

Fast, faster, fastest:
A ride on a luge, 6D



Swimming
results, 1C

Cordon Bleu was
their inspiration, 1B



Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 32

Monday, January 21, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

54 Pages

Five Cents

© 1991 Suburban Communications Corporation

Hotel arson probed

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

An arsonist soaked slogans on the walls and ignited two beds in a second-floor room at the Clarion Hotel early Sunday, forcing temporary evacuation of up to 100 guests. No one was hurt, Farmington Hills investigators said.

The sprinkler system in the unoccupied room doused the flames about 12:30 a.m. "We're very fortunate it worked perfectly. Property loss was minimal and no guests were ever in danger," said Tom Foraker, Clarion general manager.

No arrests and no motive for the vandalism was reported Sunday but detectives were checking out clues. Entry to the room was not forced, police said.

Slogans soaked on the walls of the attacked room made reference to Iraq, the KKK and rap songs. "They were undefinable to me," Foraker said.

FORAKER LAUDED his staff for keeping their cool in the face of potential danger.

"Our staff did a phenomenal job in following procedures to the letter," he said. "They exercised the first priority, guest safety. They directed people to appropriate areas and kept them calm. It's gratifying to know everybody knows their job in an emergency. It makes me very proud of my staff."

Firefighters helped with evacuation, made sure the fire was out, shut down and re-set the sprinkler system, and cleared smoke. Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

Assistant manager Matt Pare discovered smoke in a light socket on the second floor of the East Wing "in the course of his normal rounds of the hotel," Foraker said.

Foraker estimated fire damage at upwards of \$12,000.

Matches were used to ignite the fire. Flames were confined to the beds and bedding in the East Wing room where the fire broke out. The rest of the room sustained smoke, heat and water damage, Marinucci said.

AFTER THE fire department was called, hotel staff sounded a general alarm and directed guests outside for about 10 minutes. Once the extent of the fire was known, guests were invited into the lobby.

They were escorted back to their rooms about 2 a.m. Guests in 12-15 rooms were relocated from the East Wing to other parts of the three-story hotel.

The hallways and four rooms on the second and first floors of the East Wing had water damage. Water reached the first floor through electrical outlets, Chief Marinucci said.

Hotel staff were busy cleaning walls and carpeting in the East Wing Sunday.

The Clarion Hotel, at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, has 160 guest rooms and 44 executive suites. The three-story hotel opened 4 1/2 years ago.

Relatives watch, worry, pray

By Joanne Maliszewski
and Casey Hans
staff writers

In downtown Farmington Thursday, Gail Jackson was busy working at Metrobank to keep her mind off events in the Persian Gulf. But she slept with a radio earplug the night before.

Farmington Hills residents John Murphy and his wife, Marty, have prayed with other family members that all will be well with their grandson, U.S. Marine Sgt. Paul Murphy, one of the first American soldiers to be shipped to Saudi Arabia in August.

And at home, officer Tom Daniels was bleary-eyed from staying up all night, but knew he had to catch a few winks before reporting for work at the Farmington Department of Public Safety later that day.

Like many area residents, these people have relatives serving in the S. armed forces deployed to the Middle East to fight against the Iraqi invasion of neighboring Kuwait. Allied forces invaded the Iraqi capital of Baghdad by air Wednesday night Eastern Standard Time, beginning a war many hoped would not have to occur.

ALTHOUGH THEY expected the

THE GULF WAR Hitting Home

worst, "we were a little bit shocked about it," said Jackson, a Livonia resident whose 22-year-old son, Tom, serves in the U.S. Army's 3rd Cavalry unit as a cook and medic.

"We were hoping the last-ditch effort would help. Now we just have to

sit and wait," she said.

When she last spoke to him in early January, Jackson's son was on the front lines with other support personnel, but said he would likely be pulled back in the event of ground fighting.

"We fully support him for being there," she added. "He has a job to do."

Murphy's 29-year-old grandson, a communications expert and 10-year Marine veteran, is now assigned to detach duty with the British Navy Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

"The idea is to direct (through communications) the naval artillery," John Murphy said. "I'm proud

as a peerieck of him (Paul Murphy).

"We are a very sentimental family. There was no crying, no weeping. We have prayed a lot together. I have complete confidence in Paul as a fighting man," Murphy continued.

Daniels was at home in Novi Thursday, flipping from the Cable News Network to other news shows hoping to glean whatever information he could. His son Brent, 21, is with the U.S. Marine Corps on an aircraft carrier the USS Nassau, where he works as a mechanic on Harrier jets. "I've been up all night," Daniels said. "I guess we're not waiting any-"

Please turn to Page 2



Rabbis David Kagan (left), Berel Shemov and Yitschak Kagan watch President Bush talk about the war in the Persian Gulf Friday at the Lubavitch Center in Farmington Hills.

Low Israeli toll called miracle by local rabbi

By Casey Hans and
Joanne Maliszewski
staff writers

Miracles aren't always accompanied by angels and shining lights from the heavens. "We believe in miracles," said Rabbi Yitschak Kagan, associate director of the Lubavitch Foundation in Farmington Hills. Kagan said a miracle took place in Israel Thursday when Iraqi missiles hit Tel Aviv. But only minor injuries were reported.

"We feel we got special protection. We had one miracle and we can have more," said Kagan. He said he expected Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would sooner or later attack Israel once the American and other Allied forces attacked Iraq. And Iraq was attacked Wednesday night.

"I expected it would be an attempt. But I didn't know whether he would be successful," Kagan said. "We were glued to radios. We have great concern. But it didn't go all the way to worry."

Confidence, Kagan said, is the key. And there was a miracle. The Iraqi bombings resulted in no attack-related deaths and only minor injuries.

"We are optimistic that Israel is the focus of God's

attention. Miracles don't have to happen with great shining lights and angels coming down. They can be mundane and in plain clothes," Kagan said.

AS IN EVERY religious institution and household in America, the war is the talk around Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills.

"That's all we're talking about - like everyone else," said Rabbi Elly Spectre of the 1,250-family Jewish synagogue in Farmington Hills. "Of course, it's a large congregation. People have their own opinions."

Spectre believes "the president (U.S. President George Bush) has done the courageous and necessary thing... in trying to deal with someone who has violated international rules."

The Hills rabbi recently returned from a trip to the Middle East made by a delegation of rabbis, where he said there was "anxiety" among the people of Israel who were on alert for possible aggression against them. He said he "wanted to stay until the 15th" to show his support to the Israeli people and their devotion to their state, but was not able to do so.

Please turn to Page 2



Rabbi Yitschak Kagan: "We believe in miracles. They don't have to happen with great shining lights and angels coming down."

MORE WAR NEWS INSIDE

- Suburbanites protest against war, 5A
- Medic at front in Saudi Arabia, 4A
- Private eye sells anti-terrorist goods, 4A
- OU prof speaks out on war, 4A
- There's plenty to watch on TV, 2A
- Blood drive for GIs, 3A
- Officer has son in Marine Corps, 2A

'Scary' even to watch

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills brother and sister Josh and Rachel Weinberg say it's scary to watch - let alone live through - a war in the Middle East.

"We were in the car. We were listening to news and all of a sudden it's cut into and we heard bombs dropping and gun going off," said 12-year-old Josh, considered one of the youngest political cartoonists in the country.

"Then it's just the news announcer said, 'The first bombs of the war have been shot,'" the O.E. Dunckel Middle School student continued.

"It's across World War I, Vietnam and World War II - they're history. But this is scary. We are living through a war."

Rachel, a North Farmington High School student, was equally surprised but surprised that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein didn't attack Israel before he did Wednesday night Eastern Standard time.

"I was flipping channels (on TV). I was upset. I was getting scared. I know people think it's strange. But it was going to happen."

Please turn to Page 4

Talk focus: Iraqi chief

What's Saddam Hussein really like?

Journalist Milton Viorst, who has interviewed the Iraqi leader, will speak on "My Visit With Saddam Hussein" at 6:30 tonight at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Viorst, the Middle East correspondent for the New Yorker magazine, was one of the first Americans to tour Kuwait and Baghdad after the August invasion by Iraq. Viorst is highly informed on Iraq's nuclear capabilities, Syria's agenda and Israel's attitude concerning President George Bush's policy in the Persian Gulf.

A discussion will follow the talk. Admission is \$5.

Hillside students salute black leaders on King Day

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Third grade Brannee Ulewicz needed some help with a definition in preparing her presentation on Harriet Tubman, a former slave.

The term was "underground railroad" and her teacher, Debbie Harris of Hillside Elementary explained it and Tubman's role.

Harris' class focused on the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at an assembly held at the Hillside Elementary School in Farmington Hills Friday. Each child in her class participated.

Some prepared special posters highlighting famous black leaders like Toussaint, who made 19 long and dangerous trips by underground railroad in order to lead blacks out of slavery during the Civil War era.

The life of Frederick Douglass, who started an anti-slavery newspaper, was presented by Martin Goebel. Trevor Clark spoke about Nat Turner, who led a revolt for freedom.

And, David Fleury played King, reciting a portion of the famous speech, "I Have a Dream."

"Preparing for this play with my students has been a great learning experience," Harris wrote in a letter.

Please turn to Page 7

what's inside

Around Farmington	3C
Building scene	1F
Classifieds	Sec. C-E, 2F
Index	2F
Auto	Sec. G-I
Real estate	Sec. E-F
Employment	Sec. F
Creative living	1E
Crossword puzzle	3F
Entertainment	5D
On the agenda	3C
Police, fire calls	7A
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.