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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

A taxing situation: Farmington Hills property tax bills will be mailed approximately two weeks later than usual this year. /5A
Remembering Greg: Greg Grimes connected with people like he did a softball with a swing of an aluminum bat. Consistently and often unforgettably. /3A
A real salvation: Times are good for a lot of people this holiday season — but that makes things tougher for The Salvation Army. /11B

BUSINESS

Business moves: The Observer's Business Milestones column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, openings and other business moves with a Farmington-area connection. /6B

TASTE

Tastebuds: Do something constructive this holiday season. Make a gingerbread house. /1B
Santa snacks: Climbing up and down chimneys is a lot of work, and Santa gets hungry. Don't forget to leave him a treat. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Ski '95: Don Thomas has been selling ski equipment and attire since 1952. He previews the latest innovations for each skiing member of the family. /7C

SPORTS

City spikers: The Mercy and Farmington varsity volleyball teams began a new season with great optimism. /1C

LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$3 million. The Michigan Lottery numbers for Saturday, Dec. 9, 1995 are:

- DAILY 3: 384
- DAILY 4: 0840
- LOTTO: 3, 12, 19, 42, 44, 47

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Fire repels would-be rescuers



By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A fire that quickly engulfed an older mobile home at the Flamingo Traller Park on Middlebelt north of Nine Mile in Farmington Hills Thursday night claimed the life of a Farmington Hills man.
 The Oakland County medical examiner, awaiting toxicology results,

had not yet determined the cause of death.

James Arthur Treloar, 57, died in the fire despite efforts of other park residents, police officers and firefighters to save him.

"I was in doing laundry (across E Street from the trailer) when another guy asked me if I smelled anything," said Dwayne Leach, a park resident.

"We went outside and looked. You could just see a small flame."

When Leach and the other man, David Spler, knocked and then opened the door of the trailer, they were greeted by thick black smoke.

"It knocked me back into the guard rail (on the trailer's porch)," he said. "We tried two more times, but couldn't get in."

Leach said the third time they attempted to get in, the awning above them caught fire and they had to leave.

Farmington Hills police arrived shortly after the victim's neighbor

called 9-1-1 at 7:25 p.m. and also tried to open the door. But officers Mike Fluhart and John Markey could not make it inside.

Hills firefighters were on the scene in short order said police Sgt. Tim Swanson, who came to back up Fluhart and Markey as temperatures dipped to the low 20s.

Firefighter Lee Panoushek and the two police officers were forced back by flames and smoke one time, but were able to use extinguishers to put out the flames enough so that they could

See FIRE, 6A

Speaking of service at Farmington Hills office



SHAWN LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Customers talk: Former Farmington resident Patrick Anderson and Roderick Moore of Southfield talk about service at the Hills Secretary of State's office.

Anderson: Shorter lines not just a line

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever stood in line at a Michigan Secretary of State office and thought there must be a better and faster way to get your license renewed or get a new plate, know that you have someone in your corner.

City council member Bill Anderson thought, "If only I had the chance to make some changes here."

Patrick Anderson told members of the Farmington Exchange Club at a

junction Dec. 4. "I guess I've got my chance."

That's because Anderson, a former Farmington resident and executive with Alexander Hamilton Insurance in Farmington Hills, is now chief of staff to Secretary of State Cassio Miller.

Anderson, who now lives near Lansing, came back to address the Exchange Club and talk to workers and customers at the Farmington Hills Secretary of State office in the

Mulwood Plaza, Grand River and Drake Road.

Anderson said he came to government service with the "hopes" of bringing the kind of team spirit and good working atmosphere he had enjoyed under the company's founder and former President Dick Headlee.

"That type of team spirit leads to an atmosphere of achievement and better customer service," he said.

And with some changes that include adding staff to busier offices,

such as the Farmington Hills branch, Anderson said he's seeing some results. And from customers at the Hills branch, there was agreement that things are better, at least here.

"I was very surprised," said Roderick Moore of Southfield, who came in for a new driver's license. "I was here last year and it was very

See ANDERSON, 3A



Principal William Smith

Boy brings replica bomb to school

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An 11-year-old Longacre Elementary student tried to impress classmates by telling them he had a homemade bomb. School officials didn't take the matter lightly.

Farmington police were called to the school to look at the replica explosive device Dec. 5. The 3-inch block of wood had a computer battery taped to it and included wires and contact clips, according to police reports.

"From what I read in the report, it could cause some concern to someone

who is not used to seeing something like this," Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said.

"But we got an 11-year-old kid here who was playing around," Goss added. "I'm not sure he knew what he was doing."

Farmington police have filed a petition over the bomb threat with Oakland County Probate Court, but only "as a matter of routine," Goss said. The child has returned to school.

The fifth grader said he did it to get attention, police reports said. He got the idea watching television during

the weekend.

He brought the device to school Dec. 4, telling other students that it was a homemade bomb. The piece of wood contained wires leading to two drilled out holes, which were filled with glue from a gluegun.

The boy reportedly told another student that the device contained powder, chlorine and gasoline. However, when confronted by the principal Bill Smith, the child admitted it was a joke.

See BOMB, 4A

Gill speeding fines are double trouble

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Burn some Goodyear on Gill Road in Farmington, and be prepared to peel off double the dollars in fines.

Fines would double for infractions on the residential roadway as part of an overall effort to curb speeding. Warning signs would also be posted as part of the awareness campaign, which takes place during a 90-day selective enforcement period.

City council supported the plan at its Dec. 4 meeting. Both 47th District Court Judge Ben J. Lee, city officials said. The administrative office

of the state court has to approve doubling fines.

The plan is more preventative than punitive, officials said.

"We had to do something over there to bring people more in line with the speed limit," Public Safety Director Gary Goss said. "What we're looking for here is voluntary compliance."

If it works, Farmington Public Safety Department will use the strategy on other streets.

The recommendation from the Traffic and Safety Board is the result of resident complaints about speed-

ing motorists.

Residents presented a petition with 43 signatures to city council in September, asking that the Public Safety Department step up enforcement. Police officials say they have, but not to residents' satisfaction.

"My concern is and has always been that nothing is going to be effective unless police are actually there catching speeding motorists," said Gill Road resident Howard Aldrich, who started the petition drive.

Traffic and Safety Board members conducted a study of the area.

They found that 86 percent of traf-

fic goes 10 to 13 miles more than the posted speed limit of 25 miles an hour. The board looked at several options to curtail speeding motorists, including implementing islands, speed bumps, squeeze lanes and stop signs.

However, there have been six accidents during the past four years. None of those resulted in injuries or were the result of excessive speed, Goss said.

An engineered solution might cause more accidents.

See FINES, 3A