

District hosts recruitment fair to hire teachers

Hills man goes to trial in crash death

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

Last year's employee Recruitment Fair hosted by Farmington Public Schools was so successful it helped the district hire about half of the new teachers now working in classrooms.

Larry Lobert, the district's executive director of human resources, said he is confident the momentum will continue at the sequel. About 850 candidates for jobs in all areas have registered over the Internet for Recruitment Fair 2001, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Farmington High School. Lobert said as many as

1,700 people can be squeezed into available time slots, although walk-ins are strongly discouraged.

"It's important because we make some important early contact (with candidates) at the job fair," Lobert said. "It helps us to get a good look at the people just out of college and at people who are interested in a career switch."

The candidates will be interviewed for 10 minutes by volunteers and will have the opportunity to meet with principals and supervisors. "It's a face-to-face interview," Lobert said. "Recruiters will be able to run general questions by them."

The fair is for all job classifications, including: K-12 teachers; preschool teachers; adult/ community education teachers; secretarial/ clerical workers; maintenance/ custodial workers; bus drivers; nutrition services workers; substitute workers.

Lobert said out of employees hired after last year's fair, 80 are teachers. Most of the applicants live in southeastern Michigan, but Lobert expects some to make the trip from surrounding states and northern Michigan.

A direct mail campaign — particularly to college students — was one of the tools the district used to draw candidates to Saturday's fair, Lobert added.

By CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER
cmarshall@oe.homecomm.net

The driver who led Canton police on a chase that resulted in a fatal crash will appear in court again March 26.

Royal Oak attorney Marc Hart requested rescheduling the preliminary exam for his client, John Moffitt, 38, of Farmington Hills, who was charged with murder in the death of Travis Miles, 8, of Garden City.

Moffitt, who has four prior convictions, including larceny of a motor vehicle, obstructing police, stalking and first-degree retail fraud, is being held at the Wayne County Jail without

bond. Moffitt is now facing up to life in prison if convicted on charges of first-degree murder and receiving and concealing stolen property over \$1,000.

Three other men were also charged in connection with the Feb. 10 incident.

A preliminary exam for Joseph Respondek, 45, of Detroit, was also adjourned to March 26. He is charged with felony larceny and obstructing police. Charged as a habitual offender, Respondek will serve up to 15 years if convicted.

Gary Foreman, 64, of Farmington Hills, was bound over for trial by 35th District Court Judge John MacDonald. He is

also facing felony larceny and obstruction charges. Foreman is currently being held in the Wayne County Jail on a \$10,000 cash bond. The charges carry up to three years prison time, but because Foreman is a habitual offender, he could serve 150 percent of the sentence.

Foreman's attorney, Dennis Shrowsbury, had requested a bond reduction, but Wayne County assistant prosecutor Kelly Gleason-Groff objected, stating Foreman was at the time of the incident on probation for a delivery of a controlled substance charge.

Further, she said, he lied to Canton police about his identity, and continued to lie to police throughout their investigation.

Virgil Cagle, 47, of Detroit, failed to appear at 35th District Court Monday. A bench warrant for his arrest was issued by MacDonald. Cagle is charged with one count of misdemeanor larceny. If convicted, he could serve up to one year in prison.

Police say Moffitt was driving a stolen flatbed truck that struck a Chevy S-10 pickup in which Miles was a passenger. Respondek, who has 14 prior arrests and eight convictions, was a passenger in the suspect vehicle.

The incident began at approximately 8:20 p.m. after Canton Police received a 911 call of a larceny in progress. Canton Police responded to a home construction site off Cherry Hill Road, west of Beck, and stopped two vehicles.

Both vehicles appeared to be with construction material. Cagle and Foreman, in one of the trucks, were taken into custody without incident.

Moffitt and Respondek sped away from officers after they were asked for identification.

Initial reports reflected that the suspects headed eastbound at speeds ranging from 35 to 60 miles per hour. Canton officers then pursued the vehicle into Westland until the crash at Venoy and Cherry Hill roads.

Canton Public Safety Director John Santomuro said all four defendants had been using heroin and cocaine all afternoon on Feb. 10, and upon depleting their supply of drugs and cash, proceeded to the job site to steal bundles of roofing shingles.

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REC NEWS

YOUTH SOCCER

Soccer registration for grades K-3 is ongoing. Deadline is March 16. The fee is \$26 for residents.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Bands of several different music varieties, will have a chance to win prizes, participate in games and contests, plus more on Friday, March 23. All bands interested in participating in this event must have band members comprised mostly of high school students. Bands must submit a tape or CD by Friday, March 2 to the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, attn: Modern Tunesage, 31655 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. For more information call 473-9592.

SIG TA-DO

High school students, get ready for the big Sumo Wrestling Challenge at 8 p.m. Friday, March 16 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Other action will include a DJ, dancing, hanging out at the pool, basketball, volleyball and food. This program is supported by "Get Michigan Youth Moving," a mini grant program through the Michigan Department of Community Health funded by the Michigan Tobacco Tax and administered by the Michigan Recreation & Park Association. Call 473-9592.

FRIDAY NIGHT MADNESS

Kids age 6-12 can "go mad" at the Costick Center from 7-11 p.m. Friday, March 23. There will be swimming, snacks, dinner, movies and plenty of games. The cost is \$10 per person. Pre-register at the Recreation Division by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the event. For more information, 473-9570.

OPEN GYM

Get your exercise at the Costick Activities Center. Adult basketball, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays; teen basketball, 3-5 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-3 p.m. Sundays; adult volleyball, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays and 8-10 p.m. Tuesdays; Family Gym and Swim, noon-3 p.m. Saturdays. The cost to participate for residents 17 and under is \$2, nonresidents, \$4. Eighteen and over is \$3 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents.