

Looks at books:



STAFF PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Looks at books: Sinisha Martinovich and his son Jason, 7, scan potential summer reading fare at the Borders Book Store on 13 Mile in Southfield Township.

Summer readers in love with hit romantic novel

BY ALICE COLLINS
STAFF WRITER

Joyce Sales knows what she's going to read this summer.

"All I know is that it's romantic and with the little time I have to read, that's what I want," she said, holding onto a copy of "The Bridges of Madison County."

"Madison County," as it's most often referred to in conversation these days — and it's referred to a lot — is the book rage of the summer, according to booksellers throughout the area.

"Jurassic Park," thanks to the blockbuster movie version in theaters now, and the John Grisham books "The Firm," "The Pelican Brief" and "A Time to Kill," also fit into that category.

Sales, a Southfield resident and Pontiac school teacher, was shopping at Borders Book Shop in The Corners shopping center at 13 Mile and Southfield roads.

"I'm going to Alabama on vacation tomorrow, and I came to find a book for myself," she said. "I'm also looking for a book for a birthday present to take to my best friend who lives there." Her friend wanted a copy of "The Blackwoman's Guide to Understanding the Blackman" by Shahrazad Ali. "She's not married and she's always trying to find out more about the black male."

Vacation reading

Sales was also scanning the shelves for something else for herself. "I like gossip stories, especially those about the royal family," she said, looking at those about Prince Charles and Princess Di. "I guess I like to read about other people's problems."

Sales' choices of summer reading material is typical of what most readers are looking for.

"A lot of people come in looking for a light read," said Karen Dubrinsky, community relations coordinator at Borders. "They want something you can take to the beach or on planes."

Blockbuster bestsellers, love stories, mysteries, action adventures, books about human relationships and a few self-help books are most popular.

The demand for spy novels has dropped off since the cold war ended so men are having a tougher time finding things to read," according to Sharon Olds, owner of Annie's Book Shop at 14 Mile and Farmington roads in West Bloomfield. Women generally have a broader range of interests, she said.

"John Grisham appeals to men and women including those who haven't read a book in years," Olds continued. "His books are easy to understand and they move fast."

Many of her customers are teachers, said Olds, "so the summer is their time to sit back and do what they want and read what they want for a change. Most often it's fiction."

"Madison County" by Robert James Waller "is on everybody's best seller list this summer," said

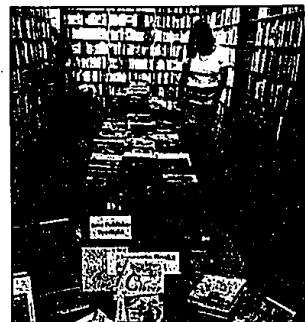
Kathy Watler, manager of B. Dalton Books at Oakland Mall in Troy. The book is a love story between a world-traveled photographer and an Iowa farm wife.

"It was put out first by an independent publisher and didn't do much for a while," said Watler. "Booksellers began 'hand-selling' because they liked it so much and it began to spread by word-of-mouth. Then it took off."

Numerous versions of Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park" are in bookstores and "selling like hotcakes." Borders has it in paperback, hard cover, "Jurassic Park Illustrated" for children, a shortened/highlighted version for intermediate readers, "Jurassic Park Raptor Attack" for young children, a large-print version and audio cassette version.

"Our store has sold more than 1,100 paperback copies," Dubrinsky said.

Among the other popular books this summer, according to the local booksellers, are: fiction — "Turtle Moon" by Alice Hoffman; "Waiting for Exhale" by Terry McMillan; "Jazz" by Toni Morrison; "I Is for Innocent" by Sue Grafton; "End of the Pier" by Martha Grimes; "Women Who Run With Wolves" by Clarissa Pinkola Estes; "Paper Doll" by Robert Parker; "Scorpio Illusion" by Robert Ludlum; non-fiction — "Truman" by D. McCullough, a recent biography on former president Harry S. Truman; computer books "DOS for Dummies" and "Whole Internet Users Guide and Catalog"; "Healing in the Mind" by Bill Moyers; "The Way Things Ought to Be" by talk-show host Rush Limbaugh; "Re-engineering the Corporation" by Michael Hammer and James Champy; and "The Fifties" by David Halberstam.



Summer reading: This year's summer reading includes the novels "July 7" and "The Queen of October."

Beechview parents rallying to fight kindergarten move

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Parents who oppose moving the kindergarten class from Beechview to Alameda Early Childhood Center because of overcrowding will meet Tuesday to organize and rally support.

The meeting will take place at a residence, according to Clarise Waldecker, who with her husband, Nick, is against the school district's plan that removes all kindergartners from Beechview Elementary.

"Overcrowding is not based upon kindergartners, but based on the entire enrollment (of the school), Waldecker said. "I'm the hospitality chairman for Kimberley (subdivision). Parents are shocked when I tell them their kindergartners won't be attending Beechview."

Parents move into the subdivision specifically so their young children can attend that elementary, she said.

Waldecker also takes issue with the district's attitude that the move will be temporary.

"Temporary is open-ended," she said Friday.

Don Cowan, director of student and building services, will also be invited to the organization's meeting, she said. But, Cowan said on Friday, he hadn't yet been invited.

Parents of kindergartners have the option next year of keeping their children at Alameda or having them return to Beechview, Cowan said.

Some 73 kindergartners are registered for the next school year, compared to 83 fifth graders, he said.

"I bought my house with the understanding that my child, who is two now, would be able to go to school right up the street," resident Diane Williams said at the June 15 board meeting.

Residents weren't given enough opportunity to discuss the measure before it was approved, Williams said.

Williams said that residents who phoned or wrote letters received no responses, adding that her phone call wasn't returned from a board member until the day of the board meeting.

Moving the older children, who have already been students at Beechview might make much sense when Alameda has an excellent reputation as an early-childhood center, Elizabeth Rosser said. She stressed that the Kimberley subdivision is but one subdivision that feeds Beechview, and shouldn't get preferential treatment.

The school district approved the relocation in March. The district projects by 1996-97 there will be 211 new students.

Beechview, at 26860 Westmeath, south of I-696 between 11 and 12 Mile roads, is already 93 students over capacity. The student-to-teacher ratio is 26-to-1 there compared to 23-to-1 in other schools.

Some 120 students will be affected.

These include:

- Children living north of 11 Mile between Inkster and Middlebelt, which is Section 13, will be moved to Wood Creek Elementary.
- Kindergarten pupils will be relocated to the Alameda Early Childhood Center.
- First-graders from Beechview, Larkshire and Longacre may attend Alameda or remain at their school.
- Fifth-graders in Section 13 have the option of either going to Wood Creek or remaining at Beechview.

"This issue has heated up," said Nick Waldecker. "It's a very sensitive issue in the subdivision. The district has adopted a 'Band-Aid' resolution he said.

Cyndy Lachowski, a Kimberley subdivision resident with a 5-year-old child in the affected kindergarten group said she has no problem with the board's decision but acknowledged that other people may.

"I want the board to realize that not everyone feels as they do," she said.

Woman admits Pepsi report false

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The syringe in a Pepsi can seen in a hit close to home.

Police say a Plymouth Township woman's report of finding a syringe in a Pepsi can on Wednesday is false, and police and the federal Food and Drug Administration are seeking to prosecute her.

Plymouth Township Police

Chief Carl Berry said the woman, 43, told police that the syringe was found in a can from a 12-pack of Pepsi bought at the Kroger store on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Berry said the woman eventually told police the claim was a fake. Last week, people in more than 20 states had reported finding syringes and hypodermic needles in Pepsi products. At least one

person was arrested on charges of making a false report.

A spokesman for Pepsi-Cola Co., based in Somers, N.Y., said the company is aware of reports and is taking them all seriously while not commenting on individual cases. It has no plans for a recall.

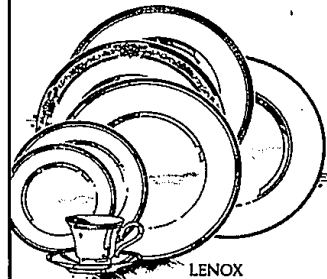
The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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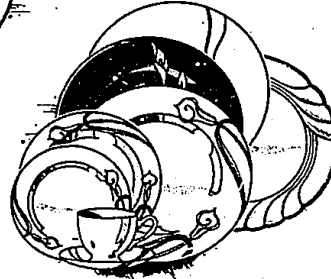
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That's how we do things here to make gift selection so much easier for family and friends. Shown below are 12 patterns from collections of many modern and traditional designs.

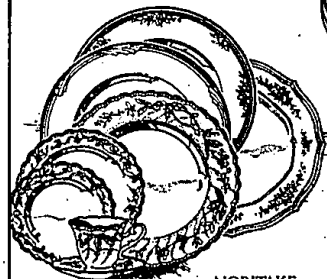
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