



Major damage: This is the roof of the Old Orchard 3 theater in Farmington Hills after a brief violent storm passed through.

Wind from page 1A

station across Orchard Lake ended up in the Shell lot.

The storm hit suddenly, MacDonald said. "I saw lightning and everything was blowing everywhere."

Farmington resident Steve Sobel viewed the storm with professional interest. He is a weather watcher for the National Weather Service and WDIV-TV.

Some people thought a tornado hit, but Sobel didn't agree.

"(It was) a typical thunderstorm," he said. "There were no roll clouds, nothing spinning. It was nothing covering a wide area. You'd almost call it a cloud burst."

Farmington Hills firefighters weren't sure what to call it after surveying damage to the theater's roof.

High winds picked up weather insulation and blew it into the parking lot. An air handling system was also damaged. Firefighters had electricity and gas lines shut off as a precaution.

■ 'It looked like a hurricane . . . a tropical storm-type wind. Some of our guests came into the hotel and said, 'Part of your building is gone.'"

Jason Shain
Clarion Hotel clerk

Theater personnel were not allowed to comment on the incident, Universal Pictures publicist Ken Droz said. It is not known when the theater will reopen.

"It shouldn't be that long," said Hills Deputy Fire Chief Pete Baldwin. "There doesn't seem to be any real structural damage to prevent them from reopening."

In the theater parking lot, David Balogh looked glumly at the free passes he and his daughter had planned to use to see "Apollo 13" at the Old Orchard. They had driven up from Lincoln Park.

"My daughter won the tickets on a radio contest . . . now what?" asked Balogh. "Guess we should have had the news on the car radio instead of rock and roll."

"Apollo 13" tickets will be honored at the Americana West starting Friday, Droz said.

"Tom Hanks is such a big star that no theater is big enough to hold him," said Droz, who works for Solomon Friedman Advertising. "No, this is not a publicity stunt for the movie."



Cleanup time: Wreckage is strewn across the roof of the Old Orchard 3.



Hotel damage: Wind tore siding off the Clarion Hotel on 12 Mile near Orchard Lake and damaged letters in the large sign. No injuries were reported in the area from the storm.

WALLED LAKE CONSOLIDATED

New principals take reins at district's high schools

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A new era is dawning Monday at Wallied Lake's two high schools.

Jerry Hartsock takes over Monday as the Wallied Lake Central principal, succeeding Dennis Champnella. At Wallied Lake Western, longtime educator Rich and Smith will hand over the reins to Gary Bredahl, currently Michigan's principal of the year for his efforts at Lansing Everett High School.

"We've gotten not only very good, skilled, articulate, experienced principals, we've found two people who will meet the individual needs of each building at this time," said Lois Lange, the Wallied Lake Consolidated School District's director of personnel and community relations.

Both new principals — who were subjected to a rigorous and thorough screening/interviewing process — were the cream of a 40-applicant pool of candidates, board president David Flammer said.

He called Hartsock "more of a guy that really gets down and dirty, he really gets involved in a real team approach."

Flammer said he thinks Bredahl will bring a "more traditional approach. But as is evident by his principal of the year award, he's a strong leader."

Hartsock, who leaves Howell High School and formerly was a high school principal in Fairbanks, Alaska, will earn \$83,116 his first year at Central. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University and did additional graduate work at Oregon State University, the University of Alaska and Harvard. In 1993, he received the acclaimed Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Bredahl, meanwhile, is scheduled to earn an estimated \$95,000 in the coming year at Western. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University and is an education specialist, the latter attained at Central Michigan University.



Jerry Hartsock



Gary Bredahl

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Lois Lange

director of personnel and community relations

Lange said Hartsock will pick up where Smith left off as far as moving forward with the curriculum restructuring that began in 1994-95 at Central. Bredahl will lead a similar effort at Western.

Also a high priority for both: making sure future Wallied Lake graduates are well-prepared to enter 21st-century society. "Both are not afraid of change," Lange said. "And that's what we think we have in these two selections."

Flammer said both educators

should be effective in the area of meeting out discipline, a key job for any high school principal. "I think discipline at the high school is an important role. They'll both be effective in those areas."

Meanwhile, Flammer cited the presence of Wallied Lake Superintendent James Gelsler and the district's progressive approach as reasons such high-quality candidates applied for the positions.

"We're not standing still and are continually trying to improve," Flammer said. "That kind of activity makes it interesting to other educators. And Dr. Gelsler is a strong selling point for the district. He's an excellent leader who has built quite a reputation for himself."



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