

Talks from page A1

money, will quickly yield results.

"I'm real optimistic about the resolution of these contracts," Zurvalec said. "Both sides are committed to making this process work."

Zurvalec said this year's negotiations are markedly different from previous years. In what she called an "intensity-based approach," negotiators from both sides of the table are working in tandem to identify concerns and find mutually agreeable solutions.

"Instead of having each side bring specific proposals, we address topics, such as qualifications for positions," Zurvalec said. "We brainstorm options. This is a new style of negotiations, it's much less adversarial."

Representatives from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Detroit are providing some assistance at no cost, she continued.

Talks are expected to resume Monday.

Besides Zurvalec, district negotiators include Lawrence Lobert, executive director of personnel, James Myers, executive director for K-12 instruction/student services, Judy White, assistant superintendent for instructional services, Lanigan Elementary School Principal Marva Turner and Laura Miner, principal at Power Middle School.

Leading talks for the union is Zan Alley of the MEA, who was out of town last week, and Tom Chrzanowski, president of the Farmington Education Association.

Chrzanowski said he expects another multi-year deal to be reached during August. "If not, we'll look at an extension of the current contract."

He said talks have gone slower

than in past years, because of the change in the bargaining approach.

"Any time you change your way of operating it takes a little while to get going," Chrzanowski said. "We haven't accomplished much yet. But I'm confident we will soon."

In the last contract, employees received three-year pacts including annual raises of about 2 percent, Zurvalec said.

Besides the 850 teachers, the negotiations affect about 200 maintenance and cafeteria workers; 300 secretaries and paraprofessionals; 85 transportation employees (including bus drivers); and 50 administrators.

In addition, separate talks are going on with the Farmington Alternative High School Educators Association, which represents seven alternative academy teachers.

Fatal from page A1

International dump truck headed west on 14 Mile on its way to the Haggerty Connector construction site. Tandorich was transported to Providence Hospital in Southfield where she died.

A third vehicle, a 1995 Honda Accord driven by a 52-year-old West Bloomfield man, also was involved. He was taken for treatment to St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac, but his injuries were not considered life-threatening. The dump truck driver was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

"Witnesses and other drivers said the light was red for Orchard Lake," said West Bloomfield Police Officer John Truitt. "The dump truck was going westbound to the Haggerty Connector construction site and ... (the driver) tried to take evasive action. But the situation

didn't allow for that."

The truck, belonging to Cass City-based Keller Landscaping, then collided with the Accord, waiting to turn left from 14 Mile onto northbound Orchard Lake.

Five hours after the accident, its effect lingered, and so did Long. He stood near Noodle Kidoodle as police officers and firefighters from Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield swept up remaining remnants of the accident.

Members of the West Bloomfield Fire Department were also spreading chemically treated absorbent paint to soak up oil and petroleum products, and a county road crew was on its way to put sand down on the slick surface.

According to Truitt, the cleanup was mostly necessitated

by spillage of various automotive liquids extending about 100 feet west of Orchard Lake.

Truitt added that "There was junk in the van and it went everywhere... It was probably one of the messiest scenes I've ever seen in terms of debris."

Shortly after 11 a.m., the intersection remained closed to traffic while cars coming from the other direction were being detoured down a side street behind Noodle Kidoodle, a children's store.

One main reason for the lengthy delay in restoring the intersection for normal use, said Truitt, was releasing the air brakes on the dump truck. "You can't move (the truck) until you get the air pressure and electrical power back into the system."

stopped after the company fired a person believed to be involved.

A witness told police she saw a man walking fast in the area, which she thought was unusual because of the time of night.

ATM from page A1

which is opened after using a combination.

Police viewed a videotape from an ATM camera, but little could be seen because of the tape's high speed. An officer found a

key lying on the interior floor of the ATM.

Between October and December, a Wilson Group employee said four ATMs were burglarized in a similar way. The break-ins

TCBY Yogurt plans fund-raiser for August

TCBY Yogurt in the West River Shopping Center on Grand River in Farmington Hills will conduct a fund-raising campaign for United Cerebral Palsy Association in August.

Jeanine Wallace, manager of the TCBY store in Farmington Hills, announced that during August customers will be encouraged to "Round-Up"

their purchase price to the nearest dollar and contribute their spare change to UCP.

Elmer Corano, executive director of the UCP Association of Metropolitan Detroit stated, "TCBY is a valuable community partner in assisting UCP's efforts to 'Turn Obstacles into Opportunities' for people with disabilities."

"As a national corporate

sponsor, TCBY employees have gone beyond the call of duty in raising volunteer contributions for the work of the association. UCP is an advocacy organization that represents the interests of all people with disabilities and their families."

TCBY of Farmington Hills offers frozen yogurt, hand-dipped ice cream and a variety of frozen yogurt cakes and pies.

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