

Supplement lists foreclosures

Special supplement: The Observer and Eccentric newspapers will distribute a special 24-page publication for the Oakland County Treasurer's Department, called "Notice of Foreclosure" beginning Dec. 27. This publication lists thousands of business and residential properties and the amount of back taxes owed on them. Copies of the supplement will be available for purchase at a cost of 75¢ each, at the Farmington Observer office, 33411 Grand River.



OPINION

Walt and see: Our review of this year's state legislature might sound a little cynical, but between redistricting and pay raises, our elected officials made out just fine. /A6

Afghanistanism: As the world's problems become our problems, we are not sad to see 2001 go. /A7

ENTERTAINMENT

Celtic style: It's been a few years since Seamus Connolly used to go from door to door playing his fiddle and singing on the day after Christmas. /B1

INDEX

- Apartments/F2
- At Home/C1
- Automotive/F6
- Classified/E,F
- Classified
- Index/E10
- Crossword/F3
- Entertainment/B1
- HomeTown Life/C5
- Jobs/F4
- Obituaries/A5
- Opinions/A8
- Real Estate/E10
- Service Guide/F6
- Sports/D1

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Hills boy caught in serial attacks

By PAUL R. PACE
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A 14-year-old Farmington Hills boy, who has a record of personal and family troubles, is facing charges in Probate Court this week in the attempted rape of a woman around midnight Friday in the Green Hill Apartments complex, said police Chief William Dwyer.

Police said the boy confessed to three abduction attempts this month in two Farmington Hills apartment complexes.

The first two attempts had police issuing warnings to women living in

those complexes to be on their guard.

Dwyer said the latest attack was the most violent.

According to police on Friday, the youth, whose family lives in the Green Hill complex, broke into an apartment in the complex and called an escort service to the apartment. The apartment owners returned so the suspect fled through a back door, but was waiting for the woman.

He put a butcher's knife to her back and covered her mouth and took her into the stairwell of another apartment building and allegedly tried to rape her five times, Dwyer said.

The woman put up a struggle, scratching and pinching the suspect. She managed to escape and ran to the car in which she arrived with a driver. The driver called 911.

The victim was treated for minor injuries and released from Botsford Hospital.

Throughout the night, officers searched the area and found a roll of duct tape in a nearby woods and a newspaper ad for an escort service in a carport.

By daylight police had a composite of the suspect and canvassed the area asking residents if they had any infor-

mation.

One woman said she had seen the youth hanging around the area after midnight, Dwyer said.

Police received consent to search the apartment by the boy's parents and found clothing belonging to the latest victim.

"In every attack, his boldness was increasing," Dwyer said.

The previous attacks occurred in the Green Hill complex around 7 p.m. Dec. 16, while the other was around 8:45 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Windemore Apartments on Halstead north of 10 Mile.

Please see ATTACKS, A4



Still shopping

Bargain hunters: Natalie Dawson (right), stocks up for a new apartment at Central Michigan University. She and mom, Karen Dawson of Farmington Hills were shopping in downtown Farmington on the day after Christmas. Karen got some ornaments from the Bon Ton Shoppe.

Despite economic woes, local shopping holds up

By PAUL R. PACE
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While the state and national economies have suffered in recent months, local residents and businesses have reported their holiday shopping habits or sales figures were not drastically changed compared to last year.

Shoppers at the Target Store in Farmington Hills were busy doing last-minute gift buying on Christmas Eve.

"I'm here for the last minute things my husband forgot to get," laughed Beth Rice of Farmington Hills, who was shopping at the department store with her young daughter Rebecca, there to buy a toy for a relative.

The economy affected Beth's buying this holiday only a little bit, she said.

James and Kathy Balow of Houston were up visiting their

Please see PURCHASES, A4



Shop 'til you drop: Marlene Roe of Livonia puts a bag in her trunk from DOTS. Her friend, Kim Booker, said she would be looking for deals on wrapping paper.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMLEY

Adviser offers dynamic vision for 'aerotropolis'

By HUGH GALLAGHER
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Imagine a dynamic metropolis of high-tech industries, just-on-time delivery centers, international corporate headquarters and a rich mix of high-end hotels, restaurants, recreation complexes and shopping malls to support it.

Now imagine this 21st century development being anchored by Wayne County Detroit Metropolitan Airport

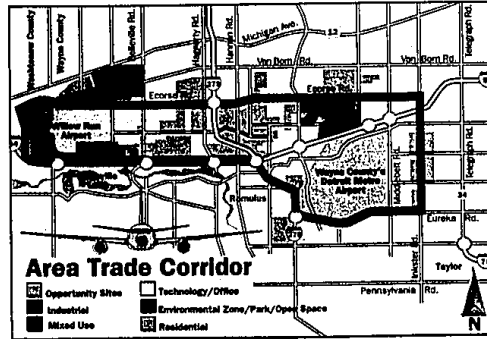
See Phil Power's column, A7

and Willow Run Airport.

John Kasarda says Southeast Michigan is ready for an "aerotropolis."

Kasarda, director of the Kennan Institute of Private Enterprise and distinguished professor of management at the Kennan-Flagler Business School, University of the North Carolina, presented his vision to a group of community and business leaders Dec. 18 at a meeting organized by the Wayne County Department of Jobs and Economic Development.

Kasarda has signed a \$63,000 4-1/2 month contract with Wayne County to help define and market development ideas and business strategies around the airports and help target potential



Future aerotropolis: This Wayne County map shows the ring road connecting Metro and Willow Run airports and current land use.

developers for the proposed Pinnacle Aeropark development south of Metro Airport.

Kasarda said he will be looking at how airports help cut costs, increase productivity and expand market reach. He said he will be looking at transportation logistics, especially at Willow Run with its extensive cargo business. And he will look at strategies for

attracting international corporate headquarters.

"What are the factors that are ultimately going to affect investors, private sector investment in and around the airports?" he said.

Current planning

Work has already begun on transforming the area around the county's two international airports. The proposed Pinnacle Aeropark, a 1,800-acre mixed use project in Romulus and Huron Township, is expected to attract office, commercial and high-tech industrial development, hotels and an 18-hole golf course.

Romulus, Huron Township, Taylor and Wayne County have also contracted with McKenna Associates to draw up a master plan for a "ring road" development connecting the two airports. Sally Hodge, vice president of McKenna Associates, presented the proposal at the Dec. 18 meeting at the Crown Plaza Hotel, just north of the airport.

The ring road development would be bounded on the east by Inkster Road, on the west by Willow Run Airport, on the north by Ecorse Road and on the south by I-94 and east of I-275 by

Please see AEROTROPOLIS, A2