

Cooling off

Splash: What can you do when the temperatures rise above 90 degrees. Here, Conitor Mohr, 4 jumps through the spray of a sprinkler at the home of a neighbor on Warner street in Farmington. Sweltering temperatures and humidity made a perfect combination for this refreshing "old school" moment of fun. Meanwhile, the soaring temperatures brought warnings from utility companies to take it a bit easier on the use of air conditioning and the use of appliances to prevent power outages. Motorists also were asked not to pump gas during the before night fall.

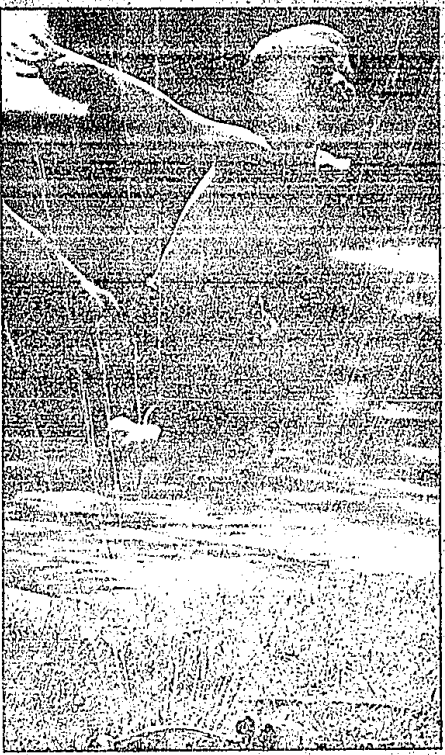


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CANNON

Six retailers get stung in Hills undercover tobacco operation

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Except for perhaps sending up smoke signals, Farmington Hills police continue to let retailers know they mean business on stopping tobacco sales to minors.

On Thursday, Hills police ticketed six businesses for selling cigarettes to two 16-year-old decoys. Police visited 61 retailers as part of an ongoing effort to stub out tobacco sales to minors.

Overall, police officials are pleased. The number of those cited dropped substantially compared to the last operation in February, 1998, when 20 businesses were ticketed.

Altogether, the department has conducted three tobacco stings. In October, 1998, 18 retailers were ticketed.

Hills police conduct liquor sale stings using under-

aged decoys.

"I think I'd draw a correlation between the compliance in this operation and the type we're seeing in our liquor enforcement," Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "The more efforts we put forward in educating the public, we're seeing decreases."

"Retailers are paying more attention to who is buying tobacco."

Those ticketed Thursday were: Mobil Oil, 29609 Orchard Lake; Amoco Oil, 29435 Orchard Lake; Farmington Party Store, 29460 10 Mile; Kmart, 30800 Orchard Lake; Jonna's Wines, 24225 Halsted; and Shell Oil, 39200 Grand River.

Under city ordinance, violators are issued a misdemeanor summons. Penalties for selling tobacco product to someone under 18 range from fines up to \$600 and/or 90 days in jail.

Man charged in armed robbery remanded back to district court

BY RICHARD PEARL
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The case of a Farmington man facing charges related to a South Lyon armed robbery was remanded to district court for further preliminary testimony.

A clerk in the court of Circuit Judge David Breck in Clarkston said Friday the case against Kevin Tod Alexander is expected to return to that court in about two weeks.

In the meantime, Alexander remains in the Oakland County Jail, he said. Bond was previously set at \$1 million - \$100,000 for each of the 10 counts against Alexander.

The 52nd Circuit Court official said the remanding of the case came about when attorney Jeff Butler replaced Donald Patrick Williams as the court-appointed attorney for Alexander. Williams withdrew from the case.

Butler said he felt questions that should have been asked at the first preliminary examination weren't

asked and said asking them now could possibly prevent an appeal of the circuit court decision later, the Clarkston clerk said.

Greg Townsend is the prosecutor in the case.

Alexander, 34, faces several charges stemming from the April 19, 1998 armed robbery of Showerman's IGA grocery store in South Lyon.

Charges include three counts of armed robbery, five counts of felony firearm possession and two counts of felonious assault.

In addition, Alexander faces four counts of armed robbery from an April 6, 1998 incident, also in South Lyon.

At the time of the later holdup, Alexander had been serving a one-year probation ordered by 47th District Judge Maria Parker for supplying alcohol to minors.

That incident occurred in October, 1997 at the home of Alexander and his wife, Michelle Griffith, who also was sentenced to a year's probation. Additionally, both also were fined \$500 by Parker.

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Worker injured when high-lo burns

A 59-year-old man sustained burns on his hands and face after the high-lo he was operating burst into flames at a Farmington Hills factory Friday.

At 3:20 p.m., Farmington Hills firefighters responded to a call at Forge Industries on Eight Mile.

When they arrived, the victim had already been taken to Botsford Hospital where he was being treated for a multitude of burns.

The unidentified worker had third-degree burns on his left hand. He also sustained second- and first-degree burns on his fingers and scalp, according to fire department reports.

The fire was limited to the gasoline-powered machine, which the worker had turned off for 10 minutes and restarted; then flames appeared.

In December 1986, a fire at the same facility caused \$5 to \$7 million in damage.

On Friday, investigators were trying to find out why the high-lo caught fire.

When firefighters arrived, the blaze was already out. Flames from the high-lo activated the building sprinkler system.

In December 1986, a fire at the same facility caused \$5 to \$7 million in damage. A sprinkler system was installed as part of the rebuilding effort.

"That's what saved them today," said Farmington Hills fire Lt. Michael Garr.

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