

Hills man braves kayak journeys

Bill Merrifield describes a kayak enthusiast as one who is "a little bit on the crazy side and enjoys a thrill." The man could be describing himself. Merrifield, 25, is the manager of the Pack Sack, 2079 Seminole, in Redford. He has been in kayak competitions and braved the white waters of streams and rivers in the United States and Canada for three years.

He says he became involved in the sport when he got bored with canoeing. He gradually "got more and more daring" as time progressed and worked up to the type of kayaking he does now.

Merrifield, a Farmington Hills resident, resembles one who might be seen on Base World of Sports. His face is rugged and bearded. His trim body sports muscles developed through regular weight lifting. He also runs and swims to keep in shape for the sport which begins as soon as the ice melts.

The most critical skill needed in safe kayaking is balance, Merrifield says. It's important to keep the boat on a steady course while rocking it along. In addition, equal paddling on both sides of the boat keeps it moving.

MERRIFIELD SAYS it is important to trust one's instincts when kayaking. Although one should be cautious, when approaching a waterfall, he says, "If I think there's any chance for making it, I say—Go for it."

The thrills and the exercise are what attracts Merrifield to the sport, he says. A successful roll—a maneuver during which the paddler is submerged momentarily—adds to the excitement.

What he calls his biggest achievement came during a month-long expedition down a river in Quebec. He says the river has some of the biggest white waters outside of Colorado.

He has only hurt himself once during his travels. When attempting to ride down a 75-foot waterfall, he gashed his scalp just below his crash helmet.



Veterans, residents honor Memorial Day

Memorial Day will be observed in Farmington and Farmington Hills with the traditional parade sponsored by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

This year's parade begins at 10 a.m. May 29. It will wind its way from the Grand River Drive-In to the war memorial behind the Masonic Temple on Grand River and Farmington Road. Band music will be supplied by the Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison High School bands.

Representatives from all branches of the armed services will participate. An overland guard consisting of one plane from the National Guard will fly over the parade.

This year, the Farmington Hills Police Department's auxiliary mounted unit is tentatively scheduled to make a comeback after two years' absence from the parade.

IN ADDITION, the Farmington American Legion Post's Sons of the American Legion and the girls' junior auxiliary will march.

The Farmington American Legion's baseball team will participate in the parade.

The Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers will be represented in the ceremonies as well as the American Legion's Forty and Eight group.

This year, there will be memorial awards given to participants. Each award was donated in honor of a Farmington area resident to the parade. The trophies were on display at the Farmington City Hall.

Farmington area city officials will mark an appearance in the parade. Farmington City Mgr. Robert Deaton, Farmington Hills City Mgr. George Majors, council members and mayors will be present.

Finance honor to Tomasko

Timothy V. Tomasko, senior at Western Michigan University, has gained membership in the Financial Management Association of the National Honor Society.

He lives in Farmington Hills.

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Samra
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Fred Samra of Farmington attended a three-day insurance seminar for the State Farm Insurance Co.

He has been with the company for more than 25 years. He is a member of St. John ALC Church. He is also a member of South Oakland Life Underwriters Association and Farmington Elks Lodge 1888. He and his wife Eva have three children.

Mrs. Finzel-Hovis wins promotion

Dorothy Finzel-Hovis, of Farmington Hills, has been appointed an assistant vice-president of the Grand River-Redford branch of Detroit Bank and Trust.

Mrs. Finzel-Hovis joined the bank in 1945 as a proof operator and has been a teller, bookkeeping supervisor, head teller and branch manager with the firm. She was appointed to bank officer status in 1975 by the board of directors.

She is a member of the board of directors and second vice-president of the Zonta Club of Detroit.



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McAlpine gains post

Janice McAlpine of 24905 Ivywood, Farmington Hills, has been named an officer in the Feminist Legal Services, University of Michigan.

She is a student at the U-M law school.

The services are concerned with helping women with problems involving legal questions such as divorce, alimony and abortion.



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