

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 110 NUMBER 21

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1996 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 40 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Dear Farmington Observer Reader:

Beginning with this issue, Dave Varga will be the new community editor of your Farmington Observer. Former editor Tom Beer, also effective today, becomes community editor for the Rochester Eccentric.



Dave has impressive credentials as a community journalist. He started with the O & F as a reporter for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric, and became editor of that newspaper in 1989. Later, as editor in Rochester, his staff's papers took first place for General Excellence from the Michigan Press Association in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Please join me in welcoming Dave to the community. He can be reached at (810) 477-6450, or by fax at (810) 477-9722.

Thomas W. Byrd
Thomas W. Byrd
Publisher

Guilty verdict a relief to family



BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Friday's guilty verdict was a relief for family members and friends of Louise and Melissa Bovaiv, the Farmington Hills mother and daughter murdered by Arthur Cayce last December.

Emotions came to a head in Circuit Judge Barry Howard's court room Friday as assistant prosecutor Lisa Madzia made her closing argument. Sandy Bovaiv, Melissa's older sister, began to weep during Madzia's impassioned closing while jurors were shown pictures of the victims.

Sandy Bovaiv was joined in tears by her brother Joe and many other family members who had attended the trial of the man who had put them through more than a year of agony.

"There is an extreme amount of relief," said Joe Bovaiv, who had been coming back to Michigan for the funerals and then the legal proceedings from his home in Tacoma, Wash., where he is stationed in the U.S. Air Force. "My life has been a continuous turnaround, traveling back and forth."

Joe Bovaiv, who has been on temporary duty during the proceedings, said he had thought the justice system would come through for his family.

"I had a lot of faith in the prosecutor (Madzia)," he said. "It's better for my family knowing that he (Cayce) is never going to hurt anybody else."

Madzia, who had gotten little sleep during the week of the trial, also felt relieved.

"I did feel pressure," she said. "I wanted so badly not to let down the Bovairs."

The trial had lasted four days, with Wednesday as an off day. Madzia had been prepared to call 20 witnesses and had presented a great deal of evidence.

The jury, which began deliberations at 11:35 a.m. and came back with the guilty verdicts shortly after

See RELIEF, A5

Juror: 'Nobody in doubt' in murder of Hills women

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It took jurors about an hour Friday to find a man guilty of murdering a mother and daughter and torching their Farmington Hills home almost a year ago.

Family members of the murder victims, Louise and Melissa Bovaiv, could not hold back tears as the guilty verdicts were read on six counts of murder and one count

of arson in Oakland County Circuit Court at just after 2 p.m. Friday. The jury forewoman's voice wavered with emotion as she read the verdicts and the defendant, Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce, 24, of Farmington Hills stood without any outward sign of emotion.

"Actually, it was cut and dried," said a man, 49, who served on the jury. "It was just a matter of going

See JURY, A5

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Cross that bridge: Motorists can expect big delays as bridges get repaired this summer around the Farmington area. /A3

TASTE

Beat the blues: Registered dietitian Peggy Martinelli-Everts offers tips to stop holiday blues. /B1

Quick fix: Good-looking and good-tasting meals don't have to be a lot of work. Learn how to make a quick and easy chicken with mushroom gravy. /B1

SPORTS

Hoop previews: The Harrison and Farmington high school teams anticipate successful seasons in boys basketball. /C1

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Sights of the season



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEIGHTY

Holiday Sing: Farmington's 30th annual tree lighting ceremony Tuesday featured decorations and delightful tunes.

Above, Andrea Zinkosky of Daisies Troop 856 at Flanders Elementary, carefully places an edible ornament on the tree at Farmington City Hall.

At right, some of the 300 girl scouts from Farmington and Farmington Hills join together for the Holiday Sing, which featured festive holiday music.



Police drop chase of reckless driver; phone home to make arrest

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes all it takes is a phone call.

After Farmington police ceased chasing a 1990 Ford pick-up down Grand River, they called the driver at home. He turned himself in the following day.

The Redford man, 20, is expected to be charged with fleeing and eluding and reckless driving after he led police on a lengthy chase on Wednesday night. Police tried to stop the pick-up after it was clocked traveling 85 miles an hour on eastbound M-6.

A chase ensued through to Middlebelt, westbound on Grand River and then south on Albion. The truck ran through a chained stop sign where the road dead-ends and appeared to be trapped in an apartment complex parking lot.

Instead, the truck turned around and headed towards the patrol car, which moved to avoid a collision. The driver ended up on Grand River, traveling east in the westbound lanes for a time before crossing the grass median into the eastbound lanes.

The truck ran a red light at Grand River and Eight Mile, police reports said. The truck was traveling at an estimated 85 miles an hour.

Police halted the chase at Grand River and Inkster. Police traced the vehicle's registration to a Redford address and phoned the man.

"It was just a matter of a phone call," Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins said.

After turning himself in, the driver said he had been drinking and panicked when police tried to pull him over.

"I was not thinking rational and I made a huge mistake," said the driver in a statement to police.

He was released on \$200 bond and is scheduled to appear in 47th District Court.

Plan would hike number, use of computers

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Once the dust settles on building renovations being proposed as part of a possible \$110 million bond issue, Farmington school board trustees will have to tackle technology.

The bond issue being considered by the board would also pay for more than \$20 million in technological enhancements. The board has not decided yet if it will go to voters with the bond issue. Discussion so far has centered on facilities.

The technology recommendation by a financial strategics committee follows several initiatives undertaken by the district recently, including more than \$3 million spent for Internet access.

Building improvements and expansion can be justified by projected enrollment increases. Computers and software are constantly

updated, though.

What's the best and what's needed in terms of technology for the district's 1,200 students could be difficult to assess.

"I don't believe that's an issue with me; I'm pretty well comfortable with the technology said. "I think it's something our children need and I think it's a reasonable requirement."

Dave York
—Trustee, Farmington Schools

York's views correspond with results of a community wide survey.

Two-thirds of respondents to a district-wide survey in February said technology should be a high priority. Nearly one-third gave Farmington schools a "C" or lower for teaching kids technology skills.

"What we've taken from that is if you're going to sell an idea in this community, you're going to sell it on the basis that there are benefits for kids and the community at large," Superintendent Bob Maxfield said.

See COMPUTERS, A5

Great skate

Not only are roller skaters in the Farmington area generous, they're also patient. So, the folks at Bonaventure Skating Center found when they held their annual fund-raiser for Farmington Area Goodfellows Dec. 3.

Some 637 skaters showed up, overwhelming staff at the door. Many parents and children waited in line several minutes before getting inside on the bracing night, said manager Chuck Findlay, who wants to thank them for their graciousness.

"We had a fantastic turnout," Findlay said. "It

FARMINGTON FOCUS

was a nice night." Especially for needy families, who will benefit from the \$1,158 raised at the door. Proceeds from the \$2 admission went to the Farmington Goodfellows.

Jingling at FHS

That festive jingling sound you'll be hearing

Wednesday afternoon around Farmington High School will be money being raised for a good cause.

Student council members will sponsor a Jingle Bell Run at 2:45 p.m. starting at the tennis courts near the student parking lots at the school. The community is invited to lace up and run or walk the one-mile course for a minimum donation of \$2.

Todd Afterbaugh, council president, reports all money raised will benefit the Neighborhood House and its work for families and youth. No preregistration is needed.