

Daily Herald

DUPAGE COUNTY'S COMPLETE DAILY NEWSPAPER

PADDOCK PUBLICATIONS

Novotna, McNeil earn Slims semis

SPORTS/Section 3

Pay cuts hit Sears sales staff hard

BUSINESS/Section 4

D2

Saturday, February 15, 1992

9 Sections 35 Cents

Saturday

WEATHER

Rain turning to snow

Rain changing to light snow in the afternoon, high near 40 then falling into the middle or upper 30s during the afternoon, 80 percent chance of precipitation.

NEIGHBOR

Township drops fee

Milton Township officials have dropped a proposal to charge an assessment service fee in hopes of boosting the 1992-93 assessor's budget — Section 5.

SPORTS



Blair golden again

Bonnie Blair became the Winter Games' first double gold-winning woman, taking the 1,000 meters by two-hundredths of a second — Section 3.

BURT CONSTABLE

The bottom line

Call it a Valentine's Day hangover. Burt reports that the divorce industry, suffering from sluggish settlement amounts, is in a recession — Back Page.

HOMESTYLES

Innovations

Prospective homeowners are moving the industry with their ideas on how to improve the designs of new houses. And what better source could a builder have? — Section 7.

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LEISURE



History lesson

"America in 1492," an exhibit at Chicago's Newberry Library, describes civilizations that existed in the Americas when Christopher Columbus arrived. The show features artifacts, paintings and books that chronicle history from a Native American perspective — Section 2.

High quality, low price bring new cocaine boom

By JEFF MADSEN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

news."

So far this year, DuMeg detectives have arrested three people for selling cocaine and crack, a cheaper, less-pure variation of cocaine, to undercover detectives last week during a sweep of raids in Downers Grove. Seven other people now are awaiting grand jury indictments in connection with those raids.

Already, they claim drug activity is moving at a record-setting pace as dealers hit the streets and sell cocaine that is readily available, of better quality and cheaper than it has been in a decade.

"(Cocaine) is 90 percent of our cases," said Laurence P. Mulcrone, director of the DuPage Metropolitan Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Enforcement Group (DuMEG), the county's primary drug trafficking investigations unit. "We're almost at the level that we were in the mid-1980s. That says there is a lot of cocaine out there and that's bad

Although those numbers may not seem alarming, Mulcrone notes DuMEG and other police agencies have made several other drug-related arrests in the last 45 days, and are developing those people as informants to help police target higher-level dealers and supply networks that have found roots in DuPage County.

"If we can eliminate the supplier who may be working with two, three even four other dealers, it's like a domino effect," Mulcrone said, noting that drug-related conviction

DuPage County's war on drugs		
	1991	1990
Number of drug cases opened	309	250
Drug seizures	313	217
Drug arrests	171	137
Weapons seized in raids	29	21
Street value of drugs	\$3.9 million	\$1 million

Source: The DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group

seized quantities of cocaine, heroin, PCP, LSD, marijuana, Mexican-grown hallucinogens and steroids with a combined street value of nearly \$4 million.

One of those arrests, Mulcrone said, was a 52-year-old DuPage County grandmother who sold an undercover agent 2.2 pounds of cocaine with a street value of \$50,000.

"They're (dealers) stupid," Mulcrone said. "They are controlled by greed, by how much they can sell."

The lure of a cheaper, better quality of cocaine, DuMEG's target drug, is convincing dealers and suppliers to hit the streets harder than ever, Mulcrone said.

"The only thing you see different now that you didn't see 10 years ago is that (dealers) are the college kids next-door and average workers,"

See DRUGS on Page 4

too busy last year and we had to reject a number of cases simply because we didn't have the manpower."

In 1991, DuMEG arrested 171 people for drug-related offenses and

rates in DuPage County to date are at 98 percent, carrying an average jail term of seven years. "I'm hoping some of the things we accomplished in 1991 may help us drive down cases this year. We were way

Daily Herald Graphic

Shirley Maness, of Ventura, Calif., shovels mud from her motorhome Friday after floods swept through a recreational vehicle park this week.

Associated Press Photo

\$23 million in California damages — so far

LOS ANGELES — Loss estimates from a week of torrential rain reached \$23 million Friday as another big storm headed for California, threatening more mudslides and flooding.

"We're now seeing sandbags go out at the rate of thousands per hour," said Tony Ennis, assistant chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Wind up to 40 mph hit the

north coast and mountains ahead of the new storm churning out of the Gulf of Alaska, the National Weather Service said.

Hayfork, about 200 miles north of San Francisco, received 1.35 inches of rain in just two hours, forecasters said.

People took no chances after storms already blamed for eight deaths, five people missing and costly property damage in

Southern California. Los Angeles closed 651 schools and most of the 133,000 sandbags city fire stations had on hand Thursday night were gone by late Friday.

Southern California suffered its most serious flooding in a decade, Gov. Pete Wilson said in a tour of the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area, where the Los Angeles River overflowed Monday.

Associated Press

Wayne Twp. nears office purchase

By MIKE BURKE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wayne Township officials expect to finalize the purchase of a \$1.6 million office building on North Avenue near West Chicago on March 3.

If all goes according to plan, that will be the closing date for the sale, said township Supervisor Joan Mruk.

The township rents office space in the building, at 27W031 North Ave., for its assessor's office. Eventually, all township offices will be moved there.

Township residents approved the purchase of the North Avenue building, along with the sale of the current township office on Hahndorf Road at Route 59, by a more than 3-1 margin at a town meeting Feb. 6.

A number of residents opposed to

the sale say they believe the new office is much larger than the township needs. They would prefer the township rebuild a modest office on its current site.

Roy Paeth, a former township supervisor, said he would circulate a petition calling for another town meeting and vote on the issue. However, Mruk said Friday no such petition had been filed with the town clerk.

Paeth was unavailable Friday to discuss what plans, if any, he still has to fight the purchase of the new building.

Mruk said she did not know when the move might begin. She guessed it would be after April 1.

"March 31 is the end of our fiscal year," Mruk said, adding that reports and year-end paperwork have to be completed at that time.

Associated Press

Valentine weddings jam courthouse

A normally bustling day turned downright hectic on Friday, as 88 couples descended upon the DuPage County Judicial Center in Wheaton, perhaps motivated to get married on Valentine's Day. Usually, the courthouse performs about 25 to 30 marriages every Friday — the day set aside for civil weddings.

Court officials said they stopped taking reservations for civil ceremonies about a week and a half ago, and doubled the number of judges assigned to wedding duty.

See story on Page 4.



Edward Kerr and Lisa Larson, of Plainfield, check in for a Valentine's Day wedding at the DuPage County courthouse.

Daily Herald Photo/Jeff Kno

Lois Schluchter, whose husband planned the burial of a Wheaton time capsule, displays a plaque to strengthen her argument against opening the capsule before 2009.

Daily Herald Photo/Bev Horne

Associated Press

Ellyn. "If they wanted them to open it in 33 years, they would have said so."

City council members may decide the fate of the capsule today.

Some board members already have voiced an inclination to allow the capsule to keep its secrets for another 17 years, though they plan to take a look at the plaque before deciding.

"I don't see any urgency in opening it," Councilwoman Fran Culler said.

Indirectly raising the issue was the demolition last August of the old police station.

The time capsule was buried under the building during the city's celebration of its centennial.

When the building was razed following the police force's move to roomier quarters, the capsule was uncovered. Since then, the capsule has been held by the city.

The opening ceremony was subsequently planned. Alberta Adamson, executive director of the history center, said she plans to go on with next weekend's program even if the capsule remains closed.

"I want so badly for this thing to be held until its proper time," said Schluchter, who now lives in Glen