

Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

For humanity: Several residents are looking forward to Blitzville '95, when a city block of new homes will be constructed in one week as Habitat for Humanity hits the area. /3A

OPINION

A 'Grand' start: A new sign and flowers are a good beginning, but it's going to take a lot more to fix Grand River Avenue. /10A

Why, why, why?: How come all the street signs are green? Answers to this and other questions we posed will be appreciated. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Back to the war: A Farmington resident takes a trip on a restored Navy vessel and recalls the days he served during World War II. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

All that Jazzfest: A suburb sizzles July 27-30 with the sounds of live jazz. /1E

Play's the thing: Broadway professionals help local high school students "Jumpstart" their theatrical careers. /1B

SPORTS

Best in the state: The NFWB Braves are the Pony League Mustang Division state baseball champions. /1C

League winners: The Bloomfield Bulls and South Farmington Blues won Little Caesars baseball titles. /1C

AT HOME

In the swim: Many homeowners are making a splash with their backyard pools. /Section D

LOTTERY

The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, July 26, are:

- DAILY 3: 594
- DAILY 4: 4911
- CASH 5: 10, 15, 17, 23, 30
- LOTTO: 1, 10, 14, 16, 17, 28

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Hills wants public safety tax hike



By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills has been an attractive city for business and residents, as reflected in its rise in population and prestige. But with that development — and a population of 80,000 that ranks it as Michigan's 12th largest and Oakland

County's largest city — crime, medical emergencies, fires and other public safety needs have outstripped city resources. That's the message Hills officials will be taking to voters in an attempt to win approval of a public safety millage. At Monday's regular city council

meeting, Police Chief Bill Dwyer, Fire Chief Richard Marlucci and City Manager Bill Costick made their case for a 1 mill tax hike for 10 years to pay for public safety improvements. "This would be a way to handle some of the problems of growth in this community," Costick said. The city council unanimously approved coming up with language to put the proposal on the November ballot. "I've been on the council for six years, there have been six budgets," said Councilman Jon Grant. "We've always had the difficult issue of our

inability to fund the police and fire departments to the level we'd like. I don't see the money available in our tax structure." Among the improvements the city says it could make with the additional tax would be construction of a centrally located fifth fire station. Officials claim the new station would reduce response time in the city's center and on I-696, lessen the burden of on-call firefighters, provide room for more full-time firefighters during the day, provide a place for

See TAX, 9A

His message: 'Always Wear a Helmet'



Cyclist wholes in: "When you go through a traumatic experience, it makes you look at all the things you don't want to lose out on."

Injury sparks man's cross-country bike tour

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Tom Harnden's cross-country bicycle ride spans to more than just endurance. It's about collecting life's spinny bits. The need-to-see journey, which is sponsored by the Beets Injury Awareness, started in North Bay, Wash., June 4. He will finish in Washington, Va., before the end of August. The 58-year-old of North Farmington has made others to

follow his lead, but necessarily trailing across the United States, but by wearing a helmet, when riding even in the corner store. On Oct. 18, 1993, Harnden's life took a different path after a bicycle accident and serious head injury left the right side of his body paralyzed. Harnden was taking a bike from an outdoor bike store in Oak Ridge, Va. to a friend's home. On his individual path was a dark, in

"The impact was on my shoulder and head," said Harnden, 34, whose cross-country journey stopped in West Bloomfield Friday to visit his parents, Jim and Anne Harnden. "(A helmet) would have cushioned the blow to my head. At worst, I would've had a concussion. If that." Ironically, Harnden regularly wears a bicycle helmet. In a rush, though, he went without it in this particular incident. Says a protective helmet, Har-

nden was in a coma for 12 hours and his brain swelled, the result of a hemiparesis. Harnden was hospitalized for five weeks. For 3 1/2 of those, he couldn't walk. "I can't remember one thing during that two weeks," said Harnden, who was working as a research assistant. The prospects were frightening, though, especially for someone who

See BIKER, 9A

Romney leaves legacy as leader, churchman

By PAY MORPHY
AND RALPH M. BERTINAW
STAFF WRITERS

George W. Romney — the former Michigan governor who died while residing on a beautiful Wednesday in his Bloomfield Hills home — leaves a powerful legacy. He is remembered as a person with unquenchable integrity whose independence and straight talk sometimes put him at odds with political leaders as well as those in the business world. Romney, 88, seemed to "fall asleep" in the middle of his early morning exercise routine, said his older son, Scott, a Birmingham lawyer. "The rest of his life" and never regained consciousness, in fact.

"He was perfectly healthy," said his wife Leona. "We had a wonderful day together yesterday. We were looking forward to another one today." The funeral service will be Monday at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints at 425 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. The family asks that memorials be directed to the church, the Points of Light Foundation or local volunteer organizations. "George Romney was a strong believer in voluntarism," said James M. Alexander, a Birmingham lawyer and former chairman of the Oakland County Republican Party. "He believed volunteers were the key to success in politics" as well as dealing with social problems. Cathy M. Long, the current Republican county

chair, remembers being inspired by Romney when she was teen-ager. "I came from a Democratic family," she said. "But George Romney seemed to embody the principals of individual responsibility, and that led me to the Republican Party. I think his sense of integrity crossed political lines," she continued, "my parents respected him, too." Romney was chairman and chief executive of the American Motors Corp. in the 1950s, during what is considered the company's most critical and successful periods. For his business sense, Romney was voted the Associated Press' Business Man of the Year for four consecutive years beginning in 1957. See ROMNEY, 9A