

'Oldies' — Still big
in the 1990s, 1D



North swim
victory, 1C

Pros athletes sound
anti-drug theme, 3A

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FRIENDS of Heritage is reorganizing. The non-profit community service group is dedicated to helping sponsor projects that promote beautification of the park grounds. Its undertakings must be coordinated with and approved by the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services.

THE fire that roared through the Orchard Ridge Plaza Feb. 4 left two Farmington-area service clubs without a meeting place. Both the Lions and the Optimists held club meetings at the Roman Terrace restaurant, the major tenant in the seven-business plaza northeast of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

Mayor Leo Gildemeister of Farmington was one of five members of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors to sign a resolution signifying the willingness of the board to cooperate with the Citizen Day program planned for May 19 by a countywide committee. One of the oldest members of the community, Katherine Sprague, 85, died Feb. 14. She was born and raised on a farm near Farmington in 1854.

This week

TODAY is the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States. But it won't be officially celebrated until next Monday, President's Day, which also commemorates the Feb. 22 birthday of George Washington.

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Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Work!

Sold in 2 1/2 Hours...

M. Takacs, of Westland, was overwhelmed by the response from her 3 line ads in The Observer and Eccentric Classified section. "I have never in my life seen such a response from a paper," she said. She sold all 3 appearances in 2 1/2 hours and received over 200 phone calls.

One call does it all!
OAKLAND COUNTY
644-1070



Glider pilot Tom Drake of Farmington prepares to land during one of his many flights over the Manchester and Adrian areas.

Up, up and away Glider piloting pair shoots for world record

By Casey Hans
staff writer

As two area glider pilots attempt to break a world altitude record next month, their thoughts will soar toward the young people they plan to help.

In March, pilots Tom Drake and Bill Abernethy will head for Minden, Nev., where they will attempt to break the 44,255-foot altitude record set for two-seater sailplanes. Located just south of Reno, Minden boasts some of the best sailplane flying in the world. The engineless sailplanes are towed into the air, where pilots maneuver on air and heat currents. But, more important than breaking the record,

they say, are community pledges which will go to benefit the Farmington Area Advisory Council, an agency that helps those with substance abuse problems throughout the area.

"They're calling it 'Project Soar,' and hope their efforts will encourage young people to take up flying, instead of taking drugs."

"I'M NOT saying our project will stop the problem," said Drake, a Farmington resident. "But it (fighting drugs) takes not only law enforcement but education, too. We're trying to hook them. Maybe we're dangling a carrot, but it's a good one."

"It's a tremendous sense of accomplishment." Helping young people is a priority for Drake

and Abernethy and their back-up pilot and ground support, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. William Oliver.

"We would like to break the world record, but we want to help kids," added Abernethy, who works on the research staff at U-M and lives in the Ann Arbor area.

Project Soar, expected to cost about \$10,000, is being funded entirely by Paul Sakmar, a Rochester resident and owner of Steel Industries of Redford, where Drake is employed. The money will cover additional training, aircraft rental, equipment, lodging and transportation — leaving

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Crowded 47th court has tight fit

— 3rd Judgeship7, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Architect Bob Allen is trying to figure out how to fit all the people into the 13,893-square-foot 47th District Court. The court rooms are in a converted elementary school on 10 Mile, between Farmington and Power roads.

Recommendations for making

better use of existing space in the courthouse are expected from him at the end of February. Cost estimates are to be included.

"There are a number of things we can significantly do to accommodate their needs," Allen said. "Their needs have changed so much."

The space study, which began in mid-December, includes interviews of the court staff, "their collective needs and their area requirements," Allen said.

The second phase includes propos-

als for reorganizing the existing space to allow the staff to function better. The study will include recommendations for adding a courtroom if a third judge and staff is added in the future, Allen said.

THE IDEA for the maximum \$3,500 study came out of a meeting between Farmington city manager Robert Deadman, Farmington Hills city manager William Costick and 47th District Court judges Margaret Schaeffer and Fred Harris. Farm-

ington and Farmington Hills finance the court system.

"The court was concerned about the lack of space in their operation, mainly in the clerk's operation, and the need for additional space," Deadman said.

"When they come back with recommendations, we will know if we are getting the best possible use of the space before we begin adding on to the building," Deadman added.

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B-52 was Hills man's ride of a lifetime

By Susan Buck
staff writer

It was the ride of a lifetime.

Al Vinikour, a five-year Farmington Hills resident, flew a training exercise aboard a B-52 bomber. The plane is the 30-year-old workhorse of the Strategic Air Command.

Vinikour received the invitation because he is Midwest regional director of Aviation Space Writers Association and this year's chairperson for the association's annual news conference in April in Maryland.

"Each crew member must pass a stringent set of tests, designed to determine the ability to survive in a high-



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Aviation writer Al Vinikour works not far from the model of the B-52G airplane he flew on the training mission.

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Panel likely to go public

Hills debates
status tonight

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Tonight's city council discussion of the ad hoc committee on finances won't prompt reconsideration of the committee, councilman Terry Seaver said.

But the Farmington Hills committee meetings are expected to be opened to the public.

The scheduled discussion of the committee — charged with studying major financial issues confronting the city — is expected to prompt debate among council members and residents who oppose the study group.

The discussion, as well as the entire regular council meeting at 7:30 tonight, will be videotaped and shown at a later date over Southwest Oakland Cable Commission's public access Channel 12.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates requested that the debate as well as the entire council meeting be aired live on the public access channel. Because of other scheduled programming, however, videotaping is the best that could be done, Bates said.

"I think there's a lot of citizen interest in the whole meeting," Bates said. "I really think it's important. There's been such a gross misunderstanding about this whole thing (ad hoc committee)."

RESIDENTS ARMED with petitions opposing the ad hoc committee are expected to speak tonight. They are also hoping the city council will reconsider the committee.

Seaver, however, believes that's unlikely. "I believe the whole thrust of the uprising is based on misrepresentation and dishonesty."

The petition circulated by a group called Citizens Supporting Open Meetings, states that the committee "usurps the authority of the full council in violation of the city charter."

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Haggerty still needs EPA OK

By Darrell Plesley
staff writer

While plans to construct a multi-lane boulevard near Haggerty Road are still in progress, the Federal Highway Administration has yet to approve the project.

"The key is that the impact statement be approved. Then you can think about construction," said Michael Flajole, project manager at the Michigan Department of Transportation.

When the environmental impact statement is finally approved, the boulevard construction will begin, probably in October.

LAST YEAR, MDOT recommended the construction of the boulevard, which would relieve some of the traffic on Haggerty Road. But the Environmental Protection Agency has not yet approved the recommendation.

In July, the EPA said it would deny recommendation and federal money for the project unless an environmental impact statement would address the issue that local communities adopt wetlands and protection plans.

The Federal Highway Administration said it has no authority to re-

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