

## Scrape marks lead to stolen snowmobile

Two Farmington Hills men could really be in a "tough scrape."

Deane Anthony Couch, 21, and his brother Andrew Michael Couch, 17, were arraigned in 47th District Court Friday on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100.

Farmington Hills Police detective Tim Swanson said an informant told Hills police and officers from the Southwest Oakland County Auto Theft Unit that two men had a stolen 1991 Skidoo snowmobile.

Undercover officers offered to buy the snowmobile, valued at about \$6,000, for \$700, and memorized the vehicle number while looking it over at a Bay-tree residence.

After saying they would check back after asking another family member if he'd help

pay, the officers found the snowmobile had been stolen in Brighton.

"We came back and made the arrest," Swanson said. "But when we had them open the garage door, it was gone."

However, scrape marks, apparently made by the snowmobile, led across the street to a neighbor's garage. The neighbor told police someone had asked him if they could put the snowmobile in his garage.

"He didn't know it was stolen," Swanson said. "I think they got 'blinked up' (suspicious) when the officers said they'd be back after a while. We didn't know it, but Novi Police had been there in the morning looking for some other missing items."

If convicted, the two men face up to five years in prison and/or a \$2,500 fine.

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

### ASSAULT

An argument over a car turned ugly as a woman blows at a going away party. A 22-year-old Southfield woman and witnesses told police a 28-year-old Farmington Hills man punched her at a going away party at Drakeshire Bowling Lanes on Grand River on Dec. 23. The argument started in the bar area. The man punched the woman in the face. She then slapped him in the face. He hit her in the head and then kicked her in the ribs after she had fallen down.

An argument in the parking lot of the Metro Music Cafe on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills ended with three men in a car trying to run down three others. The incident took place on Jan. 8 at 2:05 a.m. The men were waiting for a valet/bouncer to bring their car when three men became "loud and obnoxious." One of the younger men punched one of the older men, a scuffle broke out, and was broken up when the bouncer returned with the car belonging to the older men. The younger men then left in a 1983 Black Chevrolet Suburban, then returned and drove into the three older men, causing minor injuries.

### VEHICLE THEFTS

A test drive turned into a car theft when the customers didn't return a 1989 Blue Toyota Cressida to Bob Saks Toyota on Grand River on Jan. 6. A black man, 5-foot-11 and about 200 pounds wearing green jeans and a multi-colored jacket, and a black man 6-foot-8 and 160 pounds with a pony tail, asked to take the car for a test drive. One drove away the car, westbound on Grand River. The

other man drove away the 1978 yellow Lincoln in which the pair came. The Toyota is valued at \$10,000.

A yellow Ryder rental truck was stolen from Camper-N-Cruise on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills between Jan. 2-4. The 1989 yellow Ford step-van was valued at \$10,000.

Police are holding a 1991 white Saturn for prints that was recovered and had been stolen. The car was found on Howard Street in Farmington Hills on Jan. 5. It had a broken lock, but the ignition and steering column were left intact.

### FRAUD

An employee at Bel Air Drugstore reported to Farmington Public Safety officers cashing a money order for \$280 Thursday that was later found to be stolen.

The suspect, who is described as a thin white male in his early 20s 6-foot 7-inches to 5-8 in height, told the employee he bought the Traveler's Express money order earlier in the day. He was going to use as a deposit for a motorcycle, but the deal fell through and wanted to cash in. The money order is believed to have been stolen from a Livonia delicatessen, which recently reported 176 money orders were stolen.

The incident is believed to be related to ones in Detroit, Waterford and Novi.

### VANDALISM

Vandals caused \$500 in damage to the front window of a residence on Skye Drive East in Farmington Hills between Jan. 3-4. A BB gun shot broke through the outer pane of the Thermopane window.

Three windows at a residence on Aspen in Farmington Hills were damaged from BB gun fire

between Jan. 4-5. Damage was estimated at \$2,100.

A BB gun caused \$700 in damage at the Halo-Americans Building on Buckingham Drive in Farmington Hills between Jan. 4-6.

BB gun caused \$100 in damage to the front window of a residence on Beacon Tree in Farmington Hills between Jan. 4-5.

A hallway and an adjoining apartment were damaged by flooding at the Cedarbrook Apartments in Middlebelt in Farmington Hills on Jan. 7. A sprinkler head from the building's fire protection system had been broken off in the laundry room causing the flooding.

The rear window of a residence on Greening in Farmington Hills was broken on Jan. 7 causing \$200 in damage.

A BB gun shot broke through a 1991 LeBaron in parking lot on Farmington Road in Farmington was broken out Jan. 7.

A rock was thrown through a window of a store on Grand River in Farmington on Jan. 7, leaving a 4-inch hole.

### THEFTS

Three sets of four wheel covers were stolen from cars at Bill Cook Mazda on Grand River in Farmington Hills between Dec. 24 and Jan. 4. Three wheel covers were valued at \$540 and came from two 1993 Mazda 626s and a 1993 Buick Skylark.

A tool box and tools valued at \$250 were stolen from a 1979 Chevy Monte Carlo that had broken down and was parked on the west-bound shoulder of I-696 near Orchard Lake Road on Jan. 5. The driver had left the car there at 6:15 a.m. and returned at 3 p.m. to find the items missing.

A mobile car phone was stolen from a 1991 Acura Legend parked at August Productions on Indus-

trial Park Drive in Farmington Hills on Jan. 6.

A fur coat worth \$10,000 and cash were among items stolen from a residence at the Fox Pointe Townhouses on Haledale in Farmington Hills on Jan. 6. The coat along with stereo equipment worth \$600, Waterford crystal worth \$350, cameras worth \$1,150 and 13 \$100 bills were taken between 8 a.m. and noon. The realtor returned home to find the residence ransacked, then called police.

Another camera also was stolen from Fox Pointe Townhouses between Jan. 4-6. The 35mm Minolta and its carrying case were valued at \$350.

Someone took \$450 in cash from Kiddfacs research on West 12 Mile in Farmington Hills between Jan. 4 and 6.

A stereo, wallet and binoculars worth \$450 were stolen from a residence on Rensselaer in Farmington Hills between Jan. 5-6. The vehicle's center console was damaged and the owner told police it was the third such incident within a month.

A woman told police a new black purse worth \$399 had been stolen while she was at Blakely's Ranch House restaurant on Grand River in Farmington Hills on Jan. 3.

Tools worth about \$1,400 were stolen from a blue 1986 Chevy Silverado parked in the driveway at a residence on Tulane in Farmington Hills on Jan. 6. Hammer drills worth \$900, a cordless drill worth \$200 and Skill saws valued at \$300 were stolen.

Guns and hunting equipment worth \$867 were stolen from a 1990 red Ford F150 pickup truck parked in a driveway on Colgate in Farmington Hills between Jan. 6-7. The items included a shotgun, rifle, scope and bow.

## King breakfast celebration set

Lakes Area Council for Diversity and Walled Lake Schools will host a Martin Luther King Breakfast Celebration at 8 a.m., Monday, Jan. 18, in the "cafetorium" of Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake.

Tickets are \$3.50 each and can be purchased at the school during regular school hours (8:30 a.m. to

2:55 p.m.), at the Administration Building, 696 N. Pontiac Trail (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or by mail. Featured speaker is Miriam Blankenship, attorney with Howard and Howard of Bloomfield Hills.

For further information, contact Dr. Carl Pacacha, assistant superintendent for secondary education, 960-8314.

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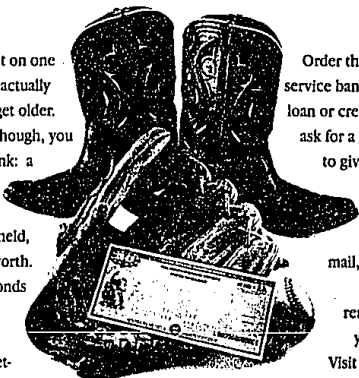
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Friday, January 29, 7 p.m. (Signup Recommended)

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**ARTHRITIS MEDICATIONS & THEIR EFFECT ON BLEEDING**

If you are to have surgery you may be asked if you use aspirin. Likely you will be told to stop the drug for at least two weeks prior to operation.

These instructions avoid a possible effect of aspirin: interference with the blood's ability to clot. If you take ASA on a regular basis, you run the risk of bleeding at the time of surgery. You know this feature as aspirin's ability to "thin the blood."

This effect is well appreciated by individuals who have hemophilia; these people cannot use any aspirin. ASA is precluded if you take medicine to stop blood clots to the lung or because you have an artificial heart valve and must prevent clots from forming on the replacement.

Other arthritis medications act the aspirin. Even though they usually do not decrease blood clotting to the extent that aspirin can, you may be advised to stop any such drug before surgery.

Going that far may not be necessary today. The pharmaceutical industry has compounded arthritis drugs containing salicylates, the most active constituent of aspirin; these alternatives do not interfere with blood clotting. Aspirin is the first choice for arthritis because it is a more powerful anti-inflammatory agent than any substitute.

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