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Youth charged in Jan. 7 beating

By Craig Picchura
staff writer

It was only the cold weather that kept more runaways from the county juvenile home from becoming accomplices to the brutal beating Jan. 7 of a 74-year-old Farmington Hills man robbed of more than \$3,000, according to one youth who witnessed the attack.

Mark Lintz, 15, of Troy, was called as a witness Friday in 47th District Court before Judge Margaret Schaeffer in the preliminary exam of Kevin Merrick, 15, of Farmington Hills.

When the exam concluded, Judge Schaeffer ordered Merrick bound over for trial as an adult in Oakland Circuit Court on a felony charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

Lintz faces an upcoming hearing as a juvenile in probate court for his alleged participation in the armed robbery of beating victim Shay Foreman, now 75, a resident of 2465 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

In court Friday, Lintz told prosecuting attorney Craig Weier that Merrick "said he couldn't stop hitting the guy" as the two ran away from the house after the robbery.

The prosecutor produced a 12-inch ratchet wrench which Lintz identified as the weapon used by Merrick in the attack. He told Weier in a voice often too soft to hear that just looking at the wrench made him uncomfortable — at least now.

However, Lintz and another former resident of the juvenile home, Salwan Yousif, said the original group of six runaways spent the night before the attack discussing various ways of robbing Foreman. Methods included beating and possibly even kidnapping the victim by placing him in the trunk of his own car which, Lintz says, they thought about using in a getaway.

THE DISCUSSION took place in a wooden shed located behind the victim's house the night before the actual beating, Lintz and Yousif testified.

"Kevin (Merrick) brag it up," Lintz testified. "He said the guy would come out about 8 (a.m.) to go to work. Ray (Baldwin) said 'Let's mug the guy.' Kevin said 'Maybe we can knock him out with something.'"

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Rick Arnold blames the city for the late opening of his newly built Putt 'n Games in Farmington Hills.

Red tape enrages putt-putt owner

By Craig Picchura
staff writer

Putt 'n Games customers are putting but owner Rick Arnold is sputtering.

Arnold's business — a new video game/minature golf complex — opened in mid-August on Grand River, southeast of Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Arnold is in violation of city codes and is operating without a certificate of occupancy. City officials say he is subject to a \$500 per day fine for every day he does so.

The owner claims, however, that the city's bureaucratic actions and red tape delayed the opening of his seasonal establishment, so he's fighting back by delaying the city.

Arnold, 50 and a West Bloomfield resident, admits he opened the entertainment complex without the occupancy certificate and also admits the

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Bobby Hamrick putts as his father Richard watches from behind.

He's got the whole world in his hands

By Roger Hart
staff writer

There's a 12-foot hand holding a

globe of Earth sitting in the driveway of Larry Carsell's Farmington home, and he really doesn't know what to do with it.

The 12-foot abstract metal sculpture represents more than 300 hours of Carsell's work this spring and summer. Carsell initially designed the sculp-

ture for the company for which he works, Leading Automation of Novi, a manufacturer of automation equipment.

"Leading Automation has factories all over the world and I wanted to make something that would represent its worldwide involvement," Carsell said.

CARSELL DREAMED up the idea for the sculpture over a year and a half ago and plans on donating the 1,000-pound structure to the Novi firm. If they want it, that is.

"I'm hoping they will take it, but it may be too big for them. When I told them I was making a globe, they envisioned something a little smaller."

"They even landscaped in a four-by-four-foot platform for the sculpture to sit on, but this sculpture of mine certainly will not sit on a four-by-four-foot platform," Carsell said.

"If they don't want it, I might end up just putting it in my back yard."

Carsell, 32, says he has worked with oil painting, air brush painting and dried flower art. But the metal sculpture is by far his largest artistic undertaking.

"THIS IS something I have always wanted to do. I have always wanted to do something big. I think this sculpture is semi-big. I would really like to do some big stuff, but I don't know how to go about it."

"I really like doing this — the heavy stuff — but I want to go bigger, much bigger. I hope this piece of work will open some doors," he said.

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2 arrested after lot kidnapping

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Two Detroit men were arraigned in Southfield court Friday for allegedly kidnapping at gunpoint a 61-year-old Farmington Hills man from a Northland Center parking lot.

The pair was arrested Thursday night after a police chase from Southfield to Detroit at speeds up to 60 miles per hour. One suspect allegedly fired two shots at pursuing officers, according to police spokesman Steve Zultowski.

Prince Tyrrol Shannon, 17, and James Wright, 28, stood mute at their arraignment before 46th District Court Judge Jessica Cooper.

Shannon is being held in lieu of \$50,000 bond on charges of armed rob-

bery, kidnapping, possession of a firearm in commission of a felony and assault with intent to commit murder.

Wright is charged with armed robbery, kidnapping and possession of a firearm in commission of a felony. He is being held in lieu of \$40,000 bond.

A PRELIMINARY examination of charges has been set for Aug. 30 in Judge Norman Feder's 46th District Court.

The victim told police he was waiting in the Northland parking lot at 6:45 p.m. Thursday for his wife to get off work, Zultowski said.

Plainclothes Southfield police officers in unmarked cars spotted two men who appeared suspicious. Officers saw the men walk up to either side of the victim's car and get in, Zultowski said.

"Officers could no longer see the owner of the car," Zultowski said. "They later learned the victim had been forced at gunpoint to lie down in the back seat."

"One suspect drove east on I.I. Hudson Drive while the other one was holding a gun to the victim in the back seat. Officers followed the car and tried to box it in."

"The driver rammed into the rear of the unmarked car, shoving it forward. This maneuver allowed the driver to evade police. The suspect drove to Greenfield, jumped a curb and again rammed into a police car chasing the vehicle."

OFFICERS CHASED the suspects south on Eight Mile to Detroit. The driver turned right when he reached a residential street, lost control and was struck by a scout car that had joined the chase, Zultowski said. In the collision, the car driven by the suspect was pushed into a telephone pole.

The driver got out of the car, ran towards an alley and climbed a fence in an effort to evade officers, Zultowski said. The suspect was arrested after a brief struggle.

The second suspect in the back seat fired two shots at police officers before he was arrested, Zultowski said.

During the chase, the suspects allegedly took the victim's wallet containing \$71 and threatened to kill him if he moved, Zultowski said.

Man charged in fatality

A 19-year-old Farmington man has been bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court on a manslaughter charge stemming from a traffic accident in Livonia Aug. 8.

Anthony Costa waived his right to a preliminary examination of the charge in Livonia District Court last Thursday.

District Court Judge James McCann continued Costa's \$1,000 cash bond. Costa had pleaded innocent to the charge at an earlier district court hearing.

According to Livonia Police, Donald J. Jasinski, also of Farmington, was killed after a head-on crash on Farmington Road near Eight Mile.

Police said Costa's van crossed over the center line and crashed into Jasinski's truck.

Jasinski died one hour later after receiving emergency treatment at Botsford Hospital.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The 46-inch stainless steel globe with copper continents is supported with a 12-foot hand.

what's inside

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