



The squeeze is on: Graduate Carmin Leadbetter has a hug coming after the commencement.



Up in the air: Amy Faulkner, Farmington adult education graduate, jumps as her classmates smile.

Graduation 'seemed to mean more'

By TOM BAER
and LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITERS

Before June 7, Sandy Millman had never witnessed a graduation of adult education students. Now she says she'll never miss another one.

"It was so moving," said Millman, who was on hand to see her friend, Shawn Green, walk across the Farmington High stage during the Farmington Public Schools Adult Graduation Ceremonies.

This year, the program listed 44 adult ed graduates for the commencement.

"I cried and I cried. I think I cried more than I did when my own kids graduated from high school," added Millman, a Farmington Hills resident who works at the Farmington Community School.



Capped and gowned: Brian Hawkins was one of 44 listed for the Farmington Public Schools' adult graduation

Green can speak to that. He dropped out twice, including during his junior year at Livonia Franklin and in his senior year at Harrison High.

Millman was encouraging him at every turn. She would help Green on math problems.

"She made sure I was in school every day," said Green, 19, who plans to attend Oakland Community College in the fall. "Let's say I had a report to do. I wouldn't tell my parents and I'd wait until the last minute to do it. She'd make sure to let my parents know what was going on at school."

"If I had a problem with a teacher, she was very helpful."

Phyllis Howard, who runs the Head Start program for the Farmington Schools, was another attendee at adult ed graduation.

"It's exciting to see people who understand the true mean-

ADULT EDUCATION

ing of education," Howard said. "These people have lived a little bit of life, and they've come to realize that, if they're going to succeed, they're going to need education."

Adult ed is about second chances.

Sara Elswick, 18, left Harrison High in her junior year and the future was uncertain. Her older sister Angela, 20, was already enrolled in adult ed classes.

"I knew I was going to go back," Sara said. "My sister was already going to the other school. That's what made me come back."

On graduation day, the sisters followed each other in receiving their diplomas. Adult ed made it possible, Sara said.

"The teachers spend more time with you on a one-to-one basis," she said. "They're friendlier."

3 Detroit residents arrested near motel; drugs involved

Farmington Hills police arrested three Detroit residents in the aftermath of what may have been an attempted armed robbery.

Hills police dispatchers received a 9-1-1 call from a Waterford man, 27, at the Clark gas station on 10 Mile and Orchard Lake at noon Wednesday.

Police questioned a Detroit man, 20, who the Waterford man said had made him drive at gunpoint from Detroit so that the victim could get the title to his car and the car from his girlfriend. The Detroit man did not have a gun when police searched

him. The Waterford man told police several conflicting stories, and police believe the two men may have been in a drug deal in Detroit. That investigation has been turned over to the Detroit police and both men were released.

The Waterford man stayed Wednesday night at the Motel 6 on Grand River. At 2 a.m. Thursday, Hills police found three men and a woman in the parking lot who they believe were looking for the Waterford man's room. Police found a gun, narcotics paraphernalia and cocaine in the

car. The four people said they were from Detroit and were looking for their friend, the alleged robber of the Waterford man. Police arrested three of the four.

Jessica Lumanni Drumghim, 18, of Detroit was charged with possession of cocaine. Lamar Damon Buffin, 17, of Detroit was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, and Leslie Frank Shaw, 40, also of Detroit, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. All three were released on \$1,000 personal bond. None of them had a previous conviction record.

Man charged in sex assaults on boy

A Farmington Hills man has been charged in a series of sexual assaults involving a 12-year-old boy, including two incidents in Farmington.

Martin Gale Blaisdell, 32, was arraigned on two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct Friday before 47th District Court Judge William Sauer.

A not-guilty plea was entered. Bail was set at \$25,000 cash.

Preliminary exam is set for 9 a.m. Friday, June 23.

The assaults occurred in December 1994 at a Farmington apartment complex. A man, described as a live-in boyfriend, fondled the child's genitalia in separate incidents while the boy was visiting his mother on weekends.

A grandmother, who has custody of the child, became suspicious when she found a

pornographic magazine the boy had brought home. She reported the matter to police.

Blaisdell was in custody at Western Wayne Correctional Facility for violation of parole. He has two prior second-degree criminal sexual conduct complaints in West Bloomfield.

Livonia and Detroit police are also investigating complaints made by the grandmother.

Youngsters invited to activities center

"I'm bored, there's nothing to do." Parents who are tired of hearing this from their children one week after school closes for the summer should take note.

Farmington Youth Assistance has prepared a Summer Activities Center at William Grace Elementary School on Shiloh Road in Farmington Hills. The center will be open 2-8 p.m. Mon-

days, Tuesdays; Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be reserved for field trips.

Farmington area youngsters 11-15 are welcome. A director and staff members are on hand to help with the activities. In addition to having a place to meet friends, participants can also use the school gym. Pingpong, pool and video games are also available.

Highlighting this year's activities are food nights, and an ice cream social and field trips to Four Bears Waterpark, a water pool and the Detroit Science Center.

Membership to the center is \$10 for eight weeks. Field trips are \$5 each. No field trip is planned for the first Wednesday. The center will be open through Aug. 9.

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