

Community Corner

This week's question:
What advice do you have for last minute holiday shoppers?

We asked this question at the Little Professor book store at the Grand River-Halsted shopping center.



'Don't go to Twelve Oaks Mall. I worked there for 10 years. That's a crazy place. Shop your local merchants, they're more willing to please.'

— Carol Davio
Novi



'Don't wait. Find a place to shop other than the malls.'

— Richard Westlund
Farmington Hills



'Should have started earlier.'

— Roger Greer
Farmington Hills



'None, because I'm one of them.'

— Joe Robar
Belleville



'Go with a gift certificate, then everyone's happy.'

— Kenny Fenchel
Novi



'Try to stay within a budget. Don't go on an impulse and buy something that is too expensive. Know what you want to buy, don't buy something that's not wanted.'

— John Hanlon
Farmington Hills

police/fire calls

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

● KIDNAPPING REPORTED

A 28-year-old Garden City man told Farmington Hills police he was kidnapped at knife point by three unidentified men who forced him to drive to dope houses in Detroit and who charged purchases on his credit cards, early Saturday morning.

The man told police he was driving home from work in South Lyon and was traveling eastbound on Grand River when he stopped at a traffic light in front of Blakeney's Ranch House at Oxford. One of three men opened the passenger door of his car and pulled out a 6-7-inch folding knife and held it to his throat. Two other men jumped in the back seat, according to the police report.

The Garden City resident gave the

men \$85 when they demanded money. They also forced him to drive to the Brightmoor area in Detroit. The men forced him to stop at a Perry's drug store at Telegraph and Schoolcraft where they charged two new watches on his credit card. They then went to another Perry's on Grand River where they bought a portable phone and groceries, also on the man's credit card, according to the police report.

The men then forced him to drive to six houses in the Six Mile-Lathrup area of Detroit where they reportedly went to buy crack cocaine. Two of the three men remained at one of the houses and the third had the man drive him to the Seven Mile-Telegraph area where he got out of the car and let the man drive freely away sometime between 9:30-10 a.m., according to the police report.

● SUSPICIOUS FIRE

Farmington Hills firefighters re-

sponded to a call from Keros Coney Island restaurant, 27841 Orchard Lake Road, Tuesday morning to find a bag of linen smoldering near a back door, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The bag was removed an extinguished with a pail of water. Damage was estimated at \$400.

● BASEMENT FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when a cardboard box and contents was placed too close to the gas water heater in a basement of a house on Summit Drive on Sunday, according to a Farmington Hills fire report. Firefighters removed smoke from the house and shut off the heater.

● ATTEMPTED BREAKING AND ENTERING

An unidentified man was caught in the act of trying to steal a copy machine and computer monitor from

Kleinman, Carney & Greenbaum, 32000 Northwestern Highway, Dec. 15, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

When a company employee stopped at the business he saw an unidentified man trying to move the equipment out. The man stopped and told the employee he was with maintenance and that he needed a hand truck to move the equipment, which he then went to get. He never returned, according to the police report.

The employee then called one of his bosses who said no one from maintenance was supposed to be in the building on that day, according to police.

● CAR FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$2,000 after a car caught fire on M-102, west of Grand River, Dec. 13, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The car's driver told fire officials that another motorist informed him that his car was on fire. The fire apparently began in the engine area near the battery.

According to the report, the owner had a new engine put in about 2,000 miles ago, but had no other mechanical problems. Firefighters extinguished the fire and disconnected the battery.

● GREASE FIRE

A senior adult was frying potatoes on a stove in her basement apartment of a house on Livingston Circle, when the grease ignited, according

to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The woman immediately put the pan under water in the sink. Firefighters helped remove smoke from the home. Smoke detectors didn't activate. Damage was estimated at \$20.

● THEFTS REPORTED

Wheelcovers valued at more than \$100 were reported stolen from a 1988 Buick on Summit, Nov. 15-Dec. 9.

A ring and watch valued at \$10,100 were reported stolen from Botsford-Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Nov. 26-Dec. 1.

Four wheelcovers valued at \$150 each were reported stolen from a car on Tanglewood Lane, Dec. 14.

A 1987 Ford valued at \$7,000 was reported stolen after a customer took the car out for a test drive from Bob Saks Oldsmobile, 35300 Grand River, Dec. 13.

A radio and binoculars valued at \$900 were reported stolen from a 1989 GMC truck at the Old Orchard Theater, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Dec. 14.

Approximately \$1,560 cash was reported stolen from a house on Dunford, Dec. 13.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$200 when someone cut the electrical cords for Christmas decorations at a house on Heathersett Crescent, Dec. 13-14.

Hills man gets prison sentence

A 30-year-old Farmington Hills man was sentenced Dec. 10 after being convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to the U.S. District Attorney's office.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor sentenced Clarence Hyder to 70 months in prison. Hyder had pleaded guilty to the charge Sept. 12. According to Kenneth Chadwell, assistant U.S. attorney, Hyder's wife, Michelle, called the 9-1-1 emergency operator at 5:19 a.m. July 8 and said, "My husband has a gun. He's trying

to kill me."

When Farmington Hills police responded, they found a loaded 9mm semiautomatic pistol in Hyder's possession, according to Chadwell.

At his preliminary examination on state felonious assault charges, Hyder's wife testified that he beat her to the ground, held the gun to her head and threatened to kill her. Hyder has since recanted her testimony, Chadwell said.

But Hyder was prosecuted by fed-

eral authorities for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Hyder has four prior felony convictions, including two for armed robbery, one for unarmed robbery and one for felonious assault.

Hyder's 70-month sentence is non-paroleable under federal law, Chadwell said.

The case was investigated by the Farmington Hills police and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.



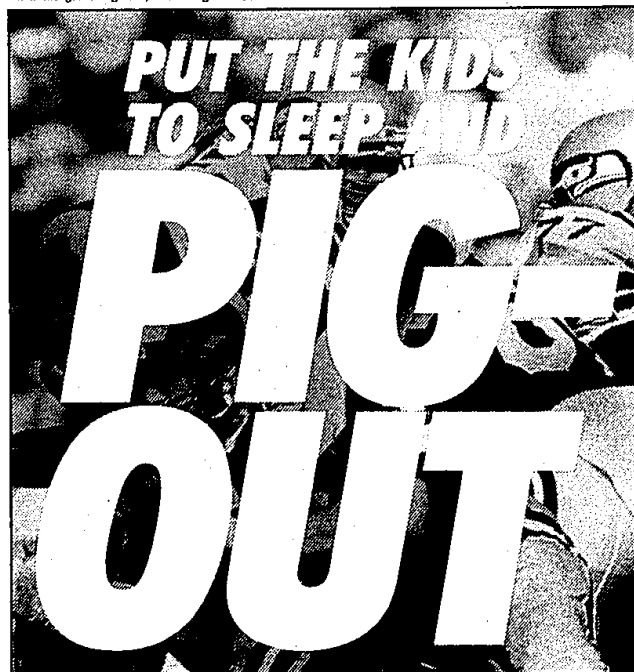
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