

Farmington Observer

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Officer injured in chase

By Julia Brown staff writer
A Farmington Hills police officer was injured in a car accident that followed a chase Saturday.

The officer, Brian Degrande, was treated at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

"The officer was treated at the hospital and was released," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. Degrande, who injured his back, returned to full duty Tuesday.

"He became involved in a chase with other officers from the department," the police chief said. The vehicle being chased was listed as stolen, "and also the occupants were believed to have been involved in an armed robbery which occurred in Pontiac on July 5."

The chase began in the area of Chestnut and 13 Mile Road, Dwyer said. Degrande and another Farmington Hills officer, Bertis Cook, pursued the vehicle as it traveled eastbound on 13 Mile Road.

THE ACCIDENT occurred at approximately 4:45 p.m. at the intersection of 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. It involved both police cars, as well as the vehicle that was being pursued.

"The young girl (in the car being pursued) was taken to the hospital also, and appears to be in OK shape now," Dwyer said.

Both occupants of the car being pursued were juveniles. The boy had escaped from Children's Village, he said. "He was a Farmington Hills resident."

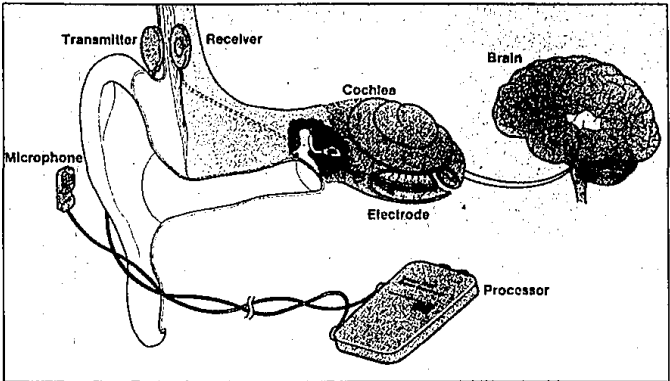
During the Saturday morning roll call, Farmington Hills officers had received information on the boy's escape, Dwyer said. He and another young man were under investigation for crimes committed in the Pontiac area "where elderly persons had been pistol whipped."

Following the car accident on Saturday, the boy ran away from the car, Dwyer said.

"There was a foot chase and he was finally apprehended, taken into custody." The boy was taken to Children's Village.

A review board will examine the Saturday incident, the police chief said.

"It appears that the officers acted within the policies of the department at this time." Such an internal review is a customary procedure, he said.



The receiver for aiding Robert Ercher to hear sound will be implanted inside his head with an electrode extended directly into the cochlea. A small microphone that can be concealed behind his tie will pick up sound to be sent to the transmitter placed behind his ear and directly adjacent to the receiver.

A world of silence ends with implant operation

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer
Robert Ercher spent the first 23 years of his life in a world without sound.

"This (the implant procedure) represents the first time in the history of medicine that a sense organ can be replaced — not perfectly, but it's a beginning," said Brandes, an ear, nose and throat specialist in Farmington Hills.

was mentally retarded and took him to live in an institution. Not until Ercher was in his teens did officials at the institution realize his problem was not mental retardation, but deafness. Officials also realized Ercher suffers from Uibers Syndrome — pigmentation of the retina.

And while that would be traumatic enough for most persons, his deafness was mistaken as a sign of mental retardation and he spent a number of years in a state institution.

Brandes, a West Bloomfield resident, is one of 200 physicians in the country trained at the House Institute in California to perform the implant procedure.

That's why the cochlear implant was so "crucial" now, Brandes said. Without both hearing and eyesight, Ercher would have been "otherwise totally isolated," he added.

But thanks to Dr. Warren Brandes and a device no bigger than a nickel, Ercher soon will hear sounds for the first time.

THE IMPLANT ALSO represents a new beginning for the 23-year-old Ercher.

"He is highly motivated. I think he'll do well," said Brandes, who recently performed another cochlear implant in Madison Heights.

Last month he became Botsford General Hospital's first patient to receive a cochlear implant.

When he was 6 months old, Brandes said, Ercher's parents believed he

The implant should provide great

How scientific breakthrough works

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer
The operation recently performed on Robert Ercher, the cochlear implant procedure, represents a first in medicine.

Performed by microscopic surgery, the cochlear implant is a device that will give some people who are deaf an opportunity to hear sound.

terpret it," Brandes said. Some people who cannot hear have damaged sensory cells in the cochlea, Brandes said. The cochlear implant consequently help people hear sounds by bypassing these sensory cells. The implant essentially delivers small amounts of electrical current near the hearing nerve.

"This is the first time we can enter the inner ear," said Dr. Warren Brandes, a Farmington Hills ear, nose and throat specialist, who performed the procedure last week on the 23-year-old man at Botsford General Hospital.

A form of energy, sound travels through the air in waves. A sound's mechanical energy reaches the ear and passes first through the outer and middle parts of

the ear causing certain parts to vibrate. Tiny sensory cells inside the cochlea or inner ear change the mechanical energy of sound into electrical energy. The energy generated from the tiny cells then stimulates the hearing nerve.



Robert Ercher communicates with sign language after cochlea implant surgery at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. Dr. Warren Brandes said because of the surgery, Ercher will soon be able to hear sounds for the first time.

improvement for Ercher's hearing loss. But Ercher will not hear sounds as do people who have normal hearing, Brandes said.

bother them," Brandes said, such as a hammer on metal or a siren. The success of the cochlear implant is not a question of what percentage

"I THINK he'll be able to lip read better. And there's a good chance he'll be able to develop vocal skills."

Patients who receive the cochlear implant, Brandes said, generally don't hear the same quality of sound the hearing do. Instead, they generally hear scratching sounds, he said.

"There are certain sounds that may

Although the cochlear implant does not completely cure deafness, it can

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Dr. Warren Brandes

Founders' Festival fever about to strike town

For the 21st consecutive year, the annual Founders' Festival will be the big event of the summer in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Hills Chamber of Commerce, under the direction of Executive Director Jody Soronen.

With games, rides and entertainment for the whole family, Kid's Day also features the 16th Annual Festival Pet Show at 1 p.m. sponsored by the Plaza Veterinarian Hospital.

Wednesday evening the annual Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, the first step for Farmington-area residents in pursuit of the Miss America title, will take place at Vladimir's at 7 p.m. Admission is \$6.

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At 1 p.m. at the Mulrwood Shopping Center on Saturday, July 20, the third annual "Battle of the Bands" will take place.

oral quarrel How would you sell national budget plan?

After serving as the longest-tenured budget director in history, Michigan's David Stockman has left Washington for a career on Wall Street.

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Rennels named president

By Jean Adameczak staff writer
Women rule the Farmington Board of Education again, as trustee Susan C. Rennels was elected president.



Susan Rennels