

Fifth-grader Michelle Spisz turns her face away from the holy water that the Rev. Norbert Kendzierski shook onto ther pet, Poko.

## God's creatures

## Owners take their prized pets for blessing

HEY DID St. Francis of Assist proud.
Students at St. Fablan school in Farmington Hills remembered the saint on the feast
day named in his honor Thursday with a
Blessling of Animals ceremony.
Dogs, cats, birds and even fish were brought for the
annual blessing, done by the Rev. Norbert Kendzierski.
"We have heard stories of St. Francist great love for
all of God's creatures, especially the animals," he said.
"So it is fitting that on this feast, we ask God to bless
our pets."

With students and their parents touching the animals, the priest gave a blessing and sprinkled them with holy water.

Students without pets participated by singing and praying for the all-school prayer ceremony in the school gym.

school gym.

Sisters from the St. Fabian convent felt especially blessed Thursday, because their 14-year-old pondie, Princess, nearly died last week and had been nursed back to health.

Princess got a double blessing.



Sister Mary holds the nuns' 14-year-old dog, Princess, as children reach up to touch the pooch,

## O&E newspapers gerner Press Association awards

The Farmington Observer, under former editor Bob Sklar, won second place for General Excellence among weekly newspapers with a circulation of 15,000 or more in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper contest.

in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper contest.

Judges cited the paper's graphies, pullout quotes, front-page photos and strong editorials.

Sklar was recently promoted to special sections editorion to the Observer & Eccentric chain.

The East Grand Rapids Advance was judged the ton newspaper for General Escellence in the class.

The awards were announced Monday in conjunction with National Newspaper Week, which began Sunday and runs through Oct. 13. This year, judges received a record number of entries from 137 newspapers across the state.

The Farmington Observer also won first place for use of color throughout the paper in the same circulation class. Judges etted good layout and production quality, and called the first-place award an "ensy choice." Front-page color photos by former photographer Randy Borst, as well as photos in complimentary sections, contributed to the award. Borst was recently promoted to graphics coordinator for the O&E chain.

Tom Baer, current Farmington Observer editor, won first place among all state weeklies for editorial writing for three pieces written while editing the Bochester Eccentric.

BAFR'S WRITING style was called "gutsy" by judges, who said "the purpose of an editorial should be to make readers think, and for that you sometimes have to go out on a limb."

Judges added, "The willingness to go 'against the grain' makes for quality editorials." Baer's submission included editorials on a Rochester willow who had been denied membership in the Rochester Elk's club, a feud between a Rochester Hills councilman and a citizen, and a gag order issued by a Rochester judge in a murder trial.

of a gag offer issued by a focusive plaque in moder trial.

The control of thougaspher Jim Hilder took both first and second-place awards for weekly newspaper successive places awards for weekly newspaper visit of the control of th

THE TROY AND Rochester Eccentric papers picked up another MPA award as well.

The Suburban Life editor of both papers, Susan Steinmueller, won second place in the Lifestyle pages category for her Troy section, among weekly newspapers in the circulation class.

ie circulation class. Steinmueller's submissions included a spread on fash-Steinmueller's submissions included a spread on lassion comparisons among concerigors at three area events: the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, an Earl Klugh jazz concert and a concert by Bob Dylan. Another submission featured a child care package, which profiled moms at work and at home, and various kinds of day care facilities.

care facilities.

Judges complimented her section's layout and subject matter, and exted the "great" photos in the fashion concert spread and the "extensive" everage in the child care issue. Photos were by Rider.

There other Observer and Eccentric papers also won MPA wards.

Birmingham Eccentric Suburban Life editor, Rebec-ca Haynes, received the first-place award for Lifestyle section. Judges said her section had "quite simply the best photos and most touching stories."

Her submissions included a profile of Camp Oakland, an Oxford facility for wayward children, and the efforts of locals volunteering in camp activities. A photo story was shot by photographer Steve Cantrell. A second piece involved a package of stories on a 4-year-old grit receiving cranial-facial surgery by a local surgeon Haynes and photographer Dan Dean observed most of the six-hour surgery firsthand.

The Southfield Eccentric picked up two awards of its own. The paper took second place for best local news reporting for a series of articles on education, "School Spending Bridging the Gap." The series also appeared in the other Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Judges said they liked the comparison reporters made between the school districts of Southfield and Detroit.

The Southfield Eccentric also wen second place in the same circulation class for best editorial page under editor Sandra Armbruster. Judges felt the paper's editorials were "easily readable" and liked the distinctive headlines above the letters to the editor, which, they said, made readers' opinions stand out.

## Special ed program to move

A Farmington-based special education program for 120 trainable mentally and emotionally impaired students will be mainstreamed into other school buildings and the community next fail.

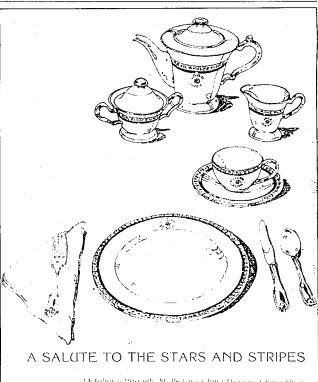
Currently housed at the Farmington Training Center in downlown Farmington, the program serves students aged 126 from throughout behavior of the contract of the contr

"We want to look at a facility that's not a traditional school building," she said. "We will concentrate on more community involvement."

The change comes because of state and federal mandates which require districts to place special education students into general education classrooms, when possible. Richards said the district has attempted to do this all along.

ble. Richards said the district has attempted to but un-all along.

The change will also better utilize school programs like the South Oakland Skills Center, which takes train-able special education students and puts them through a work training program at the Oakland Community Col-lege-Orchard Ridge Campus, Hudson's at 12 Oaks Mall and the Windemere Nursing Home.



October's through 20, Pickard China Dismay, China Shop, Amorna, and Burn's gham Store for the Home

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