Man shot by wife is on road to recovery

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills businessman, who was shot by his wife while he slept, was expected to be released from the hospital over the weekend, according to a relative.

Lewis Ansara, 41, was removed from intensive care and was taken off a ventilator last week. He's expected to make a full recovery from two gunshot wounds he suffered March 3.

Following the shooting of her husband, Leila Ansara, 29, died after turning the gun on herself. She was suffering from depression since the birth of their fourth child, family members said.

"That's what we understand, but we don't have the whole story yet," said Victor Ansara, a cousin of Lewis Ansara. "We don't have specific records or anything like that. To be quite honest, that's the speculation we've received from what various people have told us.

"We haven't talked too much to Lou about it. We don't want to bother him too much about it now."

Lewis Ansara, who owns the Red Robin Restaurant in Novi and several Big Boy restaurants, was interviewed by Farmington Hills police Tuesday at Botsford Hospital. Inspector Thomas Godwin said it sounds like depression did have a role in the attempted murder and suicide. Police are no longer investigating.

"We've pretty much closed it now," Godwin said. "She did shoot him and took her own life. That's as far as we go."

Godwin said Leila Ansara was not believed to have been taking antidepressants, though police have not received a toxicology report. Antidepressants are often used in treating postpartum depression.

The couple's four children, ages 4, 3, 2 and 8 months are staying with relatives, Victor Ansara said. He has visited Lewis Ansara in the hospital.

"Of course, he's down and he's upset about what happened. Right now, his main concern is the kids and him recovering himself."

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POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

■ FIRE

Firefighters from Station 4 in Farmington Hills put out a fire that had started from an improperly wired dryer in the laundry room of a house on Kinsgate Way in Farmington Hills at 10:31 a.m. March 7. The fire had spread inside of drywall, which had to be removed by firefighters to put out the blaze. Damage to the property was $5,000 and damage to contents was $500.

Firefighters from Station 4 evacuated a house on Fredricksburg in Farmington Hills March 9 at 3:38 p.m. after smelling gas. The furnace had leaked.

■ AUTO THEFT

Two 1994 green Jeep Grand Cherokees worth $31,000 each were stolen from Bob Saks Jeep Eagle on Grand River in Farmington Hills between Feb. 26 and March 8.

■ THEFT

A purse with $2,500 in cash that had been in a bedroom closet of a house on Ridgeside in Farmington Hills was stolen between Feb. 25 and March 5.

A Toshiba AM/FM cassette stereo ($400) and 15 cassettes were stolen from a 1985 Chevy Blazer parked at the Greenhill Apartments on Greenhill in Farmington Hills March 6.

Two briefcases with school books ($300) and a suitcase ($70) were stolen from the Muirwood Apartments on Hearthside in Farmington Hills March 8.

An Escort radar detector ($170) and a man's three-quarter length leather coat ($350) were stolen from a red Ford Probe parked on Edgeton March 8.

A pair of purple Vokyl skis with bindings and boots ($1,150) and $500 in men's ski clothes were stolen from the Muirwood Apartments on Woodridge in Farmington Hills March 8-9.

A blue Schwinn boy's mountain bike ($200) was stolen from the Orchard Place condos on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills March 8-9.

Equipment worth $4,255 including a Hilti nailer ($1,200), a portable cable saw ($180), a Makita mitre saw ($300), two Porter cable circular saws ($360), a Makita right angle drill ($200), two Botich finish nailers, two Botich rough nailers ($800) and other equipment were stolen from the New Financial Center on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills March 8-9.

■ BREAK-INS

The passenger window was broken on a black 1989 Cadillac parked at Mulligan's on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills March 8 causing $300 in damage. An AM/FM stereo worth $200 and an NEC portable phone ($150) were stolen.

The passenger window on a 1991 white Cadillac parked on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills was broken March 8 causing $200 in damage and an AM/FM cassette stereo worth $200 was stolen.

The rear driver's side window of a silver 1988 Ford Festiva parked at the Muirwood Apardments on Woodrow in Farmington Hills was broken March 7-8 causing $100 in damage. A Clarion AM/FM cassette stereo ($300), a Bell radar detector ($300), a Minolta 35 mm Freedom 3 camera ($250), a tool box with assorted Craftsman tools ($150) and a baseball glove were stolen.

A Motorola flip phone and adaptor ($300) was stolen from a red 1993 Toyota Camry at the Muirwood Apartments on Woodridge in Farmington Hills along with 100 cassettes after the driver's door window was smashed causing $75 in damage March 8-9.

Twelve CDs ($180) and a pair of women's prescription sunglasses ($250) were stolen from a 1993 Geo Tracer after the convertible top was torn causing $200 in damage.

Jewelry ($1,720), Craftsman tools ($80) and an RCA VCR ($1,120) were stolen from a residence on Arden Park in Farmington Hills March 10.

■ BAD CHECK

A personal check of $1,141.70 to pay for room rent at the Botsford Inn on Grand River in Farmington Hills came back with insufficient funds Jan. 28.

■ ARMED ROBBERY

Two men held up the McDonald's restaurant on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills at 12:15 a.m. March 9 and got away with about $4,000 in cash from the restaurant and five employees. The assistant manager locked the doors and checked the restrooms at 11 p.m. and found no one other than employees in the building. At 12:15 a.m. two men, each armed with a revolver, demanded money from employees and the safe and then ordered everyone into a walk-in freezer. One man was described as black, about 18, 5 feet 7, wearing a gray jogging suit and a red bandana. The other man was described as 5 feet 7, wearing a dark green *jogging suit and a black skull cap.* Farmington Hills police are investigating.

■ VANDALISM

A door wall was shattered at a residence on Westmoreland in Farmington Hills March 9 causing $1,500 in damage.

A star was spray painted on a wall at Dunleavy's Pub & Grill on Grand River in Farmington March 8 causing $20 damage.

Several symbols were spray painted on a wall at Worldwide TV *on Grand River in Farmington* March 8 causing $200 damage.

■ SHOPLIFTING

Police arrested a Farmington Hills woman, 39, for attempting to take $438.91 in clothing from Kohl's on Grand River in Farmington Hills March 9 without paying.

Man pleads guilty — for now

A man who pleaded guilty to embezzlement charges may change his mind if he doesn't like the sentence recommended by the probation department.

Charles Anthony, who has used several aliases, pleaded guilty to six counts of embezzlement of over $100 in Oakland Circuit Court March 3. Each count is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Judge Robert Anderson set sentencing for April 6, but agreed to allow Anthony to withdraw his guilty plea if jail were part of the sentence recommended. Anthony is free on bond.

"The judge said if he couldn't go along with the recommendation, he could withdraw his plea and go to trial," said Anthony's attorney Che Karega.

Anthony's Universal Automotive on Grand River was raided by Farmington Hills police in September after several people complained about a leasing scam.

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