

Detroit Zoo sets nighttime hours

This summer the Detroit Zoo will be open until 8 p.m. one evening per month to allow visitors the opportunity to see the Zoo's animals in a different light.

Late hours are Tuesday, June 16, Wednesday, July 17, and Thursday, Aug. 13.

"We wanted to give people who work 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. a few more opportunities to visit the zoo, other than during the weekends," said acting director Khalejah Shelby.

Genealogists meet in B'ham

The Oakland County Genealogical Society presents a program entitled "Oxford, Orion, Independence, and Brandon Town-

ships of Oakland County," for more information, contact July Rossman at 357-3193.

Robin Barbieri, veterinarian at the zoo, said animals are most energetic later in the day. "During the summer, animals are more active when the sun is less intense," she said.

Detroit Zoo ticket prices are \$6 for adults and children age 13 and over, \$4 for senior citizens and \$2 for children age 2 through 12. Parking fee is \$5. The Detroit Zoo is located north of I-696 at Woodward Avenue and 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak.

County bucks latest state proposal

By WAYNE PICAL
STAFF WRITER

Elected officials and advocates for the mentally impaired are incensed with the state's latest offer in the long-running dispute over Oakland County mental health care financing.

But members of the county agency that oversees mental health care programs say the dispute could soon be over.

In a May 20 letter, the state told Oakland County Community Mental Health Services an expected \$700,000 cut would be cut in half — and reduced altogether if the county agreed to take greater responsibility for financing future programs.

MENTAL HEALTH

"If there's an agreement, it's our understanding there would be no cuts for this fiscal year," deputy director Peter Hinkelmann said.

Oakland, however, has long declined to sign a full management contract with the state.

"As far as I'm concerned this isn't an offer at all," said Larry Crake, R-Waterford, chairman of the county Board of Commissioners. "Our big concern is that how much we're going to get and whether the state will cut it from one year to the next."

Services such as the Pontiac

Clubhouse, a day care and vocational training agency, could be in jeopardy if the county fails to sign the contract.

"It's blackmail," said Dolores Howell of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan.

County mental health officials, however, said the proposal was "doable."

A county committee, including Crake and county mental health director Richard Cooper is expected to make a counter proposal to the state, possibly by the end of this week.

State officials earlier warned of an expected \$18 million statewide cut in mental health spending, but

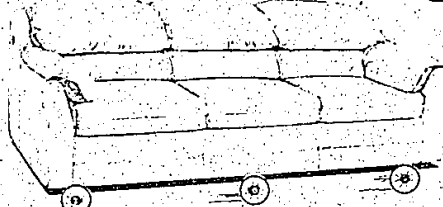
revised that figure after discovering an additional \$9 million in federal grant money.

Cuts were prompted by a \$32 million deficit in the state mental health budget, particularly in "trade-off" dollars given counties that fully manage their own mental health programs.

County officials say the cuts underscore their fears.

"We don't want to accept \$100 million from the state this year if that means we're going to get \$90 million next year and have to ask our taxpayers to make up the difference," Crake said.

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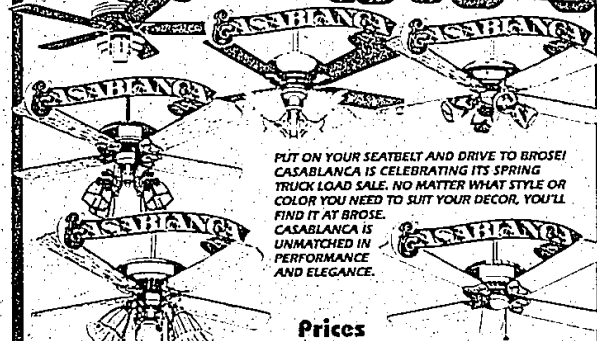
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