

Family ties bind area's Chaldeans, 1B



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Looking at life in Australia, 3A

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To write the Observer: 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-8722.

ATTENTION, local sleuths. The entry form for the I.D. (Identify Downtown) Contest is available at the offices of the two co-sponsors, the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, 33411 Grand River, and the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road. The contest challenges entrants to identify photographs of specific parts of 12 downtown Farmington buildings. Entry deadline is March 19. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded on March 21, Downtown Day in Farmington.

BACK on board. Gov. Blanchard has reappointed Dr. Max McKinley II of Farmington Hills to the Michigan Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. He'll represent osteopathic physicians for a term expiring Dec. 31, 1993. He's a member of the Boisford General Hospital board of directors and chairs the Farmington Hills hospital's general practice department. McKinley is president of the Oakland County Osteopathic Association executive committee.

QUOTE of the week
 "Nobody wants to get the flour, nobody wants to pick the cherries, but everybody wants to eat the pie."

Larry Lencher, DDA board member, expressing concern about lack of a unified team approach to promoting downtown Farmington, IA.

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Facts of raccoon's killing in dispute

Dilemma frustrating: 13A

By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

Marie Williamson isn't surprised by the state Department of Natural Resources' ruling that the bloody killing of a raccoon at Independence Green Apartments in Farmington Hills Feb. 23 was necessary. But she chalks it up to indifference.

"They're quite indifferent. I just think it's disgusting," said Williamson, who watched an apartment groundsman kill the raccoon with a concrete splash block. When the raccoon had been struck several times and lay on the snow in blood, Williamson ran into her nearby apartment and vomited. "This guy comes with this piece of cement and suddenly drops it on the animal. After about three times, the animal is on its side with all limbs

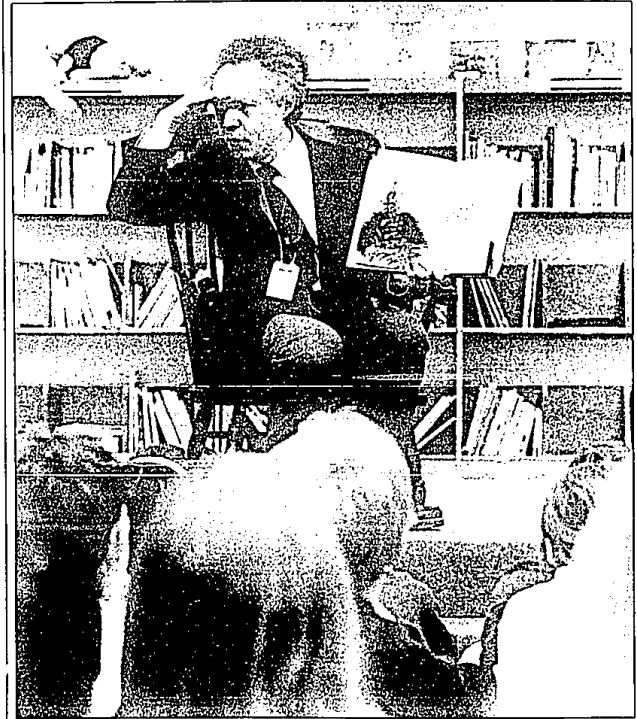
quivering. I said, 'The animal isn't dead.' He (the groundsman) said, 'He's just quivering.'" Williamson said. "It was a sickening sight." DNR officials sympathize with Williamson and the horrific sight she witnessed. But after a short investigation, conservation officer John Jurcich concluded Monday the killing was necessary because the animal was injured, as maintained by groundsman at the complex, which is on the northeast corner of

Halsted and Grand River.

"WHAT SHE witnessed, I'm sure, was horrifying and extremely distasteful. Without question, it was an extremely barbaric act," Jurcich said. What makes Williamson suspicious about the incident and the DNR's conclusion is the number of stories she was given why the animal was killed. "I was fed so much rubbish," she said.

When the animal was killed, the groundsman told her it had dismembered. Then she was told the raccoon had a gunshot wound. And finally, that it had been hit by a car. "I was getting all the same inconsistencies with the story," Jurcich said, which led him to conduct the investigation. Independence Green Apartments maintenance manager Dick Gerrish

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Political storyteller

Yertle the Turtle and Gertrude McFuzz were just a few of the characters brought to life this week by state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, as he read Dr. Sues stories to second graders in the Wooddale Elementary media center in Farmington Hills. "Crea-

tures should be free — that's a good message for people in public office," Faxon told the students. Faxon, an 18-year veteran of the state Senate, is expected to run for another term this fall.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

3 senior highs will again offer open enrollment

Highmeadow lottery set, 4A

By Casey Hans staff writer

Students at all three Farmington high schools can still choose where they attend school, with the approval Tuesday of a continued open enrollment policy. But at least one parent group, the Farmington Football Backers from Farmington High, opposes any such policy. The group believes it could have an adverse influence not only on sports but on overall programs at any of the three schools. The Farmington school board voted unanimously Tuesday to continue an open enrollment policy at Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools but added provisions for caps on attendance and an enrollment timeline. Trustee Helen Ditzhazy was absent. Board members also said they would "observe and evaluate" athletic programs to ensure no adverse

effects on any school and requested an annual evaluation of the policy each fall. "This is a matter of concern," said director of student services/operations, Don Cowan, in a report to the board.

THE GUIDELINES for open enrollment in Farmington Public Schools are:
 • All students must be enrolled as of the second Monday of February of each year, to allow the three schools to plan for loss or gain of students. For the 1990-91 school year, students will have until the end of March to decide.
 • All three schools would remain as "open enrollment" schools if numbers of students do not exceed 1,100 at Farmington High or North Farmington and 975 at Harrison. Cowan said he expects North Farmington may reach its peak next year.
 • Observe and evaluate the athletic situation each year.
 James Siskosky, head of the Foot-

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DDA explores promotional work

By Casey Hans staff writer

How downtown Farmington merchants promote their slice of the marketplace continues to concern Downtown Development Authority board members, as they work to rejuvenate the city's core. "I'm not sure," Rabaut said. "Larry Lencher, a DDA board member whose family owns and operates the Downtown Farmington Center. "Nobody wants to get the flour, nobody wants to pick the cherries,

but everybody wants to eat the pie." During a spirited discussion Tuesday, board members debated the issues of downtown stores being dark to passersby, how merchants will promote their businesses in the wake of pressing retail competition, and whether an ongoing promotion by the Farmington Hills-based Hermandt & Associates should change in focus. THE DDA has become increasingly concerned with promotions and

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Hills man one of 2 convicted of drug trafficking

related story: 2A

By Bob Sklar staff writer

A U.S. District Court jury convicted two Oakland County men, one a Farmington Hills resident, of drug conspiracy and trafficking last week. After a four-day trial that ended March 1, the jury convicted Marvin Mulligan, 55, of Bloomfield Township, and William (Candy) Davidson,

76, of Farmington Hills, of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin and cocaine. Mulligan, who became a fugitive in January after jumping a \$100,000 personal recognizance bond, was convicted in absentia. Davidson is being held without bond in the Wayne County Jail pending sentencing April 24 before U.S. District Judge George LaPlata of Ann Arbor, said prosecutor F. William Soisson, an assistant U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Michigan.

Mulligan also was convicted of filing false tax returns and income tax evasion. He faces up to 75 years in prison and a \$5 million fine. Davidson faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. Davidson's defense attorney, Stephen Rabaut of Roseville, maintains his client is innocent of the felony he was convicted of. He said he "absolutely intends to appeal" the conviction to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. "I believe my client's conviction

unfortunately was based upon speculation and pure association with others who were supposedly involved in criminal activity," Rabaut said Tuesday. "I think the evidence at trial established nothing more than he associated with these people." THE CO-DEFENDANTS were arrested in August following a federal grand jury indictment and a seven-year probe by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service. Investigators believe the two sold

up to \$3 million worth of heroin a month and up to 30-50 kilos of cocaine a month during the 1980s. At one time, Mulligan was believed to be the largest heroin supplier in the metro area. Davidson was his "right-hand man more or less," Soisson said. Mulligan's interest in a \$500,000 condominium in the Wabek section of Bloomfield Township as well as his interest in cars, furs and jewelry were seized under drug forfeiture laws, Soisson said.

GOLF EXPO

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Contest commemorates nation's 20th Earth Day

Students ages 13 to 18 are invited to participate in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Earth Day 1990 writing contest. Contestants will be writing on the theme "What Will the Earth Be Like 20 Years From Now?" Those who want to enter the contest should submit an original essay of no more than 500 words. ESSAYS MUST be received in the Observer & Eccentric's Livonia

headquarters no later than 5 p.m. Friday, March 20. First, second and third-place prizes will be awarded in two age categories — 13 to 15 and 16 to 18. First prize is a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, second prize is a \$25 bond and third prize is \$15 in cash. The top three winners in each age bracket will also receive an Earth Day beach ball. The six winning essays will be published in all 13 Observer & Ec-

centric Newspapers on Thursday, April 19. A PICTURE of each winner, along with a short story about them, will appear along with each essay. Essays should be mailed or delivered to: Earth Day Writing Contest, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150. Observer & Eccentric reporters and editors will select the winners.

Environmental worries continue

Earth Day, April 22, 1970, was the symbolic start of the nation's environmental movement. On the date, thousands of Americans attended demonstrations around the country. The nation's smoky skies and murky waterways had long been a concern, but the show of concern was credited with forcing Congress

to act on environmental issues. The nation is still faced with environmental crises. Major strikes have been made in curbing air contamination, but pollution still exists. There are also new environmental issues, including damage to the earth's ozone layer, global warming and the destruction of the rain forests.