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3 arraigned on drug trafficking charges

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The president of a Nigerian association doesn't want all Nigerian Americans painted with the same brush as the Nigerian nationals who have been arrested in the state in the last six months on heroin trafficking charges.

"There are good Nigerians. We walk around

with our faces covered because of these people (those arrested on drug charges)," said Edwin Dyke, president of the Association of Nigerians in Michigan, "which represents the approximately 3,000 Nigerians in the state."

Dyke urges the media to print the names of Nigerian nationals who have been arrested in U.S. Customs and federal Drug Enforcement Administration drug busts — the latest in

Farmington Hills Saturday.

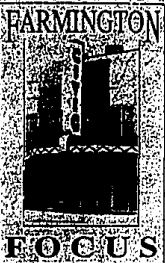
"There is nothing wrong with identifying them as Nigerians. But please use their names. It doesn't do justice to all the other people of the country. It is not like all Nigerians are bad. We don't tolerate this either," Dyke said.

THE THREE Nigerian nationals, in the United States on student visas, were arrested

at the Muirwood Apartments in Farmington Hills Saturday after U.S. Customs, Border Patrol and DEA agents executed a search warrant at one of the apartments.

Festus O. Onoh, 20, whose apartment was raided, Celestine C. Ofego, 30, and Izu Nwawu, 30, were arraigned in federal court in

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FOCUS

ARE YOU a winter sports enthusiast? A used equipment sale, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the cafeteria of East Middle School, Middlebelt Road, north of 10 Mile.

Used skates, skis, ski clothing, toboggans, and other winter sports equipment may be bought or sold.

All sales will be final and there will be a 30 percent service charge on all items sold. For more information, call the recreation division office at 473-4572.

THERE'LL BE something extra this year in the baskets that the Farmington Goodwillers prepare for the area's needy around Christmas.

This year, the Farmington Goodwillers want to place books for children and senior citizens in the baskets — and the community is being asked to donate the books.

Books can be dropped off at several area locations: Both Farmington Community Library branches, 32757 W. 12 Mile Road, and 23500 Liberty; Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33411 Grand River; Farmington City Hall, 23500 Liberty; and Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile Road.

IT SNOWED for the first time this winter Monday, and the Post Office has a few thoughts on the subject.

Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris reminds residents with mailboxes on porches along the roads that they should keep their boxes clear of snow. The carrier should be able to drive up to the mailbox to deposit and collect the mail without leaving his/her vehicle.

The approach to and exit from the mailbox should be cleared sufficiently on both sides to allow the carrier to drive ahead and not be required to back up the vehicle after the delivery.

Failure to open approaches sufficiently on both sides may prevent carriers from making deliveries, Harris said.

Harris also said that postal regulations require that walks, steps and porches be cleared of snow and ice.

People with questions or a special situation should contact the post office at 553-3910.

MEMORY LANE: From the Dec. 7, 1990, Farmington Observer.

Mrs. John W. Grant was elected president of the Farmington Garden Club at the group's annual business meeting at the Farmington Baptist Church.

A total of \$47,835.96 was collected for the Farmington United Fund and Community Chest, according to fund treasurer John Huff. That sum represents about 83 percent of the 1990 quota for the community.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21800 Farmington Road, Farmington 48330, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



GUY WARREN/staff photographer

The charred hull of Northwest Flight 1482, still on the ground at Metro airport hours after Monday's crash with another departing flight, served as a grim reminder to the accident which claimed the lives of eight people and injured 21 others.

One question remains: why?

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

Investigators are still sifting through the ashes of Northwest Airlines Flight 1482, trying to discover why the Pittsburgh-bound DC-9 jet apparently wandered into the path of another departing Northwest flight Monday at Metro Airport, killing eight and leaving 21 others injured.

All of those killed, including a 43-year-old Northwest flight attendant, had been identified as of Wednesday morning.

A West Bloomfield woman was among the passengers who remained hospitalized, though her condition had been upgraded to good. Most of the injured had been released from area hospitals by Tuesday.

Flight attendant Heidi Joost of Dearborn, a 22-year Northwest employee, was the first reported fatality.

OTHER FATALITIES were:

• Kingsley A. Brown, 30, Pitts-burgh.

• Mary Blankenship, 37, Colorado Springs, Colo.

• Thomas Kopriva, 50, Memphis, Tenn.

• Daniel E. Loughane, 44, Memphis.

• Fred Zitto, 59, Memphis.

• Mauro Bottiglione, 23, of Venezuela.

METRO CRASH AFTERMATH

Among the injured, Lilly Cohn, 63, of West Bloomfield, was transferred Tuesday from Annapolis Hospital, Wayne, where she received initial treatment for a collapsed lung to the surgical unit at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. She was listed in good condition Wednesday.

Preliminary explanation for the fiery crash could come as soon as today from air traffic controller tapes and flight recorders — the jets' so-called "black boxes."

It could take as long as one year, however, before a final explanation is given for the tragedy, according

to John Lauber, chief investigator for the National Traffic Safety Board.

Major findings will be released as quickly as possible, Lauber said.

"ANYTIME WE have something that warrants immediate recommendation, we will do so," he said. Lauber said investigators will remain on the scene through the end of the week, examining both jets as well as interviewing passengers and crew members.

Investigators have declined to offer any explanation for Monday's crash.

Speculation, however, has linked the accident to a driver turning the wrong way down a one-way street in foggy weather.

Visibility at the airport was reported at less than one-quarter mile due to an early afternoon fog that followed a morning snowfall.

Officials declined comment on a

report that a DC-9 flight crew member told the tower "I'm lost."

The flight's captain, 24-year pilot William Lovelace, 52, of Phoenix, was embarking on his 12th flight after returning from a five-year medical leave.

It was the first flight without an airline observer in the cockpit with Lovelace, who returned to active duty Nov. 20 after completing an airline retraining course.

Airline officials noted the DC-9 left its gate four minutes ahead of schedule but said that decision, like the decision to take off, remained with the pilot.

Investigators from the NTSB began examining the charred DC-9 and damaged Memphis-bound 727 late Monday evening. Preliminary reports indicated the right wing of Memphis-bound Flight 299 sheared off one of the DC-9's rear engine, apparently setting the plane afire.

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Hospitals respond to crisis

By Tedd Schneider
staff writer

Five area hospitals and personnel from two dozen fire departments in Wayne and Oakland Counties played major roles in Monday's collision between two Northwest Airlines jets on a Metro Airport runway.

A sixth hospital, Westland Medical Center, could have been required to accept emergency patients if necessary, a spokeswoman

for the hospital's parent company said Tuesday.

The former county hospital, 3 1/2 miles from the airport, was converted to a psychiatric and substance abuse treatment facility this fall.

"From a strategic standpoint, certainly it could have been used if we absolutely needed it," said Pat O'Dowd of Oakwood Health Services Corp. "But there's so many other hospitals in the immediate area that are part of the Oakwood

system I don't think it would have been necessary unless there was an extremely large number of (injured)."

OF THE 23 injured taken to local hospitals, 16 patients were transported to the closest open emergency room, at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne. Two of those patients were transferred to the Burn Center at University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor.

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Hills cops plan undercover liquor sting

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The holiday season is bringing good cheer, festivities and the promise of another Farmington Hills police undercover crackdown on the sale of alcohol to minors.

In this second planned effort of the year, the crackdown will be aimed at the city's 41 restaurants and bars that have a liquor license.

"The only variation from past efforts is that I'm sending each licensee a registered letter,"

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

Each of the 41 Class C tavern licenses will receive a letter this week notifying them of the undercover sting that will occur before the end of the year, in time for the holiday season.

The planned sting is part of the department's continuing efforts to curtail teen drinking and the sale of alcohol to minors.

The crackdown will again involve the use of an undercover 19-year-old police cadet who will attempt to buy alcohol. The legal drinking age in Michigan is 21.

"Research indicates that alcohol-related accidents and tragedies increase during the holiday season," Dwyer wrote to the licensees.

"The commitment of licensees and their employees not to sell or serve alcohol to minors is an important component that adds to the general safety and welfare of the entire community," Dwyer continued.

THIS WILL be the eighth undercover crackdown since 1988. And as in past stings, violators

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School millage hike is asked

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Farmington school district voters will be asked to dip into their pockets Feb. 5 to offset money taken by the state, and for additional money to expand and repair buildings.

The special election will have two proposals.

One will ask for a new tax of 2.7 mills for general operations — which school officials say is needed to keep current programs in the 1991-92 school year — and a second proposal requests 1 additional mill to be earmarked for school improvements and additions.

Passage of the second proposal is contingent on the first proposal being approved.

The two proposals are linked on the ballot because they are linked operationally in the district, explained Superintendent Michael Fangman.

"We can't find ourselves building improved science rooms, and potentially (having to) lay off science teachers."

IT IS THE first time the district has approached the electorate for new operating millage since 1973, although the district has gone for bond issues, millage renewals and has adopted bigger budgets based on increased property tax values.

Both millages would be 10 years in length. With one mill equal to \$2.5 million, the first proposal would bring the district \$6.75 million per year.

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