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Life's lessons: Farmington's adult-education students celebrate their second chances./A3

Trial date set: The first-degree murder trial of two men accused in a deadly Farmington Hills fire last December is scheduled./A4

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Retail roundup: Minnesota's retailers share their secrets for dealing with the competition — the Mall of America./10A

SPORTS

Tourney hopefuls: North Farmington and Mercy were hoping to advance beyond the regional tournament phase Saturday./1C

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Underage drinkers beware



BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police hope a new program will put teeth in efforts to stop underage drinking and results. And before it even started, some business owners had already been sold on the "Cops in Shops" program. Police began the program,

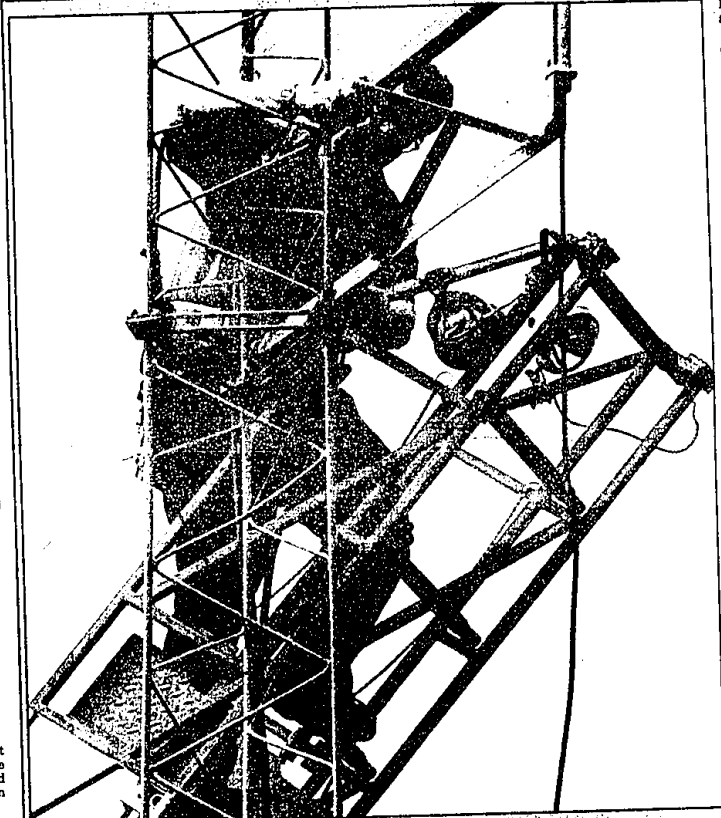
which will run over the summer, Friday night. Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer outlined the program before about 70 of the 100 or so owners of liquor stores, bars, restaurants and other establishments that sell alcohol. Flanked by officers who will administer the program, City Attorney Steve Meads and Farmington Public Schools

Director of K-12 Education Don Cowan, Dwyer explained the program made possible by a \$10,000 federal grant. "We've certainly had our problems," said Dwyer about violations where alcohol was involved. He cited police department statistics that showed drunken driving arrests up 34 percent, injuries from alcohol related accidents up 36 percent, arrests of minors in possession of alcohol up by 113 percent and liquor law violations up by 24 percent from 1994 to 1995. The "Cops in Shops" program, which was begun by the non-profit

Century Council, pays for training, overtime, signs and other expenses. The council is supported by brewers, distilleries and vintners. The program allows departments to place a plain clothes officer in an establishment. If an underage person attempts to buy alcohol, the officer can make an arrest. "This redirects the focus of the law to the individual who tries to illegally purchase alcohol," said Lt. Chuck Nebus. Nebus said a person of age who buys for a juvenile can be fined up to

See COPS, A2

Farmington gets more power from its tower



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

There's talk radio listeners who tune into Dr. Laura, Rush Limbaugh and the Sports Babe, but there's another talk radio listener: Those with police scanners.

Anyone with a police scanner knows there's more squawking on city-run radio waves than at a bingo hall, but it's hardly idle chatter. Real life emergencies are broadcast.

Scanners are popular items, especially among older customers, said an electronics store salesman. They run \$120-\$250 and vary in channel capacity, said David Boyle, who works at Radio Shack on Grand River Avenue in Farmington.

City of Farmington operates on four frequencies: Police (155.4150), fire (164.0550), Department of Public Services (155.7300), and Michigan Emergency Patrol system (165.8650).

When a resident phones in with an emergency, a public safety dispatcher can immediately relay the message to a patrol office on the street while the caller is still on the line. That allows officers to respond quicker.

In order to keep the airwaves buzzing, the city replaced one of its rooftop antennas, which had become corroded.

This particular antenna serves the DPS, which also plays a role in responding to emergencies.

"They do report a lot of stuff," Deputy Director Michael Wiggins said. "Like residents, they see things like accidents. Except they have access to a radio and they'll contact us."

"The reception should improve." A static radio has always been the hum of police work.

The "One Adam 12" communications with their phonetically read license plates and numerically recited crimes in progress bore a language all its own.

Anyone who likes TV police dramas or who has a scanner knows the difference between a 7-Eleven and a 2-11.

Signaling an improvement? Ray Kashubosky of R.K. Instrument Repair in Farmington Hills works on the Farmington Public Safety Department's antenna.

Weary voters to have say in today's election

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Election day has arrived — but will the voters? Something less than a stampede is expected at eight area precincts as residents decide who will sit on the Farmington Board of Education and the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. today.

Ellen Bouchard, Priscilla Brouillette, Monica Schultz, and Joe Svoke are vying for two open seats on the Farmington School Board. Nine candidates are campaigning for the OCC board.

A turnout of 2,000 voters is expected, a Farmington School spokeswoman said.

That prediction is usually based on the number of absentee ballots taken out. As of Friday, 232 AV ballots were requested with 160 returned.

A small number of AV ballot requests coupled with a Senate election a week ago could mean some precinct workers will be twiddling their thumbs rather than tabulating ballots.

"I know there was a little confusion," said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for Business and Finance, which oversees the school election. "People were calling the city for our ballots. A couple of them were mailed to the city and we had to get them."

Turnout in last year's school election was 4,600 voters. However, OCC was asking voters to approve a millage. Money issues tend to bring people to the polls.

"We don't have a money issue this time," Cannon said.

Instead of getting their message out, candidates have been caught up in explaining Gov. John Engler's decision to hold a special election to fill the 15th District Senate seat.

"It concerns me..." Candidate Ellen Bouchard said. "Several people have said to me, 'I just went to the polls. Why do I have to go again?'"

Candidates are unsure how a low turnout will affect their respective campaigns.

"I'm kind of hoping for my grassroots support to turn out," Priscilla Brouillette said. "It's kind of tricky with the election (Tuesday) and our election (today). I'm hoping they remember to vote."

Said Bouchard, who lives in the West Bloomfield portion of the Farmington school district: "It depends who goes."

House hopeful targets crime

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Raczkowski won't ever be accused of being wishy-washy. The Farmington Hills resident and businessman is making his second run for the state House of Representatives and leaving no stone unturned in his bid to replace outgoing Rep. Jan Dolan.

STATE HOUSE RACE

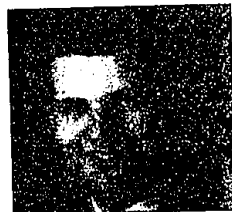
Raczkowski, 27, narrowly (61 votes) lost to Dolan in the 1994 GOP primary in the 37th District, which includes just Farmington and Farmington Hills.

This time the U.S. Army reservist will face three competitors on Aug.

6: Cathy Webb, Linda Jolicoeur and Terry Sever.

"I'm the only one to challenge Jan Dolan when she started voting in a liberal way," said Raczkowski, who owns Mainline Communications, a marketing and printing company that works with small businesses.

See RACZKOWSKI, A2



Andrew Raczkowski

Election events

The election for state senator in the 15th District is history — with Willis Bullard winning the office. But lots more election activities are planned before voters troop to the polls for the August primary and the November general election.

■ On Wednesday, June 12, it will be "Burgers with Steve," a fund-raiser for Steve Diberf, a Democrat candidate for the 37th District State House race. The event will be held 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Cowley's Old Village Inn on Grand River in downtown Farmington. A \$25 charge will be asked. Call 315-9988 for more information.

■ On Wednesday, June 19, the four Republicans in the 15th State House race will meet in a candidate forum sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees. The event, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, will be cablecast live on local-access cable TV and rebroadcast several times before the Aug. 6 primary. Republican candidates are Linda Jolicoeur, Andrew Raczkowski, Terry Sever and Cathy Webb.

Food distribution revived

It has been over a year since the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) has distributed free food for the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Now the federal govern-

ment has authorized fund and resources to conduct two distributions — including one in Farmington Hills on Tuesday, June 18.

Food will be distributed to the needy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that date from St. Alexander's Catholic Church, 27836 Shiawassee.

Anyone who is income eligible and not registered may do so at the site by bringing Social Security cards for household members, verification of household income and photo ID.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@bconline.com.