

Suspect nabbed in drugstore stickup

An Ypsilanti Township man charged in the armed robbery of a Westland card shop Oct. 2 is being investigated for possible involvement in 24 armed robberies in 10 other communities in the past six weeks.

The communities include Farmington Hills. The suspect told investigators he was a heroin addict, said Detective Sgt. Dennis Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

ment.

Arraigned Friday before District Judge Joseph Costanzo of Westland, Judge Wayne Kennedy, 38, pleaded not guilty to one count of armed robbery.

bery.

Kennedy is being held in the Wayne County Jail after he failed to post 10 percent of a \$100,000 bond. A preliminary examination is scheduled Oct. 10 in 18th District Court. If convicted, Kennedy could face life imprisonment.

His arrest followed a stickup at Louis' Hallmark Shop in Westland Oct. 2. Inkster police had alerted Westland officers to watch for a rose-colored Ford Thunderbird reportedly involved in a similar robbery earlier in the evening, Westland police said.

Westland Sgt. Robert Barthold, who worked on the investigation, praised Officer Michael Gould for his work in making the arrest. "He was in the right area at the right time, although I know the entire afternoon shift was stalking the bushes looking for (the suspect)," Barthold said.

POLICE SAID they are investigating the possibility that Kennedy may be linked to 24 armed robberies in Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Canton, Farmington Hills, Taylor, Dearborn Heights, Wayne, Ypsilanti, Inkster and Ann Arbor, and an attempted robbery in Ann Arbor.

Five of the robberies took place in Westland. The robberies had occurred since Aug. 15. Some businesses experienced multiple stickups, and an estimated \$6,000 in all was reported taken, Barthold said.

In all of the robberies, the robber never produced a weapon, but reached into a bag he was carrying, convincing employees he was

armed. When Kennedy was stopped by Gould at the Fiesta Bowl on Ford Road near Hix Road, two bags were found in the front seat of his car, police said.

One bag contained a sheet of paper with a list of businesses and dollar amounts after each. Gould recognized several of the names as businesses that had been recently robbed, Barthold said.

Another bag, a tan leather purse bag with a shoulder strap, matched the description of one used in the card shop robbery and contained \$135 in small bills and change. Card shop employees told police that the robber had taken about \$100 in small bills.

Barthold said Kennedy fit the physical description of the card shop robber and was wearing clothing identical to what the employees had described to police.

IN FARMINGTON HILLS, Sgt. Rochford said police have received a warrant charging Kennedy with assault with intent to rob while armed at Revco Drugs, 25870 Middlebelt, Sept. 22. In that robbery, the robber fled with \$69.

Kennedy's arraignment in Farmington Hills is pending.

Kennedy also is being investigated as a possible suspect in the armed robbery at Courtesy Corner Sept. 15, Rochford said.

Flare-up an 'isolated incident'

A group of Albanian teens thought to be armed allegedly threatened students at Farmington High School last week, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

"The situation is under control at this time," Officer Tom Daniels said. "It was an isolated incident; we've taken care of it."

According to the report:

Students and staff members advised school administrators that a group of Albanian teens from Farmington High School, Farmington Harrison High School and the Southfield area were expected at Farmington High School on Friday — "armed and looking for trouble." They reportedly had a shotgun and a Uzi submachine gun, although no weapons were ever seen.

The Friday call to the Department of Public Safety followed several incidents Thursday involving confrontations between Albanian and non-Albanian students at Farmington High.

A 17-year-old Albanian student from Farmington Hills allegedly followed another Farmington High stu-

dent out of the school parking lot, rear-ending the second student's car on Shawwassee. He was suspended from school and charged with trespassing on school property.

Appearing before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, the 17-year-old pleaded guilty to the charge. He received a suspended 30-day jail sentence, one year of probation plus payment of court costs.

A fight between a female Farmington High School student and the 17-year-old Thursday began a confrontation with a group of non-Albanian students agreeing to meet a group of Albanians in the parking

lot. Teachers and school administrators were present during the confrontation Thursday. Although there were verbal confrontations, no physical fighting erupted, according to the public safety report.

Officers said they will seek Oakland County Probate Court Juvenile Division petitions charging a 15-year-old former Farmington High student from Farmington Hills with trespassing on school property.

Farmington public safety officials have targeted key areas of the city for extra police coverage, Daniels said. "The high school is one of the principal areas we're targeting."

House demolished

The Farmington Hills house lifted from its foundation, moved forward, then dropped by what was thought to be a tornado Sept. 26 was demolished three days later.

The new owners had hoped to move in Dec. 1. "We were ahead of schedule," said Kathy Newman, sales manager for FASB Inc., the Farmington Hills-based builder.

Newman, who lives across the street from the Derby Lane site in Bridge Hills Estates, said the house was to be bricked last week.

Valued at \$152,000, the house couldn't be salvaged. "We're starting from scratch," Newman said. "We're not saving anything. It should take another three months to rebuild."

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