

Making faces



SHARON LEWIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Masked effort: Jimmy Szelong is one of several preschoolers at Pathways to Learning in Farmington Hills who have made Halloween masks for young patients in Hospice of Southeastern Michigan children's hospice program. The masks will be delivered to the children on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Guns from page 13A

Some stores that used to sell firearms, such as the Meijer in Northville, no longer do so. Fred White, a salesman in the sporting goods department, said the store no longer sells hunting rifles. A Farmington Hills man bought a rifle at the Meijer store which he used to shoot and kill his roommate in July of 1991. White said he did not know if that incident had anything to do with why the store does not sell hunting rifles anymore.

"You had to fill out a form and if you answered yes to any of the questions, you couldn't buy a gun," he said of the store's policy when it sold firearms.

The form included questions about mental problems. White added that clerks were not to sell to people who were intoxicated. Kurt Jacoboni, a gunsmith for 17 years who works at Shooters

'A store can defend itself. But it's bad publicity and there are legal costs.'

Sarah Weiner Keidan
law professor at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus

Service on Six Mile in Livonia, said there is no policy at the store because the sales staff has from five to 18 years of experience in gun sales.

"They will not sell or even show a gun to someone who is intoxicated or appears mentally unstable," Jacoboni said. "We're aware of the liability. We've had some customers who were intoxicated or belligerent. We tell them to leave."

But policy or no, the litigious atmosphere may mean a court battle anyway.

"A policy will probably be a

help," said Sarah Weiner Keidan, a law professor at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. "A store can defend itself. But it's bad publicity and there are legal costs."

The Dram Shop Act, which principally deals with the liability of selling liquor, also applies to stores selling guns, Keidan said.

"The policy says to the employee that they should not sell to someone who is unstable," she said. "It encourages them to go ahead and make waves rather than sell to the wrong person."

Door closed on Home Depot plan

There will be no new Home Depot retail outlet here on 12 Mile. The Farmington Hills Planning Commission unanimously denied a rezoning request to accommodate the store that would have been built on the south side of 12 Mile east of Orchard Lake, near Steamer's restaurant in The Orchard office complex.

"I was really surprised," said Robert Lang, a resident of near-

by Twelfth Estates condominiums. "I don't think my comments had much of an impact (at the planning commission meeting Oct. 21). But I do think their (Home Depot) response was weak. I think they (the commissioners) were afraid that approving it would open a Pandora's box."

Planning Commission chairman Paul Blizman said approving that commercial development

would likely mean others would try, which would be the beginning of a trend away from the city's master plan.

"I think the general feeling was that that would encourage commercial development on the north side of 12 Mile," he said. "That would have extended the commercial zoning beyond what the master plan calls for."

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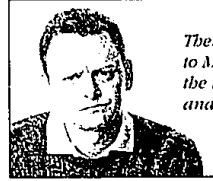
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