

DOUG ASHLEY

## Ready to rise again

The man who masterminded the installation of the new roof at the Pontiac Silverdome, architect Constantin (Miko) Micuda of Pontiac, said it would be ready for inflation Friday or Saturday. As of Tuesday, all but seven of the dome's 107 teflon-coated fiber glass panels had been installed. The roof was knocked down by a heavy snow storm which turned

to rain on March 4. Replacement-repair costs are expected to top \$9 million. Micuda said the Silverdome will be ready for the Detroit Lions first 1985 exhibition game in August. Micuda, project architect for Silverdome when it opened in 1975, was construction manager for the repairs.

## Detroit Zoo hosts child fingerprinting

Detroit area parents can have their children fingerprinted Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2 at the Detroit Zoo.

Offered as a finale to the Child I.D. Program held recently in area Farmer Jack supermarkets, the program is sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group of Michigan, Farmer Jack, WDIV-TV and Michigan Jaycees.

More than 78,000 I.D. cards were issued during that 15-week program.

All children under age 12 and accompanied by an adult will be admitted free to the Detroit Zoo during "Child I.D. Days" courtesy of Pepsi-Cola. The bottler will also supply free painter caps for the first 500 children entering the zoo as well as free pop coupons with each I.D. card issued.

A large, open air tent just inside the main entrance will be the site of the program. Michigan Jaycees will fingerprint children from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

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## Pursell backs private transit funds

Legislation that would provide for private funding of urban mass transit projects has been introduced by U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

It would require private financing of at least 10 percent of the cost of new fixed guideway projects. Pursell's 10-percent financing measure wouldn't affect projects already under way such as the "people mover" systems in Detroit and Miami. But similar fixed guideway projects started or expanded in the future would have to have partial private financing to qualify for federal funding.

Pursell, who sits on the influential House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation that decides transit funding, called the bill the first step toward greater private involvement in building, maintaining and operating public transportation in the U.S.

He added a strong recommendation that transit systems be operated by private management companies rather than government agencies.

HE SAID private financing of transit systems will be necessary in the future to reduce govern-

ment spending and taxes, and increase efficiency. He pointed to private contributions to transit projects in New York City and Miami, and said it's being discussed in several other cities.

Businesses benefit from public transit and should pay a share of public improvements which enhance their value, he said.

Pursell said he would like to see private agencies take over operation of local transit systems such as Detroit's. "I believe there are a number of companies which could operate a transit system more efficiently and at lower costs than a government agency," Pursell said.

Pursell said he applauds efforts by Ralph Stanley, head of the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration encouraging the agency to push "privatization" efforts.

The Plymouth Republican also is pushing a "blueprint for balance" plan to freeze defense spending at 1985 levels and cut \$50.9 billion from the projected \$220 billion deficit in President Reagan's new budget. The plan was developed by House Republicans, mostly moderates.

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## OCC commencement

Commencement exercises honoring Oakland Community College's 19th graduating class will be June 9 in Pine Knob Music Theatre.

Candidates who have completed requirements for a degree or certificate during summer or fall 1984, winter 1985, and spring 1985 will have their degrees conferred.

The event was originally scheduled to take place in Pontiac Silverdome.

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News that's closer to home

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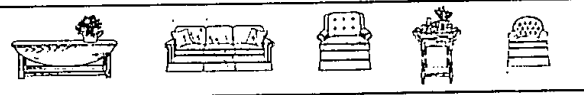
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