

## Buddies from page A1

said working with Ruth was "fun."

"I'm amazed how they are so patient with me," Beno said. "They can breeze through this in a few minutes, and it'd take me the whole day."

Together, they searched for computer files, saved them from hard drive to floppy disk and retrieved saved files.

"Beno and Scott did have their 'generation gap' moments, however."

"The street car, I think of as a 'trolley,'" Beno said, smiling. "He (Scott) thinks of it as a nice car, modified for the street."

"Spearheading the pilot program, which recently concluded its first session, are teachers Barbara McCune, of East, and Annette Gasparotto, of Farmington Community School.

"McCune said she envisioned 'Computer Buddies' about 16 years ago, because she's 'always been interested in dealing with senior adults and having them work with youngsters.'"

Why such interest?

**"It's been real nice. Senior citizens have enjoyed it and mentioned many times how great the kids have been, working together (on) the computers."**

**Eugene Seaborn**  
—East Middle School principal

"From a middle school child's perspective," McCune said, "many of these children don't get the chance to see their grandparents regularly, or interact with senior citizens."

"And it's an opportunity for them to interact ... They find out that, in many ways, senior citizens are no different than middle schoolers."

Gasparotto said she and McCune "thought (there was) a real need and linked up the kids with the seniors, and it's had a real good impact. It's helpful for

someone to be there to say, 'Press that button or you're going to lose something.'"

East principal Eugene Seaborn also complimented the program. "It's been real nice. Senior citizens have enjoyed it and mentioned many times how great the kids have been, working together (on) the computers."

And, according to Erica Rose, also a 13-year-old in eighth grade, "We want to try to help them out. We're glad to help them out."

Because interest in the program has been very good, Gasparotto said the next session might be increased from 10 to 15 pairings.

"This is an opportunity for children to grow, too," she said.

For more information about "Computer Buddies," call (248) 439-3382.

## Dead from page A1

found, is believed to be the source of the carbon monoxide.

"What it appears to be is he might have turned on the machine thinking that he might do it briefly to warm up," said Michigan State Police Sgt. Nathaniel McQueen. "It's a gas-powered machine that was in the back of the van. Of course, those things put out fumes and if you leave on for too long you get carbon monoxide poisoning."

The van's hood was up, leaving police to speculate that the vehicle broke down. A Michigan

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**Sgt. Nathaniel McQueen**  
—Michigan State Police

State Police mechanic is expected to examine the 1990 Ford van to see if it was operating properly, McQueen said.

According to police, Turner had been living with a friend in

Westland. Co-workers became concerned when he didn't show up and phoned police.

## Livonia chorus holds auditions

The Livonia Civic Chorus will hold auditions for its spring season at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, and Tuesday, Jan. 26. Auditions will be at Frost Middle School, on Stark north of Schoolcraft Road, just south of the Livonia Family YMCA.

Prospective chorus members can go to either audition, which are also rehearsals for returning

members.

The chorus is looking for basses and tenors, but anyone who likes to sing and lives in the metropolitan area is welcome to audition. The chorus, partly sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, has up to 70 members.

In its 84th year, the chorus will be rehearsing in early 1999

for its spring show, scheduled for Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, at the Clarenceville High School auditorium. The show will include a little acting, a little dancing and a lot of singing.

For more information, call chorus president Dick Ruel at (734) 525-1447 or publicity chairwoman Kimberly Alderman at (734) 525-6414.

## Awarded



**Decals:** Farmington High School head coach John Bechtel displays a football helmet bearing decals awarded to members of the winning team who also excel in academics.

## Winning Forty-three academic decals awarded

Under the guidance of Farmington High School head coach John Bechtel, the football program produced a winning team and students who also excel in academics.

Players earn unique awards for academics, efforts in weightlifting and overall conditioning achievements. The unique program is based on off-season improvement as well as academic performance during football season.

The football program looks at what students can do today to improve themselves for the future. FHS's football program and its coaches show how they care about their team's overall performance on and off the field. They also conduct study halls with students to assist with homework.

Football program decal awards are perma-

nently earned for different achievements: one Academic Decal is earned for 3.5 grade-point average, or if the student improves half a grade point from the prior semester. Two Academic Decals are earned for a 4.0 grade-point average.

Last semester, 43 Academic Decals were awarded to the players.

Meanwhile, Effort Decals are earned for player improvements in weightlifting and strength. Also issued are Falcon Club Decals, earned by the top seven players in each class and Falcon Weight Club Decals, earned when a student benches 225 pounds, sells pledges of at least \$75 and participates in the annual "Liftathon."

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