

Oakland Digest features a roundup of some of Oakland County's top news stories as reported in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in the last week.

TEACHERS QUIT

The Birmingham school board has accepted the resignation of a Seasholm High School teacher who has been sued — along with the school district — for sexual harassment.

The board issued a brief statement indicating that at the time of the resignation, "officials of the Birmingham School District were actively conducting an investigation for the purpose of bringing tenure charges against him to terminate his employment. No settlement or agreement of any sort was reached with (the teacher) regarding his resignation."

The teacher and the school district were named in a suit filed in early June by a then Seasholm senior identified as "Jane Doe." The suit alleged that "commencing with her ninth grade year and continuing to the present, (the teacher) has made remarks and gestures of either a suggestive or perfunctory nature which made the plaintiff Jane Doe feel uncomfortable."

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Construction of the Recreation Activities Center continues, even though it could be more than two weeks before the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission knows whether it has access to money it wants to use to pay the project's bills.

The township has 20 days from last Friday to respond to a lawsuit

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filed against it by the commission in Oakland County Circuit Court. The suit, naming the town board as the defendant, charges the board with with improperly freeing money in the land acquisition fund.

In the meantime, Kallen Construction continues to work on the RAC, with the commission's reassurance it will be able to pay its bills, said Mike McGhee, treasurer for the builder.

Paying the bills on the RAC, no matter how the lawsuit turns out, won't be a problem, said commission chairman Andy Bergstrom.

"If the court finds the land fund shouldn't be used for the RAC, then we're going to take it out of our own budget," he said. "I am prepared to do that."

TALK SHOW QUED

A \$25 million lawsuit was filed last week against the Jenny Jones show by the family of Scott Amedure, a man who confessed on the talk show that he had a secret crush on a Lake Orion resident and was later killed.

The family has also filed a suit against the Lake Orion man, Jonathan Schmitz, who has been charged in Amedure's death.

On March 9, three days after the taping of a Jenny Jones' show that never aired, Amedure was shot and killed.

Schmitz, who has told police he was devastated by the prospect of a man having a crush on him

being revealed on national TV, has been charged with the murder. He is set to go to trial later this year. An innocent plea was entered in his behalf.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Becker Group, a top automotive supplier, plans to build a high-tech industrial park and headquarters in Troy on the site where it got its start in manufacturing.

The council paved the way for the development last week by rezoning the now-vacant 16 1/2-acre site at the northeast corner of 14 Mile and Stephenson Highway from research center to its original light industrial zoning.

Brad Vierger of the Becker Group said it's still to be determined when construction will begin. Whether Becker Group will move its Warren corporate headquarters or Sterling Heights manufacturing headquarters to the site is also undetermined, he said.

The project would have four or five buildings totaling more than 180,000 square feet of floor space. The buildings would be part of a high-tech industrial park designed to create a self-contained campus-like appearance.

VALET PARKING

Bob Hoppert says a valet service will turn Rochester's downtown parking "nightmare" into a motorist's dream this fall. U.S. Pro Parking Service of

Southfield will start shuttling cars between two city lots and the alley just west of the pizza cafe this fall.

The Rochester city council Monday approved the agreement between the valet service and the Rochester Downtown Development Authority.

The company, which also parks cars in downtown Royal Oak, will pay the DDA \$100 monthly to pick up and drop off vehicles on West Fourth, between Main and the alley. The service will cost \$3 per car. Senior citizens will pay \$2 and handicapped persons will pay \$1.

DDA BUYS BUILDING

The Southfield Downtown Development Authority will soon be the owner of a second office building in its district surrounding Northland Center.

The authority's board gave its approval Wednesday for plans to purchase the vacant One Northland Drive building, which housed the Specs Howard School of Broadcasting until last year.

Monday, the DDA took title of the building, which was turned over to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources last year when it went into tax default, for the application fee of \$75.

If the DDA hadn't taken title to the three-story, 144,000-square-foot building, the DNR would have auctioned the building off this week for a minimum of \$40,000.

WATER HOOK-UP

Oxford township officials learned last week that plans to hook up to Detroit water could be as far off in the future as 20 years.

Detroit water officials attended the special meeting to inform the township about the possibility of getting Detroit water service in the future.

There are two primary concerns involved when water hook-up is established, said Lee Vey of Detroit Water. There must be enough water pressure to provide adequate fire service and water must be treated and handled in such a way that it does not endanger the public health.

TOWNSHIP SETTLES

Independence Township has dismissed its case against Paine Weber, but township officials aren't saying much on the matter.

During last week's board meeting, Supervisor Dale Stuart announced the township dismissed the civil arbitration procedure that it filed against the broker last December.

Township officials maintained that Paine Weber, as well as other brokers, misled them about risky investments called derivatives and inverse floaters. In recent months, the township has worked toward divesting itself of the investments.

— compiled by Suzanne L. Parker staff reporter

Interlochen camp hosts All-Staters

The University of Michigan All-State Program at Interlochen, featuring many Oakland County students, is a summer music, dance, and musical theatre program consisting of four two-week sessions for Michigan residents that runs concurrently with the Interlochen Arts Camp.

During these two-week sessions, All-State campers have the opportunity to work intensely with highly skilled teacher-artists, to meet new and interesting people from all over the world, to sleep in cabins in the woods and take a trip to Lake Michigan, to see and hear fantastic performers and recitals, and perhaps, most importantly, to have the chance to discover new things about themselves and the meaning of "music" in their lives.

Following are Oakland County residents who this summer attended the All-State camp:

Birmingham — Christina Castellana, Jill Collier, Adrienne Field, Richard Frank, Robert Grabel, Kate Kosack, Munezki Tauda, Andy Zimmerman.

Bloomfield — Will Booth, Beth Salz, Jonathan Sale.

Bloomfield Hills — Lauren Adkins, Elizabeth Anderson, Soojung Chang, Hyunji Cheong, Christine Chun, Megan Duffey, Sri Gordon, Samuel Kohnenber, Lisa Liu, Caylie Matti, Lauren Nielsen, Andrew Pluff, Christopher Pluff, Robert Schlagheck, Jr., Catherine Sholchet, Jonah Victor, Janet Yang.

Bloomfield Township — Marc Rillema.

Bloomfield Village — Caitlin Lynch, Tim Springer.

Clarkston — Robert Vance III, Kristen Wicklund, Tom Wisniewski.

Farmington — Janet Patton, Juliet Petrus.

Farmington Hills — Kevin Berger, Michelle Butler, Raymond Letters, Barry Chamberlin, Tara Christo, Lauren Cosettini, Amishi Doshi, Jamie Earls, Alice Ebenhoe, Emily Ebenhoe.

Meghan Frith, Kristin Gustafson, Aaron Heston, Patrick Koenig, Marie Konsol, Maria Nedock, Rachel Parker, Ashlee Patrick, Eric Phillips, Janet Pien, Layne Schiff, Leanne Shultz, Ryan Smith, Christina Szelag, Allison Wiens, Anne Yambor.

Keego Harbor — Lauren Franklin.

Orchard Lake — Erin Webley, Oxford — David Wagner.

Rochester — Laura Buono, Lexa Stockemer, Elizabeth Vachon.

Rochester Hills — Courtney Burt, Laura Burley, Carolyn Chen, Stephen Chen, Genevieve Crawford, Rasanna Fidler, Alice Han, Mary Beth Hohnowski, Andrew Jenkins, Ayaka Kimura, Brenda Koolman, Andrew Perkins, Julie Ponita, Debra Ponton, Paul Ponton, Yvonne Tsai, Jennifer Ware, Mary Whitney, Jason Wong.

Southfield — Sarah Babin, Omar Butler, Rebecca Fried, Kyle McAllister, Walter Mosley, Marlee Rosa, Kevin Smith, Michael Thornton.

Troy — Anita Balocating, Amanda Bayly, Eileen Bora, Jason Chien, Michelle Chien, Stephanie Chin, Marc Decker, Kristine Garbarino, Reena Gupta, Dorothy Ho, Leah Inabnit, Margaret Kim, Jennifer Kirkendall, John Kulback, Jennifer Lange, Ellen Lee, Petro Lisowsky, Kara McElreath, Erika Stark, Jeffrey White, Allison Zaleski.

West Bloomfield — Randy Aaronson, Katy Ambrose, Kathryn Berry, Sharon Cerenine, Neva Duffy, Carrie Dunn, Andrew Feldscher, Jessica Gartner, Sarah Grogan, Jennifer Jones, Stephanie Kapera, Ian Kasprzak, Dana Kraft, Risa Lichtman, Brian Lipson, Jessica Maas, Stewart MacLean, Orin Peliwoda, Julie Rosenbhal, Simon Sebastian, Ramona Shlom, Al Takuchi, Yuko Tanaka, Yukika Yamamoto, Michael Vessian, Jordan Young.

Walled Lake — Dianna Kent.

Insurance company moves

Access Insurance Services, Comerica Bank's insurance subsidiary, has relocated to 6070 W. Maple in West Bloomfield and will become Comerica Insurance Services.

The firm formerly was located at 86600 Grand River in Farmington.

The name change allows the company to benefit from favorable

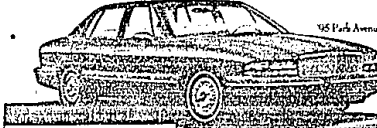
recognition of the Comerica name, said Andrea Martin, president of the insurance corporation.

"Comerica was one of the first banks in Michigan to purchase an insurance agency, with the acquisition of Access Insurance Services last year," she added.

Insurance products include annuities and life, disability and long-term care insurance.

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