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Five Cents

Area war cry: Fast finish, safe return

By Philip A. Sherman
Editor

As allied ground forces moved into Kuwait, Melanie Seelig's thoughts were twofold. She was worried about the ground forces going east.

But her son, John, a petty officer on the USS Warden, stationed in the Persian Gulf, was heading out.

"He called us last night (Saturday). His ship is out of there," Seelig of Southfield, said Sunday. In a 10-minute conversation with John, Seelig said she was relieved to hear her son was on his way back to port in Honolulu, by way of Hong Kong for leave. She assumed John's ship was leaving as part of the Navy's normal plan of rotation.

Melanie Seelig's thoughts were typical of many who watched the final stage of the Persian Gulf war unfold Saturday night. "Oh, certainly, this had to be taken care of," she said.

"It's tragic for humanity, but an evil force is trying to rule the situation and it has to be dealt with. I think President Bush, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell and General Schwarzkopf are geniuses," Seelig added.

IN ISRAEL, Don Weintraub, 26, who lives in northern Tel Aviv, echoed support for coalition forces. Weintraub has lived in Israel for about six months. His mother, Ruth, is a West Bloomfield resident.

"Given the conditions, I guess it was inevitable. It seems there was no choice," Don Weintraub said. "Virtually everyone I've spoken with is fully supportive of the coalition forces." He doesn't believe, at this time, that Israel should or will enter the ground war.

The Scud missile fired into Israel moments before President Bush's noon Saturday deadline landed substantially north of Weintraub's apartment, he said. He added that it couldn't have been closer because there is a Patriot missile battery less than a kilometer from his apartment, and it was not activated in response to the incoming Scud.

Many people, like Dr. Syed Razi of Farmington Hills, had hoped a peaceful, diplomatic solution could have been found prior to the deadline. "It was unnecessary and could have been avoided," Razi said of the ground war. He had been optimistic talks in the United Nations Security Council and with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would be successful.

"One person is not responsible for all these things," Razi said when asked if he thought it was necessary to remove Saddam Hussein from power. "If he were alone, he would have been undone a long time ago."

DICK BERRY, a Troy resident who spent last Jan. 26 marching for peace in Washington, said Sunday he had just returned from a parish retreat and was asking people at home for details of the ground assault.

"I have this terrible feeling of disappointment over it all," Berry said. "It seems there was a whole lot of hope in those (peace) proposals."

Like Razi, Berry had faith in a diplomatic resolution to the war. "The peace proposal seems to have disappeared. I thought it had a lot of potential."

"I'm shocked that it's come to this," he added, saying he hopes the war ends quickly and that everyone returns home safely.

At the University Plaza shopping center in Rochester Hills, Debbie Armstrong said there seemed to be a certain inevitability about the ground war. "I'm really concerned about the troops. But I think George Bush has done the right thing so far, particularly the way he walked with the resolution allies."

Staff writer Pat Murphy contributed to this story.

Bond cut \$500,000, man still in jail

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

"The government gets what it wants," an angry Birmingham attorney shouted after his Farmington Hills client who faces a federal weapons charge was denied a large enough bond reduction to get out of jail.

Attorney Seymour Posner's client, Brian Oscar Lang, is expected to remain in the Oakland County Jail on a \$500,000 reduced bond, down from an original \$1 million.

Lang will face trial in Oakland County Circuit Court on a state felony charge of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100.

"This \$1 million bond is confiscatory,"

Posner said. "It's beyond anyone, except Marlon Brando to post. And that was murder (the charge against Brando's son)."

The 20-year-old goldsmith also faces a federal charge of possession of an unregistered short-barrel rifle, a 9 mm Uzi that was confiscated in a raid on his parents' Franklin Knolls suburban home Feb. 11.

"The investigation is continuing for other firearms and devices confiscated. There is much we don't know yet," said Jim Jorgensen, group supervisor for Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Troy office.

A DETERMINATION will be made when the investigation is complete whether a felony

indictment on the federal complaint will be made, according to assistant U.S. Attorney William Magness.

A federal detainer will be issued to ensure Lang's appearance on federal charges. The firearms charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine.

The ATF and Farmington Hills police confiscated a cache of weapons, including a rocket launcher, firearms and explosive devices from Lang's home on Briarcrest, south of 14 Mile, east of Northwestern Highway, Feb. 11.

Posner's anger showed Friday as 47th District Court Judge Margaret Schaeffer agreed

to reduce Lang's bond to \$500,000. "I still feel much, the attorney said, to allow Lang to leave the Oakland County Jail where he has been held since his Feb. 11 arrest on the receiving and concealing charge. Schaeffer reduced the bond despite protests from Oakland County assistant prosecutor Genevieve Mazur.

"He hasn't had a shower or a toothbrush. Posner said of Lang, who was dressed in a sports jacket, slacks and dress shoes without socks. Despite the reduction, Posner continued to plead for a \$50,000 bond, which he considered more reasonable. Schaeffer refused.

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Both and Clyde Graham pose near a wall of family pictures in their northside home in Farmington Hills. Clyde is writing a book about North Farmington history, recalling much from his boyhood days there.

Days of yore Resident puts North Farmington memories in book

By Casey Hans
staff writer

It was a different time in a familiar place. Long before subdivisions and shopping centers were built, a settlement called "North Farmington" existed at the crossroads of 14 Mile and Farmington Road. There, neighbors with endless acreage of farmland pulled together to form a community.

And on Sundays, all the farm boys came out to play ball.

Sometimes 500 of 700 people would gather at

know your neighbor

the Dickie farm to see the North Farmington ball club take on some of the best baseball teams in the area.

year-old Clyde Graham, a Hills resident who still lives with his wife of 52 years. Both on the family farm just south of 14 Mile.

One of the Dickie boys, Russell, even went on to pitch for the Brooklyn Dodgers, he said.

"We played in their pasture, behind the barn. They would play the best teams out of Detroit," said Graham, himself a shortstop during his high school days at Walled Lake, where he "never missed a game."

SHARON LAMUEX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Police buckle down on belt law

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

You are forewarned. Beginning March 1, the Farmington Hills police will enforce actively a tougher law that requires children through 15 years of age to buckle up for safety.

The idea is increased awareness. But if you are caught with a child or children or youths unbuckled in a moving car a hefty fine could be yours. Violations of the seat belt law carry a \$35 fine and violations of the child restraint law a \$60 fine. No points are assessed against your driving record.

"We are getting more reports from our officers who are observing children sitting up in the car or leaning on the back seat," said Sgt. Eric Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic section.

Believe it or not, not all adult occupants ensure that infants and children are secured.

"One of the most hazardous things you can do is hold a child in your arms," Cranston said. "The child will be caught between the moving car and an on-coming car, and the child's parents' body."

THE NEW LAW requires that children 4 to 15 years old be properly restrained. "It's the same as the back seat," said Sgt. Cranston.

Police can't stop you from driving if they believe a child is unbuckled. But if you receive a citation for violation and a \$60 fine, you may discover a child's seat belt is buckled out.

Current law requires that children age 1 be restrained in the approved safety seat. The law also requires that children age 2 to 6 be in a safety seat if in the front seat of a car and to be secured in the back seat if in the back seat.

Safety is the impetus for the tougher regulations. Safety belts have saved targeted drivers, especially adults, infants and children age 14. But there's been nothing to force parents to buckle in their older children.

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Woman hurt in car crash

A Clawson woman was seriously injured about 2 p.m. Sunday when the car in which she was a passenger attempted to merge with traffic on Grand River west of Middlebelt, according to Farmington Hills police.

The woman was taken to Bottsford Hospital.

Neither her name, nor the names of the two drivers involved were released.

Officer Edward Fitzpatrick said both cars were going in the same direction when the collision occurred. But moments before the car, in which the injured woman was riding, was traveling northbound on Grand River, and the driver apparently tried to turn around, he said.

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Downtown Farmington project re-phased, extended to 1993

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Remaining work on the downtown Farmington revitalization project now, more than halfway completed, has been re-structured to finish it more efficiently.

The timetable for construction has also been extended by one year to 1993.

The changes were approved by the Downtown Development Authority board at its February meeting, after a recommendation by an ad hoc DDA construction committee. It will be a fourth project phase to be developed this summer, after

the Founders Festival, a fifth phase during the 1991-92 year and a final phase in 1992-93.

"We really re-arranged everything," said DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sittner. "None of the phases were done exactly as we originally planned."

"We've tried to be in a position where we could react to opportunities throughout the project."

THE \$1.4 MILLION project was planned and approved following the formation of the DDA in January of 1987. Pedestrian lighting, trees and landscaping and repairing or installing of new sidewalks are all part of

the project. Street lighting, utility and transit signage projects are also underway. Pedestrian benches, rest areas, utility and the DDA's expected to have a part-time position. Mayor's candidate downtown program and events.

The DDA uses tax increment financing to fund the project, which takes property values from the base year of 1986, and allows the DDA to be funded by increases in property values until the 1991 ends in December of 1991. Because of higher than expected increases in property values downtown, the

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