

Cops nab armed robber

Farmington Hills police said they have the man who robbed the CVS Pharmacy on Nine Mile on March 7. A lone man with a semi-automatic handgun took \$102 from the store around 1:20 a.m.

Police said the 35-year-old man, who has no known address, robbed or attempted to rob several other stores in the following days in Green Oak Township, Brighton, Livonia and Redford.

Redford police received a tip that the man frequented a crack house in Detroit, and he was captured by Redford Police.

Farmington Hills investigators interviewed the man and he confessed to the Farmington Hills robbery and others, seven altogether, police said. The suspect was also identified by the victim in a lineup.

The man told police the money used in the robberies was used to buy crack cocaine.

Warrants are being obtained by various jurisdictions for robbery and attempted robbery.

By Paul R. Pace

County gets funding to study hazardous intersections

By PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
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Two Farmington Hills intersections are among the most hazardous in the state, based on accident claims filed through State Farm Insurance.

In an effort to improve safety, the Road Commission for Oakland County will receive a check for \$60,000 from State Farm on March 27 to fund studies of three county intersections. They are:

Orchard Lake and 14 Mile Roads in Farmington Hills

(ranked 6th); Orchard Lake and 12 Mile Roads in Farmington Hills (ranked 10th); and Big Beaver Road and Crooks in Troy.

State Farm put together the dangerous intersection list based on crashes resulting in claims by its policyholders in 1999 and 2000. It takes into account the number of crashes at various intersections and the percentage of vehicles insured by State Farm in areas where the intersections are located. The list also takes into account how many crashes involved injury and the severity of those crashes.

RCOC Managing Director

Brent Blair said that motorist safety is the commission's top priority.

"We are continually studying ways to improve the safety of our roads and intersections. One of the results of that is that Oakland County now has the safest roads in the world based on fatalities per million miles of vehicle travel.

However, we always welcome any assistance we can get to make our roads safer, especially those that are heavily congested and which have high numbers of minor accidents such as these three intersections."

Budget from page A1

unable to fulfill that commitment after the state was found to be facing a \$1 billion budget deficit.

Although the amount will decrease the projected district budget deficit of \$6.4 million by about \$2.4 million, the district will still be experiencing a shortfall of \$4 million for the 2002-2003 school year, according to district information.

The district also expects a shortfall for the 2003-2004 school year.

"This is a two-year problem," Cannon said.

Information in the Farmington Public Schools "Update" publication further explained the situation.

"Please note there have been two numbers reported for the

2002-2003 shortfall," an article said. "The total shortfall is \$6.4 million. The district intends to use \$1.2 million from the district's fund balance to bring the remaining shortfall amount to \$5.2 million. This is a one-time only adjustment from the fund balance."

For more information about the meeting or the budget, call Cannon at (248) 489-3341.

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her bond, McDonnell required that Mrs. Datka's husband sign off on it.

Diane Amerson's attorney, Michael Skinner (standing in for attorney of record Michael Rex) said his client has an eight-year-old daughter. Amerson's sister,

Pamela Hashim, was represented by Jerry Cavellier, who said his client lives with her family.

Skinner and Cavellier are associated with Hertz, Schram & Sretsky, PC, a Bloomfield Hills firm. Burdick has a solo practice. Farmington Hills Detective

Dave Stasch said he began working the case after being called by Ruby & Associates, a firm located on Northwestern Highway, last November.

A company representative present at the hearing offered no comment.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRISLER

Airborne: Peter Pan (Cathy Huber), Wendy (Caitlin Donovan), Michael (Dylan Stec) and John (Ellen Cappel) fly away to Neverland.

Students take flight in 'Peter Pan'

By SUE BUCK
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Mercy High School is pulling out all the stops for their spring production, "Peter Pan," the musical about the boy who refused to grow up.

Play times are 8 p.m. Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 24. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and children.

The play will be performed at the school auditorium — on and above the stage.

"Costs are into the thousands to do it," said Kathy Sill, drama director.

Besides royalties for the script, the school hired Robert Fejer, a flying consultant from Flying by Foy, a nationally known company. Fejer gave his advice and brought special equipment, which included the harnesses to fly the children.

The same company flew actresses Mary Martin, Sandy Duncan, and Cathy Rigby, who all played Peter Pan on Broadway.

Pan historically is played by a girl, Sill said.

The Mercy production's leading characters are: Caitlin Donovan, a freshman, as Wendy; Cathy Huber as Peter; and Ellen Cappel, a junior, as John. The cast of 60 includes students from Catholic Central, the University of Detroit and Our Lady of Sorrows. The students started training in January for the fight scene, under the direction of Peter Pan Stage Combat Director Mark DiPietro. He is associate professor of theater and speech at Siena Heights University in Adrian where he also is chair of the Division of Visual and Performing Arts and Education.



And on 'til morning: Wendy-Lady (Caitlin Donovan) comes back to life with Peter's (Cathy Huber) help.

DiPietro holds a Master in Fine Arts in acting from Brandeis University where the Society of American Fight Directors certified him in proficiency in unarmed combat, rapier and dagger and quarterstaff. Mercy High School is at 11 Mile and Middlebelt Roads in Farmington Hills.

Local exhibit features student artists

The Farmington Arts Commission presents "Salon des Refuses," a collection of scholastic competition art entries in the spirit of the Impressionists "Salon Des Refuses."

The exhibit will include student art work from Farmington,

North Farmington and Harrison High schools.

A public reception will be held Monday, March 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road.

The artwork will hang in both

Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road; and Farmington City Hall, Grand River and Liberty. From March 21 through April 25.

For more information, contact the Cultural Arts Division at: 248-473-1856.

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