

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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SAFETY

Parkview grandma wise to scammer

BY JIM MASON
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It was a call for help grandparents don't want to take.

Mary Jones was in her Parkview Village apartment Monday when the phone rang.

It was her grandson – “the handsome one” – and he was in trouble.

A weekend ski trip to Quebec ended with him in jail for drunk-driving and his car in need of repair.

Mrs. Jones (not her real name) was being asked to help him out, without telling his parents.

Her grandson would call back at noon with more details.

Problem was her grandson doesn't ski or drink.

And he was home in Ontario all weekend.

But Mrs. Jones had heard the story before, about others being called in what police call the “Grandparent Scam”.

She played along.

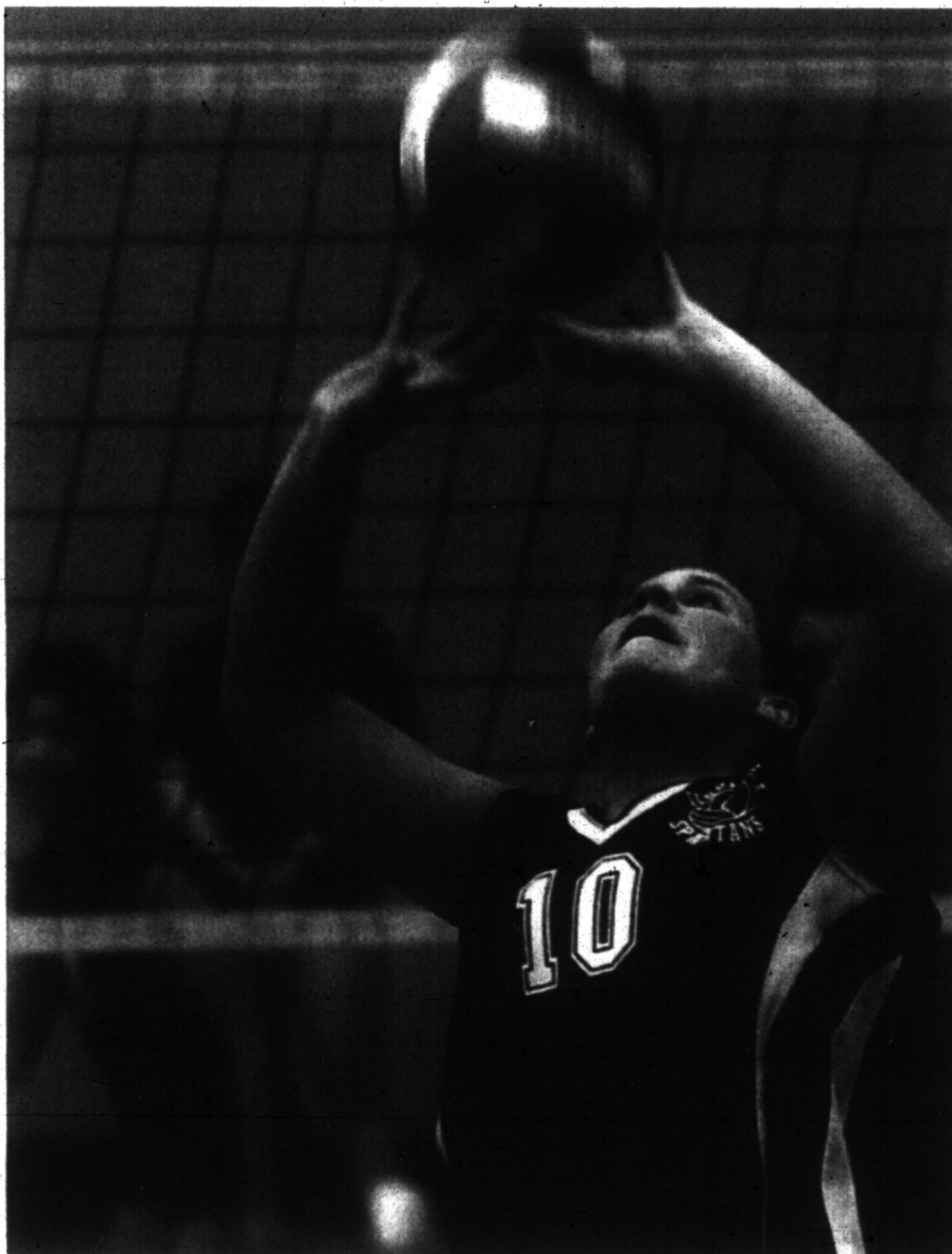
The phone rang again at noon, but this time it was “your grandson's friend, Mark Fortier”.

She was asked to take \$3,685 out of the bank and wire it via Western Union to cover the court costs and car repairs.

Grandma agreed – with no

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GAME, SET ...



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartan Brittany McKay sets the ball during a York Region high school game against the Unionville Wolves at Unionville High School Wednesday. Stouffville lost to Unionville and Bayview (Richmond Hill).

GOVERNMENT

Operations 'centre of controversy'

Councillor places blame for delays, overruns at new \$10.7 M facility

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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From design changes and project co-ordination issues, to poor contractors and bad weather, the town's new \$10.7-million operations centre has encountered just about every problem a construction project could endure without completing failing.

But Dec. 21, the Bethesda Road facility was deemed substantially complete and an occupancy permit was granted.

While the blame for the project's four-month delay and subsequent budget overrun can be pointed in various directions, one councillor has put it squarely on the shoulders of MHPM Project Leaders, the project managers.

"It's your responsibility to look after this," Councillor Phil Bannon told Ron Spina, principal at MHPM, during the Dec. 21 council meeting.

In an interview with The Sun-Tribune, Mr. Bannon added: "The people who get paid the big bucks, leading these projects, should be held accountable."

Contracts between the municipality and MHPM do not provide for penalties if the project goes over budget or runs late. However, those stipulations are in all contracts entered into between the town and contractors, according to Dave Cash, CAO for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The role of the project manager is to work

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