

Making the most of familiar faces, 1D



Swimming report, 1C

Historic farm gets new look, keeps old, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 32

Monday, January 22, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Fifty Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

LESSONS learned. In stressing the importance of observing state civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Farmington councilwoman JoAnne McShane said last Monday:

"I feel we must never take our freedom and rights for granted. We must keep the spirit of this movement alive. It's an important day. The city council proclaimed Jan. 15 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Farmington. It's called upon the citizens of the community to pause and reflect on the important accomplishments that resulted in the leadership of Dr. King."

DID you know the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills has a motto? It's "Pathways to learning."

Memory lane

25 years ago: Farmington Township trustees agreed to ask Farmington District Library voters April 5 for a special 1-mill, 10-year property tax levy to build a new main library on 12 Mile and to improve the downtown Farmington library.

The biggest single boon to Farmington Township's tax base in 25 years is represented in the \$424,000 Diamond National plant under construction in the Haggerty-10 Mile industrial park area. — Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 27, 1965

This week

THE JAYCEES of Farmington and Farmington Hills will host their 23rd annual community leadership prayer breakfast Tuesday at the Belsford Inn. Gary Jonna of Jonna Construction in Farmington Hills will be guest speaker.

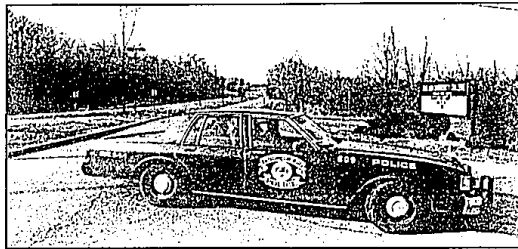
what's inside

- Around Farmington 5B
- Building Scene . . . Sec. F
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E, F
- Index 9E
- Auto Secs. C, E, F
- Real estate Sec. E
- Employment Secs. E, F
- Creative living Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle 9E
- Entertainment 5D
- Obituaries 4A
- Opinion 6A
- On the agenda 4C
- Police/fire calls 5B
- Sports Sec. C
- Street Scene Sec. D
- Taste Sec. B

Reminder...

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

Bomb threats disrupt classes in Hills



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills police blocked the Orchard Lake Road and Farmington Road intersections with Oakland Drive while campus security officers searched OCC for explosive devices Friday morning.

By Casey Hans and Bob Sklar staff writers

No explosions or injuries were reported from unrelated bomb threats at O.E. Dunckel Middle School and Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, but local officials took both seriously in the wake of a rash of such incidents.

At Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, just south of I-696 between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads, a threat received Friday morning forced classes to be canceled for the day and prompted campus security officers and Michigan State Police troopers to comb buildings in search of explosive devices.

A woman calling the OCC switchboard at 8:50 a.m. stated that three bombs had been planted and were set to go off every 55 minutes beginning at 10:15 a.m. No exact sites were given.

"We can't afford to ignore the threats," said Carol Zawacki, OCC spokeswoman based at

'We can't afford to ignore the threats,' said Carol Zawacki, OCC spokeswoman. 'We, of course, immediately evacuated campus for the remainder of the day.'

the Bloomfield Hills administrative office. "We, of course, immediately evacuated campus for the remainder of the day."

Please turn to Page 2

Rape suspect plans to plead guilty

Steven Szeman, charged in a series of sexual assaults on Oakland County women during 1987-88, will plead guilty to a court hearing Feb. 2 because he doesn't want "to put the victims through an emotional trial," his attorney said Saturday.

"Steve knows that he's responsible — he has a conscience about what he did," said Lawrence Kaluzny, Szeman's court-appointed attorney. Kaluzny met with Oakland County Circuit Judge Richard Templin Friday to announce that his client would plead guilty and to ask for immediate sentencing at the same hearing.

"I've asked the judge for immediate sentencing," Kaluzny said. "As long as everyone will be there, let's get the whole thing over with."

Local police were pleased that Szeman will plead rather than have a full trial. But should there be a change and a trial is back on, the departments are prepared for testimony.

"I THINK it's wonderful," said Birmingham police Chief Edward Ostie, "that the victims don't have to go through that again in court."

Farmington police Chief William Dwyer called the announcement "a big relief."

Jeffery Werner agreed, noting that these women have "already been through the worst experience in their lives."

Szeman's trial was to begin Feb. 16. A former West Bloomfield resident, he is charged with 49 felony counts, which include rape, robbery and burglary related to a series of sexual assaults on women between the ages of 12 and 61 in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Independence Township.

At the hearing, Templin will read each count. Prosecuting attorney John Stevin will read the facts of that case, and then Szeman will enter his plea. Kaluzny doesn't expect

his client to plead guilty to all charges. "He's going to attempt to plead on all 49, but I can't say that he will," Kaluzny said. "If he can't remember the specifics of a case — and there are five to 10 of those — he will plead no contest."

Szeman also is aware that pleading will not result in a reduced sentence, Kaluzny said.

"THERE'S NOTHING he can say to apologize to these people. But pleading guilty will show some semblance of remorse," Kaluzny said. "He (Szeman) really didn't want to put the victims through a trial."

Please turn to Page 4



Steven Szeman rape suspect

Flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi a sweet memory

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

When Farmington Hills resident Sam Kory saw U.S. Marines raise the American flag on top of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima in early 1945, it was a dream come true — literally.

"When I was only 14 years old and had joined the National Guard — I had gotten in falsely — I had a dream of seeing an American flag up on a mountain waving. When I saw the real thing, it was a like a dream come true," he said.

The former Southfield resident is one of two remaining former Michigan servicemen who witnessed the symbolic and historic event after four days of bitter fighting on the island, 750 miles south of Tokyo.

The battle for Iwo Jima and the two flag-raising on the island, one of which produced the famed photograph by Pulitzer Prize winner Joe Rosenthal, is a story dear to Kory's heart and memory.

"They claim I'm the last one alive to have seen both flag-raising," Kory said.

A Navy man who ran away in 1943 at the age of 15 to join World War II,

Kory was on the U.S. Cecil, the fleet's flagship and closest ship to the Iwo Jima beaches. While Marines clambered to the beaches, ships, such as Kory's, bombarded the island and Mt. Suribachi, where the Japanese were entrenched.

"THE AMERICANS were just wiped out. On the first day alone, we lost more Americans than at Normandy (France)," Kory said. "The Americans were wiped out on the beaches. Squads of 25-30 men were down to 7-8 men. The Japanese kept firing, firing, firing."

As in past years, Kory will be with the two Iwo Jima Marines at a five-year reunion Feb. 22-24 in Washington, D.C.

Again the American flag will be raised at the Iwo Jima monument in honor of the bloody battle and the 16,000 men who lost their lives. He also will attend a luncheon with President George Bush.

There's no doubt the war, two Iwo Jima and the men who lost their lives are a part of Kory's present life. Scrapbooks of stories and video

Please turn to Page 4



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills resident Sam Kory, veteran of the battle of Iwo Jima, is surrounded with some of the newspapers he kept from World War II.

Aide charged with fondling

By Casey Hans staff writer

A teacher's assistant accused of sexually touching and pinching an 11-year-old Kenbrook Elementary student on two occasions was ordered to stand trial Friday on two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The felony charges involves touching a minor under the age of 13. Rustem Dinosh, 28, of Detroit, a paraprofessional with Farmington Public Schools, said quietly Friday during a brief preliminary examination in Farmington's 47th District Court in which the fifth-grade victim and her mother testified for the prosecution and a Kenbrook teacher testified for the defense.

District Judge Fred Harris ordered the defendant to stand trial in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Dinosh remains free on \$10,000 personal bond and is on paid leave from his job with the school district pending outcome of the investigation. A no-guilty plea has been entered into the court record on his behalf. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison.

THE STUDENT'S mother testified although her daughter was a happy student, other students had racially taunted her since she started at Kenbrook last September. The girl is black. Kenbrook is in the 13 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area of Farmington Hills.

"She wasn't unhappy, but problems started occurring," the mother said. "The children were calling her bad names."

The student testified that the two incidents occurred Nov. 9, as she was taking a timed math test as part of a group in the school's learning center — once as she was about a quarter of the way through the test and the second time after she was about half finished.

Please turn to Page 4

Assessment spiral slows down

Hills expects lesser hikes

City of Farmington projections, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills homeowners will see less of an increase in 1990 property tax assessments on their houses compared to last year as a

four-year spiraling housing market begins to slow down.

Residential property tax assessments are expected to increase an average 9 percent in 1990 compared to the average 10 percent increase in 1989. Assessment increase notices are expected to be mailed in mid-February. The Farmington Hills Board of Review will hear property assessment appeals in March.

Where the 9 percent will come from I can't tell you. The discussion is premature because I haven't sat down and done an analysis. Some neighborhoods have not slowed down at all," assessor Dean Babb said.

Non-residential property will fare better. Commercial and industrial property owners can expect an average 3 percent increase in assessments this year, not much unlike increases last year of 5 percent for industrial and 2 percent for commercial properties, Babb said. Though homeowners are probably expecting better news about their 1990 assessments, Babb said that if at least 9 percent, the Oakland County Equalization Division will step in and apply a factor.



Dean Babb Hills assessor

Please turn to Page 4