

Coin con man, fresh from jail, charged again

The dime roll scam has returned to Farmington Hills.

A Detroit man recently sentenced to 45 days in jail for trying to obtain money under false pretenses was arrested Friday after similar ruses were reported.

Arraigned Saturday before Magistrate Maria Parker of the 47th District Court in Farmington, Steven L. Jackson, 26, pleaded not guilty to:

- One count of trying to obtain money, under \$100, by false pretenses.
- One count of obtaining money, under \$100, by false pretenses.
- One count of furnishing false identification to a police officer.

The first count is a 45-day misdemeanor. The other two counts are 90-day misdemeanors.

The defendant was remanded to the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$4,000 cash or surety bond.

The first count involves Efron Drugs at Mulwood Square, Grand River at Drake. A pharmacist employee refused to exchange a bag of "dime rolls" for \$95 in cash.

SOON AFTER, the manager of the McDonald's at 39425 10 Mile was duped by a man who said he was from a nearby Denny's and asked to make the same exchange. The coin rolls contained dimes on each end and pennies in between.

The scam also was tried the same night at two nearby businesses — the Mobil station in Farmington and the Bonanza Restaurant in Farmington Hills — but to no avail. No charges were filed in those attempts.

After making the exchange, the McDonald's manager saw the man walk across the street to the Human Palace.

There, Farmington Hills police officer Jim Knittel and Farmington public safety officer Bob Schulz arrested the suspect, who matched the con artist's description.

The driver of the car in which Jackson was riding was charged with transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when open beer was found on the front seat.

APPEARING BEFORE District Judge Fred Harris of Farmington on March 30, Jackson pleaded guilty to four counts of trying to obtain money, under \$100, by false pretenses. He was sentenced to 45 days in the Oakland County Jail, the maximum term for the offense.

These charges stemmed from his visits to four businesses at the Orchard-12 Shopping Center, at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, two days before. A store employee who had seen a composite drawing of a coin-roll con man in the Observer led police to Jackson in the parking lot.

Jackson remains a suspect in four other successful cons in Farmington Hills, three in

one day, but no warrants have been issued. The four businesses, three at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, were taken for more than \$250. Another attempt there failed when a restaurant employee who checked some of the coin rolls found pennies.

Police think the ruses pulled off locally may be the product of a Detroit-area ring in which men and women try to exchange rolls of "dimes" for currency. Later, merchants find the rolls filled with pennies, with dimes on each end.

More than a dozen incidents have been reported this year in western Wayne County and southern Oakland County.

police/fire calls

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

LEAKING TANKS

While removing two underground storage tanks at the site of an old gas station in Farmington Monday, workers found about 10 gallons of gasoline that had leaked into the soil.

But the surrounding sand and clay kept the leakage to the excavated hole, near the west parking lot of Zimm's Vacuum Cleaner Co., 3360 Grand River. There was no seepage into the groundwater and no danger to the health, safety or welfare of the neighborhood, said Joe Schor-nack, Farmington fire marshal.

The two 1,000-gallon tanks contained only small quantities of gasoline, and kerosene, the property owner said.

The excavator, D.H. Richman Co., Union Lake, will remove the tanks, fuel, and contaminated soil and properly dispose of them, Schor-nack said.

The property owner said he's removing tanks in preparation for sale of the building.

Michigan Environmental Services

of Union Lake monitored the project. The state fire marshal was notified, as required, Schornack said.

BREAK-IN CHARGES

Two Redford Township men face breaking and entering charges in the burglary of a house on Pearl in southeast Farmington Hills early Sunday.

Arraigned Sunday before Magistrate Maria Parker of the 47th District Court in Farmington, David Lee Goble and Norman Yates pleaded not guilty to one count of breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling with intent to commit larceny, a 15-year felony.

Parker set cash or surety bond at \$5,000 on Yates and \$1,000 on Goble. Police responded to a call from a neighbor, who reported people inside the house when no one was supposed to be there. Officers Dan Louma, Bill Maffesoli and Larry Luttrell found Goble and Yates, both 19, in the basement. Entry apparently was gained through a basement window.

Goble and Yates are suspects in three other residential break-ins in southeast Farmington Hills in May — on Albion, Roosevelt and the same house on Pearl. A 17-year-old

Farmington Hills man is expected to be charged in at least one of these cases, said Sgt. Charles Nebus.

Armed with a search warrant signed by Parker, police recovered stolen jewelry, fireworks and a drill from a house on Roosevelt Sunday night. In a later search at a second house on Pearl, they recovered stolen Nintendo games and accessories, a cable TV box and clothing.

"We also obtained the names of additional suspects in these and other break-ins in Farmington Hills and other cities," Nebus said.

RESTAURANT FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when a grease fire broke out in the kitchen grill at Wendy's Restaurant, 38177 10 Mile, Sunday. No one was hurt.

A buildup in the grease trap area caused the fire, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

ALCOHOL SEIZED

A 23-year-old Farmington Hills woman and a 29-year-old Birmingham man were ticketed for possessing alcohol in a city park when they were seen drinking wine coolers at a picnic table in Shawwassee Park Sunday.

day, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

TEEN TICKETED

A 19-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing alcohol when open beer was found in his car at Taco Bell, 29225 Orchard Lake, Saturday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

APARTMENT BREAK-INS

Burglars made off with cash, a camera and a CD system from two units on Citation Circle at Citation Club Apartments Friday.

Entry apparently was gained by using a key. Total value of the stolen items was \$1,400, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

CAR BREAK-IN

A cellular telephone handset and an in-dash radio were stolen from a car parked at Cordoba Apartments, in the 12 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area, Friday night.

Police, responding to a call from a resident who saw three men acting suspiciously around the carports, found the property at an apartment soon after the theft.

Three Farmington Hills teenagers, ages 15-17, were arrested leaving the complex but they were later released pending further investigation, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

DAMAGE ESTIMATE

A fire in the attic above the kitchen caused about \$6,500 in damage to a ranch house on the 32600 block of Nottingham Knoll Friday night.

The cause continues to be investigated. The fire appears to have originated in the recessed ceiling lights recently installed, according to Farmington Hills police and fire reports.

BREAK-IN PROBED

A long-barreled gun, personal checks, a wedding ring and cigarettes valued at \$1,488 were reported stolen from a house on Robinson May 18-19, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

CAR RECOVERED

A 1990 Ford Mustang GT stolen from Timberidge Apartments in the Grand River-Middlebelt area May 18-19 was recovered in Detroit. The

car is valued at \$15,000, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

WINDOW DAMAGE

Damage was estimated at \$4,950 when rocks were thrown through 11 windows in four condominium units under construction at Drakes Crossing, 36502 Grand River, May 19-21, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

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Local students win scholarships

The State Board of Education has awarded a federal college scholarship to two local June graduates. Each will receive a \$1,500 college-of-choice scholarship.

The two are Joseph Crawford III of Farmington High School and Todd Rope of North Farmington High School.

The federally funded awards, the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, are a one-time college scholarship

for high school graduates who have demonstrated academic excellence and achievement. The financial resources of the recipient's family are not a criterion for determining eligibility.

The State Board said each high school principal in the state nominates an outstanding graduating senior based on high school academic achievement and test scores. Each scholarship recipient may use the

Byrd Scholarship at the college of his or her choice. It is not renewable.

The selection of scholarship recipients is coordinated with the Academic All-State Team Program, which is administered by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, in cooperation with the Detroit Free Press.

The State Board of Education will host a scholarship awards ceremony June 12 in Bloomfield Township.

Memorial Day means holiday hours

Memorial Day — on Monday, May 28 — will mean several changes in hours for the city.

Farmington City Hall, Farmington City Hall and the 47th District Court in Farmington all will be closed Monday. All banking institutions also will be closed.

In Farmington Hills, trash collection will be pushed back one day

next week only. In Farmington, trash collection will not be affected by the holiday.

The U.S. Post Office will operate on a holiday schedule. There will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Usual post office lobby services will not be available. Special delivery and express mail

will be provided. Mail pickup from collection boxes will be as posted on individual boxes.

The Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Farmington Community Library and the Farmington Observer also will be closed Monday.

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