

Manchester Herald

Monday, Dec. 12, 1988

Manchester, Conn. — A City of Village Charm

30 Cents

Kennedy to detail new plan

By Andrew J. Davis
Manchester Herald

Superintendent James P. Kennedy will introduce a new school redistricting plan to the Board of Education tonight that will address concerns from parents in the School Street area who do not want their children sent to Martin School.

Kennedy originally proposed a redistricting plan two weeks ago to accommodate the reopening of Highland Park School. School Street area parents objected to that first plan because it would send their children to Martin School next year instead of their current school, Nathan Hale School. The Nathan Hale Parent-Teacher Association has proposed keeping area students at Nathan Hale next year.

Discussion on a controversial new high school dress code and an anti-truancy call-back system also highlight the meeting scheduled at 7:30 at 45 North School St., said Wilson E. Deakin Jr., assistant superintendent.

Kennedy would not release details of the new redistricting plan except to say it involved changes in the School Street area.

"I'll have a new recommendation based on continued study and meetings we've had over the last two weeks," said Kennedy.

In addition to affecting the Nathan Hale and Martin school districts, the redistricting plan would change district lines for Buckley School in an effort to draw a school district for Highland Park, which will reopen in September, 1989.

Highland Park, which was closed four years ago because of declining enrollment, is being reopened to ease projected increases of elementary school enrollment of 400 to 600 new students within the next few years.

The redistricting plan also would shrink Nathan Hale's boundaries, so the school could be made into a "magnet" school. A magnet school is one with specialized curriculum that would attract students townwide.

The Manchester Interracial Council said at the board's Nov. 28 meeting that it supported "equitable distribution" of students within town schools. "By providing cultural, ethnic, racial and economic balance, a school not only prepares a student for the needs of the present but also

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Patrick Flynn/Manchester Herald

PLANS REOPENING — School Superintendent James P. Kennedy stands in front of Highland Park School. The

school will be reopened in September 1989 to ease projected overcrowding in town elementary schools.

Reopening of Highland Park to reverse 16-year-old trend

By Andrew J. Davis
Manchester Herald

When Highland Park School reopens in September 1989, it will reverse a trend of closing town schools that began 16 years ago.

Since 1972, seven schools, including Highland Park, have been closed by the Board of Education, said James P. Kennedy, school superintendent.

Highland Park, Lincoln, Buckland, South, Manchester Green, Bentley, and the main building of Bannet Junior High schools have all been closed over the last two decades, Kennedy said. The closings can be attributed to a downturn in elementary school enrollment, while the reopening of Highland Park is a reverse of that trend, he said.

The reopening of the Highland Park School has resulted in a controversial redistricting plan. That proposal, which has drawn largely negative responses from parents and some school board members, would affect Nathan Hale, Martin and Buckley school district boundaries.

Kennedy also has proposed making Nathan Hale a "magnet" school two or more years from now. A magnet school is a school with specialized curriculum that draws students townwide. The school board is scheduled to vote on those proposals tonight.

The school administration has predicted that between 400 to 600 more elementary school children will be in Manchester within five years. There are currently 3,670 elementary school children compared to 5,565 in 1972, school records show.

"We're back into the echo of the baby boom," said Kennedy. "That's what's happening now. All children born in the height of the baby boom (are) having children now."

Is the reopening of Highland Park School only the first step in attempts to cure the predicted burgeoning elementary school enrollment? School officials have talked about adding a wing onto Martin School, but have taken no action.

"There is a real possibility we are going to need additional capacity for 200 students," Kennedy said. "(But) at best, it's an educated guess."

A decision on adding to Martin School will not be made until school officials can gauge whether there indeed are enough additional students to warrant a new wing, Kennedy said. Though growth is predicted in the center of town, an addition would be built at Martin School since there is space for it there, Kennedy said. Redrawing school boundary lines may be necessary if an addition was built, he said.

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Cold snap bites state, sets record

By Maureen Leavitt
Manchester Herald

Connecticut's first cold snap of the season brought record-breaking temperatures that choked dozens of cars in the Manchester area and had soup kitchens preparing for a flood of homeless people.

The weather also froze water lines, caused scattered power outages affecting about 3,000 people and worsened problems fighting fires, including one at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford and another at the Cap'n Cork Package Store on North Main Street, officials said. According to the National Weather Service in Windsor Locks, the low temperature this morning was minus 3 degrees, which topped a record low of minus 1 degree set in 1962.

While workers at the Samaritan Shelter on Main Street in Manchester were prepared for an influx of homeless people seeking respite from the cold, only 27 beds were occupied last night, said Denise Cabana, director of the shelter.

"We were really very surprised," said Cabana. Two nights last week, 35 or 36 of the beds were filled, she said. The shelter has 40 beds.

"Sometimes folks just crash wherever they might land rather than try to make it back here," Cabana said.

She said she planned to keep the shelter open this morning until 10 or 10:30 because of the extreme cold. About 15 people remained at the shelter early this morning.

Shelters in Bridgeport were filled to capacity while New Haven shelter officials were forced to put people in motels because of overcrowding.

Dennis Oullete, executive di-

rector of St. Elizabeth House in Hartford, said his shelter, with 23 emergency beds and 54 long-term beds, has been full since it opened two years ago. He said that last year more than 20,000 people used homeless shelters across the state.

Firefighters in several towns struggled in the cold to put out several blazes, and Hartford firefighters were busy pumping water out of the first floor of the Legislative Office Building, where pipes burst this morning.

The cold also affected firefighting efforts at the Cap'n Cork at 485 N. Main St. in Manchester, which was heavily damaged in a fire reported just after midnight, said Thomas O'Marra, Eighth Utilities District Fire Department spokesman.

"Any place water went it froze. It was cold and it was nasty," he said.

But overall, O'Marra said, "It (cold) was a minor impact. It didn't make things more difficult than was usual."

Dozens of unprepared motorists found themselves calling the Automobile Club of Hartford for jump-starts this morning, said Mike Klein, spokesman for the Hartford affiliate of the American Automobile Association.

He said the club has received an average of 65 calls an hour, which is not unusual for the temperatures.

Connecticut Transit's fleet of older buses was having some difficulty coping with the sub-zero temperatures.

"We do have some stalling and breaking down," said Steve Warren, spokesman for Connecticut Transit. He said there would be some delays because of the breakdowns. There are about 37

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Bolton petitioners predict 225 names

By Andrew J. Davis
Manchester Herald

BOLTON — A member of the former Charter Revision Commission said that she probably has enough signatures to override the Board of Selectmen's veto of proposed changes in the Town Charter and bring the matter up for a townwide vote.

Virginia Wickersham said she could not specify how many people have signed the petition because there are about 10 copies of the petition circulating in town. The proposed charter changes include a recommendation that the town switch to a town manager form of government.

The petition became necessary after the selectmen rejected the proposed charter changes by a 3-2 vote. It will take a petition with about 225 signatures, or 10 percent of the eligible town voters, to override the veto and bring the proposal up for a vote.

Wickersham said she and petition organizers will meet tonight with Town Clerk Catherine Leiner to verify the number of signatures.

"I haven't met anyone who didn't want to sign," she said. "If we don't have it (enough signatures) tonight, we'll have it tomorrow. I think there's enough bipartisan support."

Selectmen Douglas T. Cheney, Lawrence A. Converse III and

Carl A. Preuss voted against the proposed charter changes at the selectmen's Dec. 8 meeting, mainly because of the provision which would change the town's form of government from the selectmen form to a town manager style. Other proposed changes include eliminating the Board of Finance and eliminating the right of the people at the Annual Town Meeting to recommend specific cuts in the town budget.

First Selectman Sandra W. Pierog and Selectman Michael Zizka voted in favor of the proposed changes. Pierog is one of the people circulating the petition, and Zizka has signed it, Wickersham said. She said she is not sure whether the other selectmen have signed the petition.

Wickersham said she was not sure when the charter changes could come up for a vote.

Under state law, the petition must be presented within 45 days of the rejection by the selectmen. Once presented, the selectmen will have 15 months to hold an election on the proposals.

If the selectmen had approved the commission's proposals, a townwide vote was tentatively scheduled for Jan. 9.

The commission was officially disbanded after the selectmen's vote.

Little hope left for more quake survivors

By Mark J. Porubcansky
The Associated Press

YEREVAN, U.S.S.R. — Rescue workers toiled today to find more survivors in the wreckage of the mammoth Armenian earthquake but said there was little hope. Officials estimated the death toll at up to 60,000.

For the second straight day, a plane carrying relief supplies to the region crashed. All seven people aboard the Yugoslav transport died.

Despite calls for unity to cope

with the devastation that left an estimated half million people homeless, more ethnic violence was reported.

Armenian activists said people clashed with troops Sunday over the arrest of several nationalist leaders and that both soldiers and demonstrators were wounded. They said the violence occurred in Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, after touring the disaster area, accused "provocateurs" of exploiting the disorder to create

Related stories
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instability in the ethnically troubled republic and said, "They must be stopped."

A dozen tanks were parked in Yerevan's central square Sunday night.

Gorbachev promised residents of the disaster zone that the government would begin an investigation of why newly constructed apartment buildings crumbled so easily while older

buildings remained standing after Wednesday's quake.

Tragedy struck again Sunday when a Soviet military transport plane carrying soldiers to aid in rescue efforts crashed as it approached the airport of Leninakan, a city hit hard by the quake. Seventy-eight people died.

And today, the Yugoslav military plane crashed while trying to land at the Yerevan airport. The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said all seven

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'Marina' faces painful holiday period

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of vignettes on people needing assistance in the Manchester area during the holiday season. The vignettes are provided by the Manchester Area Conference of Churches.

"Marina" is a proud 79-year-old immigrant living alone on a meager income. Recently admitted to the hospital for dehydration and malnutrition, she was found to have inoperable breast cancer.

Too ill to return home, Marina must move to a convalescent home where workers feel some personal items will help ease this painful period. Marina's wish list: extra-large, warm, bright sweater and robe, large hand mirror, comb and brush set, strawberry jelly and crackers.

"Marina" is from one of more than 380 households assisted by the MACC Seasonal Sharing Appeal, Box 773, Manchester, 06040. Donations are still needed.

TODAY

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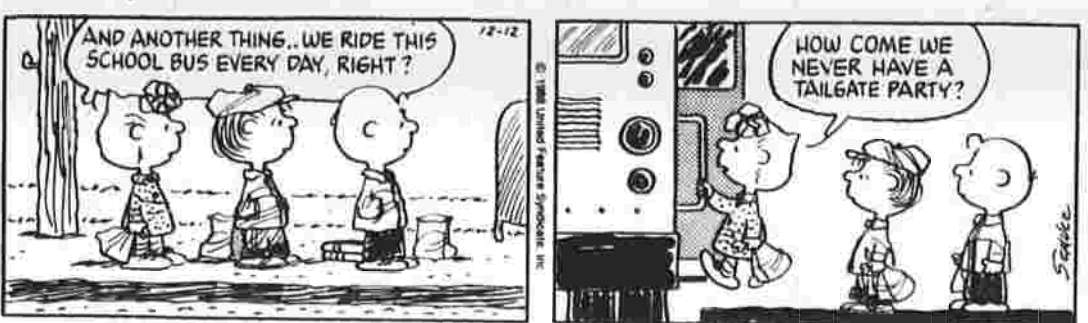
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McCALL OF THE WORLD by Dumas & Crawford



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Dik Browne



THE PHANTOM by Leo Falk & Barry



BLONDIE by Dean Young & Stan Drake



ROSE IS ROSE by Pat Brady



ON THE FASTTRACK by Bill Holbrook



THE GRIZZLEWS by Bill Schorr



BRIDGE

Sharing the benefits by James Jacoby. Avid tournament players are quick to try out new ideas in bidding...

SNAFU by Bruce Beattie



BUGS BUNNY by Warner Bros.



LFL ABNER by Al Capp



ARLO AND JANIS by Jimmy Johnson



ALLEY OOP by Dave Graue



THE BORN LOSER by Art Sansom



FRANK AND ERNEST by Bob Thaves



WINTHROP by Dick Cavalli



CHUBB AND CHAINCRY by Vance Rowswell



THE KITTEN'S HANDBOOK by Larry Wright



BUSINESS



SHOPPING SPREE — Michael Turner, 12, of East Hartford, faces a moment of indecision Saturday at a shopping spree at the K mart store on Spencer Street.

About 60 children received \$20 gift certificates and a free toy thanks to the donations of area merchants and the sponsorship of K mart.

Firm strikes it rich with dulcimers

By Dean Golembek The Associated Press

WINSTED — As David Marks stood talking in his workshop, his words were nearly drowned out by whining machinery and the air was thick with the scent of freshly milled wood.

It was the smell of success and a sound that brings music to the ears of many others. The business, started in Marks' garage in 1975, now produces about 30 to 40 dulcimers each week, and the demand for the instrument continues to grow as national interest in folk music booms.

Outside the classroom, Marks began experimenting with making more refined dulcimers. After his friends became interested in the instruments and asked to play them, he decided to display about a half dozen of his dulcimers at a local craft fair.



SOUNDS OF SUCCESS — David Marks, a former school teacher from Vermont, has found success as a maker of dulcimers and harps. His company, Folkcraft Instruments of Winsted, has

grown from a small business run from his garage into a national enterprise. Marks is tuning one of his hammered dulcimers in his shop.

though this junior high school class initially, on the surface, didn't seem to care whether they played one or not, once they built the things they had a commitment there. So, they were interested in playing them."

He relocated to Winsted, an aging mill town in northwestern Connecticut that offered inexpensive real estate and a skilled labor pool. He bought an old auto body shop, which he expanded and modernized. He also opened a music store that sells a line of folk instruments, folk music records and folk music books.

The company expanded its product line from hammered and fretted dulcimers, sold initially, to more and more craft shows. He also kept refining and improving the instruments. By 1979, he had outgrown his garage and decided the business was going well enough that he could quit his teaching job.

It's legal to put a loonie in the coin-op laundry

OTTAWA (AP) — Royal Canadian Mint officials are optimistic that consumers will embrace the "loonie," Canada's new \$1 coin, with more enthusiasm than U.S. citizens accepted the Susan B. Anthony dollar.

"We looked at the post-mortem," Denis Cudahy, vice president of manufacturing for the mint, said of the U.S. disaster. He says the U.S. dollar coin was too close in size to the quarter, confusing consumers, and the public relations campaign wasn't extensive enough before the Susan B. Anthony coin was launched in 1979.

Introduction of the Canadian coin, according to the mint, is the most significant change in the nation's coinage system in more than 50 years. "The coin had to be special," Cudahy says. "We knew we had to have a colored coin; we had to make it different."

The mint says the \$1 coin was introduced to meet the needs of transit companies, vending machine operators and retailers for a coin of greater value than the quarter. It also will save money, \$14 million over 20 years, by the mint's count.

That's because 300 million \$1 bills must be produced each year at a cost of \$13.6 million. The bills last only one year, while a coin can stay in circulation for 20 years. The introduction of a \$1 coin had been considered since 1978.

The first 120 million "loonies" were distributed across Canada in late June 1987.

1987 DODGE SHADOW 4 Dr., Blue, 4 Cyl., Auto, PS, PB, Air, Tilt Steering, Radio, #1802 \$7495 1982 HONDA ACCORD 4 Dr., Brown, 4 Cyl., Auto, PS, PB, Air, Radio, #1783 \$5195 MANCHESTERHONDA 24 ADAMS ST. MANCHESTER, CT 06040 646-3515

1983 NISSAN SENTRA 2 Dr., Blue, 4 Cyl., 5 Spd., Tilt Steering, Radio, #1796 \$3495 1983 HONDA ACCORD 4 Dr., Red, 4 Cyl., Auto, PS, PB, Air, Radio, #1792 \$5595 MANCHESTERHONDA 24 ADAMS ST. MANCHESTER, CT 06040 646-3515

Closings, layoffs displaced millions from 1983 to '88

By Matt Yancey The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly 10 million Americans lost their jobs due to plant closings or layoffs from 1983 to 1988 despite the longest peacetime economic expansion in the nation's history, the government reports.

Of 9.7 million displaced workers during the period, 4.7 million were so-called "long-term" workers who had held their jobs for three years or more, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says in the latest of its biennial reports on worker displacement.

That was a slight decline from earlier BLS studies of overlapping five-year periods — 1979-84 and 1981-86 — which both had shown that 5.1 million tenured workers lost their jobs during the respective periods. But each of those periods also included the severe recession of 1981-82.

As a result, government and private economists say the new figures show a persisting displacement problem. Larry Mishel, an economist for the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal Washington think tank, called the decline in job displacement after the recession years "surprisingly small."

The BLS began conducting the displacement surveys in 1984 at the request of the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration. The latest report was released over the weekend. While the 1984 and 1986 surveys showed 50 percent of the displaced workers coming out of factories, only 40 percent of the tenured workers losing their jobs in 1983-88 had been employed in manufacturing.

white-collar workers," said Mishel. "But a lot of it, especially in retail trade, is also somewhat related to these leveraged jobs. It's probably the better-paid retail workers who lost their jobs."

One thing that hasn't changed is the percentage of workers who were given some kind of advance notice before losing their jobs. In all three surveys, roughly six of every 10 displaced workers had been told in advance to "expect a layoff."

But only two of every 10 in the latest survey said they had received a written notice of their impending dismissals — a trend bound to change in view of a new law requiring 60 days written notice of plant closings and large layoffs beginning in 1989.

Of the 4.7 million tenured workers who lost their jobs from 1983 to the end of 1987, 71 percent or approximately 3.2 million of them had new jobs as of January last year and 14 percent of them said they were looking for work.

That compares favorably with re-employment rates of 67 percent and 60 percent and unemployment rates of 18 percent and 25 percent in the respective 1986 and 1984 surveys. Of those re-employed full-time, 56 percent reported making as much or more money in their new jobs while 44 percent reported making less — in current dollars unadjusted for inflation.

About 28 percent reported that their earnings had increased by 20 percent or more in their new jobs. Taking inflation into account, analysts said, that represents the workers who definitely are better off in their new jobs than they were in their old ones. But a slightly larger group, 30 percent, reported suffering an income loss of at least 20 percent from their old jobs. "That's much deeper than in the previous surveys," said Mishel. "It confirms a continuing trend of high-paid workers having no alternative but to shift to the poorer-paying jobs being created by this recovery."

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