

Oak Park man guilty of molesting 15-year-old

By Monica Drake, For the Daily Tribune

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PONTIAC — Oak Park resident Marc Bennett held his face in his hands when the jury announced they found him guilty of first-degree criminal sexual conduct against a boy who was 15 years old at the time.

Detective Bruce Grunde said the allegations were that Bennett inappropriately touched the 15-year-old boy. To respect the privacy of the boy, the Daily Tribune will not release his identity.

“After 15 months and multiple disclosures to the victim’s mother, camp counselors and rabbis, it was reported to the Oak Park Police Department that the defendant had sexually assaulted, (with) manual stimulation of his penis, the victim,” said Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul Walton.

“Additionally, the victim’s mother provided a flash drive of online homosexual conversations that the defendant was having, wherein the defendant admitted to sexually abusing the victim.”

As soon as it was reported to the Oak Park Police Department, Walton said a neglect petition was filed.

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Walton said, at the trial in Oakland County Circuit Court, the victim stated for the first time that the defendant had performed a sex act on him, and a warrant was subsequently filed.

After the verdict was announced Thursday morning, Judge Denise Langford Morris said, “The court finds that the defendant should be remanded to the custody of the Oakland County sheriff’s department. I note that there has been a history of danger to

The bond was revoked, and date for sentencing has not yet been set. Bennett is being held in Oakland County Jail until his sentencing.

His attorney Leslie Posner hugged Bennett’s crying mother as she left the courtroom. “We did everything we could,” she said.

Posner said Bennett fondled the boy once four years ago, which was the last time he saw the boy before allegations were brought against him.

Posner said Bennett also is charged with engaging in oral sex with the boy, as well as fondling the 15-year-old, not to performing oral sex with him.

“This is a family of 11 children, eight minors, and a mother who has never worked in her life. He was working and supporting them. And now they’re on welfare. There’s no money to support them,” Posner said.

“His parental rights have been terminated. He’s never to see his kids. He was a controller at a big company, making good money, and he was paying three-quarters of it to child support and spousal support.”

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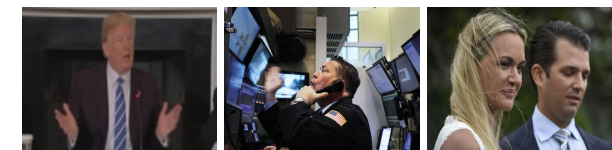
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