

Getting a load off



SHARON LE MEYER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Toppled truck: No injuries were reported after a dump truck tipped over Monday morning at Farmington and Shiawassee roads. Bricks and debris had to be removed with a front-end loader.

15 men arraigned in wake of large scale gambling raid

Arraignments were held Monday for the 15 men arrested in an Oct. 3 gambling raid in which police confiscated \$14,000.

According to the 47th District Court officials, attorneys entered not guilty pleas on behalf of 13 of the suspects. No pre-trial date has been set.

Only one, a West Bloomfield man who appeared without an attorney, entered a guilty plea for "frequenting a gambling place." He will be sentenced on Nov. 19.

The arraignment of another West Bloomfield suspect was postponed until Dec. 21, the court said.

Farmington Hills police arrested the men during a gambling raid Oct. 3 at the Comfort Inn mo-

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tel on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. Most of the men were residents of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township. Farmington Hills city attorney Steven Meads could not specify the ages of the men, but said most were "young."

Police had suspected gambling activity at the motel several weeks prior to the arrests. On the night of the raid, police had no-

ticed "a large number of men" entering the motel, police Chief William Dwyer said in an earlier interview.

Police entered the motel room at about 1:30 a.m. and saw "a dice game and card playing with large sums of money on the table," Dwyer said.

Meads said no charges had been filed against the motel owners.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

VANDALISM REPORTED

A 19-year-old Novi man was arrested Oct. 23 after punching the window of an Amoco gas station at Orchard Lake and 13 Mile roads, according to a Farmington Hills Police report. Damage was estimated at \$500.

In an unrelated incident, Rent-A-Rolls on Grand River reported \$1,500 worth of damage after three showroom windows were shattered Oct. 23.

THEFTS REPORTED

A lawn leaf blower valued at \$350 was stolen Oct. 25 from an open garage on Kendallwood. Also Oct. 23, a man driving a black Lincoln failed to pay for \$20 worth of gas at the Mobile station on 12 Mile.

In unrelated report, an Echo Valley Apartments resident reported jewelry stolen from her apartment. Items taken include two gold necklaces, three gold

charms and a silver brooch.

Camera equipment valued at \$1,200 was reported stolen from a Sugar Spring Road home Oct. 26.

In neighboring Farmington, a tool box and contents valued at \$700 and a set of custom golf clubs valued at \$1,000 were reported stolen from a garage on Meadowlark Oct. 23-24.

AUTO THEFT

About \$450 of items were stolen from a 1991 Mercury Capri parked at the Citation Club on Meridian Place Oct. 26. Items taken included a radar detector, CD player and compact discs.

A \$100 car phone was reported stolen from a 1989 Ford Escort at Woodlawn Apartments.

The owner of a 1983 Pontiac parked at Detroit Baptist Manor reported \$50 worth of damage to the car's gas cap Oct. 23.

A stereo valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a 1987 Toyota parked at Farmington Square Condominiums Oct. 25.

An attempted breakin of a 1991 Chevy parked at Kmart on Orchard Lake left \$300 worth of dam-

age to the car's door handle Oct. 24.

A 1992 gray Chevy Blazer was reported stolen from El Marco and 10 Mile roads. No signs of forced entry were noted.

About \$400 worth of cassette tapes were reported stolen Oct. 25 from a 1985 Chevy in the parking lot of Putt-n-Games.

Hubsaps valued at \$400 were stolen Oct. 25 from a 1988 Ford Tempo at Farmington Square Condominiums.

A 1989 Buick LeSabre parked at the North Valley Complex on Northwestern Highway was reported stolen Oct. 26. Golf clubs and a garage door opener were also in the car. Police said shattered glass was found where the car was parked.

Hunting equipment, camera and binoculars valued at \$2,000 were reported stolen Oct. 26 from a 1990 GMC truck parked on Rensselaer Road.

ASSAULT ARREST

A 15-year-old Farmington High School freshman was arrested and will be charged in Oakland County Probate Court juvenile division with felonious assault with a knife, following a mid-day fight at Maude's Pizza Oct. 22.

Farmington police are continuing to investigate the incident, which may involve other teens.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, about 15-20 teens had gathered at the restaurant behind Farmington High School shortly before noon, when a report of a fight with knives was reported to police. Witnesses gave conflicting statements, with some telling police the 15-year-old and two others, including an 18-year-old and 19-year-old from Farmington Hills, brandished knives. Others said only the 15-year-old pulled a knife during the fight.

The fight has reportedly started the day before when verbal

threats were made between those fighting.

The 15-year-old told police he pulled out a black and silver pencil, not a knife. Petitions are expected to be filed in probate court in the matter.

KITCHEN FIRE

An Oct. 22 kitchen fire at the Big Boy restaurant, 20788 Farmington Road, caused \$35,000 in property damage and another \$35,000 in estimated content loss to the business. The fire reportedly started about 11 a.m.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the fire started in a grease fryer in the kitchen area, and had spread into the drop ceiling before it could be extinguished. There was extensive smoke damage reported

throughout the building. No injuries were reported.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

A Manchester woman reported that a man who interviewed her for a job at a Farmington Hills business called her Oct. 21 and offered her a job only if she were willing to perform "sexual favors and attend to her customers," according to a Farmington Hills police report. The woman declined and on Oct. 23 called the company. Officials at the company said that they had never heard of the man and that they had no record of his employment. The suspect has short red hair and a mustache, and wears glasses. He is about 25 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs about 150 pounds.

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