

Many rally to aid Colombian volcano victims

By Susan Steinmueller
staff writer

Area residents have rallied to aid victims of the Wednesday, Nov. 14, Colombian volcano disaster, donating supplies and upwards of \$20,000, according to the Colombian Consulate in Southfield, which serves Michigan and Ohio.

"We have had such a response, it's been incredible," said consul Margarita De la Vega de Hurtado. "We have been amazed. People here have a sense of solidarity and warm heartedness."

"The main thing is that we really want to thank everyone for their response, compassion and generosity. We

really have a lot to give thanks for at this time."

THE ERUPTION of the Nevada de Ruiz volcano, 85 miles northwest of the capital city of Bogotá, swept more than 20,000 people to their deaths, as it buried the region in a sea of mud. There are 14,000 missing, and tens of thousands are homeless.

The consulate had published a list of supplies needed to aid the victims, including blankets, tents, medical supplies, water containers, plastic bags, rope and cable. Monday, the consulate was readying piles of those donated supplies.

The items will be sent to a Detroit

warehouse, before being sent to Colombia by the end of the week. The LASED warehouse in Detroit contributed its space for the relief effort, as it did after September's deadly earthquakes in Mexico, which killed about 8,000 people.

A REQUEST for financial help was met by donations ranging from \$2 to \$500, many from private individuals. "We've had very nice things, like a 10-year-old who sent in \$5," said De la Vega de Hurtado. "People have done things like gone in and collected from fellow employees."

Although many Latin Americans have organized to help their country-

men, she added, "I expected it (aid) to be mostly from people of Latin American origin, and it's not."

Two Ohio doctors volunteered their services, too, she said, and flew to Colombia to help.

THE COLOMBIAN Volcano Relief Fund Committee has been set up to coordinate relief efforts. Co-chairmen are Carlos Sabagh and Jose Parra. Medical supplies and money are still needed. If you want to help, you may make out a check to the Colombian Volcano Relief Fund Committee, 2811 W. 14 Mile, Suite 100, Franklin, 48023. The committee, which is expected to exist for at least three years, will

determine the best uses for the money.

To make donations to the American Red Cross, attach a note that the money is to go to the Colombian victims and send to: Executive Office, American Red Cross Southeast Michigan Chapter, Box 351, Detroit 48232.

There has been a Colombian Consulate in the metropolitan area for about 15 years, but it moved to the Southfield location in February, according to spokeswoman Lydia Drelles. The consul, which has jurisdiction over the approximately 3,000 Colombians in Ohio and Michigan, has three employees — the consul, vice consul and a secretary.

'We have had such a response, it's been incredible... People here have a sense of solidarity and warm heartedness.'

— Consul Margarita De la Vega de Hurtado

WB restaurant eyed by Machus

West Bloomfield residents may soon have a "Fox" in their own backyard. Harris Machus Enterprises, owner of the Red Fox, Sly Fox, several Foxys and area pastry shops, is negotiating with the owners of Bloomie's of West Bloomfield to purchase the Orchard Lake Road restaurant.

Martin Kreger, executive vice president of the Machus corporation, said, "We have made an offer to purchase contingent on arranging financing and the transfer of a liquor license. Until that happens, there's no sale."

In such a case two things can be done. You can close down like Win Schuler's has done and wait for everything to be completed or you can continue to operate."

In a contract agreement with the present owners, Canopy Associates Inc., a physicians/investors group, Machus took over management of Bloomie's Nov. 4.

"UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS of the state of Michigan," Kreger said, "we're forbidden to make any investment into it until everything is final, and that won't be until mid-January. At that time we'll be changing the name and effecting cosmetic changes."

Bob Loser, who formerly oversaw Bloomie's in Rochester and Troy, and at the Machus at 100 West Maple, Birmingham, has been installed as manager. No other personnel or menu changes are immediately planned.

Loser said, "We have spent the past two weeks just observing. We're looking at food quality and improving service standards. We're talking to customers on a one-to-one basis asking them what they'd like to see."

Kreger added, "In honesty, we're not advertising the fact that we're there yet. We want to continue training and get rid of the inconsistencies. We don't want people flocking in, they might be disappointed."

Son arrested in father's death

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

A 31-year-old West Bloomfield man is being held without bond in Oakland County Jail charged with first-degree murder in the beating death of his father.

James M. Hengemuehle was arraigned Tuesday morning before 48th District Judge Gus Cifelli. He pleaded not guilty. The preliminary examination is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, before District Judge Bernard Friedman.

Police said James H. Hengemuehle, 64, of Walnut Lake Road was found dead in his bed Thursday afternoon by his wife, Devonne, who was returning from work. She called police at 8:30 p.m.

A medical examiner listed "death by cerebral trauma" as the cause of death. The head injuries apparently came from repeated blows of fists. Mrs. Hengemuehle told police she last saw her husband when she stopped home at noon. There were no signs of forced en-

try, and the victim's absent son, who lived in the home, became the prime suspect.

Police said they believe the Hengemuehles became involved in an argument that got out of hand. The pair operated a tool-grinding business from their home.

THE SUSPECT was picked up by West Bloomfield police shortly after 5 a.m. Sunday on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester after campus police, aware that he was being sought, found him sleeping in his car and alerted the West Bloomfield department. He offered no resistance.

Police withheld information on the beating death until after the son had been arrested. "We weren't sure whether we had a homicide," said Lt. Daniel Billos, who made the decision not to release the information. "The victim and his family's rights were more important than the public's."

Police believe the younger Hengemuehle may not have realized that the beating resulted in the death of his father.

"There was a possibility that the suspect didn't know he (the father) was dead, and we didn't know if he would take off," Sgt. Mike Madigan said.

WEST BLOOMFIELD police said the suspect has no criminal history in the township.

The elder Hengemuehle has one other child, a daughter who was away at college at the time of the death.

The homicide is the second in West Bloomfield within three months. On Aug. 25, a 19-year-old West Bloomfield High School graduate, Greg Todd, was killed with a handgun.

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