Transition: Students Share Keys to Success," from 12:15-2:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Farmington Training Center located on Thomas Street, north of Grand River.

The shadowing day originated before Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield began in 1994, he said. Students followed school personnel in the morning, then met for lunch and discussion in the afternoon.

Maxfield said a variety of reasons led to the change this year. Among them: impending war, safety and security concerns, logistics and the time principals and administrators spent this year on educational assessment programs like Education Yes! and No Child Left Behind.

He also mentioned the confidentiality concerns of having students working with principals and other administrators for four hours.

The decision was made after Maxfield put out a call about the program in January.

"Principals give 100 percent," he said. "It's just one more pressure point."

"We'll review it again next year," Maxfield added.

Sue Zurvalce, assistant superintendent for staff and community services, said SOS Day led to a number of conflicts. "It isn't because people don't want to do that," she said.

Kay Clark, who helped to organize the program, also noted timing was an issue: "It's coming right after Winter Break."

Those vacation days change every year, she said. While

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break began in early March last year, this year it was the last week in February.

This year's Student Town Hall meeting will focus on the transition from middle school to high school. High school principals asked 15 students from each school to participate. The discussion will include participants in the Student Roundtable, students from secondary schools who meet regularly to discuss different issues.

"They will be the table leaders," Clark said.

For the first time this year, four students from each middle school were also asked to participate. A building representative from each secondary school, some school board members and some Central Office staff will attend, Clark said.

To help educate students and relieve anxiety about high school, students will discuss:

■ What do parents and students worry about when teens start high school?

■ How does transition from middle school to high school affect special education students?

■ What can make the transition better?

■ What information can be provided to help students learn about athletics, clubs, etc.?

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Schoolcraft Board has 2 seats up for election

Local residents who wish to run for one of two open seats on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees have until April 7 to file their petitions. The election will be held June 9, 2003. Each seat has a six-year term.

Schoolcraft College is a public community college that last year served approximately 32,000 students through college transfer offerings, career programs, continuing education and community service courses, and customized

employee training for business and industry.

The seven-member governing board holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings as well as special meetings as necessary. There is no compensation for these elected positions.

Candidates must be registered voters and residents of the college's district, which reaches into the public school districts of Clarencville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Novi and Plymouth-Canton. To be included on the

ballot, a candidate must obtain the signatures of at least 60 but not more than 200 qualified voters from the college district.

The signatures must appear on an official nominating petition, which can be obtained from the Schoolcraft College President's Office. There is no charge for filing petitions. Information describing the boundaries of the Schoolcraft College district also is available from the president's office. There is no charge for filing petitions.

The president's office, in the Administration Center on the Livonia campus, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The campus is at 18600 Haggerty Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile. Petitions bearing the required number of qualified signatures must be returned to Fran Joswiak, associate secretary to the Board of Trustees, in the President's Office, by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2003.

For more information, call the college at 734-462-4420.

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CARRIER OF MONTH

Matt Shur of Farmington has been named February's Carrier of the Month for the Farmington Observer. Shur is an 'A' student in seventh grade at O.E. Dunkel Middle School. His favorite subjects are writing and science. He enjoys meeting new people on his route and has learned to be organized and responsible. Shur likes to play tennis, travel, listen to music and go to the movies.



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