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Briarwood settled

Consent judge

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By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

It was a long, tough war. But the peace treaty may be signed tonight. The city council is expected to have on its table a consent judgment with Lee Walter on the controversial Briarwood Plaza development at the northeast corner of Ten Mile and Beck roads.

Originally, Walter hoped to build a 90,000 square-foot Great Scott supermarket, 48 acres of additional retail and a gas station on the ten acres.

The agreement now under consideration calls for 30,000 square feet of retail. There is no restriction as to the type of stores which can be placed there, but they must be compatible with the B-1, general business zoning category.

"The size of the facility wouldn't accommodate a grocery store, but if they can fit it in, they could do that," said Assistant City Attorney Dennis Watson.

"Lee Walter mentioned a drug store may go there."

Walter's attorney Norm Hyman agreed that a supermarket is not likely for the land.

"Everything is in a flux now but given the size of the area that's available for commercial it will be difficult to put a supermarket into that property now," he said.

Walter and members of Citizens for Responsible Development (CRD) are expected to be on hand tonight to see firsthand if the swords will be beaten into bulldozers.

"We've been working on this

which means that you get less than you hoped to get but the city gives more than you expected them to give. This is what settlements are."

Norm Hyman
Attorney for Briarwood

"It's a settlement, which means that you get less than you hoped to get but the city gives more than you expected them to give. This is what settlements are."

"It really is kind of nice to have all this coming to an end. A lot of people worked a long time and the end result is something we're proud of."

The council will need to pass on the final site plan, landscaping and street improvement designs.

"They have been kept apprised during the process. The city has been asked for their input. I would assume they don't have any major objections anymore," Watson said.

"I think they've gone back and forth, they've met with the developer a number of times. I think they're basically satisfied with what's been proposed. There are seven council members and they're all individuals. Their discussions Monday will indicate what they think about it."

The consent judgment includes one entrance instead of two from Ten Mile Road, a greater setback of

1/2 mile and Beck roads, improved left turn lanes and a by-pass street on Beck Road for southbound. More trees will be left on the corner.

Hyman said the Briarwood developer was not prepared to discuss what he'll be building on the hotly-disputed site. The developer has agreed to construct 81 detached condominiums adjacent to the shopping center, rather than his originally planned apartment complex. This would further reduce the traffic impact at Ten/Beck.

"The Briarwood people are not in a position at this point to be discussing that. It's a settlement, which means that you get less than you hoped to get but the city gets more than you expected them to give. This is what settlements are," Hyman added.

Walter first applied for rezoning of the 10 acres from general business and residential to B-2, commercial business in October 1988. The city 1987 and 1980 master plans called for a neighborhood shopping center on the corner.

But due to traffic safety concerns, residents in the area were incensed when the developer won the rezoning. A referendum election in June 1989 reversed the city council's rezoning decision.

Walter filed a lawsuit in April 1989 challenging the legality of the election and seeking a reinstatement of his requested rezoning, as well as monetary damages above \$10,000. Members of CRD were subpoenaed by Walter's attorney.



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Girl scouts with the tree they donated to the Novi library

Scouts decorate library

By SCOTT DANIEL
Staff Writer

The Novi Girl Scouts have made the Christmas season a little brighter this year in the city.

As part of their "December service project," the scouts bought, decorated and donated Christmas trees to the Novi Public Library and city seniors. According to Jan Schlenke and Mary Kay Marks, team service directors of scout troops at Novi Woods Elementary School, more than 250 girls participated in decoration activities on

Dec. 1.

"The activities were designed as a service project for the community," Marks said. "But we also really wanted to help the needy."

In order to participate in decoration activities, which were held at the Novi Civic Center, scouts had to donate a household item such as toothpaste or toiletries. Marks said the items are being earmarked for shelters in Oakland and Wayne counties.

The "Haven," in Oakland County and "My Sister's Place," in Wayne County, will receive the items, she

said. She said the shelters are for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

"The items have to be picked up by the shelters," Marks said.

The shelters asked that they pick up the household items in order to protect the secrecy of their locations, she said. Marks said the donated goods are presently at a Novi scout's home where they will be picked up.

The scouts had a good time in making decorations for the trees.

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Program eases traffic

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

Christmas shopping at Twelve Oaks Mall has meant traffic hassles in the past.

An overdose of shoppers during last year's holiday shopping rush caused big headaches for local police, eventually causing them to close the Novi Road exit from I-96 during peak shopping times.

But this year looks like it might be different. According to Jack Grubb, the Novi Police detective in charge of Twelve Oaks, improvements to the annual mall traffic plan seem to be creating a situation everyone can live with.

The plan — which includes everything from extra police officers to shuttle service from city hall — is one that has developed over many years.

"We just keep improving on it every year," Grubb said. "Every year we learn something new and get a little bit better at it."

New this year are several additional shuttle vans for an annual program that allows mall patrons and employees to park at the Novi city hall complex and ride a van to the mall. Shuttle vans appear every 10 minutes to take people to the mall.

The vans, Grubb explained, are leased by the city and driven by 10 school bus drivers. The service is available at no cost for shoppers or employees.

Grubb said the service is being used mostly by employees at the mall, who themselves are working different hours.

"We noticed all the employees were changing shifts around 5 p.m. creating traffic problems," he said. Through cooperation with the mall, employees now work staggered shifts, decreasing the traffic problem. Also new is a system of signs to direct traffic to the mall.

"Twelve Oaks has a gigantic sign directing people to Beck Road and signs there directing them back to the mall if we have to close the Novi Road exit like last year," Grubb explained.

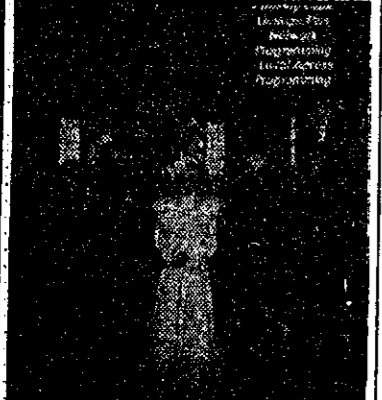
The signs will be placed along I-96 if the exit is closed. However, Grubb said the widening of Novi Road "has helped immensely," and the exit may not have to be closed.

In addition, he said, a less intense shopping rush and a great deal of cooperation between the police and mall officials is making the situation much better.

Continued on 4

Inside

Dolly Parton celebrates a family style Christmas. That's just one of the features in "Suburban Cable Weekly," your guide to television. The TV listings are keyed to the actual channel numbers on the local MetroVision cable system.



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Novi Briefs

Correction: The Sports section of the Dec. 6 Novi News contained an error.

A photo caption on page 8B incorrectly identified a Novi girls basketball player. The player in the photo is Kristin Kenry.

Radio Free Novi: What do Mayor Matthew Quinn, Buffalo Bob Smith, Novi Historical Society President Kathy Mutch, Bob Talbert, a barbershop quartet and live parrots have in common?

They're all appearing on radio station WJR's live broadcasts from Twelve Oaks Mall from Saturday, Dec. 8 through Saturday, Dec. 15. The radio station is setting up a portable studio at the lower level court near Lord & Taylor's.

Disc jockeys Jimmy Launce, Joel Alexander, Warren Pierce and J. P. McCarthy will be on the air with local talent such as City Manager Edward Kriewall, Bonnie Neff of the Living Science Foundation, the Novi Singers from Novi High School, the Novi Concert Band, Margaret Schmidt of the Novi Adventurer's Four-H Club and Chamber of Commerce Director Connie Mallett, along with Twelve Oaks store managers. "They call it the Christmas studio. They've done it at other centers in the past," said Twelve Oaks general manager Philip Morosco.

Holidays on the fast track: The Christmas tree at the Novi Civic Center came down on Dec. 3 — a little early for the holidays, but just in time for the repairmen. The September tornado did major damage to the atrium and work will continue through the next few months. "Mommy, they're breaking the tree," a toddler shouted as workmen in a cherry picker were pulling out the branches of the artificial tree.

According to a city employee, a few ornaments bit the dust, too.

Silver strings: The Wixom Historical Society will honor its membership with a Christmas program by a group from the Silver Strings, who will play dulcimers and associated stringed instruments during its annual Wassail Night. The monthly meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 10, at Wixom City Hall at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend and to join in

Christmas caroling in front of the city hall during the lighting of the city Christmas tree.

Free picture with Santa: Anyone age 12 or under, whether or not they've been bad or good this year, may have a free photo taken with Santa Claus on Dec. 15.

Santa will be at Real Estate One, 1045 Novi Road (near Brookside Hardware), from 1-4 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

Build your own home: The Michigan Builders Institute, in cooperation with the Novi School District's Department of Adult and Community Education, will offer a 24-hour, eight session seminar on how to build your own home beginning Monday, Jan. 14 at Novi High School. The course is designed for people who want to build their



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Grab for the goodies

Leah Hagger, 5, looks over the selection of cookies during the recent tree lighting ceremony at the Novi civic center.

own homes or who want to work more effectively with a contractor. Classes cover the home building process from start to finish. Subjects include buying property, site planning, financing, building codes and permits and the basics of concrete, masonry, wood frame construction, roofing, plumbing, electrical, insulation and ventilation, dealing with subcontractors and more. The cost of the seminar is \$150 and includes all materials. Pre-registration is required no later than Friday, Jan. 11 to the Novi School District's Department of Adult and Community Education. Those interested may call 348-2100 to register during school office hours. The course instructor is a licensed builder with extensive experience teaching builders' classes. With personal experience as a co-owner of a residential building company, the instructor will be able to answer questions related to all facets of home building.

Giving thanks: The Salvation Army is looking for food donations to make up Thanksgiving baskets for needy families and individuals in Novi, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield and Livonia.

If you are interested in donating food, please call Cheryl Carter at 477-1153. Businesses which would like to run a canned food drive may also call Carter to arrange for a collection pick-up.

The Salvation Army is located at 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills.

Share your skills: Novi Community Education is always looking for instructors for its adult and child enrichment classes.

If you have a skill, craft or hobby you'd like to share with others, call Novi Community Education at 348-1200.

Senior transit available: The Novi Parks and Recreation Department's senior transit system provides a lift-equipped van to Novi residents who are age 55 or over, or are physically handicapped. Transportation is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Appointments should be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling 347-0400 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays. Let the dispatcher know if you have a handicap or other special need. Donations are appreciated.

Robber pleas 'no contest'

By **BARRIE BARBER**
Staff writer

A Fowlerville woman accused of robbing a bank in the Twelve Oaks Mall has pleaded no contest to charges she robbed two banks in Ingham County while two other charges have been dropped, according to attorneys in the case.

Meanwhile, the charge that she robbed a Nov bank is still pending in Oakland County circuit court. Patricia Anne Kozdroff, of Fowlerville, was also bound over for trial Dec. 3 by an Oakland County judge. She has been charged with the alleged Oct. 5, 1989, robbery of the Comerica Bank at the Twelve Oaks Mall. A \$50,000 surety bond has been set, but she has not yet posted bond.

No trial date has been scheduled before Oakland County Circuit Judge Fred Mester in connection with that incident.

In Ingham County, Kozdroff is scheduled for sentencing Wednesday, Dec. 26, before Circuit Court Judge Michael G. Harrison.

Raymond L. Scodeller, Kozdroff's attorney, said Thursday. "She has no memory of any of the robberies." Scodeller added he was convinced that was true because she was previously found incompetent to stand trial.

Ingham County Prosecutor Donald Martin said a pre-sentencing report has been prepared for the court. Kozdroff, a 40-year-old mother of four, was incarcerated in the Ingham County Jail following a high-speed chase that ended on I-96 near Williamston last February. She was suspected of robbing an Okemos bank just prior to her arrest and was later charged. She remained in jail last week.

The former catechism teacher pleaded no contest to a Nov. 30, 1989, robbery of the Republic Bank, 601 W. Grand River Ave., in Meridian Township and the Oct. 27, 1989, robbery of Michigan National Bank, 6100 S. Pennsylvania Ave., in Lansing.

Bond has been reduced from \$100,000 cash to \$10,000 surety.

Police News

A Novi man reported a red Toro snowblower missing from his home on Aichebaun Dec. 4.

In addition, he reported a Sears portable heating unit missing.

According to police reports, the \$350 snowblower and the heating unit were taken from the unlocked shed next to the complainant's home.

ASSAULT — A Northville man reported an assault that allegedly occurred at his residence on Curtis Dec. 1. The man reportedly told Northville Township police that his 16-year-old stepson struck him with his fists and bit his finger during an argument. The victim refused to press charges, police said.

CAR WINDOW DESTROYED — An employee of Metjer, 20401 Hagerty, told Northville Township police that someone destroyed the passenger side window of her 1990 Oldsmobile late Nov. 28 or early Nov. 29.

Bond has been reduced from \$100,000 cash to \$10,000 surety.

Damage was estimated at \$250.

VEHICLE DAMAGED — The owner of a 1990 Dodge Shadow reported damage to his vehicle Nov. 25. Northville Township police said the owner told them someone scratched the hood, left side and trunk of the vehicle.

MAIL STOLEN FROM BOX — A Rippling Lane resident told Northville Township police someone stole personal checks from his mailbox sometime between 1:05 p.m. Nov. 25 and 10 a.m. Nov. 26.

CHARTER BUS VANDALIZED — A charter bus parked at Northville Downs Dec. 3 was vandalized sometime between 7-9 p.m. A padlock on the bus door was broken, a table inside the 16-seat bus was crushed and the interior was ransacked in the attack, though nothing was reported stolen. Two males between 14-15

years old were seen walking from the area before the damage was discovered, and Northville City police found two pairs of footprints leading to and from the bus during their investigation.

RADAR DETECTOR STOLEN — A radar detector was reported stolen from a pickup truck parked behind Town & Country Cycles Dec. 5 between 7:50-8 p.m. The detector, a Cobra Trapshooter II with a cigarette lighter power cord, was valued at \$180. The truck was unlocked at the time.

FENDER BENDERS — Northville City police reported five accidents in the past week. A 21-year-old Dearborn man driving north on Lexington Dec. 3 struck the car ahead of him about 4:25 p.m. The car was stopped at the Eight Mile stop sign. The man was cited for failing to stop.

The next morning, a car heading

south on Nov Road slid on ice and was struck by the car behind it. No citations were issued. At 5:02 that evening, a 19-year-old Novi woman was driving north on Center Street south of Cary when she struck a car turning left into the city parking lot south of Main Centre. She was cited for failing to stop. At 6:30 p.m., a 72-year-old Northville woman was driving east on Dunlap east of Rogers when she struck a parked car. She was cited for failing to stop.

The next day, about 4:05 p.m., a car turning left off Northville Road in front of a tanker truck was struck by a southbound car. The driver of the turning car, a 46-year-old Westland woman, was hospitalized and both cars were towed. She was cited for failing to yield.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call Northville City Police at 340-1234, Northville Township Police at 349-9400, or the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

Smuggling charge dropped for woman

A 22-year-old Novi woman, arrested on charges of smuggling two pounds of Southeast Asian heroin in her suitcase, was released Dec. 5, while four Nigerian men were indicted for allegedly recruiting her as a courier.

Laura Jean Richards was arrested at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Nov. 15, after disembarking from a return flight via Tokyo.

The men, members of what the indictment calls the Nwanika organization, were indicted on four counts of conspiracy to import a controlled substance and heroin possession with intent to distribute. Each of the four counts bears a ten years to life penalty.

Two of the men, Christopher Nwanika, 27, and Charles Okezie, 22, are being held in custody. Okezie, a University of Michigan student, is Richard's boyfriend. Two others, Victor Nwanika and Ugochukwu Ogbonna remain at large.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Tulek said he could not disclose if Richards may face charges.

"Possibly she could be charged in the future," he said. The indictment states that Christopher Nwanika and Charles Okezie drove Richards to Columbus, Ohio on Nov. 7 and paid for her airplane ticket to Thailand. In Thailand, Ogbonna and Victor Nwanika allegedly then provided her with the narcotic.

Scouts brighten Novi

Continued from Page 1

Schlenke said. She added that the girls spent about two hours making ornaments and decorating the trees. The parking lot was lit up and it doesn't take long to decorate the trees," Schlenke said. "The kids loved it. It's the biggest turnout we've had this year."

Scouts from kindergarten through seventh and eighth grade participated in the event. Construction and tissue paper, bead kits, stuffed animals and other items were used in making the ornaments. A tree was donated to the library because all of the city's children use it, Marks said. She added that a tree

was donated to seniors because the scouts believed that the seniors would enjoy receiving something from the children.

Schlenke and Marks said donating the trees and household items wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the Novi Rotary Club. The club gave the scouts \$300 for their Christmas activities, they said.

Novi dentist Robert Antolak also helped out by donating supplies for the shelters, Marks said. Despite the scouts' efforts to help the needy this Christmas, she said, it's not always easy to find groups that will accept. "Sometimes it's a struggle," Marks said, "to find a place that will accept a good deed."



The holidays bring heavy traffic to the Twelve Oaks Mall, and the Novi police have a program in place to ease traffic problems

Police effort eases mall traffic trouble

Continued from Page 1

"Phil Morosco (Twelve Oaks Mall general manager) has done a great job meeting with employers and being very cooperative," he said. "We've done a lot and the shoppers seem to be spacing themselves out, not coming in droves like they used to," he said.

Morosco said he believes the planning and work that took place over the summer for improving traffic around the mall is paying off. "I have been very happy with the results," he said. "All the work on Nov Road and the retiming and computerization of traffic lights has had a tremendous impact on traffic flow into the center."

Problems with parking traffic has decreased this year partly due to a restriping of the parking lots. The parking redesign has created 483 extra parking spaces.

Each year, the traffic control plan for the mall involves increasing the number of officers who patrol the area. Five police officers are assigned to the mall on overtime from 2-6 p.m. Each has a Twelve Oaks Mall security officer assigned with him. The additional police protection starts the weekend after Thanksgiving and continues every weekend through Christmas Eve. Starting the weekend of Dec. 15, there are also three to five of-

ficers assigned to the mall during the week. "And we bring them back the day after Christmas because that's when people bring back gifts they don't like," Grubb added.

But this year, Twelve Oaks itself has increased security officers working Ring Road, the curving road that goes around the mall parking lot controlling traffic in the mall interior.

"Thank goodness, it all seems to be working real good," Grubb said. "We'll know a week before Christmas if it was a success. But it's really working smooth this year, knock on wood."

Morosco said he has no doubts that the traffic improvements will hold up.

Family seeking release of hostage

By **MIKE TYREE**
Staff writer

A hostage homecoming news.

Almost four and a half months after he was taken captive by Iraqi forces, former Northville resident Kevin Bazner is set to come home.

And according to Bazner's sister Patu Heath, the media can prepare to take the "prince" from Bazner's residential status.

"I know Kevin and (wife) Dawn's plans are to come here," Heath said. "Dawn just told me: 'Patu, Kevin said we didn't have to go back to Malaysia.'"

"I want to go out to California to see them, but I think I'll just wait until they come to Northville house-hunting."

The Bazners moved here in 1984 and lived at 46151 Bloomcrest in Northville Township. Kevin Bazner is president of International operations with Livonia-based A & W Restaurants, Inc.

could leave Iraq by mid-week — this week.

"The very latest is, my mom (Virginia Bazner) called today and had heard from Kevin," she said. "He's fine and they're in real good spirits. Kevin's got his paperwork completed and they're waiting for the Iraqi government to complete their paperwork."

He could be (released) in as little as five days," she said. Heath can be excused for an inability to comprehend a possible release.

Kevin, Dawn and their two children — along with thousands of other westerners — became unwilling guests of the Iraqi government after Saddam Hussein's troops invaded Kuwait.

Dawn and the children were released Sept. 2, and could only anxiously await the conclusion of a drama that began when their lay-over flight to Malaysia was detained in Kuwait.

Heath said Friday that her brother

for weeks, tensions seemed to mount until war seemed inevitable. But Hussein recently surprised the world with offers to release the hostages.

And now it appears that the anxiety is about to wither; the fears are about to be calmed.

"We couldn't talk about this before, but we had been hearing from Kevin sporadically," Heath said. "His life had been more precarious the first month after Dawn and the kids were gone (but) all of a sudden . . . they were exercising and getting around."

"The picture (Friday, in the Detroit Free Press) of Kevin looked great."

Dawn Bazner was reunited with her husband Thursday as she accompanied an Iraq-bound delegation led by Detroit Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbelton.

For Kevin, Dawn and meteoric rise to local-celebrity status has allowed her to spread the word about her brother's plight. Local residents have embraced her cause, too.

"It's so neat," she said. "We were at the Northville Victorian Festival and people were so nice . . . hundreds of people just stopped to say Kevin was in their prayers."

"I know Kevin and Dawn enjoy it here because this is such a neat little town."

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() Martha White Corn Muffin Mix	\$5.60 case
() Castleberry's Beef Stew	\$14.88 case
() Castleberry's Chili with Beans	\$18.24 case
() Welch's Orchard Fruit Juice	\$8.76 case
() Dole Pineapple Chunks	\$19.10 case
() Velvet Peanut Butter	\$17.89 case
() Freshlike Green Beans	\$10.82 case
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MONDAY BUSINESS

Manufacturers crack down on parts

In May 1989, a 30-year-old truck driver died in a steering loss accident in Ontario. The accident was traced to a counterfeit bolt, manufactured overseas, that was falsely marked as meeting Society of Automotive Engineers standards.

Today, automotive manufacturers, including the Big Three, continue to fight counterfeiters of replacement parts. Companies estimate that as much as \$3 billion of the \$50 billion per year automotive aftermarket involves counterfeit or simulated parts. The Federal Trade Commission translates this into 210,000 lost jobs for Americans, who would be producing legitimate equivalents.

"Counterfeiting is the imitation of something genuine with the intention to defraud or deceive," said Michael Dinger, Chrysler product development manager. "In my five years of fighting this problem, all counterfeit parts I have examined were definitely inferior to genuine ones."

Counterfeit parts may originate overseas, imported legally as generic parts before being placed in counterfeit boxes, or be made in the United States. Original equipment manufacturers warn that these parts usually fail to meet industry or individual company standards.

In other cases, called simulation, parts of uncertain quality are offered in "look-alike" packages. Boxes with Motocare and Autocair labels, for example, have been used to deceive

customers looking for Ford's Motorcraft trademark. The counterfeit and simulation problems need to be distinguished from the current crash parts controversy where less costly, but clearly marked, parts are used in collision repairs, Dinger said. In this case, automakers contend that such "imitation" parts do not provide satisfactory quality of repairs.

Manufacturers, worried about safety as much as lost sales and reputation, are getting tough with counterfeit parts makers and distributors. The Federal Trade Commission translates this into 210,000 lost jobs for Americans, who would be producing legitimate equivalents.

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"Federal-Mogul is no longer going to assume that this is a cost of doing business and let it go at that."

George Bashara
Federal Mogul Vice President

agreed to pay damages to Federal-Mogul. The counterfeit parts and boxes were confiscated by the U.S. Marshall's office.

Manufacturers have an ally in the Federal Counterfeit Trademark Act. Enacted in 1986, the act imposes criminal penalties of up to five years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$1 million for businesses dealing in counterfeit goods. In contrast, those "simulating" genuine parts are subject only to civil penalties.

The message for counterfeiters, Bashara said, is that "Federal-Mogul is no longer going to assume that this is a cost of doing business and let it go at that." In the past, Bashara said, Federal-Mogul feared bad publicity, but now will prosecute whenever it can.

In 1989, aftermarket sales accounted for 68 percent of Federal-Mogul's earnings of \$66 million. Federal-Mogul components include engine bearings, sealing devices, fuel pumps, and lighting and electrical systems.

Federal-Mogul continues vigi-

lance against counterfeiters with the same strategies used by the Big Three: constant checking of products in the field, information programs, improvements in packaging, and the willingness to prosecute offenders. In January, a nationwide FBI sting netted 30 counterfeit parts distributors. The FBI had been working on the case with major manufacturers for nearly three years. The investigation is continuing.

"Seven indictments have been handed down, but no cases from January have been completely settled yet," said Ken Myers, marketing manager for Ford's Parts and Service division.

While Myers sees less counterfeiting from Ford's standpoint in the last few years, he believes that it "probably will never go away; there is too much money to be made."

Myers said that counterfeit parts distributors are getting more sophisticated, with some using telemarketing schemes to reach auto service centers.

Both Chrysler's Dinger and Ford's Myers believe that counterfeit parts

are more likely to be found in repair centers than auto parts stores. "In my experience, no prosecutions over the last four to five years have involved any legitimate parts stores," Dinger said.

"We also buy direct from manufacturers, so we are unlikely to have the problem," Harthun said. Bob Morton, owner of Stem's Auto Supply in Livonia, agreed.

"I am not aware of any problems with counterfeit parts for the last two or three years," Morton said. "Brand name stuff is all I sell; other projects

away from the city, especially when you are on a trip and need a repair," Morton said. He recommends carrying routine replacement parts such as belts or hoses when traveling.

"The problem is probably greater

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MONDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Berst energizes dulcimer

By RICK BYRNE
Copy Editor

Mike Berst is aptly named. A virtuoso hammered dulcimer player, he takes an instrument most often played in a soft and pastoral manner, and infuses it with a burst of energy.

Berst will be performing in concert at the Marquis Theatre in Northville on Dec. 11-13.

For those unfamiliar with the hammered dulcimer, it is an instrument with a long history. "It goes back to Persia about 2,500 years ago," said Berst. At that time the instrument was known as a santur.

It has strings fretted across a trapezoidal wooden sounding box, and when the strings are struck with small hammers — not unlike those inside a piano — the sound produced is somewhere between a piano and a harp.

The hammered dulcimer came to America with the British colonists, and saw its greatest popularity in the Appalachian Mountains region in the mid-1800s. Only in the past several decades has the instrument's popularity waned.

"The dulcimer survived mainly in Michigan," said Berst. "People are surprised to learn that the best ones are made right here. It was Henry Ford's favorite instrument, and he had a dulcimer player on the Ford payroll."

Berst also noted that the dulcimer is generally taught by ear and observation, without formal lessons or sheet music, and passed on from generation to generation. In that tradition, Berst, a Detroit native, was taught by his father, who worked in a dulcimer factory.

"I started out playing in clubs for older people," he said. "I did the usual assortment of private parties, and then festivals, air fairs and craft shows. I was a fixture at the Old Shillelagh (a Detroit night spot near Greentown) for a while."

The revival of the dulcimer began in 1964, when Chet Parker, a Michigan dancer, played at the Newport Folk Festival, and acquired an eclectic East Coast following. Then younger players — Berst among them — began playing publicly in Michigan and elsewhere.

Berst has broken from tradition with his playing style, however. While the dulcimer can accompany a fiddle for square dance music, it is rarely played with quite the intensity that Berst puts into it.

"The way I play is different from everyone else," he said. "It sounds like a mandolin. It's a tremolo sound. I do more chording."

His recordings include "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "Listen to the Mockingbird" — the way you've never heard them before. And his recordings are self-produced.

"I've done it all (the recording) myself," Berst said. "We're fortunate to live in the age of the independently produced recording industry. There's a lot of self-produced stuff out there. People hear pop music, but they don't realize that Christian music is 35 percent of the market. Less than half of all the music sold is (on pop labels)."

This fertile field has created opportunity for musicians to build a following. So great is the opportunity that Berst recently quit a fast-track job in the automotive aftermarket to make his living as a musician. He now tours regionally with some accompanists.



Mike Berst will perform at the Marquis Theatre this weekend

Venues like the Marquis Theatre suit Berst's style. "It's ideal because it's intimate and small. It's got some character," he said. The shows generally attract a wide audience.

"I attract a pretty broad spectrum of young and old," Berst said. "They're just awed by the sound of the instrument. I had a woman come up to me once and say, 'It's a miracle. My teenage son, who only listens to rap music, just bought one of your tapes.'"

"Realistically, though it's an older audience; 35 to 45, the intellectual and academic crowd. But the dulcimer is incredibly hot right now at a grass-roots level. I think I've got a good shot to be on top of that wave."

Video Viewing

Boxed set a must for Chaplin fans

More good news for Chaplin fans. Media Home Entertainment will quench your thirst for comedy with its Chaplin six-pack — six tapes at \$19.98 each, or the entire set for the price of five.

The collection very nicely complements the three 55-minute "Unknown Chaplin" tapes released in August. That footage demonstrated Chaplin's technique. "Unknown Chaplin" contains extensive sequences of Chaplin's experiments in developing comic routines for "The Circus" — one of the selections in this new set.

Running from 60 to 100 minutes each, these six programs contain just over 8½ hours of early Chaplin. Of the 82 films he made for Keystone, Essanay and Mutual Studios from February 1914 through October 1917.

Mark Sennett spotted Chaplin playing in Philadelphia with Karno Kamey Company, a British music hall (vaudeville) company, with whom Chaplin had appeared for several years. Interestingly enough, Stan Laurel was also a Karno alum. Sennett thought Chaplin was very funny and put him under contract for the calendar year 1914.

Appropriately, Chaplin's first film, "Making a Living" (February, 1914), opens the first of these six tapes. "Charlie Chaplin at Keystone Studios," which includes four more of the 35 films Chaplin made for Keystone that year.

So successful were those 35 films that Chaplin was lured away from Keystone by Essanay for \$1,250 per week, more than eight times his \$150 weekly Keystone salary. The second and third tapes in this set present eight of the 15 films Chaplin made for Essanay from January 1915 through April 1916.

Program acquisition is a major problem companies face with such sets for video distribution. Assembling a collection like this and obtaining the necessary copyright releases is a significant problem. The easy way out, of course, is to pick up existing packages. That's what

Home Entertainment did here, and the first three of these six tapes are 1984 Artpal Enterprises' productions. Artpal credits one Dennis Doros for musical synchronization. Whoever he and Artpal may be, their musical sense is truly awful. The musical selections range back and forth — with no apparent theme — from '50s "cool" jazz, to schmaltzy orchestra and elevator music with an occasional (and appropriate) vaudeville-style piano selection. In one case, "The Champion," the switch from "cool" jazz to piano comes right in the middle of a boxing match.

Chef Larry Janes

Rice breaks free from the ordinary stuff

It was inevitable: rice, the food that is relied upon as a dietary staple by more than half the world's population, is beginning to be appreciated in the United States.

There are more than 40,000 varieties of rice in the world but only a handful of them are changing the way Americans think about this simple grain.

Walk into any trendy restaurant in metropolitan Detroit and rest assured that rice will have some sort of premier presence on the menu. With the exception of Oriental caterers, plain old white rice took the last slow boat to China and, it is hoped, will never return. In its place, the new and coming rices will be exciting new varieties like basmati, Texmati, Wild Pecan, Arborio, Jasmine and Black Japonica.

Most common on the trendy rice circuit these days is the very aromatic basmati, heralding from Pakistan and Northern India. This thin, long-grain, cream-colored rice fills the kitchen with an alluring aroma from the minute it begins to cook — an aroma which lingers all the way to the table and stays on the palate.

Not to be outdone, the Americans have since developed a strain similar to basmati called Texmati. This domestic variety, grown in Texas, smells much like popcorn and carries a typically nutty flavor at about half the price of the imported competition.

Arborio rice is a short-grained import heralding from Italy. With nearly 80 percent of the rice eaten in America being a long-grained variety, the short grains are gaining in popularity, mainly because they are softer, stickier and, if anything, more versatile in cooking. Their outer layer softens more readily and has a tendency to absorb the flavors in the cooking medium more than long grains. Arborio makes a great rice used in the preparation of risotto, a classic creamy rice dish flavored with chicken stock, butter and Parmesan cheese.

Here's a rice that's creeping up in popularity: Krokno Wild Pecan. This aromatic rice grown in Iowa, La., is neither wild nor tastes of pecans, but it smells nutty when cooked. Mike Davis, president of Conrad Rice Mill, the oldest operating rice mill in the USA, says they are called Wild Pecan because "When we think of nuts, we think of pecans, and the best pecans are wild."

An already appearing on the best-dressed plates on the West Coast are telltale signs of Jasmine and Black Japonica rices. The Jasmine variety is a long-grain rice that cooks up like a short grain, soft and moist. And, yes, it does have a faint aroma of jasmine, something that West Coast chefs are sporting as the latest food trend.

The Black Japonica variety appearing from Japan has unusually tinted indigo-colored bran layers that leach out during the cooking process, turning the cooking water and rice purple. Unfortunately, this rice looks better than it tastes and can usually be found being mixed with other rices, mainly for the interesting color contrast.

So if you thought that the only thing Momma could cook was something from Uncle Ben's box, try one of the new aromatics and watch the family's taste buds say "Wow!"

Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

Muer choices put emphasis on harmony

Wine and food harmony is the most discussed topic in the American wine industry today.

This is not a new phenomenon for Chuck Muer. He has been matching his food offerings with the world's finest wines in his restaurants for 25 years. The American seafood lover can benefit from this quarter-century of experience in 16 Chuck Muer restaurants in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida and Washington, D.C.

At the Charley's Crab restaurants in Troy and Grand Rapids, the Gandy Dancer in Ann Arbor and the River Crab in St. Clair, diners can sample about 10 wines by the glass or order from the extensive bottle list.

To celebrate his 25th anniversary in the restaurant business, Muer organized a tasting panel to select a chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon for private labeling under the Muer Cellars brand. The 25th anniversary Chardonnay is the 1988 Jefferson Ranch Chardonnay produced by Napa Valley's Monticello Vineyards. The 25th anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon is the 1988 Jefferson Cuvee Cabernet Sauvignon, also from Monticello. Both wines are \$8.25 by the glass or \$20.75 per 750ml bottle.

Because price is always an issue, we are pleased to say that, in the main across the wine list, prices are approximately twice wholesale. With some restaurants in this country charging three times retail, the Chuck Muer restaurants receive our applause for their wine-pricing policy.

"The chardonnay is a perfect complement to our many fresh fish and seafood offerings. The cabernet sauvignon matches superbly with our New Zealand rack of lamb, filet mignon or London Broil."

To test Muer's remarks, we paid a visit to Charley's Crab in Troy for an extensive wine and food pairing from the regular dinner menu and current wine list.

"With the exception of the German Rieslings, not all Chuck Muer restaurants have the same wine list," says Bill Young, dining room manager at Charley's Crab in Troy. "Chuck allows the wine director and general sales manager at each location to make wine purchases based on clientele demographics. As an example, Alsace Rieslings are more expensive and appear on only some lists."

About 90 percent of wine sales are white wines. Of that, 60 percent is chardonnay, 30 percent is German and 10 percent are other available whites, with sauvignon blanc in the lead.

"Chuck Muer restaurant staff is educated each month on wines currently on the list and wines under consideration," Young says. "Wine and food harmonies for approximately 20 wines are discussed at each training session."

The 25th anniversary Chardonnay is a delicate wine that may be paired with lake trout, perch or any of the usually available whitefish.

A 1987 Hanna Chardonnay and a delightful 1988 Zind-Humbrecht Silvaner matched with nearly every dish including the fried calamari and fried shrimp with Dijon-mustard dipping-sauce appetizers. It could even handle pasta with spicy sausage.

While Muer paired the 25th anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon with lamb and steaks, we found it to be a perfect red wine with fish — a match that has to be tried to be believed.



The Christmas yule log recipe traces its roots to Austria

Yule log cake warms hearts

By Larry Janes
Special Writer

Holidays in the Janes Gang home just wouldn't be complete without the traditional yule log cake, otherwise known as a Buche de Noel or Baumstamm Cake. As familiar on the table as the sliced contents of an Ocean Spray cranberry sauce can, this luscious creation has always been the centerpiece of our dessert table. But the cake's heritage goes far beyond its calorie-laden nutmeg batter and artery-hardening frosting.

To call this dessert a simple cake would be like calling a Maserati a car. Steeped in European folklore, the creation of this cake brings with it many tales.

The term "Buche de Noel" is French. "Buche" translates into "log" while the "Noel" denotes "Christmas." It didn't take long for this holiday tradition to go beyond territorial borders; because research indicates the Germans have a similar cake dubbed "Baumstamm," also meaning "log."

Actual recipes are similar, but folklore has it that the cake was invented when holiday revelers, traveling from home to home, would carry a log that was presented to each homeowner. The log, signifying the friendship between the visitors, was promptly thrown on the fireplace, to bring forth warm wishes for a happy holiday.

The travelers undoubtedly tired of carrying around all those heavy logs, and the cake was created as a delicious substitute. Tradition declares the cake must be rolled in the shape of a log, complete with frosting resembling the bark. Some purists go so far as to include errata "knots," shaped from the frosting, coupled with edible candy mushrooms made from a meringue piping.

The sliced, log cake filled with chocolate resembeled the rings seen when cutting logs. Depending on whose cookbook or culinary magazine you choose for a recipe, the cake itself is made with an egg-enriched chocolate batter spread thinly in a jelly-roll-type cake pan and baked to just the right moment so that once cooled, a filling of chocolate, butter and more eggs could be spread upon it. Then, lightly rolled to resemble a log, it was covered with the same rich chocolate frosting.

The Buche de Noel shown in the photograph accompanying this story was made from an old Austrian recipe provided by my oldest sister, Rose. Her recipe was brought directly from Austria from her immigrant in-laws. It was originally made using an authentic balance-beam type scale to measure the ingredients and had to be transformed from metric to standard American equivalencies.

Sure, there are other recipes that call for box-mix chocolate batter and, if need be, you could even cheat a little by using a Betty Crocker chocolate frosting, but to quote my sister directly, "The cake and filling itself is rather simplistic, and when the recipe calls for unsalted butter and not packed but loosely measured nuts, for optimum results, don't cheat."

Personally speaking, I made the recipe and found it fairly easy, with the majority of time spent on the actual rolling and frosting. Once presented on a platter or cake plate, the creation can be bedecked with festive holiday paraphernalia such as Pointsettia leaves or holly greenery.

If the festive season finds you visiting friends and relatives, or if you're looking for a scrumptious holiday centerpiece that will be fondly remembered by all, this holiday cake can be just what Santa ordered.

BUCHE DE NOEL OR BAUMSTAMM CAKE
Batter:
9 large eggs
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 cups fresh ground nuts (walnuts or hazelnuts are best; loosely measured but not packed)
1/2 cup sifted flour
Filling and Frosting:
4 large eggs
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
4 squares unsweetened baking chocolate
1/2 pound unsalted butter, room temperature
Combine eggs, sugar and vanilla in a double boiler, stirring constantly over medium heat. When mixture is hot, add chocolate (it will melt as you continue stirring) and continue cooking and stirring until thick, about 20 minutes. Allow to cool and then beat in room temperature, softened, unsalted butter, scraping pan often. If mixture is too thin to spread, refrigerate for 10 minutes or so. After 15 minutes, test for doneness with toothpick inserted in the center. Frost completely cooled sheet cake at 5-minute intervals. Remove from the oven and cool on wire rack for 5 minutes. Then gently remove and allow to cool completely on a flat surface while preparing the filling and frosting.

Dan Greenberg/Grading the Movies

New releases just in time for the holidays

There'll be no time for Christmas shopping this week as Hollywood has just released 10 new movies for your viewing pleasure. Don't miss Kevin Costner's sensitive and touching look at America's western frontier during the Civil War. Costner directed himself in "Dances with Wolves" (A, PG-13, 180 minutes) as Lt. John Dunbar, a Northern Army cavalry officer who receives the job of his choice for bravery in action against the Confederates.

He picks a distant outpost, Fort Sedgewick, on the western frontier in order to see the wilderness "while it's still there." It's strange that an officer would desire to be away from the "real action" during the Civil War but Dunbar is a thoughtful, battle weary veteran in search of himself. "Dances with Wolves" opens with much of the widespread grandeur associated with John Ford westerns but quickly turns into something very different and very special — an epic poem to humanity and brotherhood.

The three bachelor fathers are devastated but quickly summon up a number of clever strategies to avert that terrible fate. Not since "The Graduate" have viewers been treated to such a comic wedding-cake scene. But there's much more. The film's only drawback is its failure to explain the background for those who missed the original. That, however, shouldn't spoil your fun.

"The Nutcracker Prince" (G) is an animated fantasy of the classical ballet by Tchakovsky. "The Nutcracker Suite." The music is played by the London Symphony Orchestra with character voices done by Kiefer Sutherland, Megan Follows, Mike MacDonald, Peter Borkotki, Phyllis Diller and Peter Onorati. "Robot Jox" (A) is a post-apocalyptic tale where international disputes are settled by warriors in gigantic machines.

"Predator 2" also opens in another attack of sequeltitis. This one's set in L.A. in 1997, with Danny Glover and Gary Busey leading the hunt. Check Alternative Viewing for the last two, "C'est La Vie" (no rating) and "Jesus of Montreal" (R).

That's the big 10 for Thanksgiving. All open Wednesday, Nov. 21, except "Rocky V." "Rescuers Down Under," "Home Alone" and "Jesus of Montreal," which got a head start last Friday. STILL PLAYING "Avolon" (A+, PG, 126 minutes). Excellent film chronicles an immigrant family's successes and failures in America.

"Home Alone" (B+, PG, 100 minutes) is a fairly engaging comedy that is at its best when Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) is left alone to do his thing — that is protect his home from intruders with the mature cleverness children often display. The McCallister family is vacationing in Paris and accidentally left Kevin behind when they rushed off to catch their plane. Some of the film's activities strain one's credulity and certainly Kevin's wise advice to a reclusive neighbor is a bit much. On the whole, however, it's a pleasant holiday entertainment and there's nothing offensive. Wow, a real family film!

Family bakes for 118 years

By ARLENE FUNKE Special writer It was 1872 when German immigrant Anton Burghardt began selling his crusty sourdough rye bread in Detroit. Burghardt's Bakery is still going strong, with a plant and retail bakery in Livonia. Bob Burghardt, great-grandson of the founder, runs the 118-year-old family business. "I started working at the bakery when I came back from Vietnam," said Burghardt, 47, of Northville. "I'm the fourth generation."

"Everything happened so fast," he recalled. "My dad had a heart attack. I was the only one available to take the business going. After I got into it, I felt the tradition was still there." Burghardt's stock-in-trade is the sourdough rye, a hearty bread with no preservatives, oil, fats or sugar. The recipe has been known only to a handful of family members throughout the years. The company has prospered by catering to the tastes of people who still eat heavy rye breads and Old World pumpernickels. Among the most loyal customers are people from German, Slovak and Polish backgrounds, Burghardt said. "It's a hard-crusted bread," he said. "It's different from ordinary bread. People who lived in Germany say this is the closest they can find here." Burghardt learned to bake bread from his father, Robert. "I learned to bake from my father, Robert. Around 4,000 loaves are baked each week. Most are sold through major supermarkets and independent groceries in areas with a large demand for European-style breads. Burghardt also targets his market by advertising in the Detroit Abend Post, a German-language newspaper. The sourdough rye is sold unsliced. It is wrapped in plastic and packed in a brown paper bag. The price ranges from around \$1.50 for one-pound loaf to around \$2.50 for a two-pounder. Burghardt also sells stollen, a yeast-based Christmas coffee cake studded with candied fruits. This, too, is baked elsewhere. Burghardt's Livonia shop also sells a variety of other breads, including pumpernickel, French, white, wheat and cinnamon raisin. During the holiday season Burghardt sells traditional German cookies called springerle and pfeffernusse. Both are flavored with anise, which has a subtle licorice overtone. Both cookies are baked by outside vendors and available only at the Seven Mile Road shop. "A little old man makes the springerle," Burghardt said. The pfeffernusse cookies are made in Canada. The pfeffernusse has a soft, fresh texture and a delicate anise flavor. It is covered with fluffy powdered sugar. The springerle is stamped with quaint, old-fashioned designs. Both sell for \$3.99 per pound, which yields 24 to 30 cookies. Burghardt is at 33309 Seven Mile Road, just east of Farmington Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday. Phone 477-7153.



Bob Burghardt weighs out some dough at the family bakery

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