

# Farmington Observer

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## Man charged in hit-run crash



**Failure to stop at the scene of an injury accident is the charge facing a 28-year-old Farmington Hills man, after an accident that left a 53-year-old Hills man seriously injured. The victim has a closed head injury.**

A Farmington Hills man has been charged in the April 16 hit-and-run that left a 53-year-old Hills man seriously injured.

On Friday, David Leo Novicoff, 28, was charged with failure to stop at the scene of a serious personal injury accident and violation of a license restriction during an arraignment before Magistrate Joan Dudley in 47th District Court.

The felony of leaving the scene carries a maximum jail sentence of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Violation of license restriction is a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum 90-day jail sentence and \$100 fine.

Novicoff was released on \$5,000 personal bond. A preliminary examination is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.

However, police haven't been able to determine if the driver is at fault.

Police haven't been able to interview the victim, who only recently has begun to talk.

James Williams Rogers Jr. is still recovering after being hit on Nine Mile, west of Inkster Road, early on the morning of April 16. He has been transferred from Dotsford Hospital to a neurological facility in Southfield where he is being treated for a closed head injury.

Police managed to get an identification on the suspected car - a 1986 Ford Escort - from serial numbers on parts found in debris at the accident scene. Investigators took the parts to Tom Holzer Ford where they were matched

to either a 1985 or 1986 Ford Escort.

"That was a key for us; we were able to focus our investigation on older Ford Escorts," said Lt. Dennis Green, Hills police traffic bureau.

On routine patrol April 17, Officer Mike Ciaramitaro stopped a 1986 Ford Escort and talked to the driver.

The car had damage to the front end. Police later learned the windshield had been replaced the morning after the accident. Investigators found the damaged windshield in a Dumpster at Henderson Glass.

After police made several unsuccessful

Please see CRASH, A4

### IN THIS PAPER TODAY

**Hat tossed: Farmington Hills Councilman Terry Sever will seek a seat on the Oakland County board./A2**

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**Wealth of experience: She started as a mom taking her kids to a preschool and she's been teaching there for 21 years./B1**

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Light-hearted: The Michigan Opera Theatre offers a magic potion of its own, Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love," Saturday./B1**

**Music: Pianist Garrick Ohlsson will perform Saturday night in a brief recital during his special evening at U-M./E1**

### REAL ESTATE

**Lots of letters: Real estate agents have to earn those designations after their names./F1**

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## It's the buzz: Applebee's at Muirwood?

A national restaurant chain specializing in casual dining is looking to expand into a Farmington Hills shopping center.

The Overland Park, Kan.-based Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill wants to open in the Muirwood Square on Grand River and Drake. Under the proposed plan, a new restaurant would be built in the shopping center, a Farmington Hills city planner said.

The Farmington Hills Planning Commission is expected to review the plans this month.

An official for Besnos-Bestak Management, which owns Muirwood Plaza, declined to give details about Applebee's plans.

"I'm aware they're very interested in coming to Muirwood Shopping Center; I don't really have the specifics," said Mark Sturing, Besnos-Bestak general counsel. "I think it would be a plus for the center."

Applebee's is looking to expand around Novi, which includes the Twelve Oaks Shopping Center, a restaurant official said. The chain has restaurants in Northville and Commerce Township and is considering expansion in the Wyom area.

Farmington Hills and the Grand River and Drake spot fits in with those plans,

Please see EATERY, A4



### '98 ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

## STUDENTS SHINE

### Top students ready to make a difference

They're the best and brightest of their graduating class. They stand poised on the brink of life, ready to jump in and make a difference.

This fall, armed with scholarships, honors, dreams and enthusiasm, they will head to college campuses across the state and country - from the University of Michigan to Notre Dame and Harvard.

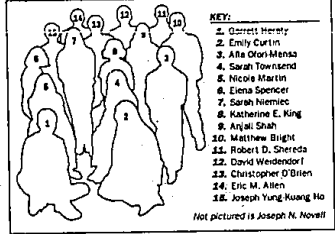
Meet 16 of the most accomplished high school seniors in the metro area, the 1998 Observer Academic All-Star Team. A group of area high school principals met at the Observer in March to tabulate test scores and grade point averages and determine the winners.

Your newspaper today includes a special section spotlighting the 1998 Observer Academic All-Stars. Take time to read about their accomplishments and look at their pictures. You're looking at the future, and it looks pretty good.

**The team:**

The 1998 Observer Academic All-Stars, chosen from nominees from local public and private high schools, include: Nicole Martin of North Farmington High School, Katherine E. King of Livonia Stevenson High School, Afia Ofori-Mensah of Plymouth Canton High School, Matthew Bright of Plymouth Salem

Please see STARS, A10



Top scholars: Meet some of the most accomplished high school seniors in the metro area, the 1998 Observer Academic All-Star Team. Also, see related story on page A6.



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## Fans tout Dunleavy's burger

When grappling with Dunleavy's Pub & Grub hamburgers, don't bother with napkins - bring a tarp.

The juice is divine from the eater's bovine-brand belly buster - say those who responded to poll. Dunleavy's tied with Greene's in the Farmington Observer unscientific readers' poll for best burger.

Compared to Greene's diminutive delectable, Dunleavy's is in the heavy-weight class. Burgers at the Irish flavored pub on the south side of Grand River Avenue near Gill tip the scales at a beefy 7.5 ounces.

Those in Dunleavy's corner use other boxing terminology - such as "consistency" and "hitting the

spot" - to promote their beloved burgers' ranking.

"They're just nice and big hamburgers," said Jean Mattingly, a Farmington Hills resident who hangs out "They're juicy, too."

Another Dunleavy's diner believes they're the best in the state.

"We've only lived Michigan for three years and it was the first cheeseburger I had here," said Breeda Waldrige, a Farmington Hills resident who works at Rite Aid. "It was the best ... and it's still the best."

A Dunleavy's pub burger runs \$4.25. People can order them any way they want, said a cook at the eatery.

The restaurant gets its beef



stocked fresh daily. From there, customers decided whether the burger will be seeping in savory juices or seared to lean perfection.

Pat Blackard orders her burger medium well but the flavor always comes through, she said. She only needs mustard and pickles on hers because the beefy taste doesn't require much of a supporting cast.

"When I get a craving for a really good hamburger - and a beer -

Please see BURGER, A4



A mouthful: On his lunch break from Farmington Insurance, Frank Clappison gets ready to enjoy one of Farmington's favorites - the hamburger at Dunleavy's Pub & Grub.

### Mailbox donations

It doesn't get much easier to donate than this.

On Saturday, May 9, letter carriers in Farmington and Farmington Hills will be joining in "National Food Drive Day" by picking up any non-perishable items from residents' mailboxes for delivery to area charitable organizations. Donations will go to Boys & Girls Republic, Oakland County Food Bank, Salvation Army and St. Alexander's Church.

Items may be placed in the mailbox - if you're able to provide larger-sized packages, they may be left at the curb or on the porch depending on where your mailbox is located.

All this week, food donations may also be dropped

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

off at either the Farmington or Farmington Hills post office and put into hampers.

**Success is in the numbers**

No bacon, hash browns or biscuits and gravy when Weight Watchers hosted a media breakfast last Friday morning to honor four members who lost 100 pounds apiece and introduce WW spokeswoman Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, to the local press.

Keeping in line with Weight Watchers 1-2-3 Success program, the menu served at Weight Watchers headquarters on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills featured coffee or tea (0 points), tomato or orange juice (1 point each), fresh fruit (1 point), tortilla egg roll-ups (3 points), salsa (0 points), maple pear muffins (4 points), lemon blueberry muffins (3 points) and apple cornmeal muffins (3 points).

The points system is based on a formula involving calories, fat and fiber. The 1-2-3 Success plan meets the nutritional recommendations of major health organizations in the U.S. and Canada and is high in complex carbohydrates, moderate in protein and low in fat. And Friday's menu, prepared by chef Gregg Markowski of Clarkston, was quite tasty, too.