



A Michigan State Police patrol car was totaled last week while it was on the shoulder of I-696, just west of Drake Road. Two state troopers suffered minor injuries.

## Two state troopers are injured in crash

Two Michigan State Police troopers were injured last week on I-696 in Farmington Hills when their patrol car was rear-ended by another car driven by a 26-year-old man ticketed for drunk driving, said Trooper Bob Garcia of the Northville post.

Troopers J. Michael Taylor and Larry Miller were taken to Botzford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and released. Taylor and Miller suffered minor neck, back, head and upper arm injuries, Garcia said.

The Novi driver received facial and mouth cuts and also was taken to Botzford and released. The driver of a third car was uninjured.

The accident occurred at 1:33 a.m. Nov. 14 on I-696, just west of Drake Road. Taylor and Miller had just pulled over another car onto the shoulder of the freeway when the Novi motorist struck the patrol car from behind, Garcia said. The patrol car — a 1984 Ford — was totaled. Garcia said. The car troopers had pulled over received only minor damage although the force of the impact caused the patrol car to strike it, Garcia said.

Penalty of conviction of a first offense OUIL includes up to a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail as well driving license suspension for six months to two years.

THE NAME of the Novi resident has been withheld pending arraignment, Garcia said. The man was

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

Things are really jumping at the Preter Tellus Greenhouse in the Planterra Greenhouse complex on Drake Road in West Bloomfield.

And greenhouse owner Sam DeFazio would like to share the bounty — not plants, but a bumper crop of Cuban tree frogs he'd like to give away.

Preter Tellus is not a conventional greenhouse, DeFazio says. He and part-

ner Patrick McKown's plants are blooming orchids, bromellads — exotic foliage in the pineapple family — and water lilies. The two teach horticultural classes, including the propagation of water lilies, for Cranbrook Schools' adult education.

While many water lilies, such as the ones at the Cranbrook museum, remain dormant under the ice, many are tropical and kept in large aquaria at the greenhouses. It is these aquaria that have become spawning places for rather rare Cuban tree frogs. DeFazio estimates 1,000 to 2,000 tadpoles are swimming there.

DEFAZIO SAID the frogs probably traveled from Cuba to Florida on cut sugar cane. From Florida they may have come to the Planterra complex "in the cup of the bromellads or other water plants."

A number of other frog varieties have entered the greenhouse in the past, and because Preter Tellus uses a minimum of sprays, they flourish. DeFazio has supplied the Amphibian Research Facility, in Ann Arbor, with frogs.

The Cuban tree frogs, however, are

different DeFazio said. "They are extremely easy to maintain. They metamorphose in only 2-1/2 months and are ideal for students who want to watch the growth. They live on conventional fish food, and after they metamorphose can be kept in terraria."

"The adult female," DeFazio added, "grows to four inches and has black jewel-like eyes and a shimmering iridescent green body. They have sticky toes and can climb walls."

"Since they are nocturnal, at night we have a cacophony of frog voices, a real jam session. They sound like birds ... a lot of singing, but no dancing."

HE INVITES area students and teachers to bring out a quart jar or plastic bag and collect some tadpoles for study, but asks that arrangements be made first by calling 661-1515. The facilities are open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

If he is unable to give them away, DeFazio said, the frogs would not become a problem in the operation of the greenhouse. "Biological control takes over. They'll eat each other or they'll starve."

## police/fire calls

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Arrested Thursday before District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington, Kevin Rigby stood mute to one count of breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling with intent to commit larceny.

Schnaeffer set personal bond pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Conviction of the felony could bring a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

According to Farmington Hills Po-

lice, Rigby was arrested after the stolen property was found about 3 a.m. Thursday in bushes outside his apartment.

After the owner of the stolen property discovered the B&E, police learned through investigation and from witnesses that Rigby could be a suspect. "He had been a guest in the apartment earlier that day and had been seen carrying items from the direction of that apartment toward his apartment that night," Sgt. Dennis Rochford said.

## Wayne's earliest Indians

The Indians living in what eventually became Wayne County were the Algonquian.

The Chippewa or Ojibway, the Ottawa and the Potawatomi were the major tribes although many smaller ones were known to be in the area.

A little to the south, a tribe of Huron Indians, the Wyandots, established a camp in the vicinity of present-day Wyandotte.

These Indians were peaceful, agricultural, friendly to the early French settlers.

They were nomadic, traveling south in the winters, returning to the north in the summer,

their entire range being from southern Ohio to northern Michigan.

Not much can be seen of their civilization today. Only their practice of burying their dead in large earthen mounds remains to show they once inhabited the area. The largest known Indian mound may still be seen near the Rouge River in DeLray.

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