Airport makes changes to avoid a winter disaster

By Ken Abranczyk Staty Writer

Officials at Detroit Wayne County Metropelltan Airport are hoping equipment purchases and operational changes will help ease the air traffic gluts during anow storms.

They expect the opening of a third de-icing pand later this month near the end of the airport's runways will make planes safer by preventing the accumulation of ice ou the planes, but also allow for better air traffic management and quicker departures for passengers in winter weather.

tures for passengers in wines, weather.
On Nov. 4, Wayne County commissioners also approved the lease of five anow blower trucks with 18-inch brooms for \$1.9 million with C.E. Pollard of Datroit. The county will execute a Ford Motor Credit Municipal Lease for five years, with a \$1 buyout.

Lease for IVe yeats, who a value of the buyout.

'Defcing used to be completed har the nirport's gates. Work crews used to move equipment from gate to gate, which took time, according to Detroit Metro Alrport spokesman Mike Conwhy. The new pad will help clear those gates.

those gates.
"Gates will remain available for other flights," Conway said.

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Mike Conway

That should help Northwest Air-lines, which is Metro's principal carrier with more than 70 per-cent of the airport's 31 million

annual passengers.

The Federal Aviation Adminis-The Federal Aviation Administration had issued an advisory earlier this year that stated that airports in cold-weather cities should build deicing pads if planes face long taxis from gates to runways. Accumulated ice and snow can affect the lift of simplanes.

and snow can affect the lift of airplanes.

The three pads also should help prevent air traffic tie-ups similar to those created during the Jan. 2 snowstorm when many planes containing scores of holiday travelers remained on taxiways for several hours. While the de-icing procedures were not attributed as a cause for the airport delays, the snows and winds were attributed to Northwest's flight crews inability to get to the airport.

The third pad was built at a cost of \$11.2 million and contains six tanks that can hold up

to 10,000 gallons of deicing fluid. That fluid, glycol, will be recycled by EQ-The Environmental Co., a firm that paid Metro \$50,000 for a three-year contract.

With the two deicing pads and a program to recycle glycol, the country's costs for sewer and water use went from \$1.3 million in 1997-98 to \$923,460 in 1998-99, a decline of 30 percent, Conway said.

The five new snow blower trucks will be used after plows during snow removal operations. "Brooms will be attached to the trucks for use during light snows, or as a finishing task after the snow plowe," said Brian Lassaline, airport spokesma.

The trucks are expected to arrive in December, Lassaline said.

Commissioners also approved a \$127,000 contract with Standby Power Inc. of Redford for the purchase and installation of a 600-kilowatt backup generator for Detroit Metro Airport's Fire Station, as required for FAA regulations and Y2K compliance.

A resolution authorising condemnation proceedings related to the acquisition of one-holf acre for Runway 4/22 (Crana Road) at Metro Airport also was approved by commissioners.



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Professor awarded Rotary scholarship **MADONNA UNIVERSITY**

Stanlay Ngeyi, chairman and professor of physical and applied science at Madonna University and an Ypailanti resident, was awarded a \$10,000 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to teach science at the University of Buen in Cameroon, Africa.

Ngeyi will take a sebbatical

Ngeyi will take a sabbatical from Madonna during either the winter 2000 or 2001 term to teach thermodynamics and quantum Cameroon chemistry

Cameroon.

He also plans to visit area high schools.

"I feel I have a lot to offer this newly formed university," Negori and." I hope to create a laison or collaboration in toaching and/or research with professors claim vork; spent the winter 1998 semester in Morella, Moximator restablish a strong physical chemistry base."

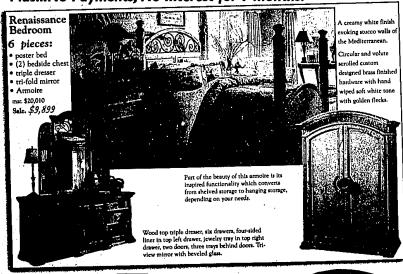
This is the third consecutive year that a Madonna University faculty member has received the award.

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