

# 4 now faces charges in holdup at restaurant

Three more Detroit residents face felony charges in connection with the armed robbery of the Mountain Jacks restaurant in Farmington Hills Dec. 10.

A total of four men, all from Detroit, are now charged in the incident.

Kerenaki Caldwell, 22, arrested Dec. 13, and Frank Mathis, 18, arrested Friday, are each charged with two counts of armed robbery and two counts of felonious assault.

Robert Wood, 17, arrested Friday, faces two counts of armed robbery, two counts of felonious assault and four counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of felony.

The three pleaded not guilty at their arraignments Saturday before 47th District Court Magistrate James Brady. The three did not post the \$150,000 cash bond Brady set for each. They remain in custody, said Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

PRELIMINARY examinations on the charges are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday. On Dec. 12, police arrested the first of the four men. Charles A. Sykes, 24, of Detroit

faces two counts of armed robbery and two counts of felonious assault. His preliminary examination is scheduled for the same time as the others.

Conviction of armed robbery carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Conviction of felonious assault carries a maximum sentence of four years in prison. Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony carries a sentence of two years in prison.

Nebus credits detectives Charles Hubbard, Brian DeGrande and Darnel Krause

with the apprehension of the four men following the restaurant holdup.

"For six days, all day and half of every night, they investigated it. They made several trips to Detroit, where they did interviews and searches. They did an excellent job," Nebus said.

ACCORDING TO Farmington Hills police, three men entered the restaurant near 10 Mile and Grand River just after midnight Dec. 10, brandishing guns. A fourth man apparently waited outside with a getaway car, Nebus said.

One man carrying a sawed-off shotgun made verbal threats before shooting into the restaurant's rafters. There were conflicting reports about whether one or more shots were fired.

One 33-year-old patron was robbed of his watch, wallet, jewelry and cash. He and 11 other patrons and restaurant employees were herded into a restaurant cooler where they stayed for about 10 minutes.

No one was injured.

Witnesses saw the robbers run toward the parking lot of the Red Roof Inn, east of the restaurant.

## Follow simple precautions to keep holidays crime-free

By Kim Kemake  
special writer

Thefts of all kinds accompany gift-giving during the holiday season. It's the time of year when busy people become careless and are especially vulnerable to theft.

Purse snatchers and pickpockets, for example, are particularly active because they have more opportunities to take advantage of holiday shoppers.

Avoid carrying more money than needed and always leave unnecessary credit cards and expensive jewelry at home. To safeguard purses, hold them firmly or conceal them in a shopping bag. A belt pack is a great alternative to carrying a purse and can even be concealed under a long coat. If not concealed, always make sure the opening is in the front.

Refrain from placing your purse in a shopping bag because it can quickly be grabbed by anyone passing by the minute you turn away. Never set your purse down on a store counter. Watch out for strangers who strike up conversations or ask directions. This may be a ploy to distract your attention. Always



ways be wary of anyone who seems to be following you. Promptly report any suspicious persons to a store clerk, security personnel or the police.

STATISTICS SHOW that between 85 and 90 percent of all crimes are against property, such as burglary, larceny or auto theft. For that reason, it's always a good idea to take steps to reduce your vulnerability. Park your vehicle in well-lit areas and refrain from doing all your shopping in one trip if it means

that you will be overloaded with packages when you return to your car. Should you find yourself carrying an armload of packages, try to keep your purse between your packages and your body.

If a stranger approaches you and says that he has a gun, believe him. Injuries from robbers and purse snatchers seldom occur unless you resist, so give up any items that are demanded. Your life and safety are far more precious than your wallet, purse or packages.

To protect any packages you leave in your car, place all packages out of sight or lock them in the trunk. If you drive a hatchback or station wagon, have something available to cover your packages. Once you are home be cautious about displaying gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Burglars are always looking for a likely target.

Even though you may be rushed and thinking of many other things, with a minimal amount of effort you can protect yourself and your property. By taking a few precautions, your holidays and your home can be safe and secure.

Kim Kemake is a crime prevention technician with the Farmington Hills Police Department.

## 2 Detroiters will stand trial in slaying of Dunckel teacher

Two Detroit men will stand trial in Detroit Recorder's Court for the death of a Farmington Hills teacher in November.

James Lee Johnson, 18, and Eugene Posey, 26, were bound over by visiting Judge Charles McDonald after a preliminary examination Tuesday in 36th District Court in the case involving the fatal shooting of Andre Poux, an O.E. Dunckel Middle School teacher. Poux was shot as he confronted intruders in

his house early the morning of Nov. 25.

Both face counts of first degree felony murder, which carries a mandatory life in prison sentence, and felony firearms charges. They are being held without bond in the Wayne County Jail.

ASSISTANT Wayne County Prosecutor Doug Baker said the two would be arraigned in Recorder's Court on the charges Dec. 26, and that the case would likely be assigned to Judge Michael Talbot,

who is hearing another case for a rape and robbery involving the same defendants.

He expects a trial date to be set quickly.

Poux was the father of two, a math teacher in the Farmington Public Schools since 1973 and had most recently taught at O.E. Dunckel.

A longtime Detroit booster, Poux was a 17-year resident of North Rosedale Park.

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