

Armed man hits Tim Hortons

An armed man robbed the Tim Hortons on 12 Mile and Farmington around 1 a.m. Wednesday. According to a police report, the manager working at the time of the incident said a man came up to the drive-through window. It's not uncommon for people to walk up to the window since a gas station is nearby, the manager said.

The man pulled a double-barreled shotgun out of his jacket sleeve, pointed it at the employee and told him to move the surveillance cameras. The man then climbed through the drive-through window and pulled up a mask that covered the lower part of his face. He told the employee to open the safe in the office and to give him the cash from the register. The man left through a rear door. No one was injured.

Drunken driving
A 22-year-old Northville woman rear-ended a Farmington Hills patrol car that was parked on the shoulder of the Orchard Lake exit ramp off I-696 at 12:43 a.m. Wednesday. The officer was parked there doing radar checks. There were no serious injuries. The woman had a 0.12 percent blood alcohol level.

POLICE BRIEFS

Drug possession

At Nine Mile and Drake, police pulled over a vehicle for speeding around 10 a.m. Thursday. The three occupants are all high school-age males, and police noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the interior. The boys, two Livonia Stevenson students and one a student at Harrison in Farmington Hills, were not supposed to be off their respective campuses. A marijuana pipe and suspected marijuana were in the vehicle.

Police pulled over a vehicle on the 21500 block of Whittington for a defective brake light. The driver, a 22-year-old Farmington Hills man, had heroin and a syringe in his possession.

Break-in

In the 30300 block of Glenmore, someone kicked in the door to a home between 7:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Wednesday to gain entry. Jewelry and cash were stolen from the home.

Shoplifting

A 21-year-old Bloomfield Hills man was apprehended at the

Kroger grocery store on 12 Mile around 2:41 p.m. Thursday for taking meat packages out of the store without paying.

Cell phone stolen

A female student at Mercy High School reported her \$250 cellular telephone was stolen from her gym locker between 11:05 a.m. and noon Thursday.

Fence cut

At Calculus Construction on Eight Mile, someone cut the chain-link fence to gain entry and stole two heavy-duty binders. Loss was \$200.

Purse taken

At the Botsford Commons, an 61-year-old resident said she accidentally left her purse at the Commons gift shop Thursday and upon her return found it missing.

Laptops stolen

At Interface Solutions on Haggerty, two laptop computers were taken from the business during Tuesday night.

There were no signs of forced entry. Loss was \$6,000.

Compiled by staff writer Paul R. Pace from reports on file at the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Teen vandals hit Hills, West Bloomfield

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Dozens of Farmington Hills residents are having to go through the hassle this week of getting new windows put in their vehicles, after a weekend rash of vandalism.

Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township police departments are investigating 53 or more acts of vandalism targeting automobiles, as well as the windows of a few homes.

Three youths have been arrested; two others remain under investigation.

Around 9 p.m. Sunday, a Hills police officer patrolling the area of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake spotted two teenagers walking through

the Brynmawr Condominiums in West Bloomfield Township, each holding a BB handgun.

They were ordered to put down the weapons and taken into custody.

The two boys, ages 14 and 15, are Farmington Hills residents. The younger suspect attends Harrison High School, while the other attends North Farmington.

The third teen, a 16-year-old Southfield boy, who drove the getaway car, was arrested a short time later by a Farmington Hills officer, police said.

Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said there were 39 vehicles damaged and one house over the weekend.

In neighboring West

Bloomfield Township, at least 12 reports were filed, including two reports from two homeowners.

In addition, two Farmington Hills residents leaving their vehicle on Oak Hollow reported they were shot at by three teens driving a black Infiniti, similar to the car stopped by the Farmington Hills police officer.

Dwyer said he will be sending each victim in the city a letter, updating each person on the status of the investigation and ask them for written estimates of their damages.

He said he is going to seek restitution for the dozens of victims.

"The teens didn't give any thought to the inconvenience and costs to the victims, as well as the consequences," Dwyer said.

The 14-year-old was also cited for marijuana possession.

Each teen faces felony vandalism charges in Oakland County Probate Court.

ppace@homecomm.net | (248) 477-5450

Unique proposals could win prizes

"Will you marry me?"

Those four simple words, uttered a zillion times since Adam and Eve, continue to stir the heart, raise legions of goosebumps and even tickle the funny bone. They're not always accompanied by wine and roses. Sometimes, they're written across the sky, announced at sporting events or delivered by a messenger in a gorilla suit. But always, they're so meaningful.

In honor of Valentine's Day, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is sponsoring its second annual Lessons in Love Contest. Winners receive a romantic evening on the town Thursday, Feb. 13.

We want to hear about your romantic - or funny - wedding proposal. In 100 words or less, tell us how he (or she) popped the question. You could be one of two lucky couples to receive

the following:

■ Transportation, compliments of J.R. Tours, Inc. of Novi.

■ A dozen red roses from Wesley Berry Florist of West Bloomfield.

■ A romantic dinner for two at Little Italy in Northville.

■ Candy from Kilwin's in Birmingham.

■ A \$250 gift coin from Orin Jewelers of Northville and Garden City.

■ One-night stay at Fraser Inn of Northville.

■ Two tickets for the Feb. 13 Red Wings game.

Sorry, you'll have to buy the fancy dress, tip your hair stylist and pay for the baby sitter - a small price for romance.

On a romantic note, Orin Jewelers plans to make an album of all the entries for future customers in need of wedding proposal ideas. Your

words - from "Hey, babe, wanna get hitched?" to "May I have thy petal-soft hand in marriage?" - will forever be immortalized. Sigh.

Now for the contest rules. They're simple: You must be at least 18 years old, limit your entry to 100 words or less and send your Lessons in Love entry to us by Friday, Jan. 24.

Send entries to: "Lessons in Love Contest," Cathy Young, promotion manager, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150;

e-mail: cyoung@oe.homecomm.net; or fax: (734) 953-2232.

Free 'Two for One' concert features community bands

The Farmington Community Band under the direction of Paul Barber hosts the fourth annual joint concert with the Birmingham Concert Band under the direction of Mr. Grant Hoemke on Sunday, Jan. 19.

During "Two for One - For Free!", the bands will perform individually and then join together under the direction of John Williamson, Director of Bands at Central Michigan University. The event will be held at 3 p.m. at Harrison High Auditorium, on the south side of 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The combined bands, totaling about 120 musicians, will perform "Florentiner March" by Julius Fuell, "Rosymedre" by Ralph Vaughn Williams and

"Pineapple Poll" based on the music of Arthur Sullivan.

Williamson, Professor of Music, has been Director of Bands at Central Michigan University since 1979. He is a member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association, National Band Association, and Phi Mu Alpha.

In addition to being listed in the International Who's Who in Music, he has received the NBA Citation of Excellence in Teaching Award from Central Michigan University and been new music reviewer for The Instrumentalist, BD Guide and Band Magazines and is co-author of "Strategies for Teaching High School Band" published by MENC.

He also authored "Rehearsing the Band"

published by Neidig Services, which is now in its third printing in response to national and international demand.

The Farmington and Birmingham bands are composed of musicians of all ages and backgrounds, from high school students to senior citizens who enjoy sharing a wide variety of musical experiences with the community. In that spirit there is no admission fee for this concert, however, donations help ensure the future of the bands and are gratefully accepted.

For further information about the bands call (734) 262-2202 for the FCB and (248) 474-4597 for the BCB. Visit their web sites at www.fcmbu-sic.org and www.birmingham-concertband.com or .org.

Watch state government on channel 15

BY CAREN COLLINS

Many of us watch local access TV to see events and happenings in our own back yard.

But national and state events can also have a local impact.

That's why you can now view Michigan Government TV (MGTV) on your local government access channel 15.

Whether you live in Farmington, Farmington Hills

or Novi, just tune into Farmington 15 Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for all the latest happenings from Lansing.

If you're not home during the day, set your VCR to channel 15 so you can catch this coverage at your convenience.

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) required that Time Warner Cable provide this service as

part of its franchise agreement with the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

"We are pleased to be able to put MGTV on our channel," said Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell.

"We hope residents of the three communities that SWOCC serves will be able to tune in from time to time to see what's going on in state government."

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