

police/fire calls

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

● jewelry heist
Thieves got away with \$50,000 to \$80,000 worth of jewelry in a well-executed burglary at Robert Alexander Jewelers, 32419 Northwestern highway, Sunday, Farmington Hills police said.

Responding to an alarm shortly after the store closed at 6 p.m., officers found a door tampered with, display cases pried open and jewelry strewn on the floor.

The thieves apparently were selective because some jewelry was left in the display cases. "They were in and out in a matter of 5 to 10 minutes," said detective Darnel Krause.

● condition better
A Canton Township woman seriously hurt in a traffic accident on the Novi-Farmington Hills border Dec. 7 is no longer in critical condition, a spokeswoman at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills said Monday.

Norma Jean West, 42, was listed in stable condition Monday. She was no longer in the intensive care unit.

Her 15-year-old daughter, Colleen, driving the family car under a special learner's license that permits her to drive when accompanied by a parent, was treated and released.

The other driver, John C. Dost, 39, of Detroit, also was treated and released.

The accident occurred about 5:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at 10 Mile and Haggerty. The Wests had been westbound on 10 Mile and were stopped in the left-

turn lane at Haggerty. When the light turned yellow, Colleen West started to turn onto southbound Haggerty. That's when their car was broadsided by Dost's eastbound panel truck, Novi police said.

Police continue to investigate the accident.

● suspects nabbed
Two women and a teenager face shoplifting charges in connection with the theft of nearly \$500 worth of clothing from T.J. Maxx, 30955 Orchard Lake, Friday.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

At 3:25 p.m., employees noticed a woman and a boy walk through the men's department with a buggy full of clothing, then walk past the cashier and the service counter without making an attempt to pay for the merchandise.

The two hurried outside to a waiting pickup, which headed south on Orchard Lake Road.

Armed with a description of the shoplifters and the getaway truck, as well as the license plate number, officers stopped the suspects near 13 Mile and Middlebelt.

In plain view on the floor was a bag of clothing with store tags later determined to be from T.J. Maxx. The clothing included a leather jacket.

Two Pontiac women, ages 31 and 33, and a 14-year-old boy, were arrested. They now face shoplifting charges.

● shotgun seized
A 22-year-old Wisconsin man was arrested after a loaded shotgun was found in a gun case behind the driver's seat of his van during a traffic stop at 12 Mile and Middlebelt Tuesday afternoon, Farmington Hills police said.

Three shotgun shells were in plain view on the dash, prompting officers to search the car for a weapon. The gun was determined to be stolen from a break-in Oct. 15 in Walled Lake. Charges were pending Wednesday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● thefts reported
A baseball card collection, a coin collection and sports trophies valued at more than \$3,100 were reported stolen from a basement storage area on Harrison Court at Independence Green Apartments, Farmington Hills, Dec. 1-18.

Furs of undetermined value were reported stolen from a house on Danvers, Farmington Hills, Dec. 15.

A videocassette recorder valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a house on Purdue, Farmington Hills, Dec. 15.

Jewelry of undetermined value was reported stolen from an apartment on Hampton Court at Fairmont Park, Farmington Hills, Dec. 15-18.

A 1983 Cadillac Eldorado valued at \$5,000 was reported stolen from Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River, Dec. 16. It was recovered in Detroit with the steering column punched and the tires and radio missing.

A leather coat valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a locker at Harrison High School, 29995 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, Dec. 18.

A VCR valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a house on Independence, Farmington Hills, Dec. 18-19.

Special ed supervisor named

The director of a countywide program for autistic students was appointed principal at Cloverdale Training Center and supervisor of special education programs at several other schools in the Farmington district.

Robert Tunnell, who has directed the autistic program for Oakland Schools for the past 6½ years, began his duties with Farmington Public Schools in mid-December. He replaces Douglas Smith, who retires on Dec. 22.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about the program," Tunnell said. "I think there's a very dedicated staff — that it itself is a tribute to them."

Tunnell will be based at Cloverdale, where he will be the building principal. He will also supervise salaried programs at William Grace Elementary, Warner Middle School and Harrison High School. In addition, he will oversee screening for the Child Find program and coordinate education services for special

education students who are hospitalized or homebound.

"It's going to be busy," he added. Tunnell has spent the past 25 years working in a variety of special education programs throughout Oakland County. He has worked as a teacher at Fairland Center, for the Waterford schools and has also been a psychiatric social worker.

"What I'm embarking on is not totally new to me," he added. "There's very little in terms of special education that I haven't done."

Woman convicted in tax case

A U.S. District Court jury Dec. 14 found a Farmington Hills woman guilty of tax evasion.

Following a four-day trial before Magistrate Virginia Morgan, Marlene L. Tarrant, 42, was convicted of five counts of willfully failing to file U.S. individual income tax returns for 1982-86.

She was indicted together with her husband, Michael C. Tarrant, by a federal grand jury on April 4. He

faces the same charges, a not-guilty plea was entered in his behalf. His trial will be held in January, said Assistant U.S. Attorney M. Susan Murname.

The indictment charged that Michael Tarrant had a gross income of \$216,612 for 1982-86 and that Marlene Tarrant had a gross income for the same period of \$169,485.

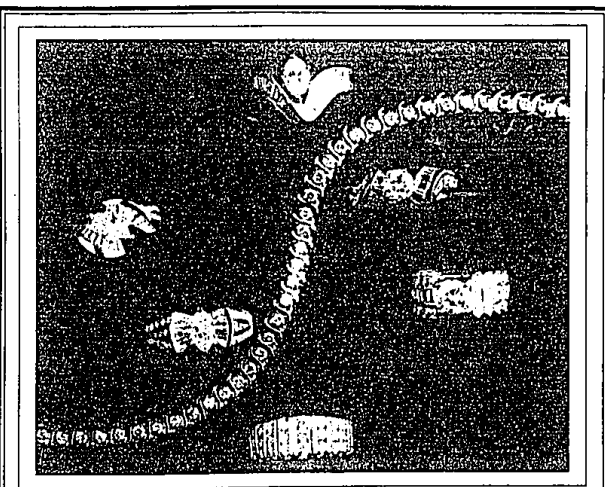
Marlene Tarrant will be sentenced Jan. 30. She faces a penalty of up to five years in jail and a \$275,900 fine.

She also must pay interest and penalties on the taxes due, Murname said.

Contacted at his Farmington Hills home Wednesday, Michael Tarrant said neither he nor his wife wanted to comment at this time. Both are free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond.

The Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division investigated the case.

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