

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Ethnic flavor: A family from what used to be Yugoslavia runs a bakery in downtown Farmington. /11A

COUNTY NEWS

Behind the scores: Compare and contrast how your local district did on the MEAP with other area schools. /5A

Bold and brazen: Area educators and lawmakers are abuzz at the school reorganization plan proposed by the Michigan Education Association. /16A

OPINION

Debate, please: Farmington is fortunate to have so many people willing to speak out when they see a plan they don't like. /14A

SPORTS

Roaring Raiders: The Oakland Community College men's basketball team tried to maintain its hot streak Wednesday against Macomb. /1B

High school hoop: Farmington Harrison was the latest boys basketball team to attempt to topple unbeaten Plymouth Salem. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Theater: "Lettice & Lovage," the Broadway and London comedy hit starring five-time Tony Award winner Julie Harris and Roberta Maxwell, opens at the George Burns Theatre for the Performing Arts in Livonia. /6B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Vintage dressing: Farmington Hills man likes retro clothes as well as new ones, and anything avant-garde. /1C

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Expert warns of counterfeiting



If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. That's the advice a special agent for the FBI has for merchants and consumers who are concerned about counterfeit products.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

When Katy Help heard FBI agent Jim Walker's story about busting a big-time producer of counterfeit products, it struck a chord.

"My mother gave me some weight-lifting gloves for Christmas," said the

employee of Honeywell in Farmington Hills. "They said 'Made in USA' on the outside but 'Made in China' on the inside label. It makes you wonder."

And according to Walker, more and more American consumers and workers are being taken by counterfeiters

each year. Not only are they buying inferior goods at inflated prices, but they're unknowingly contributing to the export of American jobs.

Walker spoke to about 15 business people at the Crimo Watch seminar Jan. 21. The program was sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police.

Walker said he set up an answering machine and advertised that he was in the import/export business.

"I was overwhelmed with the amount of counterfeiters out there," he said.

And although that's a concern to

local merchants, they follow the same advice that Walker would give to any consumer: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

"We tend to deal with only a few reps, people we know," said Jeanette Roach, manager of Rags to Riches in the Orchard 12 Plaza. "When you've been in the business a while, it jumps out at you."

Bagging a big one

Walker, who had no background in

See COUNTERFEITING, 2A

At the senior center



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Friendly tips: Ken Lockwood of the Farmington Artist Club has a few tips for budding artist Rae Wage at the Farmington Hills Senior Center.

Helper earns recognition

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The loss of her parents and other close relatives, all within a short period of time, left Yvonne Singer with a need to be with people of her parents' generation.

That was more than 17 years ago, when she began working part time at the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center in the Mercy Center, on 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster in Farmington Hills.

Singer started as a crafts teacher after reading about an opening in

the newspaper classifieds. She still spends much of her time with Hills residents of her parents' generation.

"I really needed to work with seniors," said the mother of three. "I started as a crafts teacher. I think, like everyone else here, I've probably done most jobs at the center at one time or another."

Singer became Farmington Hills' first over-part-time worker to be named Employee of the Year. But she's quick to credit other staff, volunteers and government leaders from both Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Both communities also have supported the program, including the passage of a .5-mill tax in May of 1991 for eight years that raises about \$3.6 million for senior programs.

"The population is aging all the time," she said. "I think people are aware of the needs for seniors."

Activities galore

The center offers swimming and dance classes, music lessons, health and nutrition education, art

See HELPER, 3A

Schools expect less than 10-percent turnout

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

An average voter turnout is expected Tuesday for the Farmington Public Schools tax renewal election.

Based on absentee ballot requests, school officials estimate 4,000 to 5,000 people will turn up at the polls.

TAX VOTE

More than 50,000 registered voters live in the school district.

As of Monday, there were 327 requests for absentee ballots, according to Betsi Rothrock, director of the

business support services for the schools.

"That would be a fairly average turnout for an issue that has money involved," said Rothrock.

Voters are asked to renew 12.0834 mills in a consolidated three-for-one ballot proposal.

The 12.0834 mills represent \$31.1 million, or one-third, of the schools' operating budget. The renewal proposal also reflects Headlee Amendment rollbacks.

Endorsements for the proposal

See TURNOUT, 2A

Millage election will again use 8 precincts

For the second time, Tuesday's Farmington Public Schools millage renewal election will operate eight precincts.

The number was increased from four to eight in order to reduce the wait for voters at the polls.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

See map, 3A

Here's where to vote:

■ Precinct 1 is at Longacre Elementary, 34850 Arundel, which includes the entire City of Farmington.
■ Precinct 2 is at William Grace Ele-

mentary, 29040 Shilawasee, which includes that part of the district beginning at Farmington city limits, east on Colfax to Inkster Road north to 10 Mile Road, west to the Farmington city limits, south to Nine Mile Road, east to the Farmington city limits, south to Colfax.

■ Precinct 3 is at East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt, which includes that part of the district beginning at Farmington Road east to 10 Mile Road to Inkster Road north to 12 Mile Road, west to Orchard Lake

See PRECINCTS, 2A

Calling all Democrats

A discussion of the Farmington Public Schools' millage renewal will highlight a meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club at 7:30 tonight at the Botsford Inn on Grand River northwest of Eight Mile.

Guest speakers will be Farmington Mayor Bill Hartscock and Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates.

Voters in the Farmington School District will decide the request to renew 12.0834 mills, which represents more than \$31 million, in a special election Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Girl Scouts galore

About 600 Detroit-area Girl Scouts converged

FARMINGTON FOCUS

on Farmington Hills last Saturday to watch a puppet show with a message.

The girls learned about what it's like to be disabled by watching the "Kids on the Block" program at Faith Covenant Church at 14 Mile and Drake roads.

The message suggested behavior and understanding that is positive and helpful toward disabled persons. The presentation involved two life-size puppets and the play explored what it is like to have a disability or impairment.

"The girls loved the program," said Wendy Hanson, communications coordinator for the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council. "Those puppets are as big as some of the kids."

Memory Lane

From the Jan. 29, 1953 Farmington Enterprise: ■ From an editorial: "The most progressive step in years, if not in the entire history of the City of Farmington, was taken last week when the Council set up the establishment of a planning commission."

■ Farmington High's eighth grade basketball team, coached by Harold Humble, beat Walled Lake, 36-24. Buddy Jones scored 19 points for the winners.

■ Cigarettes were advertised at \$1.79 a carton at Wally Zehnder Meats, 33419 Grand River.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.