

Total loss



ART ENANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No Injuries: A 1986 Buick Skylark caught fire at about 11:30 a.m. July 12 on eastbound I-696 between Orchard Lake and Drake. The car's engine compartment burst into flames, Farmington Hills firefighters said. The owner stopped on the shoulder of the freeway and escaped without injury. The car, valued at \$1,500, was a total loss. Firefighters extinguished the blaze.

OBITUARIES

MILAN O. SIGETICH

Mr. Sigetich, 74, of Farmington Hills died July 11 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Sigetich was a retired civil engineer for Detroit Edison. He was a World War II veteran.

Survivors include his sons, David and Milan; daughter, Andrea; sister, Helen Bedford; and two grandchildren.

Services were July 15 at the

Haley Funeral Directors, Southfield, with the Rev. Lauren O'Dea of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church officiating. Burial was in Acacia Park Cemetery, Birmingham.

DOLORES H. SIMON

Mrs. Simon, 60, of Farmington Hills died July 14 in Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Mrs.

Simon was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, Keith, Jeffery, Kevin, Robert and Timothy; daughters Patricia and Jill; sister, Elaine Zigante; and 15 grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated July 17 in St. Alexander's Catholic Church, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Sylvester Kaminski officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Show honors prize pets

The 1993 Pet Show, part of Kids Day during the Farmington Founders Festival, drew 51 entries. Trophies were awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in seven categories.

Each entry received a certificate of participation. Judges were: Joan Dudley, magistrate of the 47th District Court in Farmington; Amber Arbuckle, the outgoing Miss Farmington; Arnie Campbell, Farmington's mayor pro-tem; and Mike Flanagan, superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools.

The event is sponsored by the Plaza Veterinary Hospital in Farmington. Winners were:

Oldest Pet — 1. Ralsin, a 15½-year-old cockapoo owned by Alla Koczara; 2. Bucky, a 15-year-old German shepherd mix

owned by Zach LaBomac; 3. Ginger, a German short-hair pointer owned by Michael Monterey.

Most Articulate — No winners.

Largest Pet — 1. Shy Anne, a Bouvier owned by Kurtis Ramirez; 2. Storm, a Samoyed owned by Nancy Nolkirk; 3. Captain, a yellow Labrador owned by Stephanie Biscak.

Best Dressed Pet and Owner — 1. (tie) Artica, a Samoyed owned by Kyle and Chari Decker; and Snickers, a cocker spaniel owned by Kelly Hornfield; 3. (tie) Coco, a chocolate Lab owned by Melissa Wojnarowski, and Thumper, a rabbit owned by Carrie Nelson.

Best Presentation of a Caged Pet — 1. Pebbles, a dwarf hamster owned by Lani Beth Koczara; 2. Butterball, a dwarf hamster

owned by Alla Koczara; 3. Yoshit Kirby, a hamster owned by Sara Stroud.

Best Trained Pet (30 seconds to perform) — 1. Ben, a golden retriever owned by Kerry Smith; 2. Jake, a standard poodle owned by Natalie Rock; 3. (tie) Fred, a cocker spaniel owned by Rana and David Kaunelis, and Ginger, a German short-hair pointer owned by Lauren Monterey.

Most Unusual Pet — 1. Silmer, an albino frog owned by Emily Poniatowski, and Kip and Pete, sea monkeys owned by Kevin Carron.

Pet With the Waggiest Tail — 1. Fred, a cocker spaniel owned by Rana Kaunelis; 2. Maxine, a cocker spaniel owned by Jenny and Jim Matou; 3. (tie) Lucky, a cocker spaniel mix owned by Debbie Simon, and Joey, owned by Jonathan Marlin.

Battle from page 1A

Premiums

MESSA agreed to incur the discrepancy for the first year. However, the district would be responsible for an additional \$3.2 million (roughly \$1,700 per employee) during the final two years of the contract.

Zurvalec said the board tried to negotiate with MESSA, but to no avail. An official at MESSA could not be reached for comment.

Instead of paying the \$3.2 million, the district opted for another administrator at a less expensive rate.

She estimates the district can offset half of the \$3.2 million by going with a different carrier.

MESSA is the third party administrator for health care contracts in more than 300 school districts. According to an article

'I simply believe we have a contract that provides the MESSA insurance. We didn't bargain the cost of the insurance. We bargained for the carrier and the coverage.'

Zan Alley
FEA spokesman

In the June 7 edition of Forbes magazine, the cost for MESSA insurance is an average of \$1,000 more per individual than the state employee health plan.

Said Superintendent Michael Flanagan explaining the paradox, "We have to put out bids for a \$1,500 tractor, which I agree we should do, but we don't for health insurance, which costs millions of dollars."

Districts have reportedly been forced to accept the union's insurance company or have been faced with a strike.

Alley said she hopes the dispute can be resolved through arbitration.

"We believe we have a valid contract, which has a no-strike clause in it," Alley said. "As long as we have a valid contract, we would not strike..." The district believes we don't."

Added MEA spokeswoman Kim Brennan Root: "The contract is still in force. If the contract names MESSA, we don't think the district has a leg to stand on in terms of the carrier."

Neither spokesperson for the FEA or district would speculate what on further legal action may result.

The district has planned six informational meetings regarding the switch. Zurvalec said 10 to 15 employees have attended each one of the three meetings so far, and they are turning in their forms.

"I would take that to read people are fairly well satisfied," Zurvalec added.

Countered Alley: "That's not what I've heard."

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GETTING A "SHOT" IN THE KNEE

Usually the presence of swelling is evidence of excess fluid in the knee. "Getting a shot," rarely resolves the problem. The condition of your knee can be compared to lubrication for a car. If the specifications for the model call for four quarts of engine oil, then adding five or more quarts causes as much harm as putting in three or less.

Nature is just as exacting. Your knee needs only a few drops of fluid for lubrication. More causes the joint to jam and places strain on your whole leg. When you have a swollen knee, return of knee function requires both medication to the joint to prevent more fluid from forming, and removal of the excess already present.

Furthermore, when a physician injects steroid into the knee, the way he assures himself that the needle is in the joint is to extract at least a drop or more of fluid, a procedure called aspiration. Once he aspirates a drop, then the work of removing excess fluid can proceed without undue discomfort to you.

Use of the language "shot" to describe an injection, while accepted by physicians, is not appreciated. The folks "shot" people, physicians "aspirate and inject." Physicians become upset when you imply that they are initiating a hostile act when their intent is to lend a helping hand.

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