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Dickerson to speak

News woman Nancy Dickerson will kick off the new year's portion of the Pontian-Oakland Town Hall series on Jan. 11. Ms. Dickerson will speak at 10:30 a.m. Her lecture will be followed by a luncheon at the Main Event restaurant at the Pontiac Silverdome, for season ticket holders.



Drain, sewer refinancing to save communities millions

The City of Southfield and Avon Township will be among the communities which will save from a bond refinancing program to be conducted by the Oakland County Drain Commission and Department of Public Works.

The two offices will refinance \$1 million in drainage and sewer bonds, which were sold at high interest rates in the late 1960s and early '70s. County Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn said the some of the bonds were sold

when interest rates stood at 7½ and eight per cent.

"With today's favorable bond interest rate of 5½ and 5½ per cent a great savings can be realized. The savings of 1½ to two per cent can be the difference in millions of dollars," Kuhn said.

To finance the sewer and drain projects, communities with county backing, were forced to sell bonds. The bonds, however, contained provisions

allowing for refinancing.

To refinance, the communities must pay off the bond holders. But in order to do that, they must issue new bonds. It is in the lower interest rates that the communities and county save money.

Avon Township could realize savings of \$1.4 million from the refinancing.

The City of Southfield, along with these communities who issued bonds to finance the Rummel Relief drain, are expected to save \$730,000.

Petition drive windup urged

Michigan's voters are sure to see the question of mandatory minimum prison terms on the November ballot, said Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson.

Patterson, the primary spokesman for the "We the People Committee," a self-styled "volunteer army of citizens waging war on crime," said the committee has nearly raised the necessary 212,000 signatures to put the issue on the ballot.

The prosecutor said the 40,000 petitions circulating throughout the state should be enough to qualify the issue for the ballot. If the drive is successful, as Patterson predicted, the following question will be placed on the ballot: Should a convicted felon serving a prison sentence serve at least the minimum term imposed by the judge before the prisoner is eligible for parole?

Patterson kicked off the petition drive after the murders of nine Oakland County citizens were murdered, allegedly by men on parole.

Cold, dark ideal for snake love

Animal keepers have solved one of zoos' most thorniest problems—the mating of snakes.

Scientists at the Institute for Herpetological Research in California accidentally discovered in the midst of a power blackout that darkness and cold are two of the main factors that put pythons in the mood for love.

The institute started experimenting with planned lights-out, and despite some slight cases of pneumonia, two species of pythons were successfully bred.

At the Gladys Porter Zoo in Texas, keepers were faced with a different problem. They wanted to breed King cobras, and King cobras feed on other snakes, but they have an unfortunate lack of discrimination in their choices.

So the keepers took strict precautions. Both animals were fed a mighty meal and scrubbed down to squelch the smell of food.

The scheme worked. Within 10 minutes, the two cobras were twisted together and remained so for 3½ hours.



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