

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

CRIMES

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills boy, 17, for possession of drugs, a bag of marijuana, at Harrison High School on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills April 4.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Novi man, 30, for possession of 1/4 ounce of marijuana and a pipe after pulling over a blue 1979 Chevy pickup westbound on 13 Mile near Northwestern.

AUTO THEFTS

A black 1984 Buick Regal worth \$10,000 was stolen from Bill Cook Buick in Farmington Hills between March 11 and April 11.

A blue 1995 Dodge Dakota pickup worth \$16,900 was stolen from Bob Saks on Grand River between March 6 and April 11.

THEFTS

A \$300 radar detector was stolen from Mickey Shorr on Grand River in Farmington Hills April 11.

A \$350 cellular phone and a \$5,000 coyote coat were stolen from a black 1989 Chevy S-10 Blazer parked on Northwestern in Farmington Hills April 13.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A Farmington man, 42, was ticketed for disorderly conduct during a family dispute on Valley View April 12. Police were called after the man began kicking and pounding at the door. He also threw a pop bottle at the door and uttered profanities at police.

and AM/FM CD stereo worth \$320 was stolen April 11.

A \$100 only ring was stolen from a residence at the Spring Valley Apartments on Spring Lane in Farmington Hills April 13 after the front door was pried open (\$200).

A \$350 man's gray pinstripe suit was stolen from a residence at the Spring Valley Apartments on Spring Lane in Farmington Hills April 13 after the metal door was pried open (\$50).

Men's watches, cash, clothing and other items (\$1,200) were stolen from a residence at the Spring Valley Apartments on Spring Lane in Farmington Hills April 13 after the front door was pried open.

RECEIVING AND CONCEALING

Farmington Hills police arrested two Detroit men, 20 and 21, who were driving a red 1995 Olds Cutlass east on 12 Mile near Rollcrest at 67 mph. Officers found papers, radar detectors and other items that had been reported stolen April 11.

BAD CHECKS

A check for \$2,187.84 written to Sam's Club on Haggerty Jan. 1 came back April 13 from a closed account.

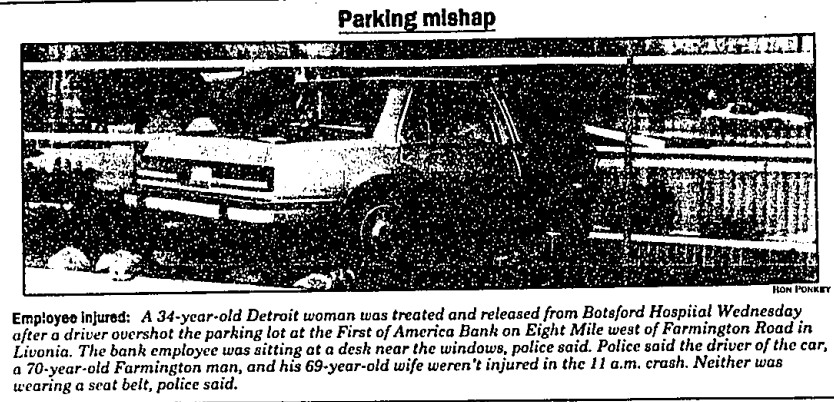
A \$442.23 check written to Sam's Club on Haggerty in Farmington Hills in October of 1994, was from a closed account as of April 13.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Farmington police arrested a Livonia man, 51, for drunken driving on Orchard Lake near Grand River April 11. The driver was questioned after his 1990 Cadillac DeVille hit the patrol car from behind. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .23 percent.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

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Employee injured: A 34-year-old Detroit woman was treated and released from Botsford Hospital Wednesday after a driver overshot the parking lot at the First of America Bank on Eight Mile west of Farmington Road in Livonia. The bank employee was sitting at a desk near the windows, police said. Police said the driver of the car, a 70-year-old Farmington man, and his 69-year-old wife weren't injured in the 11 a.m. crash. Neither was wearing a seat belt, police said.

Taped phone call questioned in sex case

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A Westland judge is questioning the admissibility of a tape-recorded phone conversation between a John Glenn High School girls basketball player and former coach Patrick Bennett, who marks one month in jail Tuesday for a highly public sex scandal.

The girl, 15 at the time, said during a preliminary hearing Thursday that she wasn't asked to consent to the taping, which Bennett's attorney has labeled "a set up" and an invasion of privacy.

The teen's testimony contradicted statements by her mother and by prosecuting attorney Margaret Rynier, who insisted Thursday that the issue was discussed March 6 in Rynier's office before the call was made later that day.

"She knew," the mother testified about her daughter. "She understood that. She agreed to it readily."

Rynier has submitted the tape and a transcript of the conversa-

tion as evidence to support allegations against Bennett, who is charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct and obstructing justice. The latter charge stems from allegations that Bennett told the girl not to cooperate with authorities.

Bennett, a 10-year girls basketball coach, was arrested at the Farmington Hills Kroger store where he worked.

The girl's father, who also was in Rynier's office on March 6, testified Thursday that he didn't remember authorities asking his daughter to consent to the taping.

Ruling due May 3

Bokos delayed a ruling on the issue until May 3, when the Westland hearing is expected to conclude. He said his understanding of state law is that either the girl or Bennett would have had to know of the taping.

The judge said he is concerned not only about the consent issue, but also by testimony that a Wayne police sergeant provided the girl with questions that she posed to Bennett about their sexual relations.

Bennett faces identical charges in Westland and Wayne, amid allegations that he and the 10th-grade girl had sex in both cities.

The girl has testified that she and Bennett had sex at his Wayne residence and at a Westland house that he was watching for out-of-town friends.

Authorities have said the relationship began last fall.

In an attempt to ease Bokos' concerns about the taping, Rynier argued that the girl's mother also consented. That, alone, would make the evidence admissible because the teen was a minor, Rynier said.

In turn, Bokos asked Rynier to provide him with past cases supporting her claims that the mother's consent was sufficient.

After Rynier gave Bokos her word that the issue of taping was raised with the girl, defense attorney Irving Tukul raised questions about whether Rynier should be prosecuting the case. Tukul argued that Rynier's statements made her a witness, but Bokos didn't move to dismiss Rynier.

Under questioning from Tukul, the girl again testified that she didn't want Bennett to be prosecuted.

"Is it your desire, your wish, to prosecute Pat Bennett?" Tukul asked.

"No," the girl said.

Mother testifies

The teen's mother testified that

her daughter has lied to try to protect Bennett. The girl, whose parents are divorced, has moved out of her mother's house to live with her father.

The mother also said she found cards that Bennett gave to the girl. But she said her daughter "stole them from me" and disposed of them.

The girl has testified that she flushed some of the cards down a toilet and gave others back to Bennett.

The mother has expressed grief that her daughter won't speak to her or even look at her.

Bennett remains jailed in lieu of a \$50,000 cash bond. Although he is awaiting a ruling in Westland, he already has been ordered to stand trial by Wayne District Judge Carolyn Archbold.

His hearing in Wayne concluded on Monday. Archbold allowed the tape and transcript to be admitted as evidence, saying she believed statements made by Rynier and the girl's mother that the taping of the phone conversation was handled properly.

Bennett could face a maximum of 15 years in prison if convicted on the sex charges. He could face five years if convicted of obstructing justice.

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	Wednesday	May 3rd	6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
PLYMOUTH NOVI	Monday	May 1st	6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
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THE BEST MATTRESS

The best mattress is a prison floor; unfortunately, the rest of the accommodations come at too high a price. The alternative is as firm a mattress as you can find, a form of a spring mattress. If you must bed in something stuffed with cotton then supplement with a flat board. A 1/2 inch thick piece of plywood under the mattress will suffice.

Hammocks are fine for many men but not for those of us whose feet tread on earth. The role of waterbeds is known - not enough research and too many claims, cloud evaluation.

The best way to sleep is on your back, that reduces the curve of the lumbar spine. Remember, the best reduces potential back muscle strain to a minimum. Sleeping on your side with your legs bent reduces tension on the spinal cord and is the characteristic posture of a person with sciatica. Sleeping on your stomach, unfortunately the favorite position, is hardest on your back, and is one reason why you need a hard mattress. It pushes the stomach in and assists into-abdominal pressure, rather than back muscle pull, to keep your vertebrae in place.

Keeping warm in bed, or at least avoiding a chill, helps your back as warmth prevents back muscle spasm. A heated blanket is ideal since it minimizes weight and allows you to fashion comfort to what pleases you.

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