

Police arrest 2 Hills men in connection with tool theft

Farmington Hills police arrested a 35-year-old Hills man and his passenger in connection with a construction site theft.

Around 1:15 a.m. Tuesday, a police surveillance unit saw a 1980 GMC pickup truck pull out from behind a banquet hall under construction on Orchard Lake and Lamar. The truck left north on Orchard Lake and pulled into the Shell gas station on 10 Mile where police questioned the occupants.

Initially, the driver told officers he and his companion were looking for scrap in the Dumpster. Police found a tool box, leather tool belt and two spools of wire in the truck.

Officers contacted the person whose phone number was listed on the tool box and learned the items were stolen.

When questioned further, the driver said he went into the building site and took the tool box and belt, which he intended

CONSTRUCTION SITES

to sell in exchange for drug money. He also said his passenger had no knowledge of the incident.

Police are seeking warrants for both men.

During the past months, thieves have stolen several thousands of dollars in equipment from Farmington Hills construction sites.

"We can't match them up at this point," said Hills Detective Ron Shankin. "We have to go back and see if the evidence matches up."

Robberies from page A1

Other charges could be forthcoming, police said. She is a suspect in a spate of recent armed robberies in Troy, West Bloomfield, Southfield and Oak Park.

Farmington Hills police, with the help of Southfield police, arrested Davis on Northwestern Highway and Franklin 10 minutes after the armed heist.

She was driving a red Chevrolet Cavalier, which was reported stolen from an armed robbery at a Southfield Rite Aid drug store two weeks ago.

In that incident, a female robber tied up employees using telephone cord and stole the pharmacist's car as well as cash and cosmetics.

She is a suspect in an armed robbery at the Ramada Inn on Telegraph Road the same

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night, police said.

The woman arrested has no criminal history. She is unemployed and has two children ages 2 and 6.

Around 9:10 p.m., Farmington Hills Police officer Brian Bastianelli noticed a red Cavalier traveling southeast on Northwestern Highway.

A check on the car revealed it was stolen. Bastianelli - who was in an unmarked vehicle - kept the car in sight until other officers could arrive to make a traffic stop.

The woman was arrested without incident. Police found a Crossman BB pistol in the car.

An employee at Parade of Shoes said the woman tried on several pairs of shoes for a half-hour before she took merchandise to the front counter.

She searched in her pockets of her baggy denim overalls as if looking for money and pulled out a semi-automatic type pistol.

She told the 25-year-old employee to give her the money from the register - \$93 - and bag the shoes. Police found several pairs of shoes in the car.


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at about 2:15 a.m. Saturday.

The car was ultimately pulled over, near Farmington-Eight Mile Road.

After the officer approached the vehicle, a one-quarter filled bottle of Bartle & James alcoholic beverage was spotted on the seat, between the legs of the driver, a 42-year-old Detroit man. Five similar empty bottles were also within view, but the driver claimed they were consumed by a friend and that he was taking care of the empties.

The driver did not appear intoxicated, and passed roadside sobriety tests. He was unable to provide identification because he said he had an expired license. He also said the car was registered to his wife, but a subsequent computer check revealed it was registered in the name of someone the driver didn't know. But, after further questioning, it was discovered that the name of the registered owner actually was the driver; he had been identifying himself under a different name until that point.

He soon told police he originally lied about his name because of his suspended license.

Police cited him for having open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, providing false identification to officers and driving without a license.

During transport to the Farmington Hills Police Department (which Farmington Public Safety is using to house criminals during renovation of its Liberty Street facilities) the driver was asked if he had any drugs or weapons on his person. He responded that he had a "cocktail in his pocket," later clarifying it to mean a small roach of marijuana. The joint, weighing about one gram, was confiscated, and the man was cited for being in possession of marijuana, in addition to his other charges.

A hearing in 47th District Court has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 26.

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