

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Top attorney speaks: The attorney for the 15-year-old Farmington Hills boy charged in a home invasion and vandalizing chose his words carefully in pleading his client's innocence. /3A

Quite a car: Bill Chorkey of Farmington Hills was one proud antique auto owner after the recent Meadow Brook show. /5A

BUSINESS

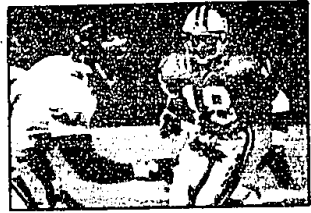
Business moves: The Observer's Business Milestones column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, openings and other key business news with a Farmington-area connection. /11A

TASTE

Summertime joy: Spend less time in the kitchen and more time on your porch. /1B

Made in Michigan: Jabars Complements, a line of fruit-flavored wine vinegars, was started by two women who met in a career orientation class. /1B

SPORTS



Trying to impress: Mill Coleman continued his effort to make the Detroit Lions football team Thursday in a preseason game. /1C

State of the sport: MHSAA Director Jack Roberts discussed current prep sports issues with the Observer sports staff. /1C

LOTTERY

The Saturday Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$3 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Saturday, Aug. 12, are:

- DAILY 3: 503
- DAILY 4: 7175
- LOTTO: 16, 19, 46, 4, 30, 14

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Hamilton Life sale 'positive news'



BY TOM BAKER
STAFF WRITER

Ownership of Alexander Hamilton Life may have gone south, but the company and its 390 jobs are staying in Farmington Hills for the "indefinite future."

At least that's what one company official promised after news Thursday

that Alexander Hamilton Life and its individual life and annuity business had been acquired by the Jefferson-Pilot Corp. of Greensboro, N.C., for \$575 million.

Thomas Ritter, vice president of government affairs and public relations for Household International of Prospect Heights, Ill., the present

owner, called the sale "positive news."

"We're being purchased by a company . . . whose primary function is the insurance business," said Ritter, a Farmington Hills resident.

With the acquisition, Jefferson-Pilot will become a \$14 billion company and be one of the top 20 companies dealing in insurance and annuities in the nation, Ritter said.

As far as the Farmington Hills facility — that red brick colonial edifice on 12 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road — staying occupied by almost

400 employees, Ritter said the future looks good.

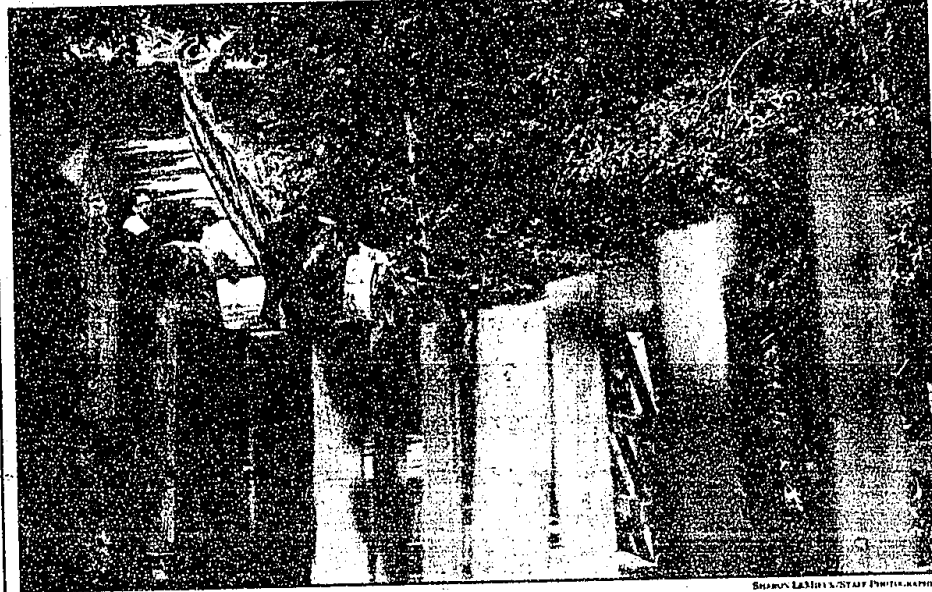
"Yes," he said, "it does for the indefinite future . . . at least for a year, possibly two years. The issue of human resources has yet to be examined."

Alexander Hamilton, the 12th largest taxpayer in Farmington Hills, had a positive presence in the community under the leadership of Richard Headlee, the company's president until his retirement earlier this year.

Headlee, an unsuccessful candi-

See SALE, 2A

Bridge over troubled times



Crossing over: Boys and Girls Republic has two foot bridges that symbolize the transition that the teen-agers go through while staying at the facility.

Stay at facility can be turning point for teens

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

While walking along a wooden bridge on its sprawling 80-acre facility, Boys and Girls Republic executive director Marylene Peck swoops down to pick up a bird's feather.

A simple gesture perhaps, but its symbolism will weigh heavy.

Peck passes the remnants of winged flight on to the 70 residents

at the Farmington Hills residential facility.

She'll use it to illustrate a story, perhaps one about nature, to help troubled teens reflect on why they have landed there and where they are headed.

The wooden bridge, itself, is significant as one can cross from a tumultuous adolescence into responsible adulthood.

Troubled teens arrive from all directions: Some are permanent wards of the court, others come from foster home placements, or their own homes where there has been abuse and neglect. They need structure, officials say.

A lack of stability has manifest itself through truancy, alcohol and drug abuse and even prostitution. The problems are common among

the 8,000 or so teens who have come through Boys Republic's doors during the past 105 years.

"One of the things is our children are younger," Peck said. "It speaks to what's going on out in society."

Boys and Girls Republic has been at the Nine Mile Road site for 88 years. The name was changed from

See TEENS, 5A

Content of 'skateboard' magazine angers mom

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills mother wasn't ready to roll with a skateboard magazine her 13-year-old daughter bought Thursday.

Instead, she thinks the publication is more suitable rolled up in a brown wrapper.

The magazine is offensive, and shouldn't be sold to minors, she said. The woman has complained to Borders Books and Music in Farmington Hills where the daughter bought the

magazine Thursday.

She also filed a report with the Farmington Hills police.

"I wouldn't let her bring home an X-rated movie," Claudia Thomas said. "Why would I let her bring home an X-rated magazine?"

The magazine, Big Brother, has a skateboarder on the cover, but inside contains photos of a nude man with his hand on his genitals, and of women exposing their breasts.

The publication also includes some crudely written poetry, said Hills Sgt.

Darnel Krause. He refused to describe the content of the magazine as pornography, though.

"It's not something I'd give to a 13-year-old," Krause said.

An employee at Borders Books in Farmington Hills said the store does carry the publication. No copies were available on the shelf.

Thomas said her daughter bought the magazine along with another one on snowboarding. Her daughter brought them home to show her mother.

"I was outraged," Thomas said. "Here I am sitting at the kitchen counter with my 13-year-old daughter expecting to see skateboarding, and instead what we're looking at is a man masturbating."

She telephoned Borders in Farmington Hills. A manager said the store didn't have the magazine, according to her. Thomas went to the store, found a copy on the shelf and took a photo of it.

See MOMS, 4A

Any volunteers?

The Rotford Continuing Health Center seeks volunteers who can commit two hours a week as greeters and tour guides at the senior citizens residence at 21450 Archwood Circle in southern Farmington Hills.

Also needed are volunteers to visit the residents on a one-to-one basis in the "Adopt a Resident" program, socialize with residents in a variety of activities, or assist with office work.

For more information, call Nancy Deipert at 477-7400.

Brunch, anyone?

A Sunday brunch that includes a salad bar will be offered by the Frank A. Marshall Chapter of the Order of Daughters 9:30 a.m.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Farmington Masonic Temple, Farmington Road and Grand River.

In addition to salad, the menu includes eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, toast, juice, turkey a la king and wing-dings.

Golf and spaghetti

The annual Farmington Elks Open Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Erse Burn Golf Course in Plymouth.

The \$40 entry fee (\$45 for senior citizens 62 and over) includes 18 holes of golf with a cart and a spaghetti dinner at Erse Burn. Closest-to-the-pin

contest and longest-drive contests can be entered for an extra \$10 per player.

Proceeds will benefit Farmington Elks Lodge No. 1986. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Elks at 476-1066.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 18, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Well-drillers continued operations at the new Gill Elementary School on Gill Road in an effort to find an additional source of water for the school.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48336; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.