

Farmington Observer

Volume 94 Number 50 Monday, April 4, 1983 Farmington, Michigan 28 Pages Twenty-five cents

Family sues priest and Catholic Church

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A Roman Catholic priest, formerly with Our Lady of Sorrows Church, who was convicted in 1978 for sexually abusing a Farmington Hills youth is being sued by the young man's family for an unspecified amount in damages.

Gary Kedzierski, 19, and his family, filed suit March 30 before Oakland County Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem

charging that the youth continues to suffer emotionally and psychologically from the incident, said Mark Bello, the family's Southfield attorney.

"He (Kedzierski) has had a rough go of it the last six years," Bello said. "He just hasn't come around."

The civil suit names the Rev. Gary Berthlaume, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Farmington Hills, the Archdiocese of Detroit, John Cardinal Dearden

and the Michigan Catholic Conference as defendants.

Archdiocese officials were unavailable for comment.

In 1977, Berthlaume, then assistant pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows, was charged with abusing the youth, then 14, while on a church-sponsored camping trip in Lakeport State Park.

Although Berthlaume was originally charged in Oakland County with second-degree criminal sexual miscon-

duct, the charge was reduced to gross indecency between males, in exchange for the priest's guilty plea. Berthlaume also pleaded guilty to a fourth-degree criminal sexual misconduct charge in St. Clair County.

THE PRIEST served a six-month jail sentence and was later transferred by the archdiocese to a Cleveland parish, where he recently completed a five-year probation sentence stemming from his conviction.

"The suit essentially asks for psychological and psychiatric treatment payments, and damages for psychological, sexual and emotional damages to the boy," Bello said.

The suit asks for an unspecified amount in damages because "I just didn't want to sensationalize the case," Bello said, because "you don't sue the Catholic Church every day."

Calling the youth's experience and the last six years of treatment "heart-

breaking and expensive," Bello said the family is suing to help pay for the youth's treatment he has continued with since the 1977 incident.

The family delayed filing suit against the defendants because as "religious people" they were hesitant about suing the Church, Bello said. But after six years," he (Kedzierski) hasn't come around.

A trial date before Ziem is still pending, Bello added.

Neighbors are miffed over sour sewer spill

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Angry and frustrated with "the bureaucracy," Norma LaForge feels like a lone warrior in her attempts to draw attention to seeping raw sewage in her Farmington Hills neighborhood.

"It's par for the course when they can't answer or help you," said the Hugo Street homeowner.

But weeks of phone calls to the Oakland County Department of Health and Farmington Hills City Hall finally paid off last week when Dennis Staley, owner of Staley Asphalt Co., 20755 Hugo, was ordered to repair the falling septic tank.

The parking lot for Staley's firm sits directly behind the house at 20703 Hugo, which has a leaking septic tank,

said James Cubera, Farmington Hills engineer. Staley owns that house, as well as several others on the block, Cubera added.

County health officials ordered Staley to repair the septic tank after officials found, through tests, that LaForge's complaints about the seeping sewage in her next door neighbor's back yard proved to be true.

But the order came on the heels of the Farmington Hills City Council's decision to install sewers in the Hugo Street neighborhood, which is zoned light industrial.

Council members in December decided to install sewers along Hugo, from Eight Mile Road to Tillman, Cubera said. But when city officials became aware of the failure rate of the neighborhood's septic tanks, the City

Council asked all Hugo Street property owners to participate in the special sewer assessment, he added.

"The interest was positive, so we tripled the size of the job," Cubera said.

REGARDLESS OF the impending sewer project, slated for completion by the end of the Spring, Staley must repair the falling septic tank, said James Rotschild, a supervisor for the county health department's environmental health division in Southfield.

"We're going to try to get him to do it," Rotschild said. "But I don't know what kind of reaction we'll get from the owner."

Rotschild, however, refused to pinpoint a deadline when Staley must complete the repairs.

"I really don't want to get into it right now," he said.



This puddle of raw sewage was easy to find behind a house on Hugo Street in Farmington Hills. Sure and traced the septic tank leakage by putting green dye into the house's drains and toilets.

But if Staley refuses to comply with the health department's order, officials will seek a court order forcing him to repair the septic tank. Rotschild added. Even with the promise of relief, LaForge is still angry because it took weeks to make officials aware of the problem, she says. It has been around for a long time.

Obesity still a problem despite fitness craze

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Americans are fatter today than ever before in spite of an insatiable exercise craze and obsession with thinness.

Weight loss clinics, health spas, diet plans and weight reducing books are a booming business in a country with more than seven million severely obese, 13 million moderately obese and 20 million overweight people.

In every age group, Americans are heavier today compared to 20 years

ago, according to Science Digest.

"The numbers are growing and getting worse," explained Dr. Paul Parente, who runs the Farmington Hills Center for Metabolic Disease. "I think it's because of the way we eat. We consume excess calories that don't have nutritional value."

Forty percent of the average American's diet is in the form of fat, which is about 20 percent too much, he said. There's also too much protein in the diet.

Obesity is caused by a metabolic im-

balance, a genetic factor by being overfed in the first year of life or just plain overeating, Parente said.

In fact, a person who has less weight to lose experiences quicker results, Parente said. As the obese person gains weight, their metabolic system has a more difficult time burning calories.

IN A DESPERATE effort to reduce their frames of excess pounds, more and more overweight people are turning to the sometimes painful surgical techniques like stomach stapling, stom-

ach bypass (where intestines are removed), balloon implants and fat suctioning.

One pound of weight is equal to 3,500 calories, according to Dr. Joseph Kinzie, an associate professor in endocrinology at Wayne State University. Dieters who eat less than 10 calories a day for every pound they weigh will reduce.

"A lot of people in the field think obese people will have a metabolic problem," Kinzie said. "They believe (obese people's) fat cells take up glu-

cose faster than others, so to maintain a normal weight is much more difficult for them."

Most of the people who go to Parente's clinic blame their overweight problem on a physical disorder, according to the doctor.

Exercise is a major combatant against fat cells, according to Dr. Charles P. Lucas, chief of clinical nutrition unit at Wayne State University

Please turn to Page 5



Space ear

Listening can even be more interesting than seeing — especially when you're listening for sounds from millions of light years away. In this Thursday's Farmington Observer Science Spectrum you will meet some people who spend their lives listening.

She fights fat and wins battle

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Earlier this month Leona Logan ate her first meal in more than a year.

Now, at 126 pounds, the Farmington Hills woman weighs less than half of what she did one year ago. After losing 160 pounds on a liquid diet, she ate her first piece of solid food March 3.

"It was frightening going back to eating normally, because I was afraid I might put the weight back on," Logan said. "It tore me to pieces to prepare my first meal. I couldn't go grocery shopping, and my husband had to help me weigh my food."

This was a dramatic transformation for a self-proclaimed "master cook" who entertained often and catered her hospitality on serving "feasts."

Logan believes she has to change her whole lifestyle to adapt to her psychological and physical metamorphosis. She said she had to make a commitment to God and to herself before she could begin to lose weight.

It's important for overweight people to first admit they have a problem, and then commit themselves to losing that weight, she said.



A totally different look and life is enjoyed by Leona Logan now that she has lost more than 160 pounds. At left is Logan after her year-long diet. At right, she is pictured weighing 268 pounds.

She is on a maintenance diet specifically for hypoglycemics.

"It was nice to find out there was something wrong with me," Logan said. "For 40 years I was trying to lose weight and never lost."

The goals she set for herself helped her take off the pounds. She rewarded herself after reaching short term goals by buying herself gifts.

When she lost 100 pounds she went to visit her son in Florida, and everytime she lost 25 pounds she put money in an account for clothes.

"I can't believe I'm in a size 10 or 12 and one year ago I wore size 24 or 25," Logan said. "When I went to a large shoe shop I'd buy anything that would fit. Now if it doesn't fit exactly, or I don't like it, then I wait. This is very foreign to me."

Logan has battled a weight problem since she was 8 years old. As a teenager she said she was 30, 40 or 50 pounds overweight.

Please turn to Page 5

what's inside

- Community Calendar . . . 4B
- Editorials 4A
- Inside Angles 3A
- Obituaries 2A
- Oral Quarrl 4A
- Shopping Cart Section B
- Sports Section C
- Suburban Life 4-5B

"EXCELLENT RESPONSE"

"More calls than I could handle! Found someone very nice to fill position." M. Kobernick was pleased with the results of the Observer & Eclectic Help Wanted-Domestic classified ad placed.

Remember...
One call does it all!

591-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa