



North students told to learn languages 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 56 Monday, April 17, 1989 Farmington, Michigan 64 Pages Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington Focus

To write the Observer, 1300 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48324. To call news line, 477-2250; sports line, 477-2312; home delivery, 361-6000. Classified ads, 591-0999; display ads, 591-2250; fax line, 477-9722.

Overseas (page 12) is the name of Farmington's World Language Program. It is a program of the Farmington Public Schools designed to help students learn a second language.

QUIPPED by Farmington Hills city council as it approved a \$2,310 for new voter ballot labels for computer equipment. The city council also approved a \$2,310 for new voter ballot labels for computer equipment. The city council also approved a \$2,310 for new voter ballot labels for computer equipment.

FARMINGTON HILLS will take part in Ridge River Reunion 1989 on Saturday, June 17, at the stadium. The event is a celebration of the city's 50th anniversary.

Memory lane

50 years ago... Farmington will be the scene of a 50th anniversary celebration. The event is a celebration of the city's 50th anniversary.

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4C
- Classifieds . . . Sec. C,E,F
- Index . . . 8E
- Auto . . . Sec. C,F
- Road estate . . . Sec. E
- Employment . . . Sec. E,F
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 3E
- Entertainment . . . 5D
- Obituaries . . . 6A
- On the agenda . . . 5C
- Police, fire calls . . . 8A
- Sports . . . Sec. X
- Street scene . . . Sec. D
- Taste . . . Sec. B

SUBURBAN LIFE'S MONTHLY ALBUM

1987 AND 1988

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Escapee charged in dealer robbery

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The man who police believe drove the getaway car after a coin dealer and a masked gunman exchanged gunfire in Farmington Hills April 9 was a Wayne County Jail inmate who fled from a Detroit hospital while the deputy guarding him went to dinner.

Detroit police arrested Michael Alan Weaver, 40, of Madison Heights, after he suffered a stomach wound in a gunfight with an off-duty Detroit officer outside a Detroit lounge early Dec. 15. He was admitted to Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit and held under police guard.

On Dec. 24 in 36th District Court in Detroit, Weaver was charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to rob and pos-

sessing a firearm while committing a felony. No plea was entered.

District Judge John Murphy ordered Weaver held in the Wayne County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 cash or surety bond. A Detroit Records Court jury trial is set for May 1.

On March 28, Weaver was returned to Mt. Carmel when his wound became infected.

At 8:40 p.m. April 1, when one of the three deputies assigned to round-the-clock guard duty took a 10-minute dinner break, Weaver fled the hospital, said Nancy Mouradian, Wayne County sheriff's spokeswoman.

"It's difficult to answer any questions because the investigation is still open," she said. "The officer involved has been reassigned pending outcome of the investigation."

WEAVER HAS prior convictions in Warren

for willful killing and armed robbery, Farmington Hills police said.

Weaver and Naal Ashak Butris, 18, of Detroit, a resident alien from Iraq, were arraigned April 10 in connection with the Farmington Hills incident.

They stood mute before District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington to charges of armed robbery and possessing a firearm while committing a felony. Butris also was charged with assault with intent to murder. Innocent pleas were entered in their behalf.

Weaver and Butris were remanded to the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash or surety bond pending a pre-exam conference April 19 in 47th District Court.

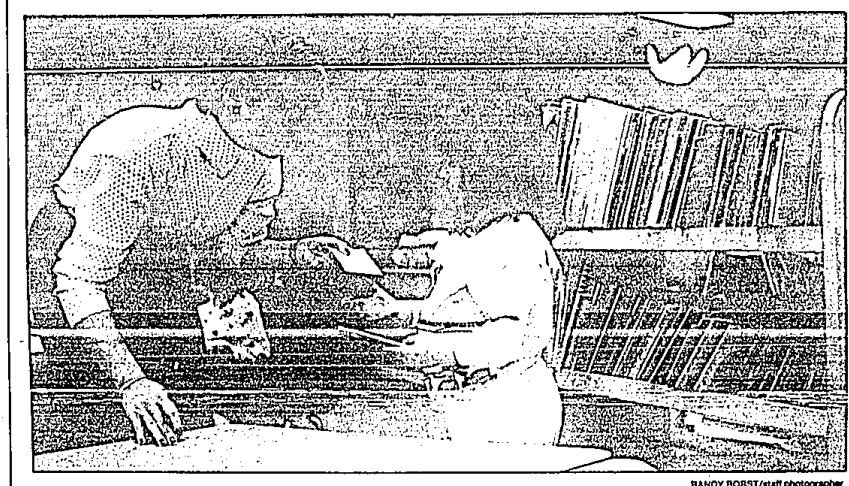
Weaver also faces charges of armed robbery, assault with intent to rob and possessing a firearm while committing a felony in connection with the daylight stickup of DeLuce's Restaurant in Westland Nov. 7.

He stood mute Friday and Magistrate Joseph Costanzo of Westland set a \$500,000 cash or surety bond. Westland police said that a man and a woman got away with several thousand dollars.

GUNFIRE ERUPTED shortly after 5 p.m. April 9 outside Mercy Center, at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills, at the end of a coin, stamp and baseball card show.

The gunman, armed with a 9mm semiautomatic pistol, was after \$40,000 worth of rare coins the coin dealer had just loaded into his van, parked in Mercy Center's east lot, police said.

Please turn to Page 4



Library mom Malissa Adams (left) helps kindergarten Chanellou Namou check out a book from the portable library at Fairview Early Childhood Center. Adams' daughter, Abigail, is in this class.

No tax hike seen in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Property owners' concerns over increasing property values in Farmington Hills have been heard. City officials are preparing a 1989-90 budget without plans for a tax increase.

"In light of the tremendous growth that we have seen in our community, many residents have expressed dismay that along with rapid growth, property tax relief cannot be achieved," city manager William Costick wrote in a memo to the city council recently.

But administrators are preparing a budget for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, that is expected to hold the line on any city tax increases.

This year's city tax rate is 9.4 mills

City officials' attempts to tow the line means the tax rate would be reduced to a level where homeowners won't pay bigger city tax bills even though residential property tax assessments increased an average 10 percent this year.

City officials' attempts, however, have no effect on tax rates levied by other jurisdictions such as the Farmington Public Schools, Oakland County Intermediate Schools, Oakland County and Oakland Community College.

THIS YEAR'S city tax rate is 9.4 mills. Under the state's Headlee Amendment, the city was required to roll back its rate to 8.8 mills, which would have generated the same amount of money the city would have received if property tax assessments had risen at the same percentage as inflation.

City administrators last year announced a public hearing their intent, under Truth-in-Taxation laws.

Please turn to Page 2

Moving library

Fairview parents wheel books to classes

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Watching them sort, mark and shelve books, you'd think they were a group of dedicated librarians.

But they are parents from Fairview Early Childhood Center who want their children to have the best — and that includes a library. They have devoted time and energy to collecting new and used books, and setting up a portable library system on wheels.

"What we've done is get an operating library in place," said Alice Yash, a parent who has co-ordinated the effort during the past 1 1/2 years with Linda Bilcocki-Kowczyk at the Farmington Hills school.

And since there wasn't an extra room available, the parents decid-

Many of the teachers use their (classroom) free time to work the library into the schedule.

ed to take it to individual classrooms.

"We feel really proud of how far we have come," she added. "It gives them some responsibility."

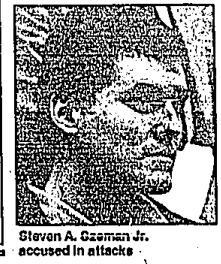
EACH KINDERGARTEN student gets one chance each week to select a book to take home and enjoy, Yash said. Parents hope to expand the lending library program to younger children, as their book collection grows.

"Many of the teachers use their (classroom) free time to work it (the library) into the schedule," Yash said.

Three to four of their young charges can visit the library cart at one time, as classmates do other activities.

Fairview is a center program, serving preschool and kindergarten children from the northern part of the district. A second center, Alameda, serves residents from the southern half of the district. Over-

Man accused of serial rapes waives exam, faces trial



Steven A. Szeman Jr. accused in attacks

□ A breakdown of charges, 7A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Former West Bloomfield resident Steven A. Szeman Jr. will probably not appear in person at Oakland County Circuit Court to answer to 49 counts of rape, robbery and burglary that occurred in 1987 and 1988.

Lawrence Kalunzy, Szeman's court-appointed attorney, said he would likely file a "paper arraignment" in circuit court and recommend his client, accused as Oakland

County's ski-masked serial rapist, stand mute to all charges.

Kalunzy, who practices in Birmingham Farms and lives in Farmington Hills, expects a pretrial exam to be scheduled soon after Szeman's April 25 circuit court arraignment.

Szeman, 25, will stand trial before Circuit Judge Robert Semple on all charges, after waiving his right to preliminary examinations in district court appearances last week.

In previous news reports, Kalunzy said he recommended that Szeman waive the exam to avoid pretrial publicity. Kalunzy also said he felt there would be probable cause to

Please turn to Page 7

Consortium to seek state recycling grant

By Jackie Klein
and Casey Hans
staff writers

Six communities will seek a grant of up to \$5 million to help finance a \$25 million recycling facility to dispose of the area's garbage.

Farmington city manager Robert DeLuce, who heads a consortium of the cities, said the project would be "one of the most sophisticated facilities of its kind in the state."

Solid waste disposal continues to be a major concern as space in area landfills becomes scarce.

The Southwest Oakland County

Solid Waste Consortium, made up of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Novi, Walled Lake and South Lyon, will apply for financial assistance under a state-wide, voter-approved bond proposal making \$150 million available for solid waste management projects.

Application must be made by April 17. The grant will not require local matching funds.

"I think it's great we're taking the initiative and getting to be one of the first in line for the money," said Farmington Mayor Pro-Tem Arnold Campbell as city council approved the application April 3.

Please turn to Page 4