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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

More than 100 bowlers were forced to evacuate bomb which they'd been told was planted in a bowl-Drakeshire Lanes Monday as police searched for a ring ball.

Bomb scare empties lanes

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

The bomb was supposed to be hidden in a blue bowling ball located somewhere inside Drakeshire Lanes. Farmington Police have no suspect or motive for the bomb threat that cleared

130 persons out of the bowling alley for 25 minutes Monday evening. But it may have been someone who suffered from one 10-pin tap too many or a stubborn seven-pin. Working at the counter when the call came in about 5:45 p.m. was Joyce West of Farmington, who answered the phone

and heard the "demanding" voice of a man. Saying he'd planted a bomb in a blue bowling ball, the caller said he would detonate the explosives from a hand-held remote-control device unless the owners

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Speidel forced to pay \$1.5 million following worker's resignation

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

A federal court jury last week awarded a Farmington Hills man \$1,534,000 damages in a lawsuit he filed against his former employer, the Speidel watchband division of Textron, Inc., claiming the company forced him to resign by shuffling him from Detroit to Cincinnati and back again.

The jury calculated the award by determining what Richard Katch, 46, of Farmington Hills would have earned if he worked and received pension benefits for 30 years. He was making \$50,000 a year when he left the firm. Jack Radcliff, attorney for the Speidel division, said he will ask U.S. District Judge James P. Churchill to order a new trial on the basis that the jury's decision isn't consistent with the facts of the case. He said he may also file an appeal to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court in Cincinnati.

Katch was 46 when he left his job on May 8, 1980 as general manager of one of the company's distribution centers.

"Katch was forced out of his position with Speidel due to consolidations

Speidel was making in its distributorship network," said John W. Mason, of Dearborn, Katch's attorney.

Mason claimed in court that Speidel transferred Katch to Cincinnati, Ohio in September 1978 and told him three months later, after he had moved his family, that he had to relocate back to Detroit. When he bought a new home in Farmington Hills in February 1979, Mason said, the company told Katch he once again had to move to Cincinnati to stay with Speidel.

"AT THIS POINT, Katch refused due to the fact that he had learned that the Cincinnati office of Speidel was to be closed down," Mason says. "When he did this the company stated that they considered him to have voluntarily terminated his employment."

However, company attorney Radcliff says Katch wasn't told in December of 1978 that he had to relocate back to Detroit.

It is the company's contention that Katch "gambled" on getting a job opening back in Detroit when the general manager retired and refused to accept a sales manager position in Cincinnati, At-

lanta or Providence after the company consolidated and closed offices.

"It wasn't a long-term plan to set him up and manipulate him," Radcliff said. "Consolidation was done to reduce costs."

The company attorney said Katch was a good worker who was guaranteed a job with the company but not the job he wanted.

"He was not fired, in our view," Radcliff said. "He voluntarily resigned as a result of some complex developments that perhaps were lost on the jury."

AT ISSUE in the trial was whether Katch voluntarily resigned or was coerced out of his employment by the transfer or transfers.

Radcliff called the verdict "an uncalled for and unexpected result — on both sides." He vowed that the company viewed the loss in U.S. District Court as "just one battle and the war's still being fought."

Claims that Speidel calls itself the "People Company" were ridiculed in court by Katch's attorney who said the treatment Katch received made a mockery of the company's promise that employees are guaranteed a lifetime employment if they perform their jobs well.

"Obviously, the company couldn't fire them, they'd made too many promises," Mason said. "Better to give them the feeling that they'd eliminated themselves from the company. They didn't expect somebody like Katch to fight back. He fought back just as hard as he used to work for them."

Recipients support Reagan

Many sent away as surplus cheese runs out

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Persons receiving free government surplus cheese distributed Tuesday morning at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Farmington Hills had high praise for President Ronald Reagan who ordered the giveaway.

To be eligible to receive a 5-pound brick of processed American cheese from Wisconsin, a single person cannot earn more than \$487 a month or over \$5,580 a year.

Persons qualify for the commodity, which is withheld from the marketplace to keep dairy prices up, if they earn 125 percent of the federal poverty level figure under terms of the federal Commodity Credit Corp. which runs the program.

For a family of four, the maximum annual salary one can earn and still be eligible is \$11,625 or \$968.75 a month. All 402 5-pound bricks of cheese were snatched up by 402 persons Tuesday morning at St. Alexander, and volunteers were turning away some who came late.

Many of those who walked away from the site with cheese were very supportive of the President, even persons who were unemployed or on welfare.

Unlike the President's critics who lampoon the cheese giveaway with jokes like one in which First Lady Nancy Reagan says of the poor, "Let them eat quiche," many recipients of the cheese said they support efforts to cut back on social service programs for the poor.

"I'VE GOT all kinds of patience with Reagan, myself," said Darrel Griffith of Farmington Hills. "Everybody's got to make sacrifices to solve inflation. I've been unemployed since January. I was working in a nuts and bolts fastener warehouse."

Similar comments came from Judy Kozars of Farmington Hills who picked up a free brick of cheese to help make ends meet.

"I'm for Reagan," Kozars says. "I was in the beginning and I am now. A lot of his ideas are working. I think that it's solving a lot of the problems of people because before they were getting something when they don't deserve it."

"When they cut out the unemployment extension, he maybe got people thinking 'I better get a job now because it's not going to get any better.' My husband's been unemployed a year. When his (unemployment) extension got cut, he found an odd job to get us by. I think that's what Reagan wanted us to do."

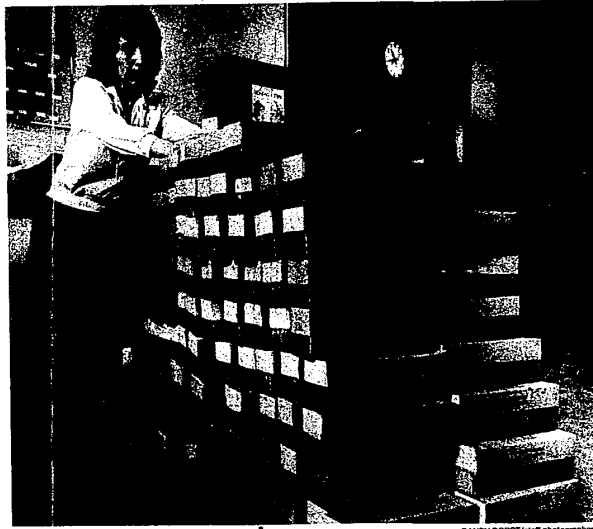
But both supported the cheese giveaway, saying that it's better to give the food to someone who needs it than letting it rot or throwing it away as has been done in the past.

She and a friend, Doris Burrey, also of Farmington Hills, plan to make macaroni and cheese, grilled cheese sandwiches and maybe even cheeseburgers for their families if they can afford the hamburger to go with it.

WHILE EVERYONE who received the cheese had to sign a form swearing that they were not earning more than the allowable amount or selling the cheese, Barb Sharp, field service coordinator for Oakland Livingstone Human Services Agency (OLSHA), a non-profit community action agency, said there really is no way of verifying the claims. It's an honor system, she said.

"These people who came in today in Holly, where I was, I can assure you are poor people, the poorest of the poor," she said. "And they're so grateful to get the

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sherry Meadows of the Oakland Livingstone Human Services Agency, OLSHA, stacks 2,060 pounds of cheese at St. Alexander's Catholic Church in preparation for the Farmington area cheese giveaway.

Worker stabbed at asphalt company

Farmington Hills police reported an attempted murder at 4 a.m. Monday at Staley Asphalt Co., 20755 Hugo north of Eight Mile Rd.

William LaForge, 26, of 20789 Hugo, was stabbed in the upper left arm by another man after the two argued over money, police said.

LaForge was treated and released from Wayne County General Hospital on Monday.

The incident occurred in the company yard where LaForge was working.

LaForge told officers he was stabbed after asking for \$50 owed him by his attacker. Witnesses said the suspect told LaForge that he wasn't going to pay him. "I'll kill you first," he reportedly said, and then pulled a knife, stabbing LaForge in the arm.

LaForge ran to his nearby home to call police, leaving a trail of blood. Shortly afterward, Farmington Hills Fire Department medics bandaged LaForge's wound while police searched unsuccessfully for the suspect.

LaForge plans to prosecute.

Council adopts cable contract

By M.R. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council Monday unanimously adopted a cable television franchise ordinance and contract authorizing Metrovision of Oakland County to set up a cable-TV system in the city.

The approval represents the fruition of a cooperative effort between Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills to contract the services of a cable-TV company.

It will be hoped by city officials that the documents will increase the city's ability to enforce the franchise agreement with Metrovision in the event of interfering

state and/or federal legislation.

"If we can show this agreement was freely entered into by three parties, we'll be in better shape," Farmington Hills City Manager Lawrence Savage told council members.

"The purpose is to overcome in the future the curtailment of control of franchises at the local level by state and federal law."

MORE THAN 100 CHANNELS will be made available through the 15-year agreement.

A broad range of cable stations will be offered — from Color Weather Radar/Storm Alert and Missing Network Programming to Senior Citizens' Access/Cinemex, "Comparison Shopping Ser-

vice/Swap and Shop," "Women's Access/The Women's Channel and ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network).

Installation charges will vary between \$9.95 and \$39.95, depending upon the amount of channels subscribers request.

Monthly rates will range from \$2.45 for access to 21 channels to \$11.95 for access to 112 channels.

Pay-TV services, including Home Box Office, Showtime, Cinemax, the Movie Channel, Bravo, Home Theater Network, parental control devices and additional outlets will be offered for a \$9.95 installation fee and monthly rates varying between \$4.50 and \$7.50.

(Installation charges will be waived

for those who subscribe during the first 60 days of available service or for persons who subscribe to a pay-TV service when regular cable service is installed).

Rates will remain in effect for a minimum of three years, and may be raised a maximum of once per year following a public hearing.

According to the agreement, Metrovision will stimulate local programming by furnishing an access studio, broadcasting equipment and a van to facilitate mobility and remote programming.

THE CABLE AGREEMENT also means a boon for the cities' coffers.

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