

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Film at 7-Eleven: The cameras have become crime prevention tools at some Farmington-area stores. /3A

Where the heck is Tyndale College?: Why, it's right out there at 12 Mile and Drake roads in Farmington Hills. /13A

COUNTY NEWS

Drugs and middle schoolers: As U-M researchers report that illegal drug use among eighth-graders is up in most categories, one area educator says anti-drug programs may be victims of their success. /5A

Treading water: OCC and an area YMCA are in the slow lane when it comes to a joint venture swimming pool. /12A

OPINION

The busy month of May: In the Farmington area, there's a lot going on for those who consider themselves civic-minded. /20A

Thanks to them: The editor asked for support in the community in his plan to drop TV for a week. Surprise! The support was there. /21A

SPORTS

Track winners: Harrison High School was a double winner Saturday at the Milan Relays as the boys and girls teams won titles. /1B

Soccer comeback: Farmington Hills Mercy rallied in the second half Monday to defeat Bishop Foley, 4-3. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: Franklin Village native Douglas Sills juggles two roles, the scheming Dr. Neville Craven and the extremely depressed Uncle Archibald, in the hit musical "The Secret Garden," which opens at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit Tuesday, April 27. /6B

BUSINESS

Alternative lending: People in a pinch can turn to an ancient service that's been updated for today's customers. /12B

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Schools approve 16 layoffs



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A senior special education supervisor and 15 teachers in the Farmington School District could be laid off at the end of the school year.

The Farmington School Board "regretfully" OK'd the layoffs in separate motions at Tuesday's meeting in

North Farmington High's Auditorium.

According to labor contracts, the district must notify personnel of any possible layoffs by May 1.

"It's our hope there will be enough in terms of retirement, leaves of absence, etcetera, to maybe offset this and allow us to call back many of

these fine people," Superintendent Michael Flanagan said.

One reason for the pink slips is teachers returning from leaves of absence.

But another cause is the reduction in students at Boy's Republic Alternative Education Center. Just eight boys are enrolled in the residential treatment facility, designed for students with emotional problems. The capacity is 45.

Three teachers at Boy's Republic have been pink slipped (notified they may be laid off), according to special education director Jan Richards.

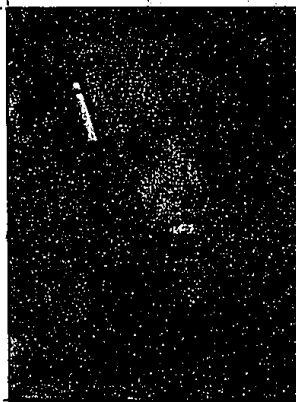
"I hope that Boy's Republic has their numbers up in clientele and we don't have a problem because they're excellent teachers," Richards said.

Beri Falbaum, a spokesman for Boy's Republic, said changes in state financing for such residential facilities has been the cause of uncertainty. He's optimistic, though.

Falbaum said Boy's Republic is recruiting kids from other counties and agencies and will bid on other programs the state is developing.

"Boy's Republic has served this community for over a century, it has a good reputation," Falbaum said.

'Then one day she heard that Detroit station ...'



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMERICK

Big WLLZ: Sheri Donovan, DJ at WLLZ-FM in Farmington Hills, takes on the challenge of the afternoon drive-time show with a style that shows up in the above photos.

Local rock DJ is what she plays

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Like the music she plays in her afternoon spot on WLLZ-FM, Sheri Donovan is high energy.

Donovan, a Farmington Hills graduate and Farmington Hills resident, is moving up in the competitive world of radio with her own style.

"Women are not usually on during prime time, the morning and afternoon drives," she said. "Being from Detroit, I think you have a gut feeling about what people want to hear."

Although born in Scarborough, Ontario, "Kuh-NAY-da," the 34-year-old blonde has followed the local rock scene with a passion. She worked at KISS-FM before coming to "Wheels" five years ago.

With the move of disc jockey Ken Calvert to the morning show, Donovan is dishing out her "dirt" in the

'We have a lot of bands from the Detroit area and some from as far away as Lansing. . . . If Detroit performers aren't heard, nothing is going to happen for them. And there are a lot of talented people here.'

Sheri Donovan
disc jockey

"afternoon drive" slot, from 1-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. But her knowledge of the local rock scene isn't going to waste. The station has given Donovan a chance to promote local artists with the "Home Cooking" show, which airs Sunday nights from 11-12.

"I want more programs that are music intensive," Donovan said. "We like to present music in an entertaining way."

The WLLZ format of "music and

sports" works for Donovan, who says she realizes she's in a competitive business where there are some limits on what an individual DJ can do.

"Our programming is a little heavier at night," she said. "But we play a lot of music that is familiar because you have to keep people coming back."

But Donovan, a non-smoker who speaks in a smoky voice and animated air, says playing "deeper

cuts" from familiar artists' albums and mixing in rock with a higher metal content is working. Add that many established rock artists are coming out with new, "unplugged" versions of their most popular tunes.

"We're flavoring our format with deeper album cuts," she said. "Now you have artists like Eric Clapton and Mick Jagger still coming out with great songs, so I think there is plenty to work with. They're getting older and better."

Donovan, who is holding down one of the station's prime listening times, says she is not trying to make a woman issue out of her job. But with the different perspective she brings to her job, she's also brought a sense of adventure, of taking chances.

See DJ, 2A

Chief's son may face same drug charge again

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County prosecutors are appealing 47th District Judge Fred Harris' decision to dismiss a drug-possession charge against the son of Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Assistant prosecutor Carlo Ginotti said his office was appealing the decision not because of who the defendant is, but because of the merits of the case against Michael Dwyer, 29.

Michael Dwyer was charged with possession of a controlled substance (a half of a marijuana cigarette) related to an incident late on July 15, 1992.

Michael Dwyer was working at Bob Saks Oldsmobile on Grand River when he confronted Al Haver Jr. and Haver's girlfriend just before midnight as they were looking at cars on the lot.

Farmington Hills Police detective Sgt. Chuck Nebus, who along with

Michigan State Police handled the case, said the younger Dwyer had chased Nebus off the property earlier in the night and carried an unloaded BB pistol, which is legal.

After Michael Dwyer confronted the couple, Haver called police, who came to the scene believing there was a gunman present.

When police arrived, Michael Dwyer cooperated and was placed in the back seat of a police car while officers searched his car for the gun, accord-

ing to Nebus.

While searching the car, they found a half of a marijuana cigarette in the car's ashtray and charged Michael Dwyer with possession, Nebus added.

Although police had been called to the scene believing there was a felonious assault in progress, once he was safely in the patrol car, Michael Dwyer was not a threat and the search of his car was not legitimate without a search warrant, Harris ruled.

See CHARGE, 6A

A walk cropping up

People in the world are starving . . . but folks in the Farmington area and West Bloomfield are trying to do something about it.

The eighth-annual Crop Walk Against Hunger will begin and end at the First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington, on Sunday, May 2. The fund-raiser will take place rain or shine.

Registration begins at 1:15 p.m. with the walk starting at 2 p.m. The 10-kilometer route winds through the streets of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Some 25 percent of the money raised by the walk will go to the Farmington Salvation Army, Farmington Headstart Food Bank, St. Alexander's

Food Cupboard and the Baldwin Avenue Human Services Center.

The remainder will be distributed through Church World Services for Hunger Relief, which includes many religious denominations and delivers aid to more than 70 countries.

Last year, more than 450 participants from 16 area churches walked, and \$23,252.60 was raised, said Jean Polier, walk co-chairwoman and a representative of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in West Bloomfield.

"Each year the Crop Walk grows — and more hungry people are fed," she said.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

For more information, call Polier (681-5070), Judy Houser (661-5139) or Cheryl Carter (477-1163).

Memory Lane

From the April 23, 1953 edition of the Farmington Enterprise.

Short Item: "Little Karm Capo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Capo of Longwood Street in Farmington, danced on April 14 before the Cosmopolitan Club at the YWCA auditorium in Detroit."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48335, dropped off at the newspaper office or faxed to 477-9722.