

# Farmington Observer

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 111 years

HomeTown  
Putting you in touch  
with your world

VOLUME 111 NUMBER 60 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 80 PAGES • http://observer.eccentric.com SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



### Message to Mom

Why is your mother special? Tell us in 50 words or less and you may win lunch or dinner for your mom (and three other people) at a local restaurant. Mail, fax or e-mail entries by noon Friday, May 1.

**MAIL:**  
Community Editor Dave Varga  
33411 Grand River  
Farmington, MI 48335

**FAX:**  
(248) 477-9722

**E-MAIL:**  
dvarga@oe.hometown.net

Be sure to include your name, your mother's name, your address and telephone number. You may send a photo, however, judging will be based on your message.

We will print as many entries as possible on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. The contest is open to readers of all ages.

### IN THE PAPER TODAY

True mom: A foster mom to 70 kids over three decades says it's been rewarding work./B1

INDEX	
Autos/J4	Movies/E8
Beliefs/D7S	Obituaries/C6
Classified/G,H,I	Police, fire/A12
Class. Index/G4	Rentals/G7
Crossword/G6	Real Estate/G4
Entertainment/E	Service Guide/13
Jobs/H3	Sports/C

### HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 248-477-5450  
Newsroom Fax: 248-477-9722  
e-mail: dvarga@oe.hometown.net  
Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2104  
Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2042  
Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900  
Display Advertising: 248-901-2524  
Home Delivery: 734-591-0500

## Police find car from hit and run

Farmington Hills police believe they have the vehicle involved in a hit-and-run accident that has left a 63-year-old man critically injured.

However, the vehicle's owner is not cooperating with police. The mid-1990s Ford Escort is being examined for evidence at the Michigan State Police crime lab.

"Cars don't commit crimes; people do," said Marty Bledsoe, Hills assistant chief. "It's great to have the car ... but somebody was behind the wheel."

James William Rogers Jr. of Farmington Hills was listed in critical condition Tuesday in Botsford Hospital where he is being treated for broken legs and multiple trauma after being struck sometime early morning April 16. He has regained consciousness, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Hills Officer Charles Rozum found the suspect vehicle in an apartment complex on Shiloh and Nine Mile Friday, which is within a mile of where the hit-and-run took place.

Rogers, who family members said was on his way home from work, parked his vehicle on the north shoulder of Nine Mile near Inkster Road. However, his body was found by a newspaper deliveryman lying injured on the south side.

Police collected debris at the scene and contacted Ford Motor Co. in order to match a vehicle make with serial numbers on some of the parts.

## Dad charged in kidnap try

**Gambling debts may have led to a bizarre kidnapping scheme. A Farmington Hills man faces several felony charges after telling police of the plan, that included handcuffing his son, 12, to a hotel sink over night.**

A substantial gambling debt allegedly inspired a Farmington Hills father to hatch an elaborate kidnapping plot involving his 12-year-old son.

The boy was found unharmed handcuffed in a room at a Farmington Hills hotel Saturday night after the father confessed the scam to Hills police.

On Monday, Marko Ivezic, 37, stood mute during an arraignment on three charges - which included a count of inducing a minor to commit a felony - at 47th District Court Monday.

Judge Maria Parker set a \$100,000 cash bond and ordered Ivezic to surrender his passport. Preliminary examination is 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Police became suspicious when the father and 10-year-old daughter, who supposedly witnessed the abduction, gave inconsistent accounts of the incident. On Saturday, Hills police called a press conference to seek information on the kidnapping. Police uncovered the ruse shortly afterward.

Before then, Ivezic's story to police was that he was being followed by a vehicle occupied by two men Friday night. He stopped at Gill Elementary on Gill, north of Eight Mile, to see what the men wanted. That's when the two men, who Ivezic said wore masks and had guns, demanded money and grabbed his son, Zoran.

The gunmen then told Ivezic to go to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Romulus and wait for further instructions. Ivezic informed Romulus police about the abduction.

They contacted Farmington Hills police, who released a photo and description of the boy to the media.

Please see KIDNAPPING, A6



In court: Marko Ivezic confers with his attorney, Martin Mattes, during his arraignment Monday.

## Branching out



Sales took: Books Around store manager Gwen Foss, left, and owner Ship Rosenthal check out a used book description before sending it out over the Internet.

## Books rebound

Internet link opens new chapter for Farmington bookstore

Skip Rosenthal wouldn't be blamed too much if he decided to change the name of his downtown Farmington bookstore, from Books Around to Books Around the World.

The wonders of Internet shopping have expanded Rosenthal's customer base way, way outside of city limits and extended his long list of used books to virtually every continent on the globe.

Last year, Rosenthal began offering to readers everywhere an estimated list of 12,000 used titles over Interloc.com and BiblioFind.com. People punch in a search for a particular title or subject and find out where it can be purchased.

With over-the-web orders of two to 10 books every day, those sales are helping keep the small business open during a scary, uncertain time for mom-and-pop bookstores. A federal class action lawsuit was recently filed by independents against the superstore book chains, primarily Barnes & Noble and Borders, but Rosenthal wasn't among the litigants.

"It's very exciting," said Rosenthal about his ever-expanding, electronically enhanced customer base. "It's made all the difference in the world."

But the 71-year-old Southfield resident isn't forgetting about the locals. He spends a lot of time working at the Grand River store he and wife Alice McCoy opened in the mid-1980s, chatting with those who stop in to browse or buy. And he strikes a musical chord for customers by playing the songs.

"I'm a retired librarian," Rosenthal said last week, referring to a career that included time as director of the Livonia Public Library. "The question is, what would I do with my retirement? Go to Florida and live on the beach? No. This is what I enjoy doing, being surrounded by books."

"Now, I don't enjoy the business of selling books. It just feels good to help people find the book they need."

**File it**

Usually, Rosenthal gets ample assistance from Books Around manager Gwen Foss in helping customers both in the store and on the Internet with their book search.

Actually, whenever a far-away customer taps a new search onto their computer keyboard, the book description that appears is one written by Foss, who wrote a book herself.

On such blurb, for Zarifa Aradoun's "The Belly Dance Costume Book," brought in seven requests from around the country. The title was sold within a week.

"It was sold to a (book) dealer in Culver City, Calif.," Foss said.

Whenever customers bring in resellable used books to the store,

Please see BOOKSTORE, A6

## Gunman shot after robbery

Farmington man suspected in 9 more

The Farmington man who was shot and arrested outside the Showerman's IGA grocery store in South Lyon after an armed robbery Sunday night is suspected of committing nine similar "closing time" holdups since September, including one Jan. 11 at the Kmart in Farmington.

Charges of armed robbery, felonious assault and using a handgun during a felony were filed Tuesday against the 34-year-old man.

But as of Wednesday he had not yet been arraigned because he was hospitalized and being treated with morphine for his gunshot wounds, according to police.

A gunman struck the South Lyon Showerman on Nov. 5.

The .357 silver-plated Magnum revolver confiscated at the scene - which was found loaded and cocked - was the same pistol stolen last June during a Farmington Hills break-in, said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss. A search warrant Monday at the suspect's Farmington home also uncovered a small amount of money.

"I'm really glad we got him because somebody was going to get hurt sooner or later," said Goss. Farmington's department is cooperating with a task force investigation of the robberies.

The suspect remained in fair condition and under police guard at an undisclosed hospital.

At each robbery, a ski-masked man, wearing latex gloves and clutching a revolver, struck at closing time. The robber made a habit of fleeing out the back door. About \$176,000 in cash was stolen from the first nine holdups, which took place between September and April 6.

The man who was apprehended Sunday night - after being shot three times in the legs by South Lyon officers - had \$27,000 in cash, which would have increased his take to more than \$200,000. One report said the suspect might have needed the money for a gambling problem.

He came out the door wearing latex gloves, a ski mask, a .357 Magnum in one hand and a bag of money in the other," Goss said. "The M.O. was the same as the one at our store."

Sunday's arrest followed a call for backup help from an alert South Lyon

Please see ROBBERY, A13



6 53174 10005 4

## Still managing

Farmington Hills City Manager Dan Hobbs still works here.

After an interview Saturday in Boulder, Colo., where he was one of six final candidates for that city's manager position, Hobbs returned home knowing he wasn't first on the list.

Council members in that city offered the job to another candidate last weekend, but that candidate soon declined the job, citing family concerns. On Tuesday, another candidate was reportedly offered the job, but he hadn't accepted as of Wednesday, according to reports in the Boulder News.

Hobbs said he's better for the experience, spending what amounted to a three-day intensive seminar studying another city and bringing back many benefits and ideas. "It was a great experience," he said.

Asked if it would harm his standing with residents or council members here, Hobbs wasn't cer-

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

"I would hope that it wouldn't," he said. "Anytime you do, though, it probably does cost you a little bit. I would think it would be flattering to the community, the council and to me that I would be considered for the post."

A story in the Boulder newspaper included lengthy profiles of each candidate, including a quote from Councilwoman Vicki Barnett describing Hobbs' personality as closer to Al Gore than, say, the great communicator Ronald Reagan.

Hobbs said he had read the story: "My respect for Al Gore rose enormously," Hobbs quipped, adding "The good thing about Al, he's a good family man, he

works hard and he's dedicated to service."

## The circus is coming!

Area merchants will be contacted to buy children's tickets to the Kelly-Miller Circus at Founders Sports Park on Saturday, July 18.

The Farmington Hills Department of Special Services will host the event, offering two performances at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

## Starry night

The Farmington Community Arts Council will host Starry Night, a premier showing of the Festival of the Arts from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the William Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$15 per person; \$25 per couple. It's black tie optional and over 21 please. Call 478-3256 for reservations.