

POLICE BRIEFS

VANDALISM

The Farmington High School band trailer parked in the south lot on Shiloh was sprayed with green spray paint last weekend.

Assistant Principal Robert Crawford reported the damage, estimated at \$500, according to a Farmington Police report.

"This was a singular event with no leads," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss. Several obscene gestures were painted over by the maintenance staff prior to police arrival Aug. 26.

Graffiti was also found in the east side parking lot on a staff parking spot, below the gymnasium entrance, on concrete below the main entrance on the south side window and near the band stage entrance doors.

Police took photos which were placed on file. The graffiti consisted mostly of vulgarities, Goss said.

HEROIN BUST

Farmington Hills police on Aug. 24 arrested a Detroit man, 44, for heroin possession outside Walgreen's, 27550 Grand River.

Police were called to the store after employees called to say they recognized a customer as someone who had previously stolen goods from the store.

Police arrived as the man and a friend, 46, from Detroit, were getting into a vehicle in the parking lot. Police questioned the men, ran a driver's license check on both, and found they were wanted on outstanding warrants.

During a search, police found a packet of paper containing heroin in the younger man's pants. Police also recovered several keys and lock tumblers from the vehicle, according to the incident report.

APARTMENT BREAK IN

A Farmington Hills man returned to his home at the

Farmington Park Apartments at 3:50 p.m. Aug. 24 to find a door-wall screen had been cut open and his home burglarized.

A \$400 digital camera and \$350 camera were among items missing after the theft.

NO PIECE OF CAKE

Two teens, 18 and 16, were confronted by Farmington Hills police Aug. 24 after they stole two cakes from Bill Knapp's restaurant, 36650 Grand River.

Witnesses said they saw the two enter the restaurant three times on that date. During the third visit, they were seen at 5:30 p.m. near a cake rack. They were next seen walking quickly out of the restaurant and toward

a Jeep Grand Cherokee with a Grateful Dead license plate holder, witnesses told police.

Patrol officers spotted the youths driving on Grand River west of Drake and pulled them over for questioning. The 18-year-old was charged with retail fraud, and the 16-year-old was held at the police department for his parents to pick him up.

GUNS MISSING

Two pistols were reported missing Aug. 24 from a home on Weymouth Court. According to the police report, the gun owner, 41, said he last saw the Ruger NB-5 and Smith & Wesson semi-automatic pistols May 19. There was no evidence of a break in.



Civilian honors: Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer, along with Assistant Chiefs Richard Niemisto and Charles Nebus, congratulated civilian citation winner Susan Aschoff at a ceremony held last Friday. Aschoff was honored for her assistance in a case which resulted in the arrest of a couple who allegedly kept a West African teen-ager in their home as a domestic slave. Aschoff was one of seven citizens honored.

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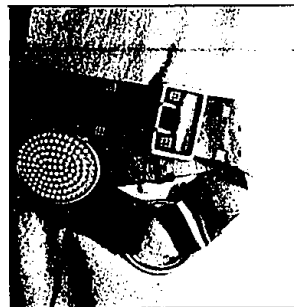
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Trial from A1

"I heard the police took Pridine from the house. I had to come," she said.

Fru said she arrived July 30, more than a year later, and has not seen her daughter. Assistant Prosecutor Cheryl Matthews told Fru she would seek to arrange a meeting.

Evelyn Djoumessi's attorney Cornelius Pitts asked if Fru had seen her daughter's photo in newspapers. "When I saw that tears came out of my eyes," she said, crying. "I put to bed my child and I love my child."

Ann Parker, representing Joseph Djoumessi, showed jurors on Wednesday during closing arguments the upstairs layout of the Djoumessi home, depicted on a easel-mounted poster board.

Pointing to a representation of a bedroom near Joseph's, where a relative was staying with the door open, Parker said, "Do you think Mr. Djoumessi would invite Pridine into the master bedroom to have sex?" as alleged by the teen. "Use your common sense. We submit not."

Parker said that when that when the teen arrived from Cameroon in 1996, she was not fluent in English, and that influenced Mr. Djoumessi's decision not to enroll her in school. "She was going through various exercises," she said, adding, "He was trying to get her ready."

Under questioning by Matthews, Fru said Pridine last lived with her when she was 9. That was when she was sent to live with an uncle's family in Cameroon, as Fru's husband David had lost his job and it was hard to care for five children.

Matthews asked if Fru had sent her daughter birthday or Christmas presents. "What could I send from Cameroon. Am I supposed to cook a dumpling to send?" she said, sparking laughter among Cameroon relatives of the Djoumessis gathered in the courtroom. "We don't have any money to be doing those kind of things."

Pitts asked Fru if her daughter had permission to come to the United States, to refute the kidnapping charge. "I was excited to have relations in the United States," Fru said. "I send her for a better life."

Fru testified she received no money from the Djoumessis, and that children in Cameroon are struck with a cane if they lie. Fru said she had struck her daughter with the cane, when she misbehaved.