

PETER BALDWIN

## 5 hurt

Five people were hurt when a U.S. Postal Service mail truck and a car collided on Orchard Lake Road, south of Altadena, at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 28. The postal carrier, a 28-year-old Southfield woman, was treated at Providence Hospital, Southfield and released. The driver of the car, Margaret Chouinard, 35, of Huntington Woods, her daughter, Elizabeth, 6, and another child from Huntington Woods, Samantha Paterni, 6, were reported in stable condition Friday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. Katie Chouinard, 1, was treated at Bots-

ford and released. The truck was southbound on Orchard Lake Road when the driver, in trying to stop for traffic, apparently veered left of the center line and struck the northbound car, Farmington Hills police said. Firefighters kept watch after the truck rolled over (above). The car continued north, then left the road's east side and struck a wood fence. The postal employee was ticketed for failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle, police said.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Rick Cray, Farmington Department of Public Safety reserve officer, examines a heating/cooling duct in the boys locker room at Farmington High following a fire there Thursday.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### ● PURSE SNATCHINGS

Turn off the engine, take your purse and lock your car when you pull up to a day-care center to drop off your children.

That's the word from Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Since Jan. 20, two women have had their purses stolen after leaving them in unlocked, running cars outside a day-care center. One incident occurred in the morning, the other in the evening. The incidents took place at different centers.

Similar thefts have occurred at

gas stations and convenience stores in Farmington Hills, Livonia and other nearby communities, Nebus said.

"Take the extra time to turn off the engine, lock the doors and take the keys," Nebus said. "If you don't want to take your purse, don't leave it in your vehicle."

### ● WELDING FIRE

No one was hurt in a work room fire at Mid-Nine Transmissions, 22300 Middlebelt, Jan. 26.

Damage was estimated at \$70,000, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

The fire apparently started at 5 p.m. when a solvent or solution was accidentally ignited by an employee welding in a rear work room, said Deputy Chief Peter Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Flame damage was limited to the work room, but there was smoke damage throughout the building. The fire was extinguished within 30 minutes, Baldwin said.

### ● TICKET ISSUED

A 34-year-old Canton Township woman was ticketed for violating the controlled substance act when three baggies of suspected marijuana were found in her car following a traffic stop on 12 Mile near Orchard Lake Road Jan. 29, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### ● THEFTS REPORTED

A case of beer and diving equipment valued at \$1,200 were reported stolen from a garage on Hemlock Jan. 22.

An in-dash radio valued at \$850 was reported stolen from a car

parked at Country Ridge Apartments Jan. 25.

A five-shot revolver valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a house on Tuck between July 4 and Jan. 28.

A television of undetermined value was reported stolen from a house on Halsted near Eight Mile Jan. 24-28.

A 1983 Chevrolet Monte Carlo valued at \$7,000 was reported stolen from Timberidge Apartments Jan. 27.

### ● DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$100 when a house on Smithfield was broken into Jan. 17. Nothing was reported stolen.

## Fire erupts in heating duct, school cleared

Farmington High School was evacuated when a fire broke out shortly before 4 p.m. Thursday in the main heating/cooling duct in the boys locker room.

Extracurricular activities, including wrestling and cheerleading, were under way at the time at the school, Shilawasee at Orchard Lake Road.

"No one saw or heard anything," said Commander Thomas Cox of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

Someone apparently used a match to set fire to a tennis shoe and put it into the duct, which contained debris, including other tennis shoes and paper wrappers, Cox said.

"The biggest deal was the smoke," he said. "It took about five minutes to find out where it was coming from."

A pack of matches was found on the floor, under the part of the duct containing the burned tennis shoe.

Once the fire was located, firefighters from Farmington and Farmington Hills put it out within five minutes. Property damage was minimal, Cox said.

Fire was confined to the heating duct, he said. Firefighters cleared smoke from the school before leaving.

Classes were not interrupted Friday.

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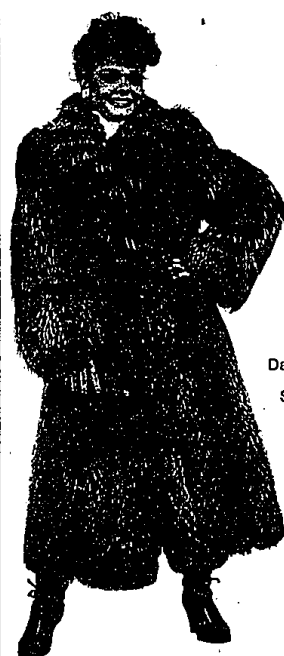
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