

Man makes break for it; police nab him on hill

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

After promising the judge repeatedly that he wasn't a risk to flee, a man bolted from 47th District Court Wednesday.

A Farmington Hills police officer in a patrol car cut off the man running down the sledding hill at Shiloh and Farmington roads. He surrendered and was arrested with the help of a Michigan State police trooper.

"He looked tucked out and he sat down," said Hills officer Eddie Fitzpatrick, who pursued the escapee in a car up Shiloh and Hill. "He was tired. He just kind of gave up."

Todd Lawrence Zimmer, 31, is charged with escape while awaiting trial for a misdemeanor. If convicted, the felony is punishable by two years in prison or a

\$1,000 fine.

Zimmer was arraigned on two counts of prowling and one count of entry without permission Wednesday in the 47th District Court. Judge Maria Parker set bail at \$250 cash for each charge despite pleas from the defendant.

Zimmer said he didn't have any money and needed to be at work. Also, he added, it was his girlfriend's birthday.

"I just ran into a roadblock in my life," Zimmer said. "... I'm not a threat to the community."

Parker set cash bail after a court officer said she could not verify Zimmer's residence or place of employment. Zimmer told the judge he was working for a paint company in Bloomfield Township.

After leaving the courtroom, the man sprinted down the hallway

past startled onlookers. Hills officer Ed Wozniak tried to tackle him before he fled out into the parking lot.

"If I'd gone another step, he'd have run right through me," said a clerk who walked across the hall to get a cup of coffee. "That's the most excitement we've had around here."

Michigan State trooper John Jackson and an Oakland County assistant prosecutor joined in the pursuit on foot.

Fitzpatrick secured another prisoner before running out a side door and jumping into a police car. He drove south on Raphael Street and west on Shiloh where he spotted the escapee.

Fitzpatrick drove up the hill and exited the car.

"My tire tracks are still there," Fitzpatrick said.

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

■ BREAK-INS
The driver's side window of a brown 1995 Ford Contour parked at the Fairmont Park Apartments on Fairmont in Farmington Hills was broken causing \$150 in damage and an in-dash AM/FM cassette stereo worth \$700 was stolen Aug. 22-23.

A tan Ford Contour and a green Ford Contour, both parked at the Fairmont Park Apartments, were broken into causing \$150 in damage to each and resulting in the theft of each car's \$250 stereo Aug. 28-29.

■ THEFTS
All but the frame of a 16-ton, \$2,500 Carrier air conditioner was stolen from Tempco on Indoplex in Farmington Hills Aug. 25-29.

Tools, equipment and uniforms (\$1,375) were stolen from an apartment complex on Spring Lane in Farmington Hills Aug. 27.

A 20-inch gold herringbone

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

chain (\$300) was stolen from the Clarion Hotel on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Aug. 29.

A \$300 Apple computer monitor and a \$1,000 Apple Macintosh hard drive were stolen from Harrison High School on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills June 9-29.

A Visa credit card and \$200 in cash were stolen from a residence at Hillside Estates condos on Meadow Lane in Farmington Hills Aug. 30.

A Visa credit card, \$600 in American Express traveler's checks and \$250 in cash were stolen from the Clarion Hotel on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Aug. 30.

■ AUTO THEFTS
A blue 1996 Ford Taurus was stolen from the Shell gas station on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Aug. 3-3.

A black 1990 Mazda GT worth \$7,000 was stolen from Bill Cook on Grand River in Farmington Hills Aug. 16-28.

■ VANDALISM
A kitchen window was broken at a residence on Avon Lane in Farmington Hills causing \$300 in dam-

age Aug. 30.

■ DRUGS
Farmington Hills police arrested a Howell man, 32, for drug possession Aug. 30 after pulling over a westbound red 1987 GMC pickup near Rockwell for a bad plate. The man had a small amount of crack cocaine.

■ ASSAULT
Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 30, for grabbing his girlfriend, 30, and throwing her against a wall at 11:10 p.m. Aug. 30 at his residence on West 10 Mile in Farmington Hills.

■ DRUNKEN DRIVING
Farmington Hills police arrested a Livonia woman, 22, for drunken driving and resisting arrest at 2:29 a.m. Aug. 29 in the Downtown Center parking lot. Police stopped the 1990 Ford Thunderbird for not signaling after making a turn. The driver struggled with officers and refused to go back to the patrol car for a Breathalyzer test. She had a blood alcohol level of .15 percent. She was also ticketed for driving with a suspended license.

Hills police citation board honors officers, dispatchers

The Farmington Hills Police Department Citation and Award Board announced awards to Hills officers at its Aug. 25 meeting.

Sgt. Timothy Connor was given a citation for the arrest of two armed robbery suspects on May 19.

Officer William Maffeo earned a citation for his role in the arrest of four automobile break-in suspects on June 30.

Officer Craig Hurt and Officer Gary Lavin were awarded citations for the arrest of three suspects in an automobile break-in and larceny from an automobile on July 7. The suspects also had a stun gun at the time.

Officer Michael Meister received a professional service award for his involvement in the department's annual 10K run for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Sgt. Gilbert Kohls and Officers Robert Tiderington, John Mackey and Gary Lavin were given unit citations for the arrest of two suspects for armed robbery on May 19.

Sgt. Douglas Anderson and Officers William Michaluk and Alan Soderlund were given unit citations for their work in the arrest of suspects for a home invasion on May 30.

Lt. James Whitcomb, Sgt.

Charles Hubbard and Officers Kevin Cronin, Marlin Goble and Mark Mostek were given commendations for the arrest of two suspects for an automobile break-in, armed robbery, and break-in of an occupied dwelling on May 7.

Officers Craig Hurt and Daniel Rodriguez earned citations for the arrest of two suspects for a Michigan cigarette tax violation on May 27.

Dispatchers Margaret McParlane, Kimberly Alvarado and Vicki Szczepanski and resident Mark Steven Wright earned civilian citations for providing assistance in the arrest of two suspects for an armed robbery on May 19.

Rapes

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three counts of first-degree CSC and one count of second-degree CSC. Judge Brian MacKenzie set bond at \$35 million.

Maximum penalty for first-degree CSC is life in prison with mandatory AIDS testing. Second-degree CSC is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Bartok is already charged with indecent exposure, fleeing and eluding and malicious destruction of a police vehicle in West Bloomfield Aug. 14.

His preliminary examination in that case was delayed pending results from a psychiatric evaluation.

"We have three different acts of crimes in three different communities. There are several consistent patterns," said Sgt. David Wurtz, a detective with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. "There are common threads."

Dressed in a gray and black flannel shirt and long tan-striped shorts, Bartok shrugged his shoulders when Judge Maria Parker read the charges.

■ Dressed in a gray and black flannel shirt and long tan-striped shorts, Michael Bartok shrugged his shoulders when Judge Maria Parker read the charges.

When asked his current address, Bartok said "Oakland County Jail."

Farmington police have checked previous cases for possible links.

"We were looking for any simi-

larities . . . There wasn't anything," Farmington detective Dan Dellar said.

Bartok has a bench warrant for his arrest out of Dearborn, where he was charged with drug possession Feb. 9. He subsequently failed to report to his probation officer.

He has prior convictions for burglary, including a 1992 breaking and entering of a vehicle case in Farmington Hills.

He has been living with his mother in Farmington Hills and was employed at a Hills business on Eight Mile Road.

"I just learned what he's been charged with on the news," a woman at the residence said. "I'm very upset. I just can't talk right now."

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P.S. In sports and activities that involve running and jumping, tendinitis is most likely to develop in the knee, foot, and Achilles tendon at the back of the ankle.

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