

2 adults charged as police probe student gambling

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Two men face felony charges in connection with professional sports gambling at North Farmington High School.

John Suba, 34, of Roseville, and Brian Friscione, 27, of Rochester, pleaded not guilty to one count each of extortion at their arraignments in 47th District Court Friday morning.

Both are free on \$10,000 personal bond. Conviction carries a maximum 20 years in prison. A preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for Sept. 4.

Police first became aware of gambling at the school late last year. Two men, one of whom is believed to be the ringleader, and the other a so-called messenger, were arrested after police set up a meeting in which the messenger believed he was picking up a

gambling debt payment, said Farmington Hills police Inspector Tom Godwin.

"There was a lot of money involved for students," Godwin said. "There are rumors that there are quite a few students into this guy (ringleader) for hundreds of dollars each."

Police are continuing to investigate to determine the extent of gambling among students in the schools.

"We want to see how far this has gone," Godwin said. "We want to see if this is into other schools. We are hoping this (arrest) will end it. We feel we have the people who organized it."

Police are asking students or parents who have information about gambling to contact them at 473-9660. Information can be provided anonymously.

Ways to ensure water is safe

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Though there's no need to panic about the amounts of lead found in water samples taken from Farmington and Farmington Hills houses, lead can be dangerous.

Lead is a highly toxic metal that is found throughout our environment. In high concentrations it can cause serious problems, particularly for children. In most cases, lead gets into the water after it leaves the water utility.

But there are ways to protect yourself. Here's some tips to help you minimize the risks of lead in your water:

- Flush your plumbing. This clears the plumbing of water that may have picked up lead from the pipes. Flush any tap to be used for drinking or cooking whenever plumbing has not been used for six or more hours.

- When you flush the plumbing let the cold water run until it's as

cold as it can get. "Fifteen-to-30 seconds is recommended," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills public services director.

- You can save the flushed water for watering plants and household cleaning chores.

- Use only cold water for cooking and drinking. Hot water causes more pipe corrosion and may lead to higher lead levels.

- Have an electrician check your wiring. If ground wires from the electrical system are attached to the pipes, corrosion will be greater. See if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere.

- Consider replacing your plumbing if your pipes are solid lead, or if lead levels are high.

- Consider your water-softening equipment if you have it. This equipment makes your water more corrosive. It makes it more likely that water will pick up lead if lead was used in your pipes or fixtures.

Lead from page 1A

Five houses in the city of Farmington were tested including three homes the city knew had lead water leads — the pipes which connect the house to the city's sewer lines — and two others built between 1982-88 which used lead soldering for joining copper pipes. Only one home tested above the EPA levels, said Farmington public services director Earl Billing.

"Only one house failed the lead testing, however that put the entire city above the EPA levels," Billing said. He said over the years the city has been removing lead piping and putting in copper piping as they have found it throughout the city water system.

After 1988, the EPA did not allow the higher lead content in solder used to connect copper pipes, so newer houses are not at risk. Water samples in the Farmington area the EPA tested did not exceed allowed levels of lead.

The samplings and brochures sent to residents are designed to let "them know of potential of lead seepage into the water supply," said Tom Biasek, Farmington Hills public services director. Lead is not usually found in water and must be introduced through some means into the supply. It can come from several sources:

- Lead service leads, which carry water from the main under the street into a house. "We aren't aware of any homes in Farmington Hills with lead service leads," Biasek said. Farmington has only a few, Billing said.

- Solder used to connect pipes is considered the primary culprit in the area for lead in the water. Lead solder has not been allowed since 1988, but before that, it was commonly used.

- Fixtures made of brass or chrome-plated brass. Lead is used to make brass. When the water comes in contact with the brass lead can enter the water.

But pipes, over time, can become coated with deposits of the minerals in the water, so there might not necessarily be a direct contact with lead, Biasek said.

The cities are required to inform residents of the sample results and offer tips to reduce the lead in water by Sept. 8. The information residents will receive includes mandatory language provided by the EPA. But that's not the end of it.

Detroit is now studying the water supply to determine what can be done to reduce the reaction of the water to the lead soldering and fixtures.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY

No one was injured during an attempted robbery in the parking lot of the Drake'shire Chiropractic Center, 24100 Drake, Aug. 23.

According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, a 28-year-old Farmington Hills man was sitting in the lot when three subjects walked passed him. They then returned to him and demanded money. He ran away and reported the incident to police.

BREAKING AND ENTERINGS

Police are investigating the breaking and enterings of the Village Park office complex, 31800 Northwestern Highway, where six businesses were robbed, Aug. 26-27, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

Computer equipment valued at \$10,850 was reported stolen from

Ventura Properties. Investment Timing reported a computer printer valued at \$3,000 stolen. At Buddy's Inc., \$400 estimated damage resulted. The same occurred at Fortune Personnel and Max Dubinsky, both which had \$200 damage. At Seigel & Seigel, a personal computer and printer valued at \$5,000 were reported stolen.

THEFTS REPORTED

Two bicycles and a scooter all valued at \$320 were reported stolen from a home on Brittany Hill Aug. 20-21. They were later recovered in a creek near the Jamestown Apartments.

A radio and radar detector valued at \$425 were reported stolen from a vehicle parked at the former Chesley Industries, 28775 Chesley Ave. 21-24.

Three wire wheel covers valued at \$317 were reported stolen from the parking lot at the Farmer Jack store, 22128 Farmington Road Aug. 24.

Jazz show benefits center

"Jazz Under the Stars," a benefit for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills, will be presented at 5:30 p.m. on

Saturday, Sept. 12.

Sponsored by the Piemontese Club in Farmington, a group of individuals of Northern Italian heritage, the evening will feature Calvin Brooks, local jazz guitarist, with vocals by Hani Paris.

The jazz event will be held at the club on Nine Mile Road east of Haggerty. Tickets are \$25 each and include a picnic supper. Participants should bring beverages and a tablecloth. There are picnic tables at the site.

For more information or reservations, call the Center's Agency Registration Department at 626-7627 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLARIFICATION

In the Aug. 27 issue of the Observer, a label on a Page 1 story should have said "Copper Creek." A photo outline on page 3A should have identified a visiting exchange student as Mario Alvarez Ruiz. A outline on page 11A should have identified Janice Schmidt as Farmington's deputy city clerk.

In the Monday, Aug. 24, issue, a technical error cut the lead on a story on Page 3A about Heritage Park. Dan Connor's name should have been included.

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