Embattled Livonia carpet dealer arrested

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BY ALICE ASHMORE STAFF WRITER

A Livonia carpet dealer accused of burning his customers by failing to deliver their orders was arrested last week by Detroit Police. An arrest warrant, arising from a complaint in Detroit's 12th precinct, was issued for John R. McDonald, owner of Livonia Carpet and Tilo.

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
Karen Williams of Detroit, who had ordered carpet from Livonia Carpet and Tile, filed the criminal complaint after she had exhausted all other options. She had ordered carpeting for the first home in November of 2000 from McDonald and it was never delivered. Williams eventually bought carpet from another company. Williams said McDonald gaver company. Williams said McDonald gaven myriad of excuses as to why the carpet never arrived, from 'his wife being ill' to "all his installers are deer hunting."

" just wanted him arrested," she said. "I am relieved he has turned himself in."

self to Detroit Police, according to Lt. Ben McDermott of the Livonia Police.

He was arraigned April 24, and is free on personal bond, according to Ruth Carter of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office

version over \$1,000, a telony which carries a five year maximum sentence.

Livonia polico said they will begin taking reports from citizens based the number of civil complaints against Absolute Carpet and Tile.

"We will take complaints on a case-by-case basis and forward them to the prosecutor's office," McDermott said.

Court records in Livonia show that 29 civil complaints against the business were filed by residents or companies from Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Redford, Westland, Livonia, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Birningham.

Patty Ziomek of Livonia said she is owed \$700 by the company, She ordered a Mannington vinyl kitchen floor last October.

"I think he needs to serve some time for ripping off every-one, and that everyone should get their money back," she said. "It makes me very happy that he was arrested." Ziomek said. Diane Kilgore of Garden City is another customer that never received her carpet from McDon-ald. Williams said, "My heart goes out to the other people he hurt." McDonald was arraigned on a single charge of larceny by con-version over \$1,000, a felony which carries a five year maxi-

received her carpet from McDonaid.

She grew tired of his excuses
and took him court. "One time
he said he missed a court
appearance because his girlfriend had a seizure in the parking let." Kilgore said. "I don't
know how he gets away with
his - he is a complete jerk."

She said she had tried earlier
to file a complaint with police,
only to be told it was a civil matter.

"It's elderly people and single
moms - people that work hard
for their money that he is taking
advantage of - it's a shame, Kilgore said. "I'm glad he was
arrested."

Both women said they planned to file reports with the Livonia Police Department.

PIPELINE

NORTHWOOD DEAN'S
Kristina M. Kerrigan from
Farmington, and Edward Azar
from Farmington Hills, have
samed a spot on the dean's list
for the winter term at Northwood University.

University.

JOHNSON & WALES DEAN'S

Allson Barney of Farmington
Hills has been named to the
dean's list at Johnson & Wales
University for the winter term.
She is majoring in Fashion Merchandising.

East spring productioncloses Monday

Students at East Middle School will present the final per-formance of their spring produc-tion, "Once on This Island, Junior" 7:30 p.m. Monday, April

According to director and the-ater arts teacher Catherine Cor-dle, the play tells the story of two groups of people - rich and poor - living on an island. A boy from the rich group falls in love with a girl from the poor group, and while they can't be together, they find a solution for future generations.

generations.

The Broadway play is part of the "Broadway, Junior" collecthe "Broadway, Junio. tion. For more information, call the school, 489-3601.

Rats from page A1



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the area to check it out. Twenty-five homes and businesses were contacted, Whinnery said. He also talked to a party store owner and the Jesus Center. Resident Barbara Muelrath called the city to complain. She said a rat came into her home after chewing through the paneling undermeath her house. "My son killed the rat," she said.

"My son Kinea can said.
Residents within 350 feet of the affected area were notified.
"They won't tell us where this is coming from," Muelrath said.

Whinnery said the city found a burrow in an area adjacent to Muelrath's property. Her proper-ty is not considered a source, he

ty is not considered a source, he stressed.

"There is not a rat problem. Whinnery said. "But we don't want it to spread. Code enforcement is done on a daily basis, he added. In the meantime, the city offers tips to prevent rats. They are:

Seal up access points.

"Use heavy gauge construction materials."

garbage off the ground. Store trash in containers with tight lids.

If possible, feed pets inside the house. Don't keep pet food outside overnight.

Cut tall weeds and grasses. Look for nesting points.

Some people feel comfortable exterminating rats themselves. Chers prefer to call a pest control company, Whinnery said. For information, call Hills zoning at (248) 473-9525 or the county at (248) 424-7191.

Hoax from page A1

bomb threat to the school on his cellular phone.

The department is investigating whether or not the men can be charged with any misdemenors and are seeking restitution of costs. Dwyer said the estimated cost of responding to the 911 call was about \$3,000 and involved 12 police officers working over a roughly five-hour period.

"We're completing our paper-work and still conducting inter-cious," said Chuck Nebus, assis-tant police chief. Detectives are reviewing a tape of the 911 call the woman made and have re-interviewed her. Possible charges the men could face might include annoying con-duct and misuse of a telephone.

Sue Buck covers Farmington Schools and the City of Farmington. Call her with news tips at (248)-477-5450.



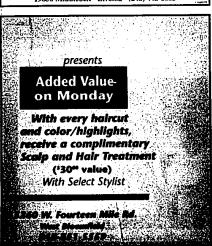
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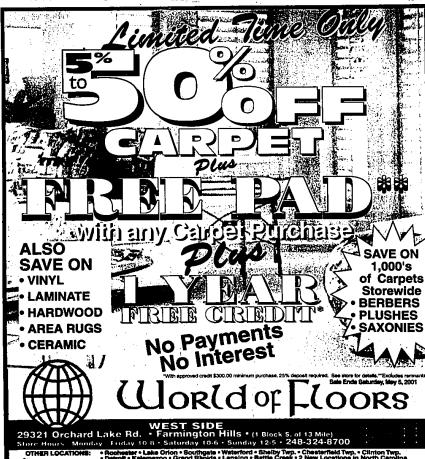


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