

Observer's academic All-Stars shine, 1B



Marlins roll to win, 1D

He strives to keep clients wealthy, 1C

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

Mail items for this column to: Farmington Focus, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call the Observer, dial: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

**C**ALLING all parade lovers. Any organized school, church or civic group that wants to participate in the Memorial Day parade in Farmington, and that wasn't previously contacted, should call John Tobin, parade chairman, at 474-8180.

**ON** stage. Vincent Paul, son of Suzanne and Charles Paul of Farmington Hills, was named production state manager for the off-Broadway show, "Penny Feet," being presented by the American Ballet Comedy dance group of New York City.

The 1981 North Farmington High School graduates studied theater arts at Michigan State University. Following his graduation, he has worked for the American Ballet Comedy dance group and has toured in Europe and the Orient as road manager.

**BACK** North's students and boosters.

Five percent of all sales on Wednesday, May 6, at Great Scott, Orchard Lake and 13 Mile roads, will go to North Farmington High School to support academic, club, drama, music and sports programs. Students will provide free grocery carryout.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Oakland Hills Mobile Home Park residents' efforts to inform Farmington Hills officials of their concern about a rezoning request involving the park began with picketing outside city hall.

## 14 Mile Road widening plan stirs concern

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

The planned widening of 14 Mile Road has some residents in Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township stewing.

Farmington Hills officials have proposed widening the east-west thoroughfare to five lanes in certain portions of the one-mile stretch between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

Despite residents' opposition, the Farmington Hills City Council Monday adopted a resolution supporting the more than \$2 million widening project.

Actual construction — approximately \$1.6 million — is eligible for a 75 percent grant through the Federal Aid to Urban Systems program. A still unanswered question is when the financing application must be mailed to authorities. Residents want to see changes in the road plans before the application is complete and mailed, said Ken Poye, president of the West Bloomfield-

*'Frankly, I was unaware about the strong feelings essentially in opposition to a five-lane cross section.'*

—William Costick city manager

based Gateway Plus.

Though 14 Mile is entirely under Farmington Hills' jurisdiction, West Bloomfield is expected to be asked to share costs.

"Of the local share, I would not ask them to pay for half of the costs, but I certainly will ask them for a contribution," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

**THE COUNCIL** supports, at least in concept, plans to widen 14 Mile to five lanes from just west of Orchard Lake to immediately west of the

Please turn to Page 14

## Ex-teacher found guilty of cocaine delivery charge

By Casey Hens staff writer

A former Bloomfield Hills Middle School teacher faces a mandatory 20-year prison sentence for his part in delivering 10 ounces of cocaine shortly before a Farmington drug raid last fall.

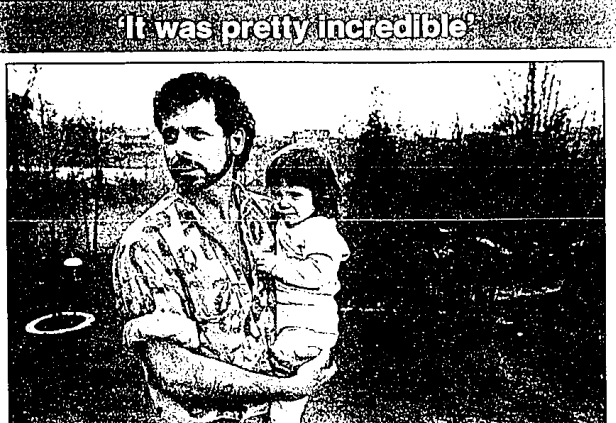
An Oakland County jury deliberated most of the day Tuesday before finding Farmington Hills resident David Michael Schultz, 25, guilty of delivery of a controlled substance between 225 and 550 grams.

Sentencing on the felony conviction is scheduled for Monday, May 18, before Circuit Judge Hilda Gage. Defense counsel John McDonald of Farmington Hills could not be reached to comment on the case, or to say whether he would appeal.

**SCHULTZ'** TRIAL began last Friday and was concluded Monday. Schultz took the stand Monday, defending himself against the charges.

His comments conflicted with

Please turn to Page 14



Victor Capaldi, 38, and his 20-month-old daughter, Brittainy, on the deck of their Farmington Ridge house, which overlooks the woods where he spotted what he said was a panther.

## On the prowl? Large cat reported in Hills

By Bob Sklar staff writer

**T**HE ELUSIVE panther haunting western Oakland County paid a visit to Farmington Hills Sunday.

There's no doubt in Victor Capaldi's mind that's what he saw in the woods between a small pond and his back yard on Sunderland, in the 13 Mile-Haggerty area, at 10 a.m. Sunday.

From a bedroom window, he said he had a clear view of a 3-foot-long, 50-pound cat with a smooth black coat. He was no more than 50 yards away.

"It was pretty incredible," Capaldi said. "It was just walking very gracefully, like it owned the back yard, like it had a fear of no-

Please turn to Page 17

## There's no sign of panther paw prints

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Farmington Hills officers Mark Meredith and Jim Worthington scoured the woods near the Farmington Ridge subdivision pond for 45 minutes Sunday morning after resident Victor Capaldi reported seeing a panther.

"We checked the surrounding yards and the wooded area to the north toward Halsted but didn't observe any panther tracks," Meredith said.

"We did see some large dog

prints in the mud. But as far as finding prints from a panther, or a large predator, we didn't find any — at least that we could tell."

Most panthers are actually leopards, native to Africa and Asia. Leopards are not only graceful but also alert and cunning.

**ACCORDING** TO THE World Book Encyclopedia, leopards seldom attack human beings. But once they discover people are

Please turn to Page 17

## Confront state, not voters — Headlee

Are taxpayers being forced to pay more? See Page 15A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Richard Headlee is unhappy with what some officials are trying to do to his 1978 constitutional tax limitation amendment.

First, Waterford Public Schools unsuccessfully asked voters to waive the Headlee amendment, Walled Lake, West Bloomfield and Clarencville public schools all plan

similar requests. Headlee not only disagrees with what some public school districts are attempting, but said he believes district officials are barking up the wrong tree. It's the state Legislature that should be taken to task, not the Headlee amendment, he said.

"[Property] values have gone far beyond the increase of the Consumer Price Index," said Headlee, president and chief executive officer of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills.

**THE AMENDMENT** attempts to ensure that municipalities, school districts and other local governments don't benefit from inflationary increases in property values.

Simply, the amendment requires that when a local unit's state equalized valuation (SEV) grows faster than the rate of inflation, property tax rates must be rolled back to provide the same amount of tax revenues that would have been generated

Please turn to Page 15

## What's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Business . . . 1-3C
- Crabble connection . . . 8C
- Club circuit . . . 5B
- Crossword puzzle . . . 12E
- Entertainment . . . 4-7C
- Obituaries . . . 9C
- Opinion . . . 18A
- Police/fire calls . . . 12A
- Readers' forum . . . 18A
- Sports . . . 1-5D
- Travel . . . 10B
- Classifieds, Secs. C,E,F Index . . . 13C
- Auto . . . Secs. D,F
- Real estate . . . 2E
- Employment . . . 13C



"If people are properly informed, they will realize what they give up by waiving the (tax limitation) amendment. Our view is that the ultimate power rests with the people," said Richard Headlee from his Farmington Hills office.

## Observer's academic All-Stars are profiled

The Observer Newspapers presents its third annual Academic All-Star team on Page 1B of today's edition. The 14 highest achieving high school students from the communities served by the Observer are featured.

The students will receive the latest edition of the Webster's New World Dictionary, a certificate of recognition and a permanent copy of today's news page as a keepsake of their academic achievement.

Our thanks to those public and private schools who nominated students. A note of thanks also goes to the nine-member committee of the Michigan Association of Secondary Principals who volunteered their time to select the students.

Principals serving on the committee were Dale Collier, Stevenson High School; DeWayne Nutter, Clarencville High School; Ron

Cowden, Garden City High School; Clayton Graham, Harrison High School; Maralyann Keil, Lahser High School; Gary Faber, West Bloomfield High School; the Rev. Dennis Andrews, Detroit Catholic Central; and Sister Joan Charnley, Marian High School.

Robert Schramke, principal at Redford Union High School, serves as chairman of the group.

It was Schramke who came to the Observer three years ago with the idea of publicly honoring students for academic achievement in the way students have been honored for sports.

"You do a super job with athletics," he said. "Why not academics?"

And so the Academic All-Star Team was born. To meet this year's all-stars, please turn to Page 1B.

## Center funding needed

For a related editorial comment, see Page 18A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

**Crucial.** That's how the Farmington Community Center's three-day-old corporate fund-raising campaign is described by center officials.

"If the community really wants the center to be ongoing, this is certainly one very important way for the community to show their support," said Nancy Finley, center board president.

The fund-raiser — one of two —

Please turn to Page 17

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