

# Farmington man goes to trial for armed robbery

By TIM SATTI  
STAFF WRITER  
tsatti@ecce.com

A Farmington man's trial in Oakland County Circuit Court on 10 charges linked to a South Lyon armed robbery is scheduled to begin nearly a year to the day after the robbery.

Defendant Kevin Tod Alexander's trial before Circuit Judge David Breck will begin 8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 22. Alexander, 34, faces a variety of charges stemming from the

April 19, 1998 armed robbery of Showerman's IGA grocery store. He is charged with three counts of armed robbery, five counts of felony firearm and two counts of felonious assault. Alexander remains in Oakland County Jail, with a cash bond of \$1 million, \$100,000 for each count.

Alexander's trial was held up because of forensic testing, the court clerk said. "We're still waiting on the forensic reports" to come back, she explained,

adding that Breck last September ordered the tests be done. Alexander also faces four counts of armed robbery from an April 6, 1998 incident, also in South Lyon.

The defendant also was a suspect in several other previous "closing time" robberies, including one of the Grand River-Halsted Kmart, in January 1998.

On April 19, 1998, a ski-mask-wearing gunman held up the South Lyon Showerman's at closing time. An officer had been

**■ He is charged with three counts of armed robbery, five counts of felony firearm and two counts of felonious assault. Alexander remains in Oakland County Jail, with a cash bond of \$1 million, \$100,000 for each count.**

assigned to a nightly stakeout there since November, when the store was robbed in similar fashion.

The gunman went out the back

door, with a bag containing \$27,000 in cash in one hand and a pistol in the other. After being told to stop, he was shot in the legs by South Lyon police and

arrested. Police found a loaded-and-cocked .357 Magnum revolver at the scene.

At that time, Alexander had been serving a sentence imposed in early 1998 by 47th District Judge Maria Parker for supplying alcohol to minors from an Oct. 25, 1997 party. Both Alexander and his wife, Michelle Griffith, were sentenced to one-year probation and fined \$500 by Parker.

## POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

### DRUNKEN DRIVING

**In Farmington Hills:** Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 35, for drunken driving on Orchard Lake around 6:15 p.m. Feb. 1. Police spotted the man urinating behind his 1988 Mercury Cougar in the rear of Farmington Hills Market. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .11 percent. It's illegal to drive in Michigan with a blood alcohol level of .10 percent or more.

Police arrested a Redford man, 31, for drunken driving on eastbound Eight Mile around 8 p.m. Feb. 2. The driver, who had outstanding warrants, refused to take a preliminary Breathalyzer.

### DISTRAUGHT WOMAN

**In Farmington Hills:** Police confiscated a .9 millimeter handgun from a Farmington Hills woman who had threatened to kill a man whom she claimed sexually assaulted her last year. The woman phoned a crisis line and said she got the gun and would kill the man, who was not charged. A crisis line

operator phoned police who went to the woman's apartment.

### THEFT

**In Farmington Hills:** Someone stole an \$11,000 compressor from Dana Corp on Drake between Feb. 1-3.

Two \$375 color televisions were stolen from the Best Western on 12 Mile between Feb. 1-3. A guest reported \$200 cash stolen from his room at the hotel Feb. 3.

### BREAK INS

**In Farmington Hills:** Thieves broke side windows and stole stereos from several

vehicles, mostly Chryslers, at Drakeshire Lanes Feb. 3. Among the vehicles attacked were: a 1997 Jeep Cherokee from which someone stole 12 CDs, a brooch and a stereo; a 1999 Chrysler Concord where a brief case and indash CD player were stolen; A stereo was stolen from a 1998 Chrysler Town & Country; 1998 Chrysler Cherokee had a car phone and stereo stolen after someone broke the passenger side window; 1996 Dodge wagon was broken into and stereo stolen; and a 1999 Dodge Durango had its driver's side window broken and car phone stolen.

## Woman Injured

**Smashed:** A Farmington Hills woman was injured when the Jeep Cherokee she was driving in late January was struck by two semi-trucks that were traveling eastbound on I-696, west of Halsted Road. The woman was treated at the scene and then transported to Providence Hospital in Southfield. Farmington Hills police officers and firefighters responded to the scene of the accident.



PHOTO BY PETER BALDWIN

**FITNESS INSTRUCTORS**

*fitness factory inc.*

- Aerobic, step & water instructors
- Experience preferred
- Instructor incentive program
- 2 to 6 hours per week
- Many locations
- Training workshop February 27, 1999

**248-353-2885 or 1-800-285-6968**

**Outsmart The Weather!**

Versatile, Supple  
**Leather Jacket**  
with  
Removable  
Opussum  
Collar & Lining  
**\$397**

*It takes a long time to earn trust. Trusted for 105 years & 5 generations The Dietrich Family*

*Since 1893*

**Dietrich**

Detroit • (313) 873-8300 7373 Third Ave.  
Bloomfield Hills • (248) 642-3000  
1515 N. Woodward Ave.

[www.dietrichfurs.com](http://www.dietrichfurs.com)

## Crack

from page A1

delivery of less than 50 grams. Bail was set at \$10,000 cash. Daniel Hope, 33, also of Farmington Hills, was charged with two counts of delivery with bail set at \$25,000 cash. All three will have a preliminary examination 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, in 47th District Court.

Police arrested the driver of a 1999 GMC Yukon, who struck an undercover vehicle in an attempt to escape during the evening Feb. 3. Detroit police have the man, 21, in custody.

Later that night, SONIC, DEA and Detroit police executed a search warrant at the northwest Detroit home where they found three bags of cocaine — two powdered and one crack — and one bag of heroin.

Inside the home, officer confiscated four handguns — two of which are reported stolen — and a .22 caliber rifle. Police also seized \$600 cash.

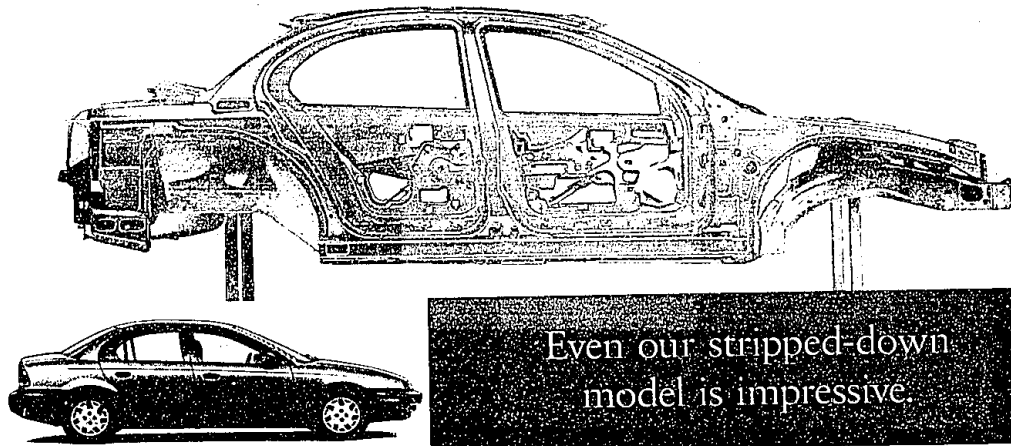
SONIC conducted four undercover buys at the trailer and traced the drug supply to a Detroit house.

As part of the investigation Feb. 1, Farmington Hills police arrested a Detroit man, 37, after he tried to discard what turned out to be two plastic bags with 25 rocks of crack cocaine in the White Castle parking lot on Grand River and Eight Mile. Police also confiscated \$1,169 cash.

On the same night, police searched a trailer in Farmington Mobile Manor. Officers took two men, ages 42 and 29, into custody.

Undercover officers arranged to buy for 2 ounces of cocaine for \$1,800. When confronted by fully marked police cars, the Yukon drove away, striking a vehicle.

The man was arrested after a short chase on foot when he abandoned the vehicle.



Even our stripped-down model is impressive.

It's a thing of beauty. Look at all those structural welds. And aren't those "crumple zones" both front and rear? Indeed they are. But if you think the safety provided by a Saturn spaceframe is something to behold, wait until you see our car with its standard Reduced Force Air Bags and, oh yeah, its daytime running lamps. Don't worry, we made sure to include them on even our most affordable model.

**\$149/MONTH**

39-month lease

\$995 due at signing

includes security deposit

(tax, title, license and registration are extra)

Saturn of Ann Arbor  
734-769-3991

Saturn of Farmington Hills  
248-473-7220

Saturn of Lakeside  
810-286-0200

Saturn North  
248-620-8800

Saturn of Plymouth  
734-453-7890

Saturn of Southfield  
248-354-6001

Saturn of Southgate  
734-246-3300

Saturn of Troy  
248-643-4350

Saturn of Warren  
810-979-2000

Payments based on the 1999 Saturn SL and an M.S.R.P. of \$11,995. Option to purchase at lease-end for \$6,358. Thirty-nine monthly payments total \$5,811. Primary lending source must approve lease. Mileage charge of \$15 per mile over 39,000 miles. Lessee is responsible for excessive wear and use. Payments may be higher in some states. Delivery must be taken from participating retailer by 3/31/99. ©1999 Saturn Corporation. [www.saturn.com](http://www.saturn.com)

**SATURN.**

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMPANY. A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAR.

Always use safety belts and proper child restraints even with Reduced Force Air Bags. See the owner's manual for more safety information.