

police/fire calls

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

• LOUD EXPLOSION

The explosion and subsequent fire in an electrical transformer box in Farmington Aug. 29 caused little damage, but frightened area residents.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the explosion near Larkspur was reported at about 8:30 p.m., prompting many calls to the station. "We thought it was worse... at first, because of the number of people calling," said Frank Lauboff, director of Public Safety.

The explosion caused nearby wires, a Detroit Edison pole, and shrubbery to catch on fire — what didn't burn itself out was extinguished with a garden hose.

• GUN CONFISCATED

An unregistered 25-caliber semi-automatic pistol was confiscated from a 33-year-old Detroit man Aug. 29, who told Farmington police he was carrying the gun because of the recent rash of thefts of occupied cars in the area.

During a routine traffic stop at about 11:30 p.m. at Freedom and Gill, it was determined the man was driving without a license for which he was arrested. On searching the car, the gun with six rounds in the clip was found in the passenger side map pocket of the door.

Gary Goss, deputy director of public safety, said the man told the officer "he was not a bad person, but was carrying the gun because of all the recent car thefts."

The man's father had reportedly given him the gun one month before.

• TRESPASS REPORTED

A 25-year-old Farmington Hills man was asked to leave the Farmington Training Center in downtown Farmington Aug. 27, after threatening to kill himself and waving a gun clip.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the man came to the school at about 2:15 p.m., threatening himself in what was an apparent girlfriend/boyfriend dispute. He showed the gun clip at the school and said he had a 9mm gun in the car.

• THEFTS REPORTED

A facsimile machine, copier and three two-way radios valued at \$4,114 were reported stolen from a construction trailer at 32000 Nine Mile Road Aug. 29-30. The trailer is owned by Fosen Construction of U.S.A.

A motorcycle valued at \$750 was reported stolen from a garage on Country Circle in Farmington Hills Aug. 30.

Restaurant supplies valued at \$550 were reported stolen from a supply shed in the 31000 block of Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills Aug. 31.

A number of items totaling \$1,900 were reported stolen during a break-in of a residence on Ridgelande Sept. 2. Stolen were a rifle, pistol and three pieces of gold jewelry.

• DAMAGE REPORTED

Paint on a car parked on Tall Oaks in Farmington was scratched Aug. 30, causing some \$400 in damage.

By Ralph R. Echlin
staff writer

Michigan State Police are looking for a West Bloomfield woman who has been charged by a California court with conspiracy to commit murder in the 1980 slaying of her husband by a contract killer.

New evidence in the 11-year-old case led a Santa Clara County judge to issue an arrest warrant for Judith Ann Barnett, 44, also known as Jud-

ith Witkin and Judith Singer.

"We believe she's still in the area," State police Lt. Chris Hogan said. "We talked to an awful lot of people that are related to her or know her," but none of them can, or will, tell police where Barnett is.

"In spite of direct requests to (Barnett's) attorney and family members, she has not surrendered and it appears she has gone in hiding to avoid arrest," a press release said.

WEST BLOOMFIELD POLICE officers are also looking for Barnett. But Lt. Dan Pitsois said it won't be easy to find her.

"She can disappear into the woodwork," Pitsois said. "Not too many women in their 40s are wanted for murder. If she rents a car you'll never find her."

Hogan said the hit man who killed Howard Witkin was convicted of the crime initially. Then the conviction was overturned. Then there was a

re-conviction. Then that conviction was overturned and the hit man pleaded "no contest" to a lesser charge.

Santa Clara County criminal investigator Sandra Williams flew to Michigan Friday to help state police locate Barnett, but would not return The Eccentric's calls.

Pitsois said Barnett had been living in a house near Orchard Lake and Maple roads. Anyone with information about Barnett's whereabouts can call the state police at 525-2580.

Hills man faces rape charges

By Casey Hana
staff writer

A 29-year-old Farmington Hills resident and co-owner of a Hills restaurant faces two felony counts after one of his female employees was sexually assaulted.

Frank Samuel Blair IV, 29, co-owner of the Gourmet to Go Restaurant, 5555 Grand River, faces a preliminary examination before District Judge Michael Batchik in 52nd District Court in Walled Lake on Sept. 11 on first- and second-degree criminal sexual-conduct charges.

Blair was arraigned Aug. 9 on both felony counts, to which he stood mute. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. He was released on a \$25,000 personal bond.

IF CONVICTED, he faces a penalty of up to life in prison.

Blair's attorney, James Howarth, could not be reached for comment. Reached at his restaurant Tuesday, Blair said he had no comment.

According to a Novi police report, a man took a female employee out one night after work in late July. After drinking champagne with her, the man took the woman to a field in Novi and sexually assaulted her. The two were discovered by a Novi officer on patrol in the city.

The man told police the two had met at a '50s festival in Novi, but it was discovered later he was the woman's employer. The woman gave a statement to police the next day, telling them she only went out with him "because they are good friends at work."



ART AT THE OAKS 1991

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Sponsored By

WEST OAKS SHOPPING CENTER



I-96 at Novi Road
Novi

(across from Twelve Oaks Mall)

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 7
10 A.M. - 6 P.M.**

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8
NOON - 5 P.M.**

Presented By
Novi Community Education
Novi Parks & Recreation
Novi Youth Assistance



GRAND OPENING

COPPER CREEK GOLF COURSE

For Reservations Call
489-1777

Country Club Conditions
But Open to the Public

Located in Copper Creek Subdivision on the north side of 12 Mile Rd., 1/2 mile west of I-96.

- Grand Traverse Golfing Here in Farmington Hills (Using 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 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