

OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to Nov. 16.

BIRMINGHAM

Pitt not in town: After weeks of chasing a rumor, Brad Pitt fans and visitors to Birmingham can rest their eyes. Contrary to a popular rumor that the Hollywood actor was staying in Birmingham, the crew of an independent film being made in south Oakland County reported that they saw Pitt in New York.

CLARKSTON

Teen drug use high: Results from the latest university survey on drug use among teenagers in Clarkston schools showed that Clarkston High School seniors and smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and using other drugs at percentage rates above the national average. However, the same survey indicated that Clarkston students are least likely to smoke, drink or use drugs in or near school.

FARMINGTON HILLS

Theater to close: Farmington Hills' Old Orchard 3 Theater, which is operated by American Multi Cinema Inc., is expected to shut its doors. The company also plans to close two of its other metro Detroit theaters, the Americana West in West Bloomfield and the AMC Eastland Mall in Harper Woods. The Old Orchard 3 Theater has been operation in Farmington Hills since the middle 1970s.

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

Bagpiper breaks stereotype: Madeline Macy, an Independence Township resident and music teacher in West Bloomfield, is shattering the myth that only men play the bagpipes. Macy, 42, plays the Scottish instrument in the Celtic Piper and Drums band, the unofficial band for the Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Orion Township.

NOVI

Ready for freeway work: The Mission Roads Project, a partnership between the cities of Novi and Wixom and the Providence Hospital Group, are urging the Michigan Department of Transportation to accelerate a

project to modernize the Beck Road/Wixom Road/I-96 interchange from a possible 2005 to a 2001 completion date. The Mission Roads Project has a \$23 million contribution for the modernization project.

LAKE ORION

Superintendent honored: Robert Baas, superintendent of Lake Orion Community Schools, was recently honored as Michigan's 1998 Superintendent of the Year.

ROCHESTER HILLS

Road widening: Traffic jams

across Rochester Hills have prompted the city's planning commission to consider widening either Avon Road or Tenenken. They plan to hold a public meeting on Nov. 18 to discuss the matter.

SOUTHFIELD

School shopping: Hoping to attract students to their schools, the Southfield Schools District is holding an All-District Open House from 2-5 p.m. Nov. 16 at each school building in the district. Aimed at marketing the public schools to potential stu-

dents and their families, the open house will offer building tours, information tables and displays, computer demonstrations, performances and video presentations. For information, call any Southfield public school.

TROY

State house seeker: Troy councilman Matt Pryor recently announced that he would seek the 41st District state House seat in the Aug. 4 GOP primary election. Republican Shirley Johnson of Royal Oak currently holds the post, but is barred

from running again because of term limits. The 41st District covers the southern half of Troy, part of Royal Oak and all of Clawson.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Judge hikes Potter's bond: Bond for Steven Sidney Potter, the 32-year-old West Bloomfield man accused of sexually molesting a 4-year-old boy, was increased Nov. 12 to \$150,000 with no surety by 48th District Court Judge Kimberly Small. Potter is charged with two counts of first degree criminal

sexual conduct and faces up to life in prison if convicted. The court entered a not-guilty plea on the charges for Potter. Potter, who is a Boy Scout leader, could not post bond and is being held in county jail. His preliminary exam is set for Nov. 21. Meanwhile, U.S. Customs is trying to determine through computer records whether Potter was involved in the proliferation of child pornography on the Internet.

—Compiled by staff writer
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OU begins student exchange with China

Oakland University recently agreed to exchange students for the next three years with an educational commission in China.

The agreement is an example of OU's commitment to preparing students for the challenges of a rapidly changing global workplace and society, said Mary Otto, dean, School of Education and Human Services.

Oakland will exchange students with the Guizhou Education Commission in Guizhou, a rural province in south central China.

Every year, about a dozen volunteer instructors participate in the nine-year-old Summer English Language Institute. They travel from OU and nearby school districts to four Guizhou sites to show instructors how to teach English and other subjects. In return, the American educators learn about Chinese culture and lifestyles so they may share their knowledge with their students back home.

Each August the institutions agreed to serve as hosts for up to three exchange students per year who will study at the host institution for up to one year in programs of their choice.

The host waives charges for tuition and housing; the sending institution or exchange student is responsible for other expenses such as food, books and medical insurance. OU is hosting three Guizhou students who are studying in the SEHS' Department of Reading and Language Arts.

"I believe in a global education system," Otto said. "I believe it is important for us to understand people from other cultures who come to this country to study, but also that we educate American students to be prepared for travel. Americans should be exposed to other cultures by living and working with people from those cultures — not just by reading about other cultures in books."

"It's very important to the Chinese to be able to speak English because the Chinese economy is growing so rapidly."