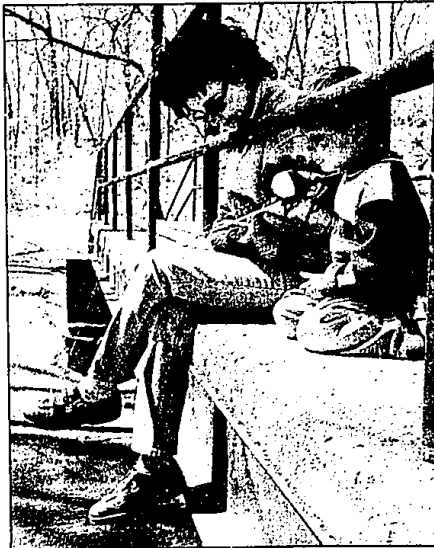


Gone Fishin': Hopeful anglers lined the banks of the Rouge River branch that runs through Shiaswassee Park Saturday for the Trout Derby, offered by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.



Sunny disposition: Marvie Welch and her 4-year-old son Edgar enjoy fine fishin' at Shiaswassee Park.

Naturalist answers Trout Derby questions

A lot of folks that have enjoyed the Trout Derby have had questions so I thought I would answer all of them at once.

The Trout Derby came about after I ran into Farmington City Manager Frank Lauchoff, in what was then Arbor Drugs. We discussed a mutual event that children could share in from Farmington and Farmington Hills. That was over seven years ago and the rest is history.

Why do we have the Derby in April? The trout are delivered by trucks that have tanks in which the water is around 55 degrees. At this time of the year, this branch of the Rouge River is close to that temperature.

If it was off by about 10 degrees or more, we would have to acclimate the fish to the river water which could take a long time to do.

Please remember that trout do not survive when water temperatures get beyond 70 degrees. That is why I would like the fish caught out if possible the day of the Derby. This branch of the Rouge is a warm water fishery and not a trout stream so the

fish are not expected to last through the summer.

Why don't you offer prizes? This is a fun event for children under 14 years of age. If I offered prizes, I'm afraid a few greedy adults would push their children to win something rather than have a nice time on the river. Please remember that for some children this is the only time they will ever see a rainbow trout.

Why do you order only rainbow trout and not brown or brook trout? I'm told that rainbows bite best for an event such as this.

Why don't you allow catch and release fishing during the event? In the real world of fishing I admire the catch and release ethic. However, at this event, if a child were to catch and release a trout, those fish would most likely not bite again for a while and the object of this Derby is to catch fish. The rules also state three fish per child. That means that when you have caught these fish you are done for the day. You are not allowed to catch fish for your

brother, sister or a friend. The object is to allow everyone registered a chance to catch a trout.

Why do you suggest corn for bait? Although many baits can work for trout corn is suggested because I'm told it may mimic what they feed the fish at the trout farm. One to not more than two kernels of corn is the ticket. A kernel of corn will work in trout streams where bait is allowed to be used other than traditional dry or wet fly.

During the Derby no license of any kind is required to fish for trout. After the Derby the State of Michigan fishing rules apply and all adults must have an all species fishing license.

As I wrap up I'd like to commend the many wonderful children and adults that I've met at this fun event. It's nice to see families having a good time close to home. One grandfather mentioned that his grandchildren had been awake since 1 a.m. waiting for the sun to come up for this event. Remember when you got excited about simple things?

We do, however, always have

about a half-dozen adults who try to fish during this children's event. Is the embarrassment worth it when we catch you? And we will catch you thanks to the fine parents that turn you in. If you need fish that had to go to the store or go up north to a trout stream.

Remember, this trout fishing experience is for kids. Saturday April 28, 2001, beamed sunny and bright as opening day of trout season came to Shiaswassee Park. I hope a fun, safe time was had by all who attended.

Joe Dereh is the naturalist for the City of Farmington

Success CSC trial set July 12 in Oakland circuit court

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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The trial of a Farmington man charged with seven counts of criminal sexual conduct against a 19-year-old household member will begin 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 12, in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Defendant Derwin Success, an ordained minister, had a not-guilty plea entered on his behalf during the Tuesday, April 24, arraignment before Oakland Circuit Judge Rae Lee Chabot.

According to a court clerk, Chabot also continued the terms of Success' bond, set last month at the minister's preliminary examination in 47th District Court.

On April 11, 47th District Judge Fred Harris waived the exam, moving the case to circuit

court. Success is charged with four counts of first-degree CSC and three counts of third-degree CSC, all stemming from the alleged sexual assault of a young woman. First-degree CSC is punishable by up to life in prison.

Success remains in the Oakland County Jail, with bond of \$1 million corporate surety.

The defendant, according to a Farmington Public Safety Department press release, "allegedly had sexually assaulted a household member, numerous times, over an approximate period of five years."

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Cheryl Matthews and Kathleen Solomon, an attorney for the defendant, could not be reached for comment about the arraignment.

Police allege local elderly man molested Highland child

BY TIM SMITH
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When an elementary school teacher recently saw a Highland girl's sexually explicit drawing, the teacher suspected that something wasn't right.

As a result, Farmington Hills police are investigating the possibility the 8-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in a home.

Hills police Chief William Dwyer Tuesday said the drawing sparked the investigation of an 85-year-old man, a neighbor of the girl's grandparents.

"That's really how this whole thing came to light," said a cautious Dwyer, who did not want to say much about the case until the investigation is completed.

According to police reports, the girl's teacher confiscated the drawing — which graphically depicted a naked couple engaging in sexual activity — and handed it over to a social worker

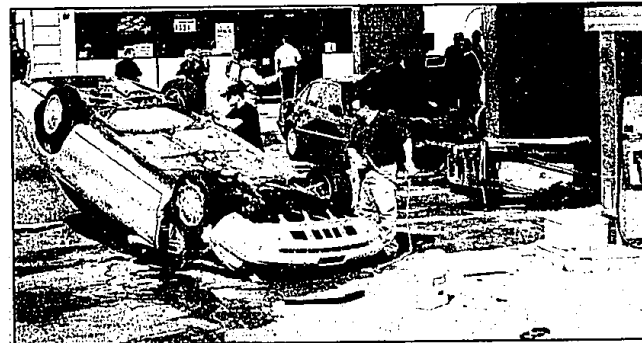
at the Highland district school.

The drawing itself raised suspicions, as did behavioral changes noticed by the social worker in recent months, the police report noted.

Although the girl's mother, a 43-year-old Highland resident, did not file the report with Farmington Hills police until Monday, it is suspected that the sexual assault occurred some time between Dec. 1 and Wednesday, April 25.

"All I can say is the incident is being investigated," said Dwyer, confirming the elderly man is a suspect. "We don't make a lot of comments on these when they are under investigation."

That investigation should be completed by the end of this week, after which a report will be submitted to the Oakland County prosecutor's office. The prosecutor then will decide whether to issue a warrant in the case, Dwyer explained.



Crash and burn: An elderly West Bloomfield woman and Detroit Red Wing Aaron Ward escaped serious injury after the woman's car crashed into a West Bloomfield Amoco station Tuesday morning.

Crash causes explosions at Amoco

BY DAN WEST
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Detroit Red Wings defenseman Aaron Ward was fueling his BMW at a West Bloomfield gas station Tuesday when he got the scare of his life.

He was at the Amoco station on the corner of Farmington and 14 Mile at 9:45 a.m., on his way to join teammates for a game of soccer in Farmington Hills, when he heard a weird sound.

"I put the nozzle in my tank, took three steps back and then I saw her coming," said Ward, who was visibly shaken moments after the incident.

Seconds later, a Lincoln Continental driven by 78-year-old Esteria Halpern of West Bloomfield barreled into the front of Ward's car.

"Fortunately for him, he walked to the back of his car,"

said West Bloomfield Police Lt. Carl Fuha. "If he would have walked to the front of his car, to check his oil or something, he would have been hit."

Halpern's Continental crashed into Ward's car, took out two gas pumps, ignited two small explosions and flipped before coming to rest on its roof.

Amid flames and black smoke, West Bloomfield police officer Steve Booth, Ward, a 28-year-old West Bloomfield resident, and a store employee helped extricate Halpern, who had been thrown into the back seat of her car. She sustained a head laceration but was conscious. An ambulance took her to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.

She was listed in good condition on Wednesday, and police said she is expected to be released soon.

The collision's aftermath caused some anxious moments

for West Bloomfield fire and police department personnel. Initial reports indicated there were two small explosions, a fire in Ward's car, toppled gas pumps and smoke visible from a distance.

Gas station personnel hit an emergency turnoff switch that cuts off fuel to the pumps and Booth and Ward grabbed fire extinguishers to attack the flames until firefighters arrived.

Until the possibility of additional explosions was eliminated, police cut off all traffic within a mile of the gas station, causing lengthy traffic backups in West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills.

They are also trying to determine why Halpern lost control of her car. The investigation centers on two possibilities: vehicle malfunction or driver error. If it was driver error, Fuha said, police will likely ticket Halpern.

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