

Dinosaurs live again
in special exhibit, 1D



Baseball's
stars, 1C

Area firefighters
train together, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 98 Number 74

Monday, June 22, 1987

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Tentative teacher pact reached

By Casey Hans
staff writer

**'... our people are
pleased and I would
hope the board is, too.'**
— Tom Chrzanowski
FEA president

Farmington teachers have a tentative, new two-year contract that offers reduced class sizes and a minimum 7 percent per year raise. Top-level teachers would get slightly more.

Teachers ratified the contract last week by a 624-34 vote, said Tom Chrzanowski, Farmington Education Association president. The FEA represents some 725 teachers in one of the state's largest school districts.

Bargaining teams for the union and district reached a settlement at 1 a.m. on June 9 after 80 hours and five days of on-and-off bargaining. The teachers' contract expires Aug. 31, 1987.

The Farmington Board of Education is expected to vote on the contract ratification at a special meeting at 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 23.

THE SPECIAL meeting was called last Tuesday, after Chrzanowski lashed out at the board for postponing the ratification until possibly July 13 — the date of the next board meeting.

He cited employee morale, defining next year's school calendar and job uncertainty for some teachers as the reasons for his protest.

If the contract was not ratified by the board, he said, several weeks of bargaining time would be lost.

"We went ahead and imposed on our building representatives to have ballots in by 4 p.m. today," Chrzanowski said. "I think it's a little ludicrous on the part of the board to wait five to six weeks."

Helen Prutov, school board president, said trustees needed time to review the contract. She also said she would not place anything on the agenda without proper notification to the public.

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Tribute held for educator

By Casey Hans
staff writer

THE FLAGPOLE Nick Abid dreamed of for Gill School was finally in place last week. Throngs of his former students and their parents gathered to pay tribute to a man they once called principal and friend.

"He was a friend to all the people, and I'll always remember him," said one Gill student, who spoke about his feelings for the former elementary principal.

Others recalled Abid's "fair rules," his open-door policy, and his ever-present smile.

The Parent/Teacher Association from Gill planned the Nicholas

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photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer



Joseph Abid, 3-year-old grandson of Nicholas Abid, holds flowers he later laid next to his grandfather's memorial.

A student Honor Guard hoists the American flag on a new flagpole above Nicholas Abid's stone memorial.

Helping people rates among his priorities

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Kurt Lindberg fits right in to a modern age where computers rule our daily lives.

But the Farmington Hills resident's interest in modern technology is mixed with other concerns, including creating films, making music and a compassion for people.

The recent Harrison High School graduate took a hobby in computers and built it into a career interest in aerospace engineering — a subject he will study at the University of Michigan beginning this fall.

But all of Lindberg's time won't be spent in the U-M library. Keep an

eye on the football field, as Lindberg plans to be one of the 250 members of the Michigan Marching Band with his trombone.

Throughout his years at Beechview Elementary, East Middle School and finally Harrison High, Lindberg's interest in helping people has remained strong.

He spent the past three summers with other Christian youths constructing, repairing and weatheriz-

ing family homes for the elderly, poor and handicapped in areas from Arizona and New Mexico to the hills of North Carolina. All were one-week trips.

THIS SUMMER, he will visit Georgia with 21 others from Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. He will join about 250 students from across the country who participate in the program.

The jobs involve physical repairs and building, Lindberg said he is confident in such jobs.

"I'm very creative with things," Lindberg said. "It's my God-given talent."

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Patient denied release

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Charles Portus — committed to a state mental hospital in 1973 for the sex slaying of a Farmington Hills boy — will remain institutionalized.

Portus, 31, was denied his request Thursday to be released from custody or transferred to another institution from the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti, where he has lived for the past 13 years.

Retired Washington Probate Judge Loren Campbell, appointed to hear the case in Oakland County Circuit Court, ruled that evidence presented shows Portus is still mentally ill and requires treatment.

Portus's attorney, J. Douglas Lewski of Rochester, said he expects Portus will again petition for the charge or transfer. Under state statute, state hospital residents may petition every six months.

Portus was found not guilty by reason of insanity by the late Oakland Circuit Judge Farrell Roberts in the killing of a 6-year-old boy who was molested and strangled in a field near his Farmington Hills home in summer 1973.

IN HIS appeal, Portus argued that he is no longer mentally ill and that he is not being treated properly at the forensic center, Otleski said.

"Mentally ill — that's always been the issue," said Joyce Todd, Oakland assistant prosecutor. "We don't rebash the facts of the murder trial, but other information is brought in about the dangerousness based on the reason (the crime) he was found insane."

But Otleski said that none of the psychologists and psychiatrists who testified could meet the legal definition of mentally ill. "Five of the six doctors said there was no mental illness," Otleski said.

Portus maintains he suffers from personality or character disorder, Otleski added.

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New park for youths

The first spade of dirt has officially been turned launching the development of Pioneer Park.

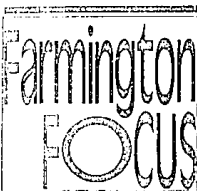
The 15-acre site on Farmington Road, between 13 and 14 Mile, will have two baseball diamonds and two regulation soccer fields. The park will be devoted primarily to youth activities.

The design calls for appropriate berms, seeding, fencing and landscaping. The park should be ready for use by next spring.

Pioneer Park will be built at an estimated construction cost of \$528,000. Of that, \$150,000 is coming from a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant administered through the Department of Natural Resources. The balance is funded by the parks tax approved by the voters last June.

The contract for this project was awarded to Gerlach Landscaping and Grading of Fraser.

Pioneer Park is the second of the major park projects being developed by the city of Farmington Hills. The first was Heritage Park, on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.



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SHE'S honored Pam O'Malley, Farmington High School assistant principal, was lauded by Farmington Families in Action for her work with drug rehabilitation and promoting drug awareness among students.

Betty Nicely, FFA past president, said O'Malley is "one of the moving forces" behind rallying parents around drug-related problems in the community.

O'Malley also has formed an "after care" group for treatment followup.

THIS volunteer is special. Food Troler has done volunteer jobs for the western Oakland County YMCAs for 25 years. For the past two years, the Farmington Hills resident has toured the 14 YMCAs of Metropolitan Detroit promoting summer camps.

In May, he received a plaque in recognition of being named Volunteer of the Year for 1987.

HANNERS' promoting central business district redevelopment as well as major events such as the Founders Festival and Michigan Week will fly from utility poles in the public right-of-way over Grand River in downtown Farmington.

The Downtown Development Authority will monitor use of the brightly colored banners. The state, responsible for Grand River, will be held harmless from liability, following Farmington City council action last week.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago, this week — Miss Farmington, Kelly Garver, 18, set her reign as Miss Michigan.

what's inside

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Kurt Lindberg, at work at the Orchard Lighting Center in Farmington Hills.