





MICHIGAN'S LARGEST FLORSHEIM, ROCKPORT and DEXTER DEALER

DOWNTOWN SEASON CHIEF TO THE TOTAL STATE OF THE TOT

## OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest features a roundup of some of Oakland County's top news stories as re-ported in the Observer & Eccen-tric Newspapers in the last week.

TRIAL ON SEX CHARGES

"He sat next to me. He said he loved me," a 1-year-old boy told 48th District Judge Edward Avandeka at a preliminary examination last week.
That's what a 01-year-old West Bloomfield man said to the Pontiale teen before performing oral sex on him, the boy said.
The victim was describing one of four incidents that are the basis for criminal sexual conduct charges against Richard Turner Staunton. M TRIAL ON SEX CHARGES

charges against Richard Turner Staunton.
Despite the victim's confusion about the dates of the incidents during cross-examination by defense attorney Jerome Sabbata. Avadenka said there was sufficient evidence to warrant a trial and bound the case over to Oakland County Circuit Court. Staunton is scheduled to appear on the four counts before circuit rourt Judge Alice Gilbert on Thursday, Sept. 7.

## M SHARED SCHOOL SERVICES

BE SHARED SCHOOL SERVICES
It's been nearly a year since the
Birmingham and Bloomfield
Hills school boards pledged to
look into way to share services
between the two districts with the
sim of cuting costs.
And while the results have not
been dramatic, some progress has
been raade, officials for both disricts said.
Birmingham school superinendent John Hoeffre-ti-selfer.

tricts said.

Birmingham achool superintendent John Hoeffler identified two areas where the districts actively looking into sharing services: interactive technology and the Internation Academy, being apearheaded by the Bloomfield Hills achool district. Birmingham currently is installing new technology equipment now to link all classrooms and all buildings.

casarooma and all buildings.

2 SOUCCARD FOR SHERFF?
State Sen, Michael Bouchard
last week announced he will not run for a federal office in 1996, but his chief of staff said he heart tuded out running for Osk-land county Sheriff.

Bouchard, a Republican and former Bloomfield Township poince officer, represents the 12th Senate District, which includes Troy, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Royal Oak. His term doesn't expire until November 1998.

998. Sheriff John Nichols, first elected to office in 1984, said he does not plan to run for re-election next year.

The press release issued for Bouchard, known to be a hard-

working public servant who keeps his eye on higher office, also doesn't rule out a run for a top state office in 1908.

## ER ROAD DANGERS

Where's Adams Road? Rochester Hills released its

Rochester Hills released its most dangerous interactions and road agements in 1994. Missing from the top-10 list is Adams. "You'd think it would be there with all the emphasis we put on widening Adams." council/woman Lauren Shepherd said. "All we talked about is how very, very dangerous Adams is ... Well, I guess that just doesn't hold true anymore."

guess that just doesn't hold true anymore."
Her remarks came at a recent council meeting. City traffic engineer STephen Dearing said a trend showing an increase in socients is reflective of the entire county. He also pointed out the study has a 'built-in blast toward high volume roads," since they're traveled more frequently. A crash history of Rochester Hills show a drop in the number of traffic fatalities, but an increase in injuries.

crease in injuries.

B ARSAULT ARRAIGNATENT
A Farmington Hills man, 35,
was scheduled to be arraigned
yesterday in connection with the
sexual assault of a 16-year-old in
the Downtown Center parking lot
June 15.

The man, who is not being
named because he has not been
arraigned in the incident, will be
charged with two counts of first
degree criminal asrual conduct
and one count of second-degree
CSC. Arrigment was set for 3
p.m. at 47th District Court.
The teen was forced to have
oral sex and had her breast grabbed during the assault, which
took place in the south parking
tot. She was in-line skating when
the attacker appeared naked
wasning a stocking over his head.
He fled after the girl's acreams
alerted her mother.

## E EUSING CUTBACKS

Busing students to schools out-side the district is a luxury Southfield Public Schools says it no longer can afford. The district, though, had a hard

time convincing parents of that at last week's board of education

meeting. Parents who live in Southfield Parents who live in Southfield and have daughters who attend Beth Jacob School in Oak Park were out in force at the meeting to protest the elimination of busing to that school.

The declaion to eliminate busing to zchools outside the district was an economic one made by the board during a study session last spring. Also eliminated were bus

tripe to two parochial high schools in Bloomfield Town Marian and Brother Rice.

E NO TO 2HOPPING CENTER
Flatly denying two rezoning requests for property on M-24 and
Silverhell Road, the Orion Township Board of Trustees Monday
night put a nail in the coffin of
potential Meijer and Target
stores planned for that corner bystores planned for that come Real Estate Interests Group

South.

Ropresonatives for REIG, present at last week's regular meeting, were hardly allowed to appeak after Orion residents sent letters and spoke out against the request, which would have allowed the group to build shopping centers on the southwest and northwest corners of that interaction.

section.

The board voted unanimously as against the request.

# TOWKSKIP BUYS PROPERTY

Independence Township has approved an agreement to buy a 14-acre piece of vacant property on Sashabaw Road near I-75 to

Nation pieces of water process of the control of th

### EURRI CHOR III

Parents of students that attend Leonard school don't know if they will support a \$44 million bond issue to build a new school, but they do know they don't like the fact that Leonard Elementary seems to have been cuitted from the district's plans for the future. More than 50 parents and comit munity members attended a meeting at Addison Township Hall to hear Oxford Area Community Schools Superintendent Marion Ginopolis speak about the bond issue and answer questions.

the bond issue and answer questions.

There is a great deal of confusion in the area about the school !!. district's plans, said Lyn Henderson, one of the parents who organized the town hall meeting. Even her own daughter was perplexed by the sign in front of the town hall announcing last week's meeting. Town Hall Meeting Leonard School Closing.

- compiled by Suzanne L. Parker.

# Decision: State has no obligation to finance Michigan court system

By The RICHARD STUP WATER One burner on the court reform stove was turned off Aug. 23 when the Michigan Supreme Court ruled against local governments that had sued for state funding of

that had sued for state funding of their trial courts.

But other burners are still generating heat in force of state funding—heavy workloads in some courts, the outstate versus Detroit brawl, and a governor who holds in their strings. We leat all clout," said Doug as Van Esam, the Grand Rapids attempt who handled the appeal for the plaintiffs—the Michigan Association of Counties. His was the most pessimatic reaction to the high court ruling. "We may end single the force of the dealer, Roberts of the

"There is a lot of interest in state-funded court."

At issue is the way state government picks up 30 percent of the tab for Wayne County trial courts versus 20 percent for the other 25 counties.

Meanwhile, Gov. John Engler has used veto threats to block creation of new judgeships in Oak-land County, the Farmington district, and the northwestern Wayne County 25th District Court until there's court reorganization.

Court until there's court reorganization.

The best known plan is one backed by State Bar leaders: a single "trial court" with state funding and new districts to replace circuit, recorders, probate and district courts.

Grake said a GOP Senate test force would issue a court reform recommendation before the party's Mackinae Mand conference Sept. 22.

Attorney Thomas Kienbaum predicted "a showdown" on state funding despite the Supreme Court decision. "What if counties decide not to fund a court and shut it down? Is the Supreme Court sexping. We can't enforce that either?" said Kienbaum. a Franklin Village resident and president-elect of the State Bar of Michigan. Baild Honigman, R. West Bloomfield, said, "We've slavey claimed the state ought to, as a matter of policy, fund all the courts. Il like the idea. Justice is supposed to be squal. Before my time, a promise was made that state funding would be made available."

Like Kienbaum, Honigman fallog fars outstate counties and local units could get sore at Wayne's favored treatment and cut out funds for their local courts.

"We've got it good"

"We've got it good'
But some in Oakland and western Weyne counties say their
ereas are better off without state
funding and its Siamess twin,
atte control.
"I'm prejudiced against a state
taksover," seid Oakland Circuit
Judge Gene Schnels, "because
we're so well trested in Oakland
County, We're not en a luxury
gravy traik.

County. We're not on a luxury gravy train.

"Bince Brooks Patterson became county executive, we've gond from no computers to where we (judges) all have personal computers. I can write up ny notes from the bench and create a file. Our bunch is unenimously opposed to a state takeover because we've got it so good. Down in Wayne County (with state funding), they have trouble getting pensile.

pennils.
"Outstate, (funding) is a severe problem," Schneiz seid. From his

rymoun and state sid and control.

"It makes a \$1.3 million profit. The locals use that money," asil.

Law.

Statewide, district courts in accent year spent \$150 million and collected \$125 million, infines and fees, recovering \$50 pp; cent of their costs. Other district courts broke even, while others can at a loss.

Said Law, a member of the House Judiciary Committee and former township official: "Bkpy ma a district court that last in the black, and I'll show you one that isn't well managed."

In other courts, however, the

In other courts, however, the situation is different. Circuit courts (the state's general trip. courts) generate revenue to cover only 11 percent of their costs. Prostate courts cover only 7 percent of their costs.

It started in '80
The argument started almost, as soon as the Legislature in 1985, passed a law beavily funding Wayne County and Detroice courts. The stated intentions was to phase in state funding for the Wayne suburbs and the other 25, counties over five year. In 1846, deep recession that followed, state, funding starte advanced.