

# Officer aims gun at, sprays fleeing man

A 19-year-old Sun Prairie man was charged Monday in Dane County Circuit Court with felony escape, obstructing an officer and one count of disorderly conduct in connection with an Aug. 7 incident.

According to the criminal complaint, Police Officer Scott Gregory drew his gun and finally used pepper spray during the arrest of Deon Farris.

The complaint stated that Farris and his mother were arguing at

their Linnerud Drive residence. After she told him to leave the residence, he refused, called her a few profane names, and she called police.

After police arrived, Farris told officers he was going to leave. Farris' mother said she wanted to pursue a disorderly conduct complaint against her son, and Officer Tim Fallon informed Farris he was under arrest.

The complaint states Farris backed away from Fallon and said "Don't touch me."

After Fallon told Farris he was under arrest, Farris backed up and

ran out of the house, out the rear door and down Linnerud Drive.

Gregory approached the scene and stopped ahead of Farris. Gregory drew his pistol and ordered Farris to the ground.

According to the complaint, Farris refused. Gregory asked him "five or six times" but Farris refused.

Gregory sprayed Farris with the pepper spray. Farris dropped to his knees but still refused to drop to the ground, according to the complaint.

Fallon joined Gregory and the two were able to handcuff Farris.

If convicted, Farris faces a max-

imum of five years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both for the felony escape charge.

The obstructing charge carries a maximum fine of \$1,000, up to nine months imprisonment, or both, and the disorderly conduct charge carries a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine, 90 days imprisonment or both.



Quentin Williams settles into the driver's seat as Officer Tim Fallon shows him which buttons to push last Saturday. Fallon was among the visitors to the Vandenburg Heights Neighborhood Picnic at Vandenburg Heights Park.



Officer Tim Fallon with the helmets for the May 5 event.

# Bike Rodeo set in Black Earth

The Black Earth Police Department is gearing up to "corral" all area students in first through fifth grades for their annual Bike Rodeo to be held beginning at noon, Saturday, May 5, to promote bicycle safety.

Students participating in the rodeo will first take written tests May 1 in school regarding what they know about bicycle safety.

Detective Tim Fallon of the Black Earth Police Department will score the tests, then administer a skills test the day of the Bike Rodeo.

Trophies will be given to the first second and third place winners.

The first place winner will receive a check for \$100.

Three telephones provided by TDS Telecom will go to winners of a random drawing done between three groups beginning with first and second grade as one group, third graders as one group, and fourth and fifth graders as another group.

Every participant in the Bike Rodeo will receive a free bike helmet, said Fallon. The purchase of 240 helmets was made possible by a Wisconsin Department of Transportation grant of \$1,500.

Fallon said they will also be giving out t-shirts to all Bike Rodeo participants. The t-shirts were donated by Steve Schmitt, owner of the Shoebox Shoe Store.

Other freebies will include can cozies, pens, pencils, and stickers.

The MedFlight helicopter will land at noon, and the Black Earth Fire Department will bring a fire truck and their practice "smoke house," will lessons on how to "stop, drop and roll" as a technique to get out of a burning building.

There will also be a special appearance by "Crash Helmet," from the Dean Clinic who will talk about bike safety, and the ambulance from the District One Emergency Medical Service will be on display.

Proceeds from the sales of hot dogs, bratwurst and pop will aid the Black Earth Community Policing program.



Detective Tim Fallon of the Black Earth Police Department displays the two pieces of bicycle helmet that remained after a local youngster tumbled off a skateboard while coming down this hill on Center Street. Photo by Kim Lamoreaux.

## Better the helmet than the head...

by **KIM LAMOREAUX**  
*News-Sickle-Arrow*

It was a close call for one Black Earth boy who, according to police, says he's thankful for the free bike helmet he received while participating in this year's Bike Rodeo.

Det. Tim Fallon of the Black Earth police department said the boy was skateboarding down the steep hill on Center Street, when he fell.

"He just wiped out and landed on his head going down the hill," said Fallon. "The parents called me, I went over there, they handed me the helmet and said, 'here ya' go.'"

The boy's father handed Fallon the helmet his son had received during the Bike Rodeo held on a weekend in May. The helmet was virtually cracked in half, while Fallon said the boy had absolutely no injuries.

"Better the helmet than the head," said Fallon.

The boy and his parents asked not to be identified, according to Fallon.

The helmet was among 240 free helmets the Black Earth police department received from a \$1,500 grant provided by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the purpose of promoting bicycle safety.

Fallon reports, however, that this fortunate boy wears his helmet for both biking and skateboarding.

Fallon said normally such helmets cost approximately \$15 to \$20.



## ***Officer donates to the donor***

In the spirit of giving something back to those supporting the Black Earth Police Department in their community efforts, officer Tim Fallon presented Shoe Box owner Steve Schmitt with some special gifts this week. Fallon said Schmitt has contributed more than \$2,000 over the past year towards the department's new garage and in supporting community events like the upcoming Bike Rodeo on May 5.

Schmitt contributed all the t-shirts that will be passed out to those attending the Bike Rodeo.

In appreciation of Schmitt's contributions over the last year, Fallon presented him with a pair of tennis shoes with an original autograph of Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre. Fallon said Favre signed the tennis shoes in 1997 and gave them to him while he worked as a security guard during some of Favre's private appearances.

"Brett gave me the shoes and said use these as a fundraiser," said Fallon. "I just hadn't found a good cause until now."

# Police, Lions Club will give away bicycles to local kids

Page 2, Section 2 The Star August 17, 1995



Sun Prairie Lions Club past president Tom Tucker (left) was among the Sun Prairie Lions Club members who distrib-

uted repaired, licensed bikes with the help of Sun Prairie police officers last Wednesday at Village Square Apartments.

## Fosshage bikes through town with police officer

Former Black Earth village board member Ken Fosshage didn't get very far at first on his "Bike With the Cops" ride.

Not five minutes into the ride, detective Tim Fallon of the Black Earth police department saw a motorist run a stop sign and shouted "stop!"

Fallon then issued the driver a stop sign violation, and the two were on their way again.

Riding the bicycle his three sons gave him as a retirement gift, Fosshage is the first volunteer to "Bike With the Cops."

Fosshage said that while serving on the Black Earth village police com-

mission, he was a proponent of having a bike patrol for village police officers.

"I think there's a need," said Fosshage. "I like them riding around the baseball park. The kids are more aware of it, there's another gentleman who's now aware of it. There are places where a patrol car can't go."

Fallon said he enjoys patrolling on a bicycle.

"I do it because it's a challenge," said Fallon who carries candy and pencils to give to children who he sees wearing safety helmets while riding bicycles.

"It isn't a law," he said, "but we

encourage it."

"Bike With the Cops" is a community program in which anyone 16 years or older can participate.

As Fallon said, "people ride along in the squad car, so why not bike along?"

Those who "Bike With the Cops" will receive a free t-shirt to wear as they ride with the officer.

For more information or to set up a date to bike along, call the Black Earth police department at 767-3700, or stop by the village office in person. If an officer is not in the office an answering machine is available on which to leave a message.

