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THE WEEK AHEAD

Leadfoot: The NASCAR Collectible Show 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Finnish Center, 35200 Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. Admission is \$3. Kids 12 and younger are free.

TUESDAY

Review: Boards of Review for property tax assessments begin today. Contact the cities of Farmington or Farmington Hills for more information.

COHA: The Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills will meet at 7:30 p.m. On tap for the agenda is the election for a new board of directors. State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski will also speak. The meeting will be in the lower level of the Farmington Hills library on 12 Mile.

THURSDAY

Meet: The Hills planning commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

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Residents hear trouble on I-275



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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While the I-275 overhaul is still six weeks away, nearby residents are already up to their ears in the construction project.

Noise levels are already deafening, say homeowners in Farmington Hills

Residents want state road officials to listen up to their concerns about potential noise problems from the raked pavement planned for a \$31 million reconstructed I-275. But state officials say they aren't going to redesign.

Meadowbrook subdivision, which sits east of the freeway. When concrete is replaced, they contend decibel readings are only going to jump further.

"There's a lot of concern about the noise now," said Marty DeLoach, Meadowbrook subdivision association president. "We've been getting more and more complaints."

As required by federal law, the new surface will be "tined," which are pavement grooves for better traction.

Tires running over raked pavement creates a whirling sound. Renovation plans also call for expansion joints for every 16 miles of highway, which one subdivision president describes as "a low groan."

Residents in the Hills sub want asphalt, which they say is quieter but costs more.

Michigan Department of Transportation officials are touting that the I-275 project is \$31 million under projection. At this point, everything would have

CONSTRUCTION

to be redesigned - significantly delaying the project in the process - to switch from concrete to asphalt, an MDOT spokeswoman said.

Homeowners admit options are limited.

"It's a dream world to think we can conquer this beast," said Fred Walsh, who lives in Meadowbrook Hills.

With construction looming, residents are looking at all avenues. They've

Please see NOISE, A4

REEL Horrors

Filmmaker fashions celluloid creations

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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As an independent filmmaker, Kevin Lindenmuth's better work is often buried six feet deep. From the dark recesses in the skull and through cinematic expertise, the 1983

Farmington graduate cradles his creations from the grave and beyond in a creepy way. And on the cheap, too.

Lindenmuth, 33, spends an average of \$15,000 for his horror and sci-fi films, which he writes, produces, directs and distributes under Brimstone Productions in New York.

He's produced 12 films. Some titles are available at Blockbuster and other video rental outlets.

Despite limited resources, horror film critics laud Lindenmuth's vampire works in particular for their intelligence and style.

"It will be in a video store next to a film with 100 times the budget," he said, "but at least they're getting out there."

Out there is how nonmembers of the horror celluloid would describe Lindenmuth's muse. He



Kevin Lindenmuth

doesn't shy away from gore, judging by the ample supplies of corn syrup and red food coloring mixed blood used in his pics.

Even Shocking Images Magazine termed Lindenmuth's "Addicted to Murder" as "filled with horrific and gruesome happenings."

His inspiration for horror flicks extends to his otherwise tranquil Farmington upbringing.

Lindenmuth watched black and white schlocky scare fare on local TV's "Sir Graves Chastly" and "The Ghoul." When all of 5 years old, he became a follower of the ABC-TV vampire soap "Dark Shadows," which explains his affection with those who crave O-Positive liquid refreshment.

He also has a vivid memory for such cinematic works as "Corpse Grinders" and "The Undertaker and His Pals" witnessed at the drive-in "because they were so disturbing," he said.

After high school, Lindenmuth earned his film and video studies degree from the University of Michigan. He set off to New York to carve a career.

"I didn't have enough money to move out west," he said.

He and wife, Audrey Geyer, are to the point where they're "half making a living" from independent film work. Lindenmuth's other income is derived editing videos from fashion shows.

His wife, who is co-producer on his \$40,000 drama "Walking between the Raindrops," is a therapist. The film is a departure from the horror genre.

"I figure there is kind of a prejudice against them (horror flicks)," he said.

Lindenmuth is entering the work at festivals but is dismayed how \$100 million pics are creeping in under the guise of independent film. He's written a book, "Making Movies on Your Own," which serves as part manual and manifest on independent film.

New York offers Hollywood-like inspiration without the trap-pings.

The Big Apple has a large pool of acting talent. Sasha Graham appears in five of Lindenmuth's

Please see HORRORS, A7

Man sent to prison in stabbing

BY TIM SMITH
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William Marshall Ford was sentenced by an Oakland County Circuit Court judge to spend 25 to 60 years in a state penitentiary for the November stabbing of a Farmington High School student.

Ford, 24, recently was ordered to serve the sentence by Oakland Circuit Judge Steven Andrews, who previously found him guilty of one count of assault with intent to murder.

A spokesman for Andrews said he is certain that Ford is now incarcerated "in (a) high security" state prison.

In a unanimous vote on Feb. 10, a jury found Ford guilty for his role in the Nov. 7, 1998 stabbing of FHS student Jason Dillard, 16, outside a Farmington gasoline station.

The assailant attacked Dillard with a butterfly knife, causing wounds to the victim's heart and lung. The teen recovered from his wounds and has returned to school.

According to Farmington police reports, Please see SENTENCE, A4

Farmington pompon squad takes top spot

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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It was the crowning glory to six years of hard work for the 25-member Farmington High School pompon squad that nabbed top honors in recent state competition.

The squad took first place in the Mid-American Pompon State Competition at Saginaw Valley University Feb. 28.

"What's unique about our squad is that we took

first place and we don't have a junior varsity squad which could provide an upcoming pool of talent," said parent Cindy Helsek.

Unlike other squads, Farmington's is a mix of seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

Like Farmington, North, Harrison and Mercy high schools are in Class A Division 2, all based on the size of the schools.

In addition to Farmington's placement, Harrison placed second, North sixth and Mercy fourth.

Mercy has the longest history in state competition,

while it's the first year North and Harrison have qualified for the competition.

To say the least, Farmington's squad was ecstatic with its ranking. "They went this far with all ages and levels of experience," Helsek said. "And we are not a year-round squad. We are only a winter activity."

Parents and coach Amy Hermon of the Harrison squad were no less pleased with their members' success.

Please see POM, A5

Police retrace cyberspace love gone awry

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Authorities are awaiting toxicology reports, but believe a French woman whose body was found in a wooded area likely died from a combination of over-the-counter sleeping pills and exposure.

Neither medical examiners nor police investigators can label Julie Yasa's cause of death a broken heart. At least not officially.

"There was no will to live," said Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "She had nothing to live for."

Until police finish their investigation, her death is being termed suspicious.

Yasa died after traveling from Paris to Farmington Hills to meet the man whom she struck up a six-month relation-

ship over the Internet. The 24-year-old Hills man had sex with her before he broke off the relationship Feb. 27.

On Tuesday, Yasa turned up at his Fairmont Park Apartment Tuesday night

despondent, indicating she wanted to commit suicide. He drove her to the driveway's end and watched as she

walked toward woods south of Nine Mile and east of Drake.



Passport: Julie Yasa who was found dead in Farmington Hills Wednesday is pictured here from her passport.

On Wednesday, he notified police to say he saw a body in the woods. The unidentified man has retained an attorney, police said.

"You think you've seen everything in law enforcement," Dwyer said, "but I'm talking about a young lady who is 1,000 miles away from home in a foreign country, who thought she had found the love of her life ... For him not to have enough compassion to have someone help her, it's just irresponsible."

Police are in contact with Yasa's family through the French Consulate in Chicago. Her body is being flown back to France for a funeral.

"The family is devastated and they are very shocked," said Jallal Oussar of the French consulate.

Meanwhile, investigators are trying to retrace Yasa's movements during the past month, which included at

least one unsuccessful attempt to enter the U.S. She arrived in New York Feb. 5, but customs refused to let her in, Dwyer said.

On Feb. 14, Yasa flew to Toronto on a KLM flight from Amsterdam. The man paid for both airplane tickets, Dwyer said.

Please see POLICE, A2

