

Hills pilot safe after emergency landing in Orion

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A 66-year-old Farmington Hills man and his 13-year-old passenger escaped without injury after he made an emergency landing.

The pilot, whom authorities identified as Joseph Keenan, landed the Cessna 140A after the single-engine plane began to malfunction around 2 p.m. Monday. The plane skidded to a stop after flipping upside down in an Orion Township cornfield near Greenfield and Lapeer roads.

The plane sustained minimal damage, an Oakland County Sheriff's Department lieutenant said.

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Lt. Bruce Naile
—Oakland County Sheriff's Department

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FAA investigators were looking into what caused the pilot to land abruptly, authorities said.

"Basically, he said it was losing power and altitude and thought it was better to put it

down," Naile said.

After getting a report of a possible plane crash, a sheriff deputy found Keenan and the boy, who is a nephew of his daughter, walking in a field near Lapeer Road.

Keenan told authorities he departed from Oakland International Airport for a short trip when the plane started having mechanical difficulties.

Keenan started flying recreationally when he was 50, his wife said. The plane trip was the first for his passenger.

"His mother thought he'd really get a thrill because he plays with computer flight simulators," Marilyn Keenan said. "He's pretty good at it. He's a real whiz."

"Both of them literally came

out of it with no injuries."

On Tuesday, Keenan spent three hours at the crash site

with FAA investigators.

"It's emotionally draining," Marilyn Keenan said.

Despite the incident, her husband will likely continue to fly, she added.

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picnic, with hot dogs, ice cream and balloons provided. Those who attend are asked to bring any other food items.

Copies of the "Rufus Harris" CD (Bridge Records) will be available, for about \$10, the musician said.

"I'm just hoping it will get us a little more attention (for the mansion) and help him get a little more exposure," Carroll said. "And (that it) gives us a better handle on what kind of events to have there."

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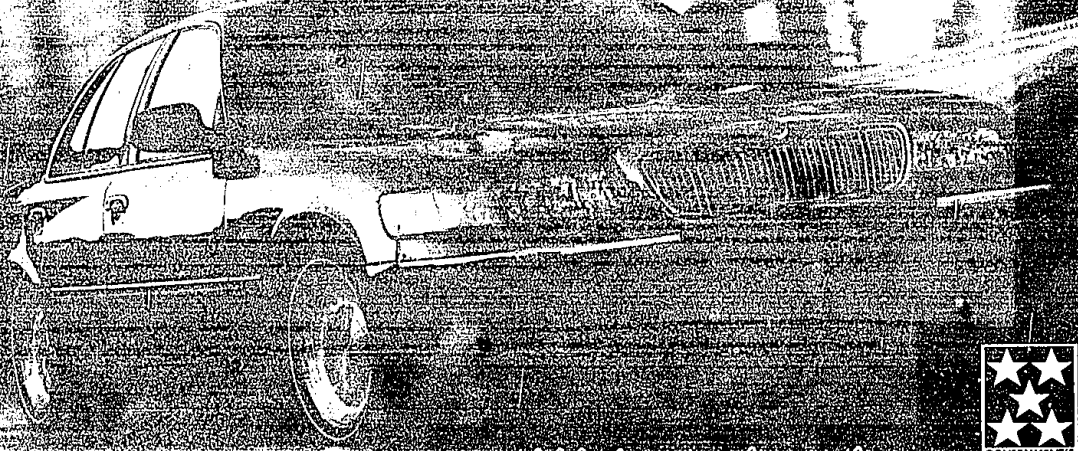
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