

Sports superstars make a calendar, 1B



'89 sports review, 1D

Hills residents join crime fight, 8A

Farmington Observer

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farmington FOCUS

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PROOF positive. In 1938, Daniel DuQuet bought a new Chevy Town Sedan from Blakeslee Motor Sales in Farmington. The extras: a horn, windshield wipers and an AM radio. Total cost: \$665, including tax. DuQuet, now an Au Gres resident, recently found the invoice, now framed and hanging at DuQuet Jewelers in the Uptown Farmington Plaza for any doubters of that price.

UP with music. In a departure from the traditional guest speaker, the 14-voice Farmington High Madrigal Choir entertained at the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce annual holiday luncheon Dec. 15.

HOLIDAY break. The Farmington City Council will not meet Monday, Jan. 1, because of the New Year's holiday. Its next regular meeting will be Monday, Jan. 15.

QUOTE of the week. "We're hoping to talk with them. Now it will be the longer-term solutions. We'll try to make contact with them ourselves."

— Salvation Army Lt. Jonathan Rich, talking about the families left homeless in last week's Farmington Hills apartment fire.

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EARLY DEADLINES Due to the holiday, we will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, 1990. To place your classified "Line" ad for Mon. Jan. 1st, 1990, call before 5 P.M., today Thurs., Dec. 28, 1989. **OAKLAND COUNTY 644-1070**



Community rallies to aid fire victims

By Susan Buck staff writer

Community support by the Goodfellows and others will buy the four families left homeless in a flash fire at Botsford Place Terrace Apartments in Farmington Hills.

No one was injured in the accidental apartment fire that started Friday afternoon in one of the apartment buildings, located just off of

Grand River behind Botsford General Hospital.

The fire raged through the walls and ceilings of four apartments in the eight-apartment, two-story building at 27901 Independence. Those four units were heavily damaged. The other four units received some smoke damage, but were occupied within five hours.

The fire was apparently caused by a heating and cooling worker who used a blowtorch to solder a coupling

to a copper heating pipe that had frozen in the sub-zero weather, investigators said.

ACCORDING to apartment manager Sharon Prichard, who also lives in the 98-unit complex, neighbors have rallied to contributing food and blankets to the four families left without their homes and belongings.

"I consider them my neighbors," she said. Two of the families — the Kath-

erine Hawkins family with four children and the Richard Erchenbrecher family with three sons — were relocated into vacant two-bedroom apartments, according to Prichard. The other two families, two single men and the Debot family, found other accommodations, she said.

The fire began shortly before 2 p.m. in the Debot apartment. Hawkins, an ADC recipient, said that she has been sleeping on blankets in the unfurnished apartment in order to

relieve the overcrowding at her mother's home.

She said her property was uninsured.

"The Goodfellows have been trying to help," she said.

HAWKINS SAID that she is considering contacting an attorney to take legal action against the contractor. She would consider being

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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Special kiss

Retiring principal Frank Kasun gives Eagle Elementary first grader Erica Smith a kiss after she sings a special song about friendship to him. As she sang, schoolmates sur-

rounding her in the gymnasium used sign language to form the words, Paraprofessional Jan Baer holds Erica. For more about Kasun's retirement, see Page 3A.

Council backs tighter controls over cable TV

By Susan Buck staff writer

Farmington City Council last week supported a resolution that would restore local control over the cable television industry.

Local governments were restricted in terms of regulating the industry when Congress enacted the Communications Policy Act of 1984.

Under the act, some provisions of local franchises were found to be unenforceable. Communities lost the ability to regulate rates and enforce other types of services required under franchise agreements.

In a memo to the city council, Farmington City Manager Bob Deadman called the rates provided by the Farmington-Farmington Hills-Nowi cable provider, Metropolitan of Oakland County, reasonable.

Subscribers pay \$13.55 for basic rate service and \$18.70 for 40 satellite channels, a remote control device and a cable TV guide.

The potential for abuse still re-

"If citizens are being priced out of the use of cable, then it should be a concern of local government."

— Robert Deadman Farmington city manager

mains as local government may no longer intercede on behalf of subscribers when new rates are placed in effect by the cable industry, Deadman said. During congressional hearings, sponsored by the U.S. House, many horror stories were told about lack of service and price gouging. Price gouging has occurred more in the western part of the United States, Deadman said.

THE NATIONAL League of Cities

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Eateries to help keep drivers safe

By Susan Buck staff writer

If you plan to get sloshed at the Fox & Hounds in Bloomfield Hills this holiday season, don't expect management to go along with your plans to drive yourself home.

They will become the keeper of the keys when you approach the valet until a sober driver can be found to assume control of your vehicle.

"One of five puts up resistance," said Andy Abid, manager of the Fox & Hounds.

Keeping the keys is just one of the ways which restaurants employ to make sure their customers arrive home safely, even if it means offending some of them or taking the extra

time to give complimentary rides home.

"We have tried to impress on our employees, especially in the lounge, to be aware of what consumers are consuming and how fast," Abid said.

RESTAURANT PEOPLE are adept at reading body language. Speech and motor skills impairment, difficulty finding the check, and other clues are sure to raise their questions and eyebrows.

Liquor sales in general are on the decrease, Abid said, with customers going more for non-alcoholic drinks like sparkling cider and plain old soft drinks.

Patrons who hit the three-martini mark, for example, can expect the

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1989 was a year of controversy and change

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part review of the news and personalities that shaped 1989. The second part will run Tuesday, Jan. 2.

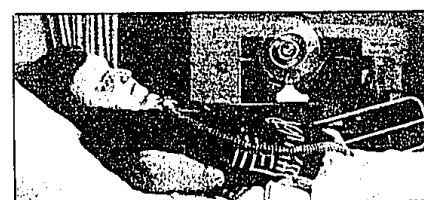
By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

The year 1989 was full of controversy and change. Heavy spring rains and subsequent severe flooding, the resignation of Farmington Public Schools superintendent Graham Lewis and the long-planned and controversial March for Peace and Racial Harmony led by Farmington resident Derwin Success marked the final year of a decade of change and coming of age for the community.

Twice a week the Observer staff has brought the community its news and the personalities that shaped the year. Following is a selection from

our files of the top issues and personalities that marked 1989:

- JANUARY** Farmer West Bloomfield resident Steven Szeman, 26, accused of being Oakland County's ski-masked rapist, pleads guilty in Ohio to raping, robbing and assaulting a suburban Cleveland woman. Farmington Public Schools voters say yes to a \$7.3 million bond issue for a new west-side elementary. Farmington Hills businessman William Darnell Jr., his wife, Betty, and their 24-year-old daughter, are murdered in their Old Redford home in mid-January.
- FEBRUARY** After more than 20 years, Bertha and Jerry Cunningham close Jerry's Bookstore in downtown Farmington. Bestak Building Co. touches off concern when it announces plans to



FILE PHOTO

A resident of the Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington, quadriplegic David Rivlin made the third right-to-die request in Oakland County.

add a supermarket as an anchor and expand the Mulwood Square shopping center at Drake and Grand River Aves.

After weeks of threatening, Farmington Hills city councilman Joe Alkateeb resigns angrily over what he called "the politics and hypocrisy"

of the council.

A Farmington Hills police officer shoots and kills a suspected armed robber and crack cocaine addict who had been chased but lost by Livonia police. The shooting was declared justifiable following an investigation.

Farmington Hills city attorney Harold Larson denies breaking the spirit of a new tree protection law when he had 19 trees cut down on his six acres on 12 Mile. He later apologized.

● MARCH

Bestak Building Co. withdraws its controversial request to rezone acreage to double the size of Mulwood Square shopping center until company officials can review traffic concerns.

Farmington Hills Mayor Hugh Jun-

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