

Heritage House open for visitors, 1B



National champ, 1D

Parents keep fighting school aid cuts, 2A

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FARMINGTON



FOCUS

BUCKS AND bad guys! There's a connection, according to commander Chuck Lee of the Farmington Public Service Department.

Lee, an avid hunter, shot a 214-pound buck at 7:45 a.m. Nov. 17 in a wooded area near Chelsea. The processed deer weighed 100 pounds.

Lee said in a note to the Observer that his "intense search-and-destroy training in Vietnam, as well as his 22 years experience with the Farmington Department" helped him bag the buck. "Getting a deer is much like catching bad guys — you gotta be in the right place at the right time," added Lee in his note.

AREA AEROBIC exercisers jumped (low impact style) at the news that Fitness owners Andrea Bernstein and Helaine Keller have sold their Farmington Hills studio to one of their instructors, Tom Anderson.

Running only the Birmingham studio in 55 on South Woodward will allow Bernstein to expand her teaching and personal training schedule. Keller will have more time to spend with her soon-to-be-two children, as well as to continue her administrative, buying and teaching duties at Fitness.

All three will continue to teach at both studios.

Anderson has renamed the Farmington Hills studio: "Perfect Life — A Sweatshop."

IT COULD be a "window of opportunity" for those who wish to use the Farmington area's two post offices on Saturdays during the busy Christmas season.

Expanded window service will be in effect at the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices on Saturdays, Dec. 7, 8 and 15, according to Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris. The windows will be open 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Christmas cards should be mailed to Dec. 10, postal officials say. Envelopes must be a minimum of 3 1/4 inches high by 5 inches long. A surcharge is made if envelopes exceed 6 1/4 inches high of 1 1/4 inches long.

CATCH THE Christmas spirit... attend the Annual Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Jack Cauley Chevrolet dealership, 7020 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

Admission is one toy for the Toys For Tots program. Chambers from Farmington/Farmington Hills, Lakes Area, Novi and West Bloomfield are involved in the event.

Reservations must be made by Friday, Dec. 7, by calling 474-3440.

MEMORY LANE: From the Nov. 30, 1990 Farmington Enterprise:

Telephone service in the Farmington area was restored following a two-day shutdown of the switchboard during a nationwide operators' strike against the Bell Telephone Co. A wage increase of 9.3 cents an hour was granted to the 16,000 Michigan Bell employees.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Slaying stuns students, educators

Teacher was known for dedication, wit

Yesterday Mr. Poux went far away. But he'll keep his looks. And keep his school books. You're the BEST, Mr. Poux... — a sixth grader remembering slain teacher Andre Poux

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Staff and students at O.E. Dunckel Middle School tearfully remembered a favorite colleague and teacher this week following his death early Sunday at the hands of a gun-toting intruder.

Andre Poux, 58, a Dunckel math teacher, was investigating a break-in downstairs at his house in Detroit's North Rosedale Park shortly before 6 a.m. when he was shot in the chest, according to police accounts. He died a short time later at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital.

An investigation of the case continues but no one is in custody, a Detroit Police spokesman said Tuesday.

"It's almost like part of you is gone," said Haroune Alameddine, bilingual coordinator for the Farmington district, who knew Poux 18 years. Poux taught math to all of Alameddine's children.

"He was a gentleman — he was just like a brother. This is really unbelievable."

FLAGS FLEW at half-staff at Dunckel this week and classes were canceled Wednesday so students and staff could attend morning funeral services if they wished. Principal Buhl Burton said the school would likely plan some type of memorial service of its own later in the school year.

Burton recalled Poux's "fine" teaching skill and his sense of hu-

'He was a gentleman — he was just like a brother. This is really unbelievable.'

— Haroune Alameddine
bilingual coordinator
Farmington schools

mor. "He was kind of witty — and usually served as a master of ceremonies" for various events, he said.

Poux taught mostly seventh and eighth graders at the middle school on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills.

He had taught math for the Farmington Public Schools since 1973, first at Warner Middle School then at Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools before going to Dunckel in 1984.

He previously worked at St. Mary's of Redford High School in Detroit, where he taught math and was an assistant principal, and also taught at Cardinal Money High School from 1969-70, according to school district records.

Farmington schools personnel director Robert Coleman called him an "outstanding teacher" and a "smart, intelligent man who cared about kids."

Coleman said that just two weeks ago, Poux volunteered to take additional students in his algebra class so that a special program for at-risk students could be started. "That's just the kind of man he was. It's a real loss," Coleman added.

Dunckel staff members began discussing their co-worker's death on Sunday, then met early Monday morning to decide how to best handle students who were upset. A crisis team of Dunckel staff, aided by social workers and staff members

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O.E. Dunckel Middle School assistant principal Tom McConaghie moves a poster to provide a better view of a board in a school hallway that commemorates teacher Andre Poux, who was shot and killed at home Sunday.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Teacher remembered for giving to others

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Andre Poux gave much during his lifetime, so they came Wednesday to offer what they could in return.

From O.E. Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills where he taught math, from the North Rosedale Park community in Detroit which he loved and from St. Mary's of Redford

Catholic parish where he gave of his time endlessly — they filled the church with song, prayer and personal memories.

"He had a place for everybody here, in his own heart," said the Rev. James Serrick, pastor at St. Mary's, remembering his parishioner who was fatally shot at home Sunday. He said Poux spent his life "preparing a place for others. He went out of his

way to make people feel welcome and, through his teaching, ... to make kids feel welcome."

SIXTEEN JESUIT deacons and priests — one Poux's brother — and hundreds of friends, co-workers and family members concelerated a 1 1/2-hour high Mass at St. Mary's in honor of the 58-year-old community activist who died after being shot in

his house after he confronted an intruder.

The St. Mary's choir offered a musical tribute to the peaceful man who was taken by violent means.

Readings and prayers focused on grief and consolation, giving thanks for memories, and, ironically, of a future Jerusalem as a peaceful city

'He had a profound self-wisdom of who he was, how he could make a difference.'

— George Ward

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Aldo Vagnozzi

Vagnozzi picked as next Hills mayor

Related editorial, 18A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Tradition has been upheld. Mayor pro tem Aldo Vagnozzi will be the 1991 Farmington Hills mayor.

The community of Farmington Hills has come to expect the mayor pro tem to follow as mayor.

Mayor Jean Fox said Monday night. "In the spirit of fairness, I'm proud to nominate Aldo Vagnozzi."

The city council's split 4-3 vote, which elected Vagnozzi was a surprise turnaround from reports floating around the community lately that put one-year councilman Larry Lichtman in the top post.

Of lesser surprise was the unanimous election of councilwoman Jonathan Grant as mayor pro tem. If the council continues to follow tradition, Grant

will be elected as mayor in 1992.

Vagnozzi and Grant will take office at the first 1991 meeting Monday, Jan. 7.

In an expected move, councilwoman Nancy Bates unsuccessfully nominated Lichtman, whom she said, "holds the (city) charter and code of ethics in high esteem."

"I believe Mr. Lichtman will live up to the responsibility of mayor with dignity and honor," Bates continued.

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Family, fellow students pleased by teen's 'miraculous' recovery

By Casey Hans
staff writer

It was a special Thanksgiving Day gift.

A 17-year-old Harrison High junior hospitalized with critical injuries after being hit by a car made a "miraculous" turnaround just before last week's holidays, friends and family said.

Erik Dilland, a musician who plays French horn in the school's marching band, was taken off the critical list and moved into a regular room at Botsford General Hospital Nov. 21 following a Nov. 17 accident in which he was hit by a car as he crossed 12 Mile Road near the school.

"Kind of miraculously, he was taken out of intensive care Wednesday. He's made a tremendous recovery," said Harrison band director Mark Phillips. "This kid's a real fighter."

Bone fusing surgery was scheduled Monday for Dilland's left leg, which was injured in the accident, friends said. Botsford officials refused comment on the young man's official condition.

"It was totally miraculous," added sophomore and friend Michelle Japenga. "He pulled his respirator out Tuesday night and started talking."

JAPENGA AND other friends in the Harrison High band room this week were elated at the good news. Pat Rowland said his friend would likely have pins in his leg and a cast on it, and would walk on crutches, but that he appeared to be back to his old self.

"It's just like someone plucked him out of school and put him in a hospital bed," Rowland said. "He can't wait to get out."

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