



Improved conditions for airport mechanics

Even the mechanics can't wait for the new Midfield Terminal at Metro Airport to open. Though that won't be until December 2001, the 74-gate Northwest Airlines concourse, now under construction just south of existing passenger facilities, will mean better working conditions for mechanics besides providing better service for passengers, they say.

For one thing, says Dan Kafkas

of Westland, a plant maintenance mechanic for Northwest since 1991, "Each gate will have portable heating and air conditioning equipment" instead of the mobile units now being moved

from gate to gate.

Not only will the permanent power units help save wear and tear on the jets' on-board generators used to heat or cool parked aircraft, but "They'll be quieter,

too — less noise for passengers and us," he says.

But the increase in total gates will mean "better connections for Northwest passengers," Kafkas notes.

Now, he says, if there's a problem with a jet bridge to a plane, the gate must be shut down, sending passengers to already busy gates. "Like trying to put 10 apples in a bag that holds five," says Kafkas.

Legislation would keep kids from Internet sales

BY MIKE MALOTT
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The Internet is making many changes in our society — like how underage drinkers get their booze.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

Websites now exist offering beer, wine and liquor for sale, to be delivered to the home by United Parcel Service or Federal Express, according to state Rep. Nancy Cassia (R-Nor), who has introduced legislation aimed at keeping computer-ordered alcohol out of the hands of youngsters.

The sale of alcohol to minors, whether in person or over the Internet, is already illegal in Michigan. But minors have been able to get home delivery of such beverages, according to legislative aide Daphne Reznick, as a recent sting conducted by the Ingham County Sheriff's Department showed.

Roznik noted that in another sting operation, conducted in Alabama, a minor was able to order and receive delivery of alcohol even though none of the information submitted to the seller matched the credit card to which the purchase was charged. Not only did the seller not check the buyer's age, it didn't check the credit card's billing information.

Cassia's bill would clarify that liquor control laws also apply to beverages sold over the Internet and make it clear that Internet sellers must comply with Michigan law.

Cassia said she is adding provisions to the proposal to require that the package be labeled when it contains alcoholic beverages. She said she will adjust the requirements to match the current labeling practices of the major parcel delivery companies, such as UPS and Federal Express. But if adopted, the law would require delivery companies to get adult signatures for those packages identified by label as containing alcohol.

House Bill 4752 saw approval from the Committee on Regulatory Reform Tuesday, Feb. 8, and was moved to the House for consideration.

AGENDA

Farmington Hills Planning Commission
Public Hearing
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile

Public hearing:
■ Planned unit development option for the Eleven Pines property on the south side of 11 Mile Court, west of Halsted. The request is for the expansion of the San Marino Golf Course and development of residential housing. The San Marino property is zoned (RA-1) single-family residential district and the Eleven Pines property is zoned (RA-2) single-family residential district. The proponent and owner is the city of Farmington Hills.

Applications available

The Farmington Area Arts Commission is now accepting applications for the "Artist-In-Residence" and "Distinguished Service to the Arts" awards for 2000.

For more information, contact Ginny Lundquist, Chairman, Artist-In-Residence Committee, at (248) 682-6562.

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