



City crime drops a bit

Westland Police Chief Emery Price attributed a slight drop in calls to local police to a strong economy. Police say differences in crime reporting for 1998 and 1999 make comparisons difficult.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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Westland police received 6 percent fewer calls for help in 1999 compared to the previous year, a new report shows.

The number of calls, dipped from 48,928 to 46,080 during the one-year period - a downturn Police Chief

Emery Price attributed to a robust economy.

"People are working, and they're busy," he said. "We've had a decline in almost everything. The economy is still good. We tend to see an increase in crimes when the economy is poor."

The latest dip in crime followed a 3 percent decrease in 1998, said Lt. Steve Ryskamp, who compiles Westland police statistical records.

"We've been going steadily down," he said.

Even so, a true comparison of specific crimes for 1998 and 1999 isn't possible because state and federal officials have ordered changes in reporting methods, Ryskamp said.

Local police used to file only one report for each call, even if the incident involved several crimes such as robbery, assault and a weapons offense. Now, Ryskamp said, police have to reflect multiple crimes in separate reports.

Police officials say the changes tend

Please see CRIME, A6

• Murder	1
• Negligent homicide	1
• Robbery	52
• Forced-entry burglary	404
• Kidnapping/abduction	11
• Criminal sexual conduct	86
• Felonious assault	181
• Other assaults	941
• Stalking/intimidation	143
• Arson	18
• Purse-snatching/pocket-picking	21
• Motor vehicle theft	488
• Weapons offenses	107
• Hit and run accidents	1,198
• Driving drunk or drugged	517
• Forgery/counterfeiting	98

Source: Westland Police Department

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

City Hall: The Westland City Council will meet 7 p.m. April 3 in council chambers of Westland City Hall, on Ford near Carlson. There will be a closed 6:30 p.m. council study session. Recall supporters plan a 5:30 p.m. protest before the meeting.

UPCOMING

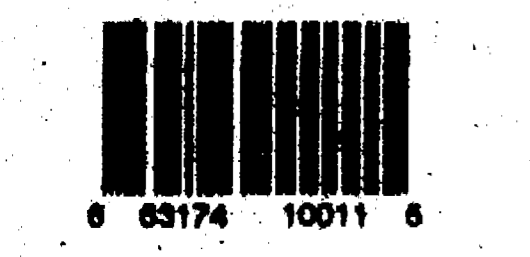
You're doing fine: The music department of Lutheran High School Westland will present Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma" 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 14-15, in the high school gym, 33300 Cowan in Westland. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children, \$2 for Lutheran High School Westland students. For ticket information, call (734) 422-2090.

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Thinking about a new car or a good second car? You'll find a huge selection of auto ads in today's HomeTown Classifieds



Getting comfy



No slouch: Friday is casual day in some offices, but Mary Goedert, principal of Madison Elementary School in Westland, wore pajamas. The reason? A reading incentive program at Madison, part of Reading Month. The students read and read, and Goedert wore her jammies. Many Wayne-Westland schools held Reading Month activities in March.

DDA chairman, mayor resolve their differences

BY JULIE BROWN
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Kim Shunkwiler, who had recently been ousted as Westland Downtown Development Authority chairman, is likely to keep his post after all. Shunkwiler met with Mayor Robert Thomas for a discussion on the DDA and Shunkwiler's role, and they were able to resolve their differences.

"Very pleased," Shunkwiler said Thursday of his reaction to the reap-

pointment. "I'm just pleased that the mayor and I had a chance to talk."

Thomas agreed that the lunch meeting, which included Councilman David James, was positive. "We had a nice lunch, nice discussion," he said.

Thomas hadn't found a DDA replacement for Shunkwiler, who had attributed his ousting to political factors. Thomas said he had been upset with Shunkwiler's comments in newspapers.

Thomas said he heard from Shunkwiler's supporters, who wanted

him to stay on the DDA.

"We were able to work things out," the mayor said. "I think we'll be able to work together."

Shunkwiler has good ideas for the DDA, he said, including the Ford-Wayne Road intersection. "He really wanted to stay on this," Thomas noted some who serve on such bodies are less committed.

City council approval is slated for April 17, but Thomas indicated there are no likely problems. The DDA

DEVELOPMENT

appoints its own chair and Thomas expects Shunkwiler to continue in that role.

"We had never really sat down and had a good heart-to-heart talk," the mayor said.

Shunkwiler said he, too, was pleased. "They were perceptions that didn't exist," he said of the differences.

High School Senior of Year not on sidelines

Mayor Robert Thomas will honor Westland's top teacher, high school senior, father and mother during his April 12 State of the City address. The Observer today continues a four-part series about the winners.

BY DARRELL CLEM
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It's a wonder John Glenn High School senior Corey Collins has time for his girlfriend, Victoria McGuire. He is senior class president and school orchestra vice president. He plays tennis and participates in the marching band and winter drum line.

His class schedule includes advanced courses in calculus, chemistry and physics. He works as a part-time technician at Computer Connection USA, designing Web sites.

Somehow, he finds time to complete his homework and maintain a near-

perfect grade point average. This semester he's a straight-A student.

"It is my opinion that Corey has much to offer and has virtually unlimited potential," Glenn physics teacher David Christiansen said in nominating Collins for a special award.

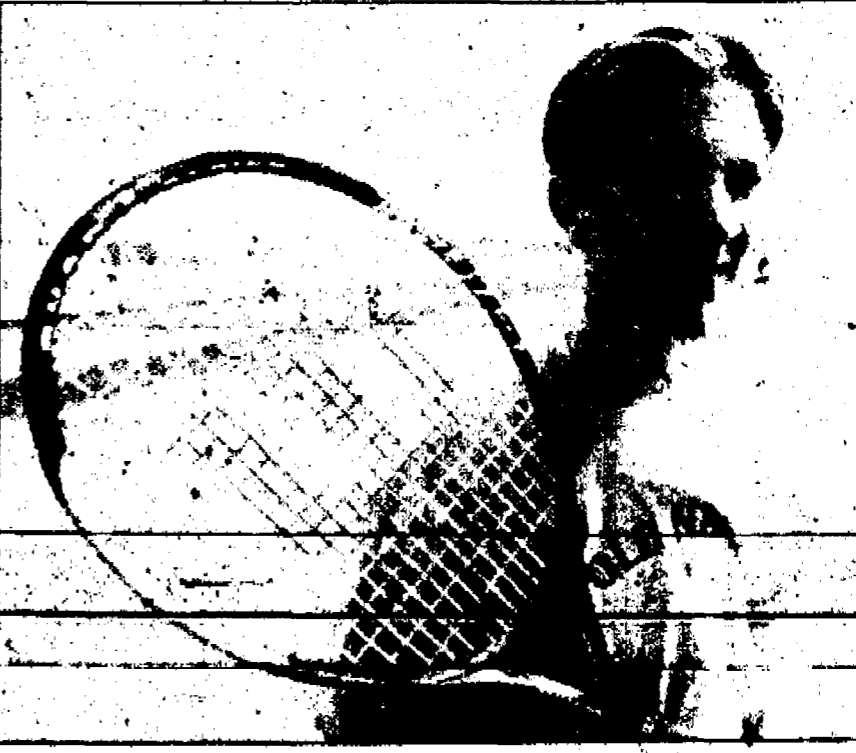
Collins, 17, has been named Westland High School Senior of the Year in Mayor Robert Thomas' sixth annual Salute to Excellence program.

Collins will be honored during the mayor's State of the City address at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Helene Cultural Center on Joy Road. The event is open to the public; a social hour starts at 6 p.m.

"I didn't think this would ever happen," said Collins, chosen by a committee that reviewed 115 nominations.

Christiansen commended Collins in his nomination.

"Corey is rarely absent and shows a maturity level above most of his peers



He always displays a positive attitude," Christiansen said. "He is very personable and shows a great deal of respect for other people and their ideas. He is self-motivated and completes tasks efficiently and effectively."

Collins said his favorite school subject is mathematics, and he is planning

Involved: Corey Collins, Westland's High School Senior of the Year, plays tennis and is in other activities at John Glenn High.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAYES

Please see SENIOR, A6

Uniform drive gets big boost

BY JULIE BROWN
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The music filled the rooms at the Wayne Community Center, the sounds of the Wayne Memorial High School Marching Band filling the space. As people mingled, the "Band Together for Uniforms" social got under way Thursday.

The goal is to raise money for new uniforms for the marching band. "So far, very well," Dave Congdon, Band Boosters president, said of the fund-raising. "I'm actually overwhelmed with how it's going."

Congdon noted past Band Boosters have tried to raise money for uniforms without success. "That was one of my major goals. I like getting involved, I like helping out."

He's seen the students work harder and be more involved. Congdon's youngest is in seventh grade at Adams Middle School, his oldest a junior at Wayne Memorial. That means he'll be involved in the band for years to come.

Lorrie "Skip" Monit, also a Booster and Wayne-Westland school board treasurer, is in similar circumstances. His youngest is in fifth grade at Taft-Galloway Elementary, the older two a

freshman and junior at Wayne Memorial.

"A lot of things are going on here today," Monit said of Thursday's fund-raiser. Mockups of the new uniform were being shown, along with the old uniform for comparison.

"We actually are doing very well with the finances," Monit said, saying some \$2,000 was raised Thursday alone.

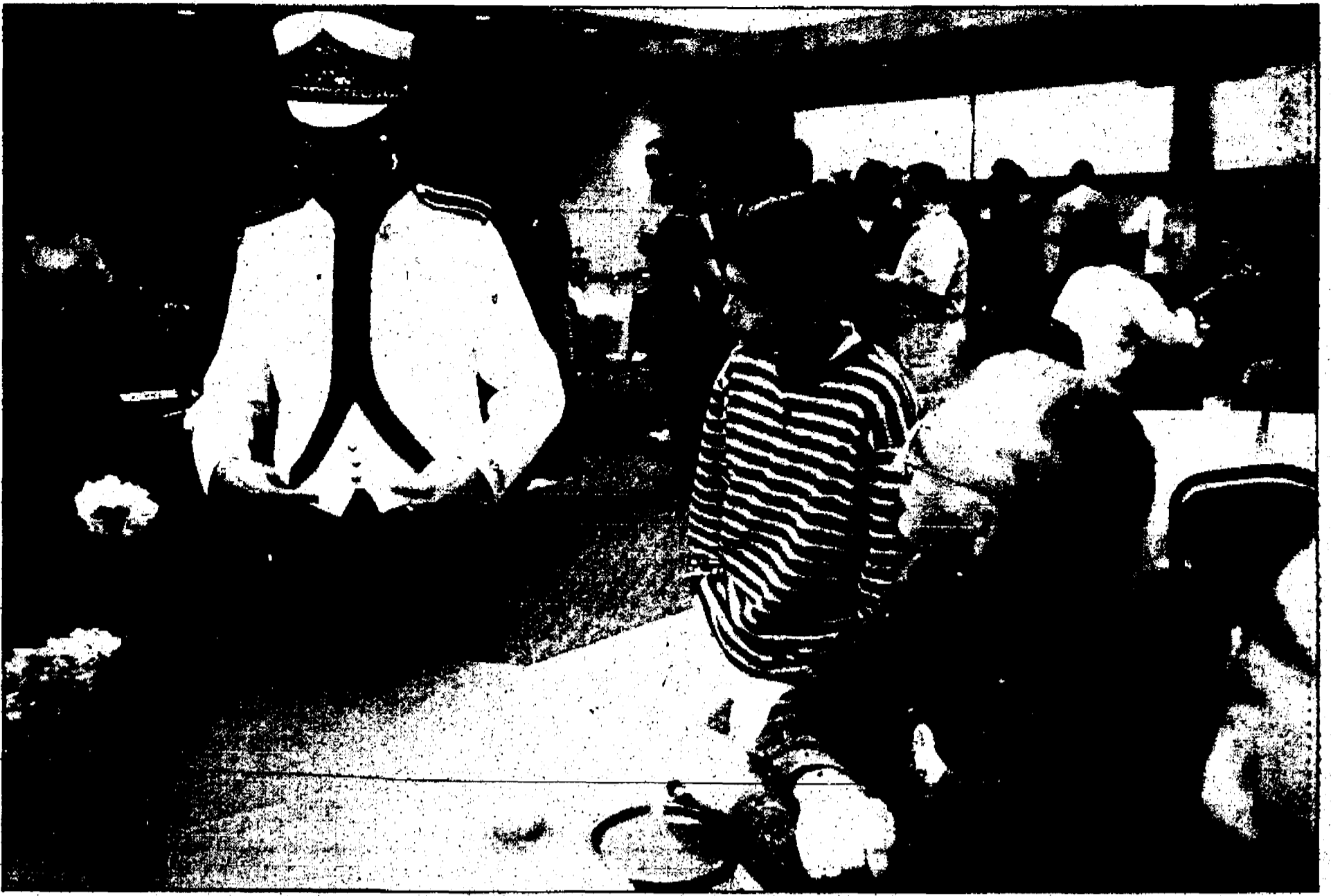
A golf outing is planned starting 7 a.m. Saturday, June 10, at Fellows Creek in Canton, Congdon said. Hole sponsors and sponsors are needed. Smaller fund-raisers are also planned for the effort, an Observer Community Management Team project.

Monit said the total goal is about \$40,000, or \$270 per uniform, with 150 to be purchased. Checks payable to W.M.H.S.B.T.U. should be sent to Uniform Fund, 4267 Eastlawn, Wayne, MI 48184.

Students who will benefit from the new uniforms are appreciative, including Justin Baker, a 10th-grade percussionist. "I kind of feel bad for the seniors," who will have graduated, Baker said.

He agreed the old uniforms need to go, and that new uniforms will help in competition.

"It helps with our visual effects," Baker said.



Look: Wayne Memorial 10th-grader Justin Baker (left) shows what the new band uniforms will look like at a benefit Thursday evening. Looking on are (left to right) Justin Schofield, Bruce Foulk and David Schofield.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY



Visit: Ashley Robinson, a 10th-grader wearing an older band uniform, talks with friends at the fund-raiser.



Let there be music: Wayne Memorial band members (left to right) Sara Miller, Justin Scott, Melody Ward and Aaron Lawson, play music at the band benefit Thursday. Justin Scott is wearing a mockup of one of the new uniforms.

Trials ordered in assault

BY DARRELL CLEM
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Two Detroit men, accused in a Westland bar fight that involved a stabbing, have been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The incident occurred about 2 a.m. Feb. 12 at High Voltage, formerly Daisy Dukes, a nightclub on Merriman Road south of Cherry Hill.

Alexander Yeppez, 25, faces trial for assault with intent to murder. He could be sentenced up to life in prison if convicted as charged.

Raymond Everly, 31, faces trial for assault with a dangerous weapon. The charge carries a four-year prison term, but police Sgt. James Dexter said Everly, if convicted, could face a possible six-year sentence because he is charged as a habitual offender.

Yeppez is accused of stabbing Manuel Partida, 24, in the chest.

Everly is accused of hitting Francisco Chavarria, 26, over the head with a beer bottle.

Both victims are Detroit residents.

Westland 18th District Judge Gail McKnight on Thursday ordered Yeppez and Everly to stand trial at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing.

Police Sgt. Marc Stobbe has said the stabbing victim knew the two defendants before the bar fight erupted Feb. 12.

Dexter said tempers flared as a long line formed among bar patrons waiting at a coat check.

Dexter said two of the men exchanged looks that were perceived as unfriendly.

Stobbe has said the two sides then "got a little wild" following an exchange of words.

"Partida suffered a collapsed lung, Stobbe said. Partida was hospitalized for several days.

"As they await trial, Yeppez and Everly have been released from jail after posting bond."

Wal-Mart eyes unused site on Ford Road in Canton

BY SCOTT DANIEL
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One of the country's biggest retailers could be coming to Canton.

Wal-Mart met with township officials earlier this week about developing the currently vacant AutoNation site on Ford Road at Lotz. Talks are scheduled to continue.

"We've been interested in the Canton area for the past six or seven years," said Wal-Mart Real Estate Manager Brian Hooper. "We think it would be a good market for us."

While not outlining a timetable, he feels the company, which bills itself as the store with "always low prices," will be moving into the township shortly.

"We're really positive we'll come up with something that meets the Lotz Corridor development district standards," Hooper said. "We understand we'll have to build a very nice looking store. We feel we'll get it done."

AutoNation closed abruptly

last year in mid-December. It was one of 23 used car stores shut down nationally. The 76,000-square-foot facility opened in May of 1997.

Township officials believed the site, which sits on eight acres with 12 adjacent acres available for development, wouldn't remain fallow for long. Wal-Mart emerged as a possible user about a month ago.

Canton Community Planner Jeff Goulet described this past week's meeting with the company as productive.

"A lot of information was exchanged," he said.

That included township development requirements. Goulet said Wal-Mart will have to meet even tougher standards because the parcel falls within the Lotz Corridor district.

That includes higher levels of premium building materials and more elaborate landscaping, for example. A typical Wal-Mart site plan, in other words, won't cut it, Goulet said.

They have more homework to do, he added. "But I think it's achievable."

As does Hooper.

If Wal-Mart buys the parcel from AutoNation, it will likely redevelop the entire site, he said. The existing building would be torn down and much of the current parking lot stripped away.

Hooper said the building would be 140,000 square feet in size. He believes it would be a positive development for Canton.

"We'd be taking a vacant commercial site and reusing it," said Hooper. "It would be a benefit to the citizens of Canton."

Goulet said a Sam's Club, a discount warehouse chain, may be part of the complex.

The site is large enough, he commented. "We always anticipated there would be more than one building."

Hooper declined to comment on the possibility of a Sam's Club, which is owned and operated by Wal-Mart. He did say the company is interested in several more closed AutoNation sites in Michigan.

It seems to be a typical fit for us in some instances," Hooper said. "We are growing in the Detroit metropolitan area."

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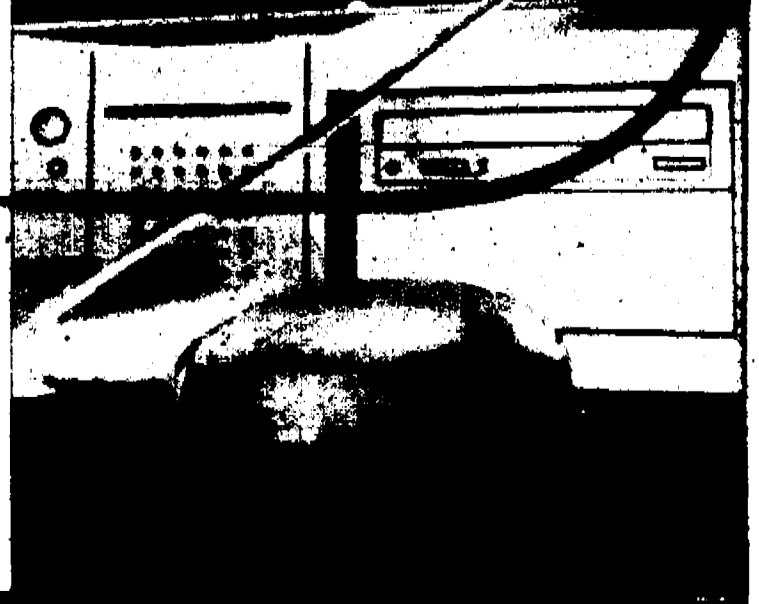
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Bill would punish rioters on campus

BY MIKE MALOTT
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A year after riots erupted at Michigan State University, after a Spartan appearance in the NCAA basketball tournament, a bill to crack down on those who participate in such disturbances sits on the governor's desk, awaiting his signature.

Since Senate Bill 525 was presented to Gov. John Engler March 21, he'll have until April 4 to sign or reject it. Bill Sullivan, aide to sponsor Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, said Engler is expected to approve. The new law would go into effect June 1.

The bill would add a penalty for those arrested on riot-related charges on or near college campuses in Michigan. Students convicted of a misdemeanor related to a riot within 2,500 feet of a college campus could be barred from college property for up to a year, at the discretion of the judge.

For those convicted of a riot-related felony, a judge could order them to stay away from college property for up to two years.

Students could be ordered to pay restitution for riot damages, as could those who are not students but get caught participating in a campus riot, if the judge decides to apply those penalties.

Once banned from college property by a judge, the ban would apply to all state college campuses across Michigan, but not private schools. According to aides, some of the rioters

caught in the disturbances at MSU last year were students from other colleges.

The riot at MSU a year ago spurred the introduction of the bill, but it was just the last in a string of incidents on campuses, according to Bennett. Previously, there have been similar disturbances at the University of Michigan, Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University.

Bennett introduced the bill last April, and it was quickly passed in a 30-6 vote in the Senate last May. The House of Representatives just took the bill up in March, voting approval 71-36 after tacking on several minor amendments.

It also faced some opposition. "College boards have the authority to enact policies that punish individuals who act inappropriately and even expel them if they see fit. This legislation usurps the local authority of such boards. Amendments were offered to strictly punish violent rioters but were defeated. Had they been passed I would have supported the bill. Since they did not, I could not support such poor public policy," Rep. David Woodward, D-Madison Heights, said.

On the bill, area House members voted:
Reps. Bob Brown, D-Deerborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, and Laura Toy, R-Livonia, voted yes.
Rep. Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, voted no.

McNamara may tab Metro chief Tuesday

BY RICHARD PEARL
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The Wayne County Board of Commissioners could be asked as early as Tuesday by County Executive Ed McNamara to approve as the new airports director the man who was the commission's first-ever auditor general, Lester Robinson.

A meeting of the board's committee of the whole is scheduled for 10 a.m. that day and, although no such item is on the agenda, one western Wayne County commissioner said it's possible.

John J. Sullivan, D-Romulus, a member of the commission's airports committee, said Thursday, that normal procedure would have any such appointment brought before that committee first, "and then to everybody."

But the airports committee doesn't meet until April 13 and there's speculation that McNamara will recommend to commissioners this coming week the appointment of Robinson, who was auditor general and also a previous deputy airports director.

Sullivan, commenting on the report, said, "It's possible" for McNamara "to take it to the committee of the whole. It could happen on Tuesday."

Robinson, currently a partner with Capital Financial Advisors in Detroit, was the commission's auditor general from 1983 to 1987, when McNamara stole him away from us," said commission Vice Chair Kay Beard.

Robinson then became the

executive branch's chief financial officer and later (1991-93) was deputy airports director for audit and finance.

He also served as McNamara's chief of staff -- as was David Katz, whom Robinson reportedly will succeed as airports director. Katz has resigned effective May 1.

Michael Duggan, deputy county executive and a candidate for the Democratic nomination for county prosecutor, is the only other person rumored under consideration.

Not involved

On Thursday, Duggan said he has "nothing to do with" the search for a new airports director and deferred to McNamara, as have others in the administration.

"It's up to Mr. McNamara when he will make the announcement," said John Roach, a county spokesman.

Robinson, in response to calls from the Observer, said through Michael Conway, director of airport communications, that any decision is up to McNamara.

Both Beard and Commissioner Kathleen Husk favor a nationwide search for someone with airport directorship experience to succeed Katz.

Beard, D-Westland, said "an airport guy" would be preferable, although she does appreciate

Robinson's qualifications.

"He's not what I would call an airport guy, he's a finance guy," said Beard.

Sensible idea

"I think it would have made some sense" to have a national search, she said. "But Robinson is not an unknown quantity to us."

"He's a good finance guy, he's been with McNamara's administration two or three times. He certainly has a good knowledge" of county finances, she said.

But "because of the problems that have surfaced" regarding contracts at Metro Airport, "I think it would have been helpful to have someone with a good knowledge of the actual operations of an airport, someone who has worked in that capacity."

She hoped that, if Robinson is chosen, he will "find someone" with those qualifications as his deputy. "That would be helpful," she said.



Lester Robinson

Husk, R-Redford Township, disputed an earlier statement by Duggan that a national search "generally gets you somebody looking to get out of another situation."

"Contrary to" that, Husk said, "I think that a national search conducted correctly will provide us with the best candidates" for airports director.

"With a national search, we can eliminate the political cronyism and connections that can occur," she said.

As for the board of commissioners, she said, the county charter "only allows the commission to vote 'yes' or 'no' on the executive's choices."

"I think that the commissioners elected by the 15 districts of Wayne County should have a greater say on the appointment for such a vital role," Husk said.

The airports director oversees both Metro Airport and Willow Run.

Metro launches new flights

Promotional events today (April 2) and Monday (April 3) will kick off new non-stop flights which begin this week between Wayne County's Detroit Metro Airport and Italy and Canada.

To inaugurate its new daily non-stops to Rome and Milan, Northwest Airlines, in conjunction with radio station WCSX-FM, is holding a Domino's pizza-eating contest.

The 3:30 p.m. engagement at Gate F-2 will feature contestants previously selected by the sta-

tion's "J.J. and The Morning Crew" program. The winner will get two round-trip tickets on Northwest to one of the cities.

A hockey-style face-off competition at 10 a.m. Monday in the L.C. Smith Terminal lobby, next to the United Airlines check-in, will inaugurate five daily non-stop flights between Detroit and Toronto.

The flights are offered by Air Canada and Canadian Airlines, Canada's two national airlines serving Metro.

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City will distribute surplus food

The city of Westland will distribute surplus federal food from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at the Dorsey Community Center in Westland. There will be no distribution on Friday, April 21, due to Good Friday. Residents in the area bounded by Palmer, Stieber, Merriman

and Wildwood, known as Norwayne and Oak Village, will pick up commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20. All other residents north of Michigan Avenue will also pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20. Westland residents south of

Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities on the third Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food

there and should call their building manager for the date of distribution. For April, instant potatoes, pork and pears will be distributed. For information, call (734) 595-0366.

Kumon schedules meeting in Westland

Kumon USA Inc., a supplemental after-school education program, has opened in Westland. An informational meeting will take place 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, at the Westland Kumon Center, in Kirk of Our Savior

Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Regular classes will begin April 7. Westland's instructor is Renuka Subramanian, who earned a master's degree in computer information science from the University of Michigan-Dear-

born. "Kumon builds math and reading skills, strengthens concentration, teaches time management skills, improves study habits, increases self-confidence through self-discipline," she said. Subramanian, who has been a

Kumon parent, said the program has helped her daughter succeed. To register for the meeting or for information, call (734) 844-0029.

Crime from page A1

to inflate crime statistics for 1999. "When Michigan puts out the annual crime report, it will show an increase that's artificial," Ryskamp said. "We won't be able to do a year-to-year comparison until Jan. 1, 2001." Ultimately, changes in reporting will give authorities a truer picture of crimes that are being committed, he said. Some comparisons still are possible. For one, the number of cases assigned for investigation by the Westland Police Department's detective bureau dropped 20 percent from 1998 to 1999, declining from 5,469 cases to 4,389, the new report shows. Even that is misleading, however: "The caseload is down, but the workload is up," said Lt. Marc Stobbe, who heads the detective bureau. While some violent crimes have declined, police have seen a substantial increase in incidents such as embezzling, credit card fraud and counterfeit payroll checks. Those crimes usually require a more extensive investigation than incidents such as assaults, which typically have eyewitnesses, Stobbe said. "There are a lot of smart people out there who are embezzling," he said. "There are so many twists and turns that it takes a lot of time to investigate these kinds of crimes." As lawmakers increasingly debate gun laws, the number of

new firearms registered in Westland increased 22 percent from 1998 to 1999, climbing from 681 to 829. "Personally, I attribute that to the Y2K scare," Ryskamp said, adding that some residents likely feared possible outbreaks of crime when 2000 arrived. Price also said public attention to shootings and gun laws has likely prompted some people to buy their own weapons. "Consequently, more people have gone out and purchased their own guns because they believe it will keep them safe," Price said. The latest report also points to some police successes in 1999. "I think overall our officers have done a great job," Price said. "They had a good year." Just two examples: A special holiday patrol around Westland Shopping Center netted five felony arrests, 30 misdemeanors and 93 tickets between Nov. 26 and Dec. 24. Officers in the Metro Street Enforcement Team completed investigations such as the closing of the adult Melody Theater in Inkster. Officers from Westland, Garden City, Inkster and Wayne handled the case. In conclusion, Price labeled 1999 a successful year for his department and said he is encouraged that citizen calls for help dipped 6 percent. "Absolutely, that is significant," he said.

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001-99-0027-000	029-99-0005-715	034-99-0030-005	060-06-0186-000
001-99-0028-000	029-99-0014-701	035-04-0019-001	060-99-0003-000
001-99-0049-000	030-99-0008-004	035-99-0002-000	061-01-0280-002
001-99-0052-000	032-01-0081-000	036-99-0008-000	061-01-0339-000
001-99-0062-001	032-02-0387-000	036-99-0009-001	062-01-0186-004
001-99-0068-000	032-02-0535-000	038-99-0004-000	065-99-0001-013
002-99-0007-000	032-02-0536-000	042-03-0885-312	066-01-0543-301
003-04-0008-002	032-02-0537-000	042-03-0885-313	066-99-0009-001
004-01-0088-000	032-02-0538-000	042-03-0895-001	066-99-0010-001
004-99-0006-701	032-02-0539-000	042-03-0896-004	066-99-0021-001
005-02-0023-000	032-02-0562-300	045-99-0005-000	067-03-0079-000
005-02-0024-000	032-02-0581-000	045-99-0018-002	067-99-0012-000
005-02-0025-000	032-03-0810-000	045-99-0024-701	067-99-0016-701
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007-01-0581-004	032-03-0818-000	048-01-0044-000	068-03-0116-001
007-01-0581-005	032-03-0822-000	048-01-0075-302	068-03-0122-001
007-01-0585-001	032-03-0827-000	049-04-0949-003	069-01-0177-002
007-01-0585-002	032-99-0007-001	051-99-0057-002	070-01-0028-001
007-01-0602-006	033-01-0027-300	051-99-0058-000	070-01-0027-001
009-03-0047-300	033-01-0029-300	051-99-0060-000	070-01-0028-001
009-03-0049-000	033-01-0055-303	051-99-0064-000	070-01-0029-000
012-01-0001-000	033-01-0055-304	052-99-0015-706	070-01-0030-302
016-99-0005-001	033-01-0056-300	052-99-0022-000	071-99-0001-704
017-99-0001-000	034-01-0016-000	052-99-0028-001	073-01-0001-000
018-99-0007-000	034-01-0018-000	052-99-0030-001	073-02-0265-000
018-99-0012-000	034-01-0026-000	054-99-0011-002	073-02-0270-000
021-99-0001-710	034-01-0027-000	054-99-0011-003	073-02-0282-000
023-99-0008-703	034-02-0009-000	056-01-0916-305	073-03-0409-000
024-99-0013-000	034-99-0018-001	058-99-0006-701	074-01-0682-000
025-99-0004-001			

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th day throughout the months of May, June, July, August and September of 2000. Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the dates mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in Section 106-97 of the Westland Code of Ordinance and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the City in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner, occupant, or agent shall be spread against the property on the next County and School tax roll or the next general City tax roll.

RICHARD P. DITTMAR
City of Westland
Commissioner of Noxious Weeds

Published April 2 and 9, 2000

Guilty from page A1

murder that involved first-degree child abuse. He has remained in jail during the 15 months that have passed since he was accused of killing Darius at Hines Park Apartments near Warren and Cowan. Cobb shared the apartment with the boy's mother and was baby-sitting while she was at work, police said. The boy received severe head injuries on Dec. 2, 1998, and died five days later from injuries blamed on Cobb, then described by police as a 6-foot-1, 275-pound man. The toddler also had bruises on his chest. A defense attorney argued during a January 1998 court hearing that Cobb didn't mean to hurt Darius and that he hit him for urinating on a living room floor. But Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos ordered Cobb to stand trial following a doctor's testimony that the force of the blow knocked the toddler across the room and slammed him into an object, ripping his skull and causing fatal head injuries. Assistant Wayne County Medical Examiner John Scott Somers

set compared Darius' injuries to those he would have received if he had fallen from a two- or three-story building. Cobb also admitted in a statement to police that he gave Darius "a good whack" with a closed fist after the child urinated on the floor. On Wednesday, Dorsey said he had discussed Cobb's possible sentence with the victim's parents and a grandmother. "They seem to be satisfied with it," Dorsey said. The boy's mother, Latonya Conaway, testified in January 1999 that Cobb and her son often played together and that Cobb taught the boy to say his ABCs and to count. The mother testified that the toddler even started referring to Cobb as "Daddy" during the 10 months that the three lived together. The mother said her son wasn't injured when she left the apartment at noon on Dec. 2, 1998. But she said he was bruised and unconscious when she saw him several hours later at a hospital.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 20, 2000

PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:15 AND 7:20 P.M.

Present were Mayor Showalter, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Briscoe and Gora. Absent was Councilmembers Kaledas and Wiacek.

Joint public hearing to discuss:

- Special Assessment - Sidewalks / Approaches, District #4207
- Special Assessment - Sidewalks / Approaches, District #4208

- Raymond Sakach, of Garden City, requested clarification on work being charged for driveway approach.
- Betty Roberts, of Garden City, stated the work was unsatisfactory.
- Richard Foster, of Garden City, four squares replaced and one replaced after initial replacement.
- Dan Rochowiak, of Garden City, contesting work on approach.
- Marion Delehta, of Garden City, new owner, work undisclosed by seller.
- Walter Bumgardner, of Garden City, wants detail on charges.
- Mr. Glasser, of Garden City, is price the same quoted in 1997.

There being no further comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

Present were Mayor Showalter, Councilmembers Wiacek, Dodge, Lynch, Briscoe and Gora. Absent was Councilmember Kaledas.

Also present were City Manager Kocis, Treasurer/City Clerk Bettis, City Attorney Cummings, Deputy Treasurer Smith, DPS Director Barnes, Parks & Recreation Representative Widmer, DPS Streets, Sewer & Water Supervisor Morton and DPS Building & Grounds Supervisor Miller.

The Mayor announced it was time for Public Discussion for items not on the agenda.

- Bob Leclercq, representing the Fire Department, announced that Fire Chief Hines' retirement party will be held May 12, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased from any firefighter.
- Richard Foster, of Garden City, spoke of trash and various problems.
- James Barker, of Garden City, gave his opinion regarding the Lennox development.

- Item 03-00-087 Moved by Lynch, supported by Dodge. RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2000, as amended. AYES: Mayor Showalter, Councilmembers Wiacek, Dodge, Lynch and Gora. NAYS: Councilmember Briscoe. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas. Motion passed.
- The Mayor announced it was time to receive communications from Boards and/or Commissions. No communications from Boards and/or Commissions were received. There was no motion offered for Items A-6, Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll No. 4207, and A-7, Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll No. 4208. These items will be on the next agenda, March 27, 2000.
- Item 03-00-088 Moved by Dodge, supported by Wiacek. RESOLVED: To approve the following:

RESOLUTION
CITY OF GARDEN CITY
WAYNE COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN
RECOGNIZING BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH
MAY - 2000

WHEREAS, Audiologists and speech-language pathologists in Garden City observe and celebrate "Better Hearing and Speech Month" each year during the month of May, and

WHEREAS, Garden City recognizes and values the efforts of all who work to eliminate or minimize the isolating effects of communication disorders in the one in ten affected by them, and

WHEREAS, Those citizens of Garden City who have overcome their communications disabilities through the services of dedicated audiologists and speech-language pathologists, and

WHEREAS, Audiologists and speech-language pathology services throughout our nation help to enable and empower individuals with communication disorders to lead independent, productive and fulfilling lives, and

WHEREAS, Garden City is proud and honored to have audiologists and speech-language pathologists offering quality education and hearing care services to its citizens.

Item 03-00-089 Moved by Dodge, supported by Dodge. RESOLVED: To authorize the City Manager and Assessor to use the old multiplier for Utility Valuation as recommended by Wayne County Equalization. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-090 Moved by Lynch, supported by Gora. Council discussed some input items and a possible workshop with the Planning Commission. RESOLVED: To send the Master Plan back to the Planning Commission to re-evaluate the Master Plan and specifically the future zoning map with input from the City Council, and, once input is received, the Planning Commission will show the amendments made to the plan. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-091 Moved by Dodge, supported by Lynch. RESOLVED: To approve Consent Agenda "A".

- To award the bid for Sport T-Shirts to Park Athletic Supply, the costs covered through team entry and game fees.
- To award the bid for softballs to Dee's Sport Shop at a cost of \$35.00 per dozen.

AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-092 Moved by Wiacek, supported by Dodge. RESOLVED: To call for a public hearing on April 3, 2000 at 7:20 p.m., regarding expenditures of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG). AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-093 Moved by Lynch, supported by Dodge. RESOLVED: To authorize and approve the proposal of George Hartman Architects (with Wade-Trim Associates) in the amount of \$29,587.00, to provide a conceptual design and boundary and topographic survey for the DPS yard renovation study. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-094 Moved by Dodge, supported by Lynch. City Attorney will contact Wayne County pertaining to modifications to Article 11 and Article 17 relating to Insurance and Y2K, i.e. language. RESOLVED: To approve the Inter-Agency Agreement for the General Permit Activities Grant in the amount of \$91,608.00. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-095 Moved by Lynch, supported by Gora. RESOLVED: To approve the contract with Wade-Trim in the amount of \$93,000.00 to support the Storm Water Management Grant Activities and in the amount of \$72,505.00 to support the Storm Water General Permit Grant activities. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

Item 03-00-096 Moved by Lynch, supported by Gora. RESOLVED: To go into Closed Session with the City Attorney to discuss litigation regarding Lee vs City of Garden City and DeHart vs City of Garden City. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

The Mayor and Council recessed to Closed Session. Council returned from Closed Session and the following motion was offered:

Item 03-00-097 Moved by Dodge, supported by Briscoe. RESOLVED: To approve the City Attorney's recommendation regarding DeHart vs City of Garden City. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: Councilmember Kaledas.

The meeting was then adjourned.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk

Published April 2, 2000

Senior from page A1

six hours a week. "It has helped me quite a bit," he said. Collins finds time to spend with his parents, Carol and Edward Collins, and his 11-year-old brother, Evan. He also makes time for his girlfriend, a Glenn sophomore. "We watch movies and go out to eat," he said. "She's involved in drum line and band with me, too." One of Collins' latest challenges as class president has been dealing with complaints that a Shania Twain song, "From This Moment," has been chosen as senior class song. "Only 72 people voted out of 490, and now a lot of people want to vote again," Collins said. Seniors, it seems, have learned an early lesson about the importance of voting.

Judging by Christiansen's comments, Collins will handle the controversy as skillfully as possible. "Corey is very comfortable in taking on a leadership role when working as part of a team," the teacher said. "He has excellent interpersonal skills and has no trouble communicating thoughts and ideas to others." "While strong enough to lead, Corey also knows when to listen and is considerate of alternative viewpoints," Christiansen said. "Corey has shown the ability to take the initiative and is disciplined in the pursuit of his goals. This, in turn, motivates the rest of the team." "Corey," Christiansen concluded, "has the skill of influencing others by setting an example." Not bad for a 17-year-old.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES MEDICAID/MEDICAID NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the agreement between the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Nightingale West Nursing Home in Westland, Michigan, a provider of services in the Medicare program, will remain in effect. In addition, as authorized by the Michigan Department of Community Health - Medicaid Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the facility's agreement as a nursing facility in the Medicaid program also remains in effect. This notice supersedes the prior notice of January 16, 2000.

Based on the findings from a recent survey, the Health Care Financing Administration has determined that Nightingale West is qualified to participate in the Medicare program. Therefore, the Medicare program will continue to make payments for skilled nursing services furnished to eligible residents admitted prior to December 28, 1999 and after February 8, 2000. These dates are due to a previously imposed denial of payment for new admissions which was discontinued on February 7, 2000.

MARILYN SAMUELS
Program Representative
for
GWENIKYAN MICHEL, Branch Manager
Michigan/Minnesota Operations Branch
Division of Survey & Certification

Published April 2, 2000

Kelly enters register of deeds race, Bell may follow

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net



Rep. Thomas Kelly

Two Democrats appeared ready late last week to compete for the chance to succeed Forest E. Youngblood as Wayne County register of deeds.

Rep. Thomas H. Kelly, D-Wayne, announced Wednesday he is seeking his party's nomination in the Aug. 8 primary, while County Commissioner Edna Bell, D-Detroit, told fellow commission members on Thursday she'll do the same shortly.

Commissioner John J. Sullivan, D-Romulus, who serves on Bell's public safety and judiciary committee, said Thursday she announced at that meeting that it was her last "and that she will resign next week from the commission to focus on her campaign."

Youngblood, who has served as registrar for 28 years, said Friday he will remain in office until December, when his term ends — contrary to a rumor that he would retire early, with Bell

Large field

Youngblood, noting at least four candidates ran against him in 1996, said he expects a large field again.

A Wayne County sheriff's deputy 28 years, Youngblood was elected registrar in 1972, succeeding his father, Barney, who held the office since 1941.

Kelly, a former Wayne city councilman who is being terminated from office in Lansing after serving six years as state representative, praised his erstwhile primary opponent.

"We've known each other quite a while," he said of Bell, describing her as "very, very competent and a viable candidate for the position."

"But I wish she would stay in her position as county commissioner," he said half-jokingly.

Kelly said he believes his "experience and knowledge of local, county and state government" qualify him to succeed Youngblood.

"I hope to augment the excel-

lent service previously provided by Mr. Youngblood as well as to continue to improve the office for today's technology," he said.

Seven years

Youngblood said his office has worked the past nearly seven years to scan its 30 million records into computer files.

"We're still a little bit behind, but we hope to catch up in two to three months," the registrar said.

Kelly told the Observer on

Thursday if Youngblood weren't resigning. "I would not be running. I respect him very much."

He praised Youngblood for his 51 years of service to the county, saying the latter "has done a great job."

"He's a heck of a nice man, very competent," Kelly added.

Kelly, whose 17th District seat represents Wayne, Westland, Garden City and Inkster, was elected representative in 1994.

A former teacher and library

director for Wayne-Westland Community Schools, he previously served 12 years on the Wayne City Council and also is a former chairman of the Nankin Transit Commission.

The register of deeds office, established by the Michigan Constitution in 1836, is where all legal documents pertaining to property within the county are recorded.

The registrar also chairs the county plat board.

Judge dismisses suit against Bankes

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

A small-claims lawsuit filed against a county commissioner by a Dearborn photographer has been dismissed in that city's 19th District Court.

Craig Hanosh, hired by the Wayne County commission to photograph its January 1999 swearing-in ceremony, sued Commissioner Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, for \$190, claiming she owed that for her order of additional 8-by-10 photos from the ceremony.

However, Bankes, who wanted only 5-by-7s, denied ordering the photos and had returned them in May 1999.

Dearborn Magistrate G. Danny Ferrara dismissed the suit "without prejudice."

"He said the photographer did not have a valid claim," Bankes stated.

"In a lawsuit, even in Small Claims Court," Bankes explained, "the key question is was there a meeting of the minds sufficient to form a contract?"

"I proved in court that we did not have a contract. Therefore, there was no breach," she said.

The suit gained some notoriety when a metro-Detroit television station featured it as an "investigation" piece on its evening

news.

Bankes, who is in her first term as county commissioner after several years as a state representative, said she heard

Hanosh would file suit in civil court.

However, Hanosh couldn't be reached for comment.

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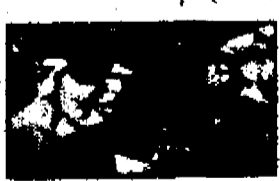
6255 North Inkster Rd., Suite 304, Garden City, MI 48135

Going out?
Check Thursday's
Entertainment Section


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In the Kmart April 1, 2000 weekly ad circular, on page 5 features the 20% Off Cover Girl. The 20% Off includes foundations, powders, concealers and blush only.
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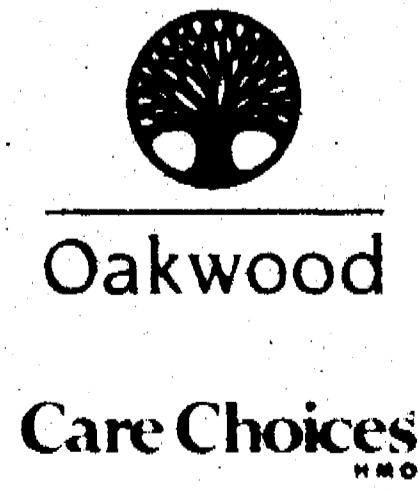
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Sale offers plants for your garden

Looking to expand your perennial garden? Then circle Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 5-7, on your calendar.

That's when the Friends of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens will hold their 20th annual spring plant sale and marketplace at the gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, between Geddes and Plymouth roads, Ann Arbor.

From 3-7 p.m. Friday, the sale will be open to Friends of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Those who would like first choice of the extensive collection can become a member on the spot. The sale is open to the general public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

The sale offers the wide selection of outdoor plants - 36,000 pots comprising 1,100 varieties.

■ Proceeds from the sale, the major fund-raising event of the year, go to support programs at the gardens. For more information, call (734) 998-7061.

In the perennial category, there will be sun - and shade-loving species, ferns, ornamental grasses, rock garden plants, vines and wildflowers. Shoppers also will find a wide selection of herbs - both common and hard-to-find.

The recent addition of accent plants - those used for containers or as focal points in the garden - was very popular at last year's sale. Some examples of the 80 varieties that will be available are sweet potato vines,

licorice plants, lantanas, special varieties of coleus, verbenas, fuchsias and New Guinea impatiens, as well as a huge selection of specialty geraniums - scented, tulip-flowered, ivy and variegated leaf.

In addition to plants, visitors can purchase a variety of select garden accessories - fountains, trellises, sun dials, tools and furniture from vendors at the spring sale marketplace.

On-site professional support and advice will be available from

the Matthaei Gardens staff members and knowledgeable volunteers.

The spring sale week will start with a Savvy Session 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 30. Visitors will be able to pick up a list of plants that will be sold the following weekend, inspect this year's featured plants in the greenhouse, and obtain professional consultation on any and all horticultural questions from volunteer master gardeners and garden staff members.

Proceeds from the sale, the major fund-raising event of the year, go to support programs at the gardens. For more information, call (734) 998-7061 or visit the Web site at www.las.umich.edu/mbg.



Fun! The Nankin Mills Reading Club packed students in.

Young readers find fun in book pages

The Nankin Mills Reading Club has just completed a successful six weeks of pleasure reading. The club met 8-8:30 a.m. every Tuesday at Nankin Mills Elementary.

The children brought in their favorite selections to read either by themselves or with a partner. Throughout the time period, teachers Christina Jasiolek and

Mary Ann Bubar would read with the children or listen to them read. The halfway point was celebrated with hot chocolate and book markers and the last session included a "Reading Rainbow" party with hot chocolate, doughnuts and a certificate. The club had a turnout of 37 students in first through fifth grades.

YMCA will celebrate Healthy Kids Day

The YMCA Healthy Kids Day will be noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Wayne-Westland YMCA, 827 S. Wayne Road. A special day of family learning and fun, Healthy Kids Day proves good health can and should be enjoyable.

Sponsors are eRegister.com, Family Service Inc. and McDonald's of Southeast Michigan. The

day will include obstacle courses, arts and nature projects, safety lessons, character development, games, learning opportunities and more.

"There is more to good health than being physically fit," said Christy Nolan, Wayne-Westland YMCA executive director. The YMCA definition of wellness includes elements like caring for

others, respecting the environment, being honest and fair and taking responsibility for solving problems.

"A healthy child has all of these qualities," said Nolan, adding the YMCA supports family efforts to build healthful lifestyles. The eighth annual event, free of charge, will be celebrated at YMCAs across the

■ 'There is more to good health than being physically fit.'

Christy Nolan
—Wayne-Westland YMCA

nation. For more information on the local event, call (734) 721-7044.

Read Taste today

Walkers on go

A group of Westland Convalescent Center residents have formed a new club for getting together to walk regularly.

In celebration of the newly formed W.C.C. Strutters Club, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 3.

Due to a printers error in the appliance Section on the Wards April 2nd and April 9th Sunday Circular, effective 4/2 - 4/9 and 4/9 - 4/15 respectively, the Amana 25.8 cubic foot side-by-side refrigerator #6634907 mfg. #SP126V is incorrectly priced at \$899.99. The correct advertised price is \$999.97. We apologize for any inconvenience that this advertising inaccuracy may cause.

Read Sports & Recreation

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* Some Restrictions Apply Contest dates 4/2/00-9/28/00

CAPSULE OUTLOOK OF LIVONIA-WESTLAND GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAMS

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
 Head coach: Eric Ruth, third year.
 League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).
 Last year's overall record: 6-11.
 Notable losses to graduation: Katie Orlandoni.
 Leading returnees: Rachel Zahn, Jr. F.; Jessica Whitaker, Jr. C.; Sam Pellegrino, Jr. 1B; Cassie Zell, Jr. 2B; Stacie Graves, Sr. SS; Gretchen Grosinski, Sr.; Mandy Cherundolo, Jr. LF; Jenny Kleinke, Soph. CF; Vickie Martin, Sr. RF.
 Promising newcomers: Lauren Merian, Fr. utility; Sarah Brisbey, Soph. OF.
 Ruth's 2000 outlook: "We should finish at least second in our division because we have most of our players back. Our goal is to play over .500 ball."
 "Our pitching should be strong with Zahn. She averaged only 3.2 walks per game and had a no-hitter."
 "In the middle of last season we moved some people around and we should be strong defensively. We should also be a good hitting team. We hit .323 as a team last year and that should go up with a year's experience."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
 Head coach: Ron Gentz, 12th year.
 League affiliation: Metro Conference.
 Last year's overall record: 18-11.
 Titles won last year: CLASS C district champions.
 Notable losses to graduation: Katie Heiden; Sharon Greer; Stephanie Lynch; Kari Charles; Carle Azzopardi.
 Leading returnees: Heather Haller, Sr. OF/2B; Cristina Hilden, Soph. P/CF; Heather Rose, Soph. P/CF; Sarah Marody, Sr. 1B; Renee O'Brien, Sr. RF; Liz Unger, Sr. 3B; Emily Reinke, Jr. LF; Chrissy Zink, Sr. C.
 Promising newcomers: Rachel Gergely, Jr. C.; Kelly Pruchnik, Jr. IF; Katie Walker, Jr. OF; Jenny Glenn, Fr. SS/P; Jenna Hess, Fr. 2B.
 Gentz's 2000 outlook: "We're young on the mound. The only one with any varsity pitching experience is Rose. She went 5-4 in nine games when Katie Heiden got hurt last year."
 "We lost a lot up the middle so we've got holes to patch up. But I have some talented kids, it's just a matter of finding the right combination."
 "Defensively, we should be fairly decent. Offensively, with as many young kids as I've got, we have to see."
 "But I'm an optimist. I can't say we can't be competitive."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
 Head coach: Kristen Hynek, third year.
 League affiliation: Metro Conference.
 Last year's overall record: 7-13.
 Notable losses to graduation: Misty Swider, Jessica Silye.
 Leading returnees: Rachael Koernke, Sr. SS (second team All-Metro Conference); Meghan Schiffman, Sr. 1B/OF; Amy Schiffman, Jr. P.; Taryn Charrette, Sr. P.; Jessica Kennedy, Jr. CF; Jenni Swider, Jr. LF; Jenny Kennedy, Jr. 2B; Kelly Burr, Sr. OF; Vera Skrelja, Sr. OF; Beth Marlowe, Soph. C.; Jamie Matland, Jr. Inf.
 Promising newcomers: Melanie Rudd, Jr. 3B (transfer from Northville); Nicole Martin, Soph. OF/Inf.; Heather Agar, Soph. OF; Felicia Hernandez, Jr. Inf.; Nikki Snyder, Soph. OF; Jessica Rachoza, Soph. OF.
 Hynek's 2000 outlook: "I feel strongly about this team and their ability to win. We've spent two years teaching the fundamentals and I feel now we have a good core of players. They know the game."
 "For the last two years we honed in on defense. Defense should be a strong point. I think we're strong up the middle."
 "We didn't hit last year, but with both

Koernke and Schiffman, we've got two girls who can get around on the ball. And the transfer we picked up (Rudd) was a nice gift."
LIVONIA LADYWOOD
 Head coach: Bob Lulek, fourth year.
 League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
 Last year's overall record: 13-21.
 Titles won last year: Class A district champions.
 Notable losses to graduation: Sara Thiesmeyer (now at Eastern Michigan); Melanie Grewe; Margaret Day.
 Leading returnees: Kristen Barnes, Sr. CF; Katie Rospierski, Sr. 2B; Courtney Wilmering, Sr. OF/C; Becky Mitchell, Sr. OF/2B; Shelly Moros, Jr. P/OF; Stephanie Salinas, Jr. C/OF; Kathy Day, Jr. 3B/1B; Dawn Rini, Soph. SS/2B.
 Promising newcomers: Carrie Friel, Sr. OF; Pam Smart, Jr. P.; Ann Marie Starasich, Soph. RF/3B; Megan Wilken, Soph. C; Shawn Fallon, Fr. P/3B/2B; Pattie Kolonski, Fr. 1B/OF.
 Lulek's 2000 outlook: "This is the smallest roster I've ever had, but it's a real nice group."
 "It's a little hard to say how I feel because it's such a young team. Moros will hold us in a lot of games because of her knowledge and experience. I'm pleased with the situation on the mound."
 "And they've got some good veterans behind them. I feel the new talent will blend in well."
 "We'll have our ups and downs. I'll be patient with them, and hopefully they'll be patient with me. I think by the time the tournament rolls around, we'll be where I want us to be."

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
 Head coach: Dana Hardwidge, ninth year.
 League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).
 Last year's overall record: 17-15.
 Titles won last year: Class A district champions.
 Notable losses to graduation: Kristin Derwich (second team All-Area catcher, All-District); Adrienne Doyle (All-District pitcher); Ann Senne (All-District outfielder).
 Leading returnees: Stephanie Doyle, Jr. OF; Christian Fones, Sr. SS (All-Western Division, second team All-Area, hit .367 with 35 RBI); Carly Gill, Jr. OF; Sarah Hennessey, Sr. 1B; Sallie Kurtko, Soph. 2B; Meghan Misiak, Soph. P.; Kathleen Schram, Sr. OF; Kelly Stahley, Sr. 3B.
 Promising newcomers: Ashley Crawley, Fr. C; Courtney Gross, Jr. 1B/OF; Sheila Gillies, Soph. C; Marilyn Greis, Fr. OF; Jenny Long, Soph. 1B; Rene Ritz, Fr. P/OF.
 Hardwidge's 2000 outlook: "Led by a core of four seniors — Fones, Hennessey, Schram and Stahley — this team is a blend of experienced players and rookies. The girls have a positive attitude about the season and are working well together. Our goal is to play hard and play smart."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
 Head coach: Linda Jimenez, fifth year.
 League affiliation: WLA (Western Division).
 Last year's overall record: 13-19.
 Titles won last year: Plymouth Tourney Livonia City Tournament champions.
 Notable losses to graduation: Kelly Young (All-Western Division catcher now at Wayne State).
 Leading returnees: Tera Morrill, Sr. 1B (first team All-Area, All-WLAA); Jeanette Bertrams, Sr. OF (All-Western Division); Jamie Linden, Sr. 3B; Rachel Bramlett, Sr. SS; Tara Muchow, Sr. P.; Monica Little, Sr. OF; Becky Camilleri, Sr. OF; Kerstin Marshall, Jr. OF; Sara Knopsider, Jr. OF; Jennie D'Annunzio, Soph. OF; Kendra Andrews, Soph. 2B; Amy Sandrick, Soph. 2B.
 Promising newcomers: Olivia Maurilio, Soph. C; Nikki Zabkiewicz, Fr. P.; Shari Drayer, Fr. C.
 Jimenez's 2000 outlook: "This team is unified. We all get along."
 "Five of our seven seniors have been in our softball program since the seventh. This will be a successful and fun season. Very very emotional when it ends."
LIVONIA STEVENSON
 Head coach: Jen Knoph, second year.
 League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
 Last year's overall record: 3-18.
 Notable losses to graduation: LeAnne Schraufnagle (pitcher); Kristi Copi (team MVP).
 Leading returnees: Kelley Gutter, Sr. C; Katie King, Sr. 3B; Kim Hillier, Sr. P/Inf.; Nicole Dwojak, Sr. OF; Mary King, Sr. OF; Jolen Kijorski, Sr. OF.
 Promising newcomers: Debbie Gassky, Soph. 1B; Amy Hollandsworth, Soph. OF; Amanda Jankowski, Soph. OF/P; Sarah Pinto, Soph. 3B/OF; Sarah York, Soph. 2B; Allison Chonce, Jr. 2B/OF; Lindsay Rayburn, Jr. OF; Julie Paulson, Jr. 1B/OF; Emily Campbell, Jr. OF.
 Knoph's 2000 outlook: "Giller is very solid. She started for us as a freshman and sophomore, but she tore her ACL (anterior



STAFF PHOTO BY LIZ CARROLL
Franklin hurler, Senior Tara Muchow returns for the Patriots.

cruciate ligament) last year. She's back at full strength and is back in form."
 "Defense has been our main focus since the first day of tryouts. Probably our strength is hitting and our versatility. We can move people around. I think this team will hit the ball."
 "Our pitchers have got to throw strikes and get the ball in play."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
 Head coach: Karen O'Leary, fourth year (second stint).
 League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
 Last year's overall record: 6-24.
 Notable losses to graduation: Renee (transferred to Chelsea), Renee Kolb, Nikki Reisinger.
 Leading returnees: Samantha Crews, Sr. SS (tri-captain); first team All-Area; Abby Massey, Jr. CF (tri-captain); Amanda Ross, Jr. 2B (tri-captain); Brooke Robertson, Sr. 1B; Jessica Seres, Jr. 3B; Mickey Yangoff, Sr. LF; Stephanie Fedulichak, Jr. P.
 Promising newcomers: Michelle Noel, Sr. OF; Ruthie Kiertyka, Soph. P.; Chelsea Busch, Jr. C; Holly Deedier, Jr. Inf./OF; Jenny Lack, Jr. OF; Shelly Hein, Jr. OF/Inf.

O'Leary's 2000 outlook: "Stephanie (Fedulichak) has definitely improved her technique and speed. She worked hard with Carrie Kientz, an instructor from Downriver. If our pitching stays consistent we'll be OK."
 "I think we're solid defensively all the way around. We have a good catcher (Busch) who we broke up last year. She has a good arm and a great bat."
 "Last year we were in 90 percent of our games, but we had a lot of 20-10 type scores. We'll score a lot of runs."
 "This the second year everybody has played together, so that should help."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
 Head coach: Kathy Stella, second year.
 League affiliation: Metro Conference (White Division).
 Last year's overall record: 4-12.
 Notable losses to graduation: None.
 Leading returnees: Sarah Moore, Sr. C; Amy Pailing, Jr. 2B; second baseman; Crystal Little, Soph. 3B; Kelly Tyler, Sr. LF; Kara Pardee, Sr. CF; Kara Kirk, Sr. RF; Jackie Haner, Sr. 1B; Michelle Suda, Sr. Inf.; Sarah Davis, Sr. SS.
 Promising newcomers: Jodie Reed, Soph. 1B; Heather O'Rourke, Soph. P.; Anna Rizkalah, Soph. OF; Nichole Fuller, Soph. Inf.; Jennifer Kientz, Jr. utility.
Stella's 2000 outlook: "I think we'll be in good shape. We have seven seniors who have played together four years. Hope to improve our record from last year."
 "Our pitching hasn't been tested yet. It will be a rebuilding year for the pitching staff. For our team pitching is the key."
 "Offensively we look pretty solid. We have some good hitters. We have two strong hitters in Pailing and Little, and Pardee hit her first homer last year."
 "The defense should be outstanding infield wise. Our outfielders have strong arms."

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 NEWSPAPERS
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LAST WEEK'S WINNER
Louis "Brian" Kisc
 Garden City
 Garden City High School
 Presented by
Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne

Tune in **WJR 760 AM** each Friday at **7:40 a.m.** and hear the Athlete of the Week announced on Paul W. Smith's morning show.

To submit your nomination for the High School Athlete of the Week:

1. Send us up to one page of information about the athlete's involvement in sports, community, academic achievements and any awards he/she has received. Include the name of the high school and a picture of the athlete
2. Include **your** name and daytime phone number.
3. Include your nomination to:

WJR 760 AM
 2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202
 Attention: Athlete of the Week
 or
 FAX to: 313-875-1988

Tune in to WJR 760 AM Friday morning to hear the winner announced!

BOWLING AND RECREATION

Canton resident follows in dad's footsteps

TEN PIN ALLEY



AL HARRISON

A bowling ball and rabbit only have something in common if you miss a strike or a spare by a hair — unless your name is Pam Jones.

Livonia's Jones is an All-Star bowler and a rabbit show judge.

Pam has traveled across the USA for her other calling — and besides judging, she breeds, raises and sells rabbits.

I will be writing about her in another section of this paper in time for Easter.

Back by popular demand, the Bowling Ball Swap—Sell—Buy will take place Friday-Sunday, April 28-30, at Westland Bowl on Wayne Road between Ford and Warren roads.

The first such event took place last August and was a success despite taking place at a bad time of year.

If you have any good, late-model balls or other equipment you are no longer using, turn it into instant cash by bringing it in, tagging it and letting people buy.

For buyers, it's a terrific opportunity to get your hands on some good new equipment without having to pay those high prices we're seeing today for new balls.

Plugging and re-drilling will be available on the premises and lanes will be available to see if equipment that would be new to you fits your hand.

Each seller and buyer will receive a door prize coupon for every ball brought in or bought.

Westland Bowl does not take any cut from these deals; they are doing this as a service to the bowling community.

For more information call (734) 722-7570.

When your league begins planning for next season, take a good look at the Ultimate Bowling League (UBL) concept.

You can add a new dimension of enjoyment and better competition from top to bottom, trim the usual annual loss of members and keep interest at a higher level throughout the season.

Both the G.D.B.A. and the D.W.B.A. have designated staff personnel who will be able to explain the UBL to your league, how it works and how it

will make bowling in your league more interesting.

Call the G.D.B.A. at 810-773-6350 or the D.W.B.A. at 810-773-3050 for more details.

"A chip off the old block" is a time-worn cliché, but what could be a better way to describe 19-year-old Brent Kossick?

As many bowling fans know, Ken Kossick has been one of the area's premier bowlers for many years in the All-Stars at Thunderbowl and elsewhere.

Now comes his son with a 300 game in the Wayne Westland Youth Travel Classic at Super



A perfect roll: Brent Kossick of Canton tossed a 300 game.

Bowl in Canton.

The Kossick family resides in Canton also, with younger brother Darren also competing in the W.W.Y.T.C.

Brent only needs 19 more perfect games to catch up with his dad.

Congratulations to Matt Dalley of Plymouth for his 238-162 victory over Tom Rosso in the 2000 Midstates Masters 222 Division at the 300 Bowl in Pontiac.

Dalley wanted this win, especially after finishing second in the last tournament. The next 222 tournament is set for Sunday, April 9, 2000 at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

For more information call (313) 365-8449.

The Great Lakes Senior Bowling Association has announced its upcoming schedule.

April 8 the association is at Eastgate Lanes in Oregon (Toledo) Ohio; May 13 it is at Bowlero Bowl in Windsor, Ont.; June 10 at Woodhaven Lanes in Woodhaven; and July 8th at Garden Lanes in Garden City.

The GLSBA is for senior bowlers age 50 and up. For details or entry forms, call (734) 522-9315.

Table listing bowling leagues and members across various locations like Westland, Garden City, and others.

OUTDOORS

Easy-to-read guide confuses



BILL PARKER

I'm still confused. With April here and the traditional last-Saturday-in-April trout opener on the horizon, I decided to take a quick look at the new Michigan Department of Natural Resources Inland Trout and Salmon Guide 2000.

Keep it simple If you're not confused yet, read on. That's the simple part. Regulations for each stream Type are mind boggling. For a Type I stream for instance, the open season is the last Saturday in April-September; anglers can fish with live or artificial bait; the daily harvest limit is five fish, but no more than three can be 15 inches or larger and only one can be an Atlantic salmon; and minimum size restrictions are eight inches for brook and brown trout in the Lower Peninsula, seven inches for brook and brown trout in the Upper Peninsula, 10 inches for rainbow trout statewide, eight inches for splake statewide, 24 inches for lake trout statewide, 10 inches for coho, chinook and pink salmon statewide, and 15 inches for atlantic salmon statewide.

There are six more stream Types to consider. Regulations for trout lakes are a little easier to grasp since there are only six Types to consider, but again the regulations are different for each Type.

If you plan to fish just one section of one stream or just one lake you can check the guide and leave it home. But if you plan to move around until you find a good bite, you'd better pack the guide with your fishing gear.

Unfortunately, that won't be simple either. The new 49-page guide is printed on roughly 8x11 inch paper, to make the maps easy to read. At that size, the guide will fit nicely into a three-ring binder, but not most tackle boxes, and certainly not a fishing vest.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not a die-hard trout fisherman. I'm a weekend warrior at best when it comes to stream fishing. I do enjoy getting out a few times each year, but this year on

opening day maybe I'll go chase walleye instead.

At least until I study the new "user-friendly" trout and salmon guide for a few more hours and familiarize myself with the user friendly regulations.

Early season on Huron There are still a few exceptions to the new trout regulations and one of them is on the Huron River.

For nearly two years, the DNR's fisheries division has been working with angler groups to come up with what was supposed to be a simple, easy to read guide to trout fishing on Michigan's inland waters. Well, the new guide may be easy to read, but it is certainly not simple.

The state has classified all 17,000 miles of Michigan trout streams into one of seven classifications based on factors reflecting the water's productive capacity for trout and salmon. Each classification has a specific set of regulations.

To use the guide, choose the stream you wish to fish then go to the back cover of the guide, and use the Index Reference Guide to see on what page the map of your stream is on. Turn to that page and you'll find a map with color-coded streams. Locate your stream and see what color it is. Be very careful because purple and blue and red and orange look very similar in the guide. Then turn to page nine to see which Type of stream corresponds to your color. Once that has been determined, turn to page three for the specific regulations for that Type of stream.

Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Quizzes and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Because these observations did not seem normal to me, I decided to investigate. I spoke with a biologist from the Rose Lake Research Station near Lansing. The Rose Lake Research Station is run by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They coordinate much of the research for game animals around the state.

They told me that it was not extremely unusual to see antlers on deer this time of year. Most antlers are shed by March, but some individuals retain their antlers longer than normal. This is probably due to a hormone imbalance in the animal.

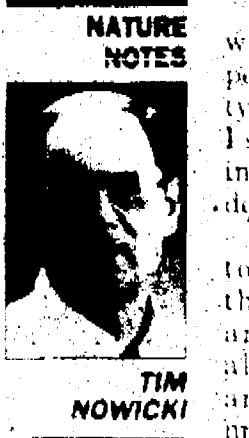
A hormone imbalance was the reason they gave for the male associating with the group of does. Normally bucks are off in male groups, or bachelor herds this time of year.

They only associate with females during the rut in fall. In fact, it was speculated that the animal may have been a young male that was reluctant to leave its mother. A hormone imbalance might cause such behavior.

When I first saw a set of antlers on this deer, with does, I began to think that this might be an antlered doe. That is why it was with the does.

But I was told that females with antlers occur at a frequency of only 1-2 in 1,000 animals. Antlered does don't rub the velvet off their antlers like a male.

A bit different: Deer with antlers can still be found



TIM NOWICKI

Just last week, when I entered Independence Oaks County Park where I work, I saw an antlered deer in front of a group of does.

This was surprising to me because I thought that most antlered deer had already shed their antlers, and that males did not associate with females this time of year.

Because these observations did not seem normal to me, I decided to investigate. I spoke with a biologist from the Rose Lake Research Station near Lansing. The Rose Lake Research Station is run by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They coordinate much of the research for game animals around the state.

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ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Calling all singers for special event

Jerry Smith is looking for a few good singers for a one-time engagement with the All Community Church Choir.

Smith quips that if you can carry a tune and are involved with a church music program, you won't even have to audition and will get a free breakfast to boot.

Singers will perform as part of the Livonia Prayer Breakfast program beginning at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 23, at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. (That's where the free breakfast comes in.)

Smith was asked a year ago to bring Livonia church choirs together to sing for the breakfast where city officials, educators and citizens meet for prayer and to hear an inspirational message. Richard Stearns, president of World Vision, an organization which feeds children all over the world, will speak at the May 23 breakfast. Call Sally Butler for more information about the breakfast (248) 476-9427.

Think globally, act locally

In January, Smith, who's minister of music at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville, sent letters to all Livonia churches. So far 70 singers from nearly a dozen choirs have made the commitment to perform at the Prayer Breakfast, but ideally Smith would

■ We wanted to let people know about the opportunity because so many times the members of different church choirs don't even know what's going on in their own community. This is fresh and exciting, not the same old, same old. It's something extraordinary.

Jerry Smith

like to have 100. Rehearsals will take place 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7, and 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20. The program plays on the theme "think globally, act locally."

"We're looking for people active in a church music program anywhere in Livonia," said Smith, a Livonia resident who was choir director at Bentley High School for 27 years. "We wanted to let people know about the opportunity because so many times the

Busy days

In addition to coordinating and directing the choir for the Prayer Breakfast, Smith is busy getting ready for the Easter production at Ward Presbyterian, where he has been minister of music for the last 27 years. And that's no easy task. But Smith's hard work is what makes being a musician at Ward Presbyterian rewarding.

Even though Smith jokes it seems like a hundred years since he's been minister of music at the church, don't let that fool you. Deep down inside, he loves directing the church's 200-voice choir, 38 piece orchestra, 70-voice youth choir that tours the country every year, two women's choirs, a male choir, brass ensemble, flute choir, and handbell ringers. Last year, he was able to tour Switzerland and England with 50 members of the 200-voice choir. This year they'll stay relatively close to home when they sing in Canada. Next year, they're off to France. In between his duties at the church, Smith continues to practice his other love - teaching. He instructs students in the fine points of music theory as well as chairs the music department at William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills.

For more information about joining the All Community Church Choir, call Smith at (248) 374-7400.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net



Sculptor creates new worlds from glass

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

The properties of glass mesmerized Richard Ritter from the first time he used the material at Society of Arts & Crafts more 30 years ago. Today, Ritter is one of the leading artists in the contemporary studio glass movement.

Just gazing into one of his sculptures, it's easy to understand why the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery at the University of Michigan-Dearborn is celebrating the work of the internationally recognized glass artist with an exhibit that continues through the end of the month. Ritter opens windows to another world. Sea-like forms swim amidst layers upon layers of glass. Flowers and butterflies seem suspended in time inside these crystal mini-universes.

The sculptures, vessels, paperweights and wall pieces in "Suspended Expressions: Visions in Glass" span nearly 30 years of Ritter's career, including his first attempt at blowing a green glass bottle at Society of Arts & Crafts (now Center for Creative Studies).

Back in the days when Ritter helped department founder Gil Johnson build the first furnace at the Detroit school, students used scrap glass to create vessels and goblets. Gallery curator Joseph Marks' selection of 71 pieces from public and private collections document Ritter's pursuit of his passion since that time.

Collectors

In addition to five pieces from the university's permanent collection, Jack and Aviva Robinson, Stuart and Maxine Frankel and Norman and Susan Pappas, Bloomfield Hills; Hugh and Carolyn Greenberg and Byron and Dorothy Gerson, Franklin; William and Electra Stamelos and Peter and Zoe Kokenakes, Livonia; Sophia Pearlstein, Southfield; and glass artist Fred Birkhill, Pinckney, lent work to the show.

Ritter is returning to Michigan to participate in a discussion on glass with beadmaker Kristina Logan and Art Museum Project director Kenneth Gross 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, at the university gallery. On

Please see CLASS C2



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SCHAEFER

"Suspended Expressions: Visions in Glass"

What: The works of Richard Ritter selected from public and private collections

When: Through Sunday, April 30. Opening reception to meet the artist 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 7, discussion with Ritter at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, (313) 593-5400 or (313) 593-5087

Ritter's work will also be featured at the 28th Annual International Glass Invitational Exhibition, opening 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8 at Habitat Galleries, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Exhibit runs through Sunday, April 30, call (248) 333-2060 for information.

EXHIBIT

Artists show talent for color and design

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Joan Ehrstine and Jim Patterson are setting out on a new adventure. At the ages of 69 and 68, respectively, the two painters will be exhibiting their works with the Livonia Artists Club April 8-9 in the atrium of the Livonia Civic Center Library.

While Patterson has been exhibiting his work for some time in shows such as Our Town at The Community House in Birmingham and Fine Arts in the Village at Greenmead Historical Village, Livonia, this is the first time he is showing work with the Livonia Artists Club.

Ehrstine, a Plymouth Township resident, is showing her work for a third time.

Sense of accomplishment

More than 20 members will exhibit up to five paintings each. There will also be reasonably priced unframed art in bins.

"It makes me feel good that I can show what I'm working on," said Ehrstine. "I feel I've accomplished something that might be pleasing to other people."

A Livonia Artists Club member for three years, Ehrstine has been painting watercolors for seven years. She took up the medium after retiring as the church organist for Rice Memorial in Redford after 24 years.

She studied drawing and colored pencil at Art Store & More in Livonia before deciding to take watercolor classes at Schoolcraft College with Westland artist Saundra Weed. A volunteer at Greenmead Historical Village, where she serves on the board of the Livonia Historical Society and edits its newsletter, Ehrstine presently makes time for classes with Livonia artist Audrey Harkins because she loves watercolor.

"I thought it would be the easiest thing because you were working with water, but I was so

Please see EXHIBIT, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN WITKOWSKI

Eclectic show: Joan Ehrstine and Jim Patterson show some of the watercolor paintings featured in the Livonia Artists Club exhibit.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinema
Showtimes: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
MP DENOTES NO PALS

Star Theatre
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily 11:00 AM
Shows Starting before 6:00 PM

Star Showcase
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG

United Artists Theatre
116 Main at 11 Mile
Royal Oak
248-542-9180
call 77-FILMS ext 542

United Artists Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644-FILM
MP Denotes No Pals Engagements

'Second Hand' sparkles with freshness, originality

'Second Hand,' by Michael Zadoorian (W.W. Norton, \$23.95). 'Personally, I find new things boring,' the rather off-beat hero of this novel tells us.

For sure, however, there is little about this story that feels musty or second hand. Its characters, voice, humor, insight, milieu, and Zadoorian's scene-making simply sparkle with originality and freshness.

Our tale begins on one otherwise-usual day when a new customer strolls into Satori Junk, quickly capturing not only Richard's attention, but his heart as well.

Theresa, we will presently discover, deals in cast-offs of another kind. She works at the Detroit Anti-Cruelty Shelter, where she spends most of her days administering the necessary lethal injections to unwanted animals.

Richard has recently lost his hard-working father, and is about to lose his mother to cancer. Having few clues as to how to come to terms with either event, he seeks a kind of refuge in the detritus of his parents' lives.

Area readers will probably especially enjoy accompanying Richard as he cruises older Detroit neighborhoods, rummaging for treasure in trashed objects (after poring over ads in the Observer Newspapers, he especially likes to head for Hamtramck and Redford Township).

discovers oddly shaped goblets from the now-defunct LUMS restaurants, a delightful trove of Three Suns LP's, or some chrome-and-vinyl chairs circa the early Space Age.

Before the story concludes, Richard and Theresa venture to Mexico — which may, on the face of it, seem a little jarring in a narrative so firmly rooted in its Michigan locale.

Cases in point: The Mexican tour guide who likes to quote Octavio Paz; Richard's tidy sister ("the perfect human Barbie...hair...jutting back aerodynamically"); his outspoken mother who's miserable despite her morphine drip, and a host of others who are as colorful as a set of flea market Fiestaware.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279 or e-mail to kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net.

parent-support organizations to consider bidding on. Smith can be reached at (248) 477-5450. Hildegard Lindstrom, the author of 'Child Prisoner of War,' will appear at Waldenbooks, 30200 Plymouth Road in Livonia, from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 8.

20-30 minute programs of storytelling, music and movement during 'Story Time with Miss Karen,' led by Karen Onkka Schanerberger, a licensed Kindermusik educator at 'Evola-Kinder. The next program is 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, at Baby!

BOOK SIGNINGS

Farmington Observer Newspaper reporter and Livonia resident Timothy Smith will be signing copies of his book, 'Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies - Little Thumbs Up!' 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at Borders Books, 45290 Utica Park Blvd., Utica, (810) 728-8555.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Reimagining Community — This book discussion series at the Carl Sandburg branch of the Livonia library will next look at the stories of John Cheever. The program, which features guest scholars from Madonna University and focuses on the changing concept of community, takes place 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at the library, 3010 Seven Mile Road west of Middlebelt. Call (248) 478-0700.

POETRY READING

Poet Josie Kearns will read selections from her book of poetry, 'New Numbers,' at Shaman Drum in Ann Arbor, 313 S. State St. It is impossible to resist the novel logic and clarity of this poet's numerology, and a visit through 'New Numbers' offers the greatest strengths of imaginative language and descriptive scientific rigour. Set for 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 4. Call (734) 662-7407.

Bobs enrich Detroit's music scene

Musical Bobs. In the '60s, it was Dylan. In the '70s, that was Seger guy. In the year 2000, we're seeing a trio of local Bobs with very different sounds make their marks in the music industry.

There were many stops along the road to success for Robert Bradley, a blind-since-birth singer who grew up in Alabama.

With the release last week of the band's second album, 'Time to Discover,' a growing legion of fans are exposed to a mix of blues, rock, and roadhouse R&B that features a guest appearance by a longtime friend named, you guessed it, Bob.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Let's begin with Robert Crenshaw, who, after years as a drummer and background vocalist in his older brother Marshall's band, has released his debut CD on Gaddy Records, with the amusingly subdued title of 'Full Length Stereo Recordings.'

DEBUT CD

There were many stops along the road to success for Robert Bradley, a blind-since-birth singer who grew up in Alabama. spent 15 years going from city to city on a Greyhound to sing and play guitar on street corners and got his initial break while performing in Detroit's Eastern Market.

ROBERT BRADLEY

Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise makes a return engagement on BACKSTAGE PASS on April 9. Detroit's musical tradition is comprised of a wealth of great jazz contributors, the Motown sound, and influential artists in just about every music style. This one was just for the new Bobs on the scene.



VICTORIA DIAZ



ANN DELISI

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

ARTS MEETING
Three Cities Art Club holds a meeting 7 p.m. Monday, April 3 in the Plymouth Township Clerk's Office at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley.

A ribbon is awarded at each meeting to the most popular painting as determined by a vote. You need not be a member to win.

April's program features an oil painting demonstration by Alice Nichols. For more information, call Annalee Davis at (734) 427-6524.

CALL FOR PERFORMERS
The Southeast Michigan region committee of VSA Arts (formerly known as Very Special Arts) is looking for children and adult performers with physical and mental challenges to take part in their festival Friday-Saturday, May 5-6 at Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

Special needs school/community groups and solo acts from the metro Detroit area will display their dance, vocal and instrumental music achievements at the "Celebrate Arts-Ability" visual and performing arts festival. In the last festival, more than 170 adults and children sang, danced and played hand chimes during the two days.

For more information or an application, call Connie Lott at

Far Conservatory (248) 646-3347.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Up to \$500 is available to assist a person with a disability who wants to further their creative talent in the area of the visual, performing or literary arts. The Southeast Michigan region committee of VSA Arts (formerly known as Very Special Arts) is awarding their annual Jack Olds Scholarship to an artist (ages 13 and up, including seniors) living in Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, Monroe, Macomb, Livingston, Lenawee or Jackson County.

Deadline for application is Sunday, April 16. The scholarship must be used for independent work and not a student project. Last year's winner, Janis Stanton, created a series of 10 watercolors spotlighting Michigan sights.

Deadline for application is Sunday, April 16. For more information and an application, call Cindy Babcock (248) 543-9158.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS SEMINAR
Career opportunities in computer graphics continue to expand and offer exciting challenges in a variety of fields. If you have a dual interest in computer technology and art or design, attend a Real World Computer Graphics Seminar 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 8 in the Forum Building at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia.

Admission is free. The seminar

features media specialists who will discuss web design, page layout, multimedia and computer graphics. Attendees are invited to bring their portfolios for review. Schoolcraft computer graphics students will demonstrate multimedia, animation and web presentations. Student computer and traditional art will be on display in the Bradner Library 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9. For information call, (734) 462-4580, ext. 8013.

HONORS BAND CONCERT
The Thurston High School Honors Band, under conductor Edward Lucius, will give a Pre-Carnegie Hall Concert 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9 in the school's gymnasium.

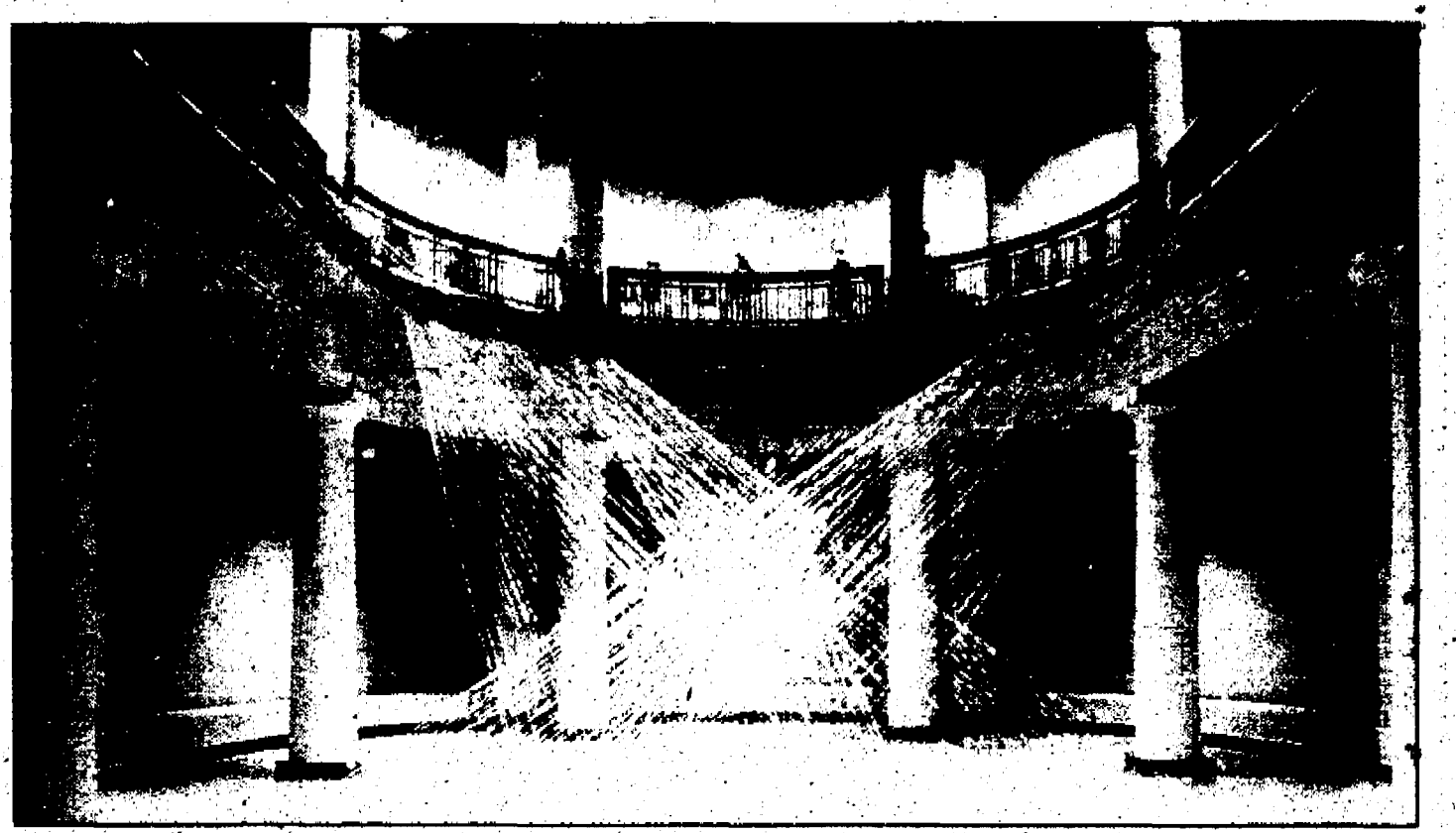
Admission is free to the concert which previews the bands late-April performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The program will include music by Morton Gould, Tschernokoff, Sousa/Schissel. The band will also perform Bennett's "Suite of Old American Dances."

YOUTH PRODUCTION
Tinderbox Productions presents "A Little Princess" 2 p.m. Sunday, April 9 and 16, and 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 14-15 at the Masonic Temple Cathedral Theatre, 500 Temple, Detroit (park in back of facility, use rear entrance).

Tickets are \$7-\$12, and available by calling (313) 535-8962.

IRISH MUSIC
Everything about Chulrua is Irish, including their music. The trio, named after the favorite



Transparent/Opaque: Texas artist Annette Lawrence's installation fills the apse of the University of Michigan Museum of Art with wonder.

wolfhound of an ancient Irish hero, play traditional music 5 p.m. Sunday, April 9 at Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 318 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Call (734) 665-2968.

Paddy O'Brien, button accordion; Tim Britton, uilleann pipes, wooden flute and tin whistle, and Pat Egan, guitar and vocals are accomplished musicians in their own right. Their collective mastery of Irish music and song is unparalleled, providing a concert experience of the highest caliber.

TRANSPARENT/OPAQUE

Annette Lawrence's installation fills the Apsé of the University of Michigan Museum of Art with wonder. A Texas artist, Lawrence created the work as part of a residency at the University of Michigan in mid-March. The paper and string piece continues on exhibit through Sunday, April 16. A free, docent led tour will be held 2 p.m. Sunday, April 9 at the museum, 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor. Call (734) 764-0395. Lawrence crafted the structure

evoking the passage of time and the marking of that passage. The installation, which fills the Apsé with vaulting angles and arcing curves, is an awe-inspiring response to the classical architecture of the space. Museum visitors are literally stopped in their tracks by this huge, graceful sculpture that weighs only a few pounds.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested.

OPINION

Battle to fund region's cultural institutions heads to extra innings

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER

fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

If the political gamesmanship to pass the millage to help fund 14 of the area's cultural institutions were a sporting event, we'd be heading to extra innings.

The game to generate about \$36 million annually from an assessment on property owners in Oakland and Wayne counties ain't over.

It's just been extended. May Yogi Berra's truism stands the test of time.

For the initiative to be on the August ballot, a majority of the Oakland County Commissioners and Detroit City Council members, and a two-thirds majority of the Wayne County Commission, would have to support it.

Frankly, those elected officials who favor the ballot proposal simply aren't ready to go on the record.

Besides, this August, Wayne County voters will likely vote on a millage for their parks and another to fund additional jails.

Public money for the arts?

That, unfortunately, isn't a pressing issue to many voters.

Beyond gridlock

To be on the August ballot, the language of the initiative must be agreed upon by May 30.

Two months may seem like a long time in politics, but without any signs of solid support, it seems unlikely that the current gridlock will change.

This may sound cynical, but to behind-the-scenes supporters, it's more than a probability. It's an expectation.

The idea of the cultural millage is simply to create a regular stream of revenue so the region's cultural institutions can spend less time raising money and more time raising awareness about how culture enhances the quality of life in southeastern Michigan.

One-third of the tax revenue would go back to the respective counties, where it will be divided as grants for specific local projects.

A similar cultural-funding proposal has worked in Chicago, Denver and San Francisco. But in metro Detroit, political bickering and parochial attitudes continue to impede a serious discussion about the region's cultural future.

What's it going to take before we can move beyond talking about public funding to support cultural institutions, and talk about creating a more lasting and meaningful culture?

Legitimate concerns

For the last two years, mere mention of (Shhhh...) raising taxes has sent the anti-tax zealots into a frenzy.

And it hasn't helped the blood pressure of those who believe they should not have to pay additional taxes to support cultural institutions located in the city of Detroit, such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Symphony, Michigan Opera Theatre, Science Center, Museum of African-American History and the Detroit Historical Museum.

It's estimated that about 55 percent of the tax revenue will come from Oakland County, and 45 percent from Wayne County.

There are other concerns.

Oakland commissioners want the equivalent of 55 percent control of the public money.

Wayne and Oakland County Commissioners are also trying to figure out how the money will be divided if another institution is added to the list, and the basic formula for determining how the public money will be distributed.

Sure, on one level, the proposed ballot is indeed about dollars and cents. But what's really at stake is the future of city-suburban collaboration.

Timing can't be cast aside.

The ideal timing is indeed August. The fall election will include more races -- including presidential -- and probably other ballot proposals that'll

compete for public attention.

Then-again, how much longer can supporters of the millage pursue their campaign? It's already been a two-year discussion.

What's it going to take before we can move beyond talking about public funding to support cultural institutions, and talk about creating a more lasting and meaningful culture?

When will it be definitively clear that the best way to increase property values is to

improve the quality of life of the region?

The deadline to get support to place the initiative on the November ballot is the end of September. Until then, a more effective push must be made.

Six months until deadline.

The game is far from over. Perhaps it's just getting started.

Frank Provenzano is an arts reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 961-2557.

Do Social Situations Make You Nervous?

Do you experience extreme anxiety?

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- While eating or writing in front of others
- While speaking on the phone in front of others
- Any situation where you are the focus of a group of people

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Raincoats look chic and keep out April showers

REAL DEAL

CARI WALDMAN

If you are under the notion that keeping dry and staying stylish at the same time is unattainable — just hold on. Here comes a stormy reality-check.

Micro-fiber coats with belts are amongst the key looks of the season. Once more, they'll keep you dry and looking chic.

Hey, it's not only you that's making a first impression, but also the coat. So even on the wettest days, why not make a sunny impression?

The season's choice raincoat comes in the form of the trench.

But wait, I'm not referring to those demure, business types of trench coats or those overwhelming rain protectors inside which private eyes take refuge.

Those styles are no longer necessary thanks to the creativity and ingenuity of today's designers. They've combined high-tech fabrics and contemporary designs to create sexy, modern, knee-length, belted raincoats for today's woman. And, they do much more than just keep us prepared for sudden showers.

Raincoat quest

After rummaging through the racks of off-price stores, specialty shops and department stores to compare prices, take notes on color and the latest in waterproof fabrics, I discovered that raincoats all over town, including those with reasonable price points, have been made over for the season.

I also tried on different designs, including A-line cuts and single-breasted and double-breasted versions. I realized, if I wanted a vent in the back or a clean straight line, finding the right rain coat could be hard to do.

After all, a coat like this needs to serve many purposes: fit over our sleek work suits, be practical enough to survive dashing through puddles and getting in and out cars and work with our weekend routine.

(Some styles that dropped past the knee were stiff and unyielding. I suggest seeking out a nearby chair when trying them on.)

Overall, though, I'd have to say area department stores had the best selection. Saks Fifth Avenue, in particular, had an excellent assortment, including one of my favorites, a DKNY water-repellent, denim trench with self-tie. At \$275, it was both sophisticated and fun.

Also at Saks was a pale pink, single-breasted, three-quarter-length coat with belt by Drizzle for \$260.

Portrait's black, high-sheen, water-resistant coat, \$125 at Saks, was also cute and easy to throw on.

Classic goes chic

At the Somerset Collection's Burberry store, an image transformation seems to be taking place. And, bravo, it's classy, fun and chic all at the same time.

The new Burberry trench, dubbed "Lauren," is an A-line, single-breasted coat and comes in baby blue or white. Priced at \$495, you can choose to have the coat with or without a belt. In fact, the store's seamstress will sew on belt loops while you wait.

But wait, there's more. Even Burberry's signature plaid lining got a makeover. Now called the Nova plaid, the check has lighter colors to complement the company's new and youthful image.

More choices

Other noteworthy stops included J.Crew, Hudson's, Lord & Taylor and Loehmann's in West Bloomfield.

I think, for example, J.Crew's 100-percent, cotton, three-quarter-length coat in stone is perfect for casual gals.

But don't take my word for it. Endeavor on your own quest for a raincoat that fits both your lifestyle and your personal sense of style.

Hey, you may be asking for a rainy day every now and then despite the damp dreariness. If nothing else, April showers will give you the opportunity to change your look, or at least your coat, for the day.

Cari Waldman is a free-lance writer and stylist who lives in West Bloomfield. Please send your style and shopping questions to Cari at OEReadDeal@aol.com.

Material meanings

Award-winning jewelry designer seeks to touch people's lives



Jeweler's pride: Link Wachler sculpts the wax mold that will be used to create a new ring setting for an engagement diamond brought in by one of his customers. Though the Birmingham jewelry designer has received many awards for his innovative designs, he says the best aspect of his occupation is working with customers to create jewelry that reflects an individual's style. That and knowing the fruits of your labor ultimately become an intimate and meaningful part of other people's lives.

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
SPECIAL EDITOR

nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

A voluminous stack of orders and mighty collection of sculpting tools sit on Link Wachler's jeweler's bench in the back of Wachler & Sons Jewellers in downtown Birmingham.

But when Wachler creates jewelry — a process defined both by eureka moments and painstaking hours of molding, bending and excavating small bits of wax — he goes with the flow.

"You come up with the concept and then you do what works," says Wachler from his bench, holding a piece of red wax the size and shape of a ring — a mold that will be used to create a new setting for a customer's engagement diamond.

After the design is complete, the wax ring will create a plaster impression into which liquid gold will be poured.

Perhaps that's because what Wachler most enjoys about his occupation is his relationship with clients and the satisfaction he gets from knowing his creativity becomes a meaningful part of other people's lives.

"The nicest thing is when you have that one-on-one relationship with someone and have been a part of something special — a wedding, an anniversary — it just makes me feel good," says Wachler.

In fact, most of the work done at Wachler & Sons Jewellers, a business owned and operated by Link, his brother Gary and cousin Buzz, is custom.

"That part is our niche," and it's based on reputation, personal ser-

vance and artistry in design.

"You can't get that kind of treatment from a computer," says Wachler. Once more, Wachler encourages his customers to collaborate with him and express their own creativity. "It's a way they can show they have creative tastes. ... And, I like it when people feel that way."

Though Wachler has been creating fine, one-of-a-kind jewelry for his family's business for 35 years and received numerous awards, he struggles to define the craft in words. Most recently, he won the North American division of an international Tahitian pearl competition for an innovative Black pearl ring he created.



Futuristic: Wachler's faceted Tahitian Black pearl, platinum and diamond ring recently won the Tahitian Pearl Trophy award for North America.

In a flash

"It's always different. One idea evolves from one idea to another," he says, speculating his latest award-winning design came to him "in one

Eye of the beholder

Not to mention, jewelry's merit is literally reflected in the eye of the beholder, says Wachler.

"Jewelry doesn't have to be beautiful, he explains. "It just has to pique somebody's interest."

It can be simple or gaudy, traditional or modern, or something in between, as long as it suits the wearer and his or her lifestyle.

True, jewelry is a matter of aesthetics. But ultimately, it's about purpose and whether someone will wear and cherish it as a reflection of self, says Wachler.

Tako, for instance, the jewelry that bedecked Hollywood's actresses last week at the Academy Awards. "It was pretty showy, but it wasn't anymore showy than the clothing." In other words, all those flashy jewels suited both the occasion and the lifestyle of the wearers.

Wachler, of course, tries to be neutral about aesthetics. However, Wachler's own jewelry — a platinum and gold ring that pays homage to graffiti and bears his initials — might be a clue.

On the other hand, Wachler once created an exhibition piece called "Eye of the Beholder." It was a jeweled mirror trimmed in pearls and diamonds.

"In a way, it was almost a statement on jewelry itself. In that, it is in the eye of the beholder."

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 806 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

AMOENA FIT EVENT

Jacobson's hosts a series of fittings with representatives from Amoenia, maker of prosthesis products for women who have undergone mastectomy surgery, through April 6, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Dates and locations are as follows: April 4 at Birmingham store; April 5 at Rochester Hills store; April 6 at Livonia store, Laurel Park Place. Personal consultations and fittings are offered. To make an appointment, call (800) 837-9227 ext. 5273.

SPRING FASHION SHOW

Born To Shop women's clothing boutique showcases the latest spring looks at the store's annual fashion show at the Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow, 6:30 p.m. Tickets, priced at \$9, include a light dinner and are available at Born To Shop, 527 Pine Street in downtown Rochester. For more information, call (248) 608-2920.

KAREN NEUBURGER VISITS

Popular sleep wear designer Karen Neuburger holds a pajama party complete with popcorn, trivia games and giveaways at Jacobson's in Rochester Hills. She'll also introduce her new collection of comfortable sleep wear, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Intimate Apparel.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

For more information, call (800) 837-5227.

INTIMATE APPAREL FITTING

Expert fitters from Wacoal visit Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, to assist customers select foundation garments, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Intimate Apparel, third floor. For a personal appointment, call (248) 614-3328.

POKEMON EVENT

Livonia Mall, 7 Mile Road, hosts a Pokemon event featuring a tournament, game workshop and seminar for parents through April 9. For an event schedule, additional information or registration, call (248) 478-1180.

MEN'S FERRAGAMO SHOW

View Ferragamo's special order collection for men at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, through April 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Thursday-Saturday and noon-6 p.m. on Monday, The Men's Store, first floor. For details, call (248) 614-3376.

APPRAISAL TV SHOW VISITS

Bring your treasures to Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield where PAX-TV 31's antique and collectibles appraisal show is giving one free appraisal per person and taping for future broadcast, noon-3 p.m., Mall Center Court. For details, call (248) 353-4111.

TALENT & STYLE CONTEST

Nordstrom, the Somerset Collection in Troy, invites

customers, age 13-25, to showcase their personal style and talent as part of a national contest being promoted by "Teen People" magazine. Contestants model outfits or perform short artistic pieces in a two-minute video taped in Nordstrom's BP department, 2-5 p.m. For prize information and other details, contact Tracy LaCrosse at (630) 218-7914.

MACKENZIE-CHILDS VISITS

Neiman Marcus, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts an appearance by housewares designer Victoria MacKenzie-Childs with signings of purchased items over \$400, noon-4 p.m., Gift Galleries, third floor. For information, call (248) 643-3300.

CARD CONTEST FOR KIDS

The Hallmark Gold Crown store at Oakland Mall in Troy hosts Creative Kids Day featuring art projects and a national card design contest for children, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For details, (248) 865-9962.

SPORTS MEMORABILIA SHOW

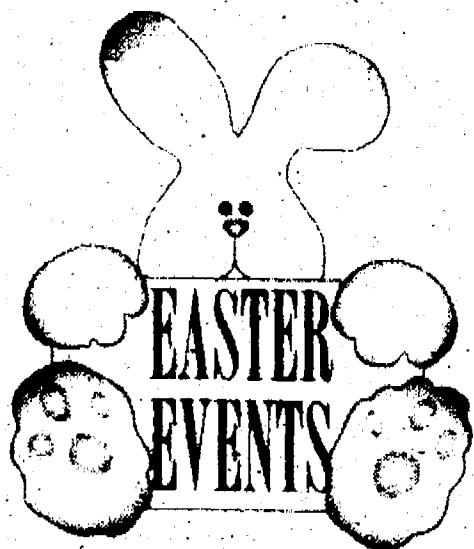
Livonia Mall at 7 Mile Road hosts a sports card and memorabilia show featuring autograph sessions with Detroit Tigers. Show runs 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Autograph sessions run 1 p.m.-5:30 p.m. For information, call (248) 476-1160.

MEN'S TRUNK SHOW

The Claymore Shop, 908 S. Adams Road in Birmingham, hosts a trunk show of Alan Flusser's collection. For details, call (248) 642-7755.

BRIDAL FAIR

Jo Ann etc. 43570 West Oaks Drive in Novi, hosts a spring bridal fair featuring an elegant collection of bridal gowns from patterns, 1-3 p.m. For details, call (248) 449-8491.



Easter Events will keep you informed about Easter Bunny appearances and other activities for children and families being offered by local retailers and shopping malls in April.

EASTER BUNNY AT SAKS

Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts the Easter Bunny, noon-5 p.m., Saturday, April 8 in their Children's Department on the third floor. The Easter Bunny will visit with children and pass out treats. For details, call (248) 614-3333.

EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS AT WESTLAND

The Easter Bunny visits with children and sits for portraits at Westland Shopping Center in Westland 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-8 p.m. Sunday now through Easter. The Easter Bunny set up residence in the mall's East Court. For details, call (734) 425-5001.

PETER RABBIT AT TWELVE OAKS

Peter Rabbit and Mr. McGregor's Storybook Garden, as well as, other displays of Beatrix Potter characters await young visitors at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. Dozens of spring flowers are also on display for shoppers of all ages. More importantly, Peter Rabbit will visit with children and sit for portraits during the event, which runs 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday now through April 22 in the mall's Center Court. For details, call (248) 348-9411.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

Hudson's popular Easter Bunny breakfasts for children returns. All breakfasts start at 9:15 a.m. and are held in the retailer's store restaurants. Tickets are \$10. Please call ahead for reservations, (800) 246-6648. Breakfast dates and locations are as follows: Saturday, April 8 at Oakland Mall in Troy and Lakeside in Sterling Heights; Sunday, April 9 at the Somerset Collection in Troy and Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi; Saturday, April 15 at Oakland Mall, Lakeside and Westland Shopping Center in Westland; April 16 at the Somerset Collection and Twelve Oaks.

EASTER BUNNY AT TEL-TWELVE

The Easter Bunny sits for photos and visits with children at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield. The bunny will wait for visitors in the mall's Center Court noon-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday between April 8 and 22. Photo packages and a free gift for children will be offered. Also, shoppers can enter to win a giant Easter basket filled with toys and candy. For details, call (248) 353-4111.

BUNNY AND TREATS AT ART VAN

The Easter Bunny will visit with children and hand out Easter treats at area Art Van Furniture stores. Dates and locations are as follows: Saturday, April 8 at the Novi store, (248) 348-8922; and Saturday, April 15 at the Livonia store, (734) 478-8870. Both events are slated 2-4 p.m.

PETER RABBIT AT FAIRLANE

Peter Rabbit springs into Dearborn's Fairlane Town Center to visit with children, sit for portraits and pass out small Easter gifts 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday between April 8 and 22. Peter Rabbit will inhabit a recreated version of Beatrix Potter's garden complete with oversized flowers and vegetables and giant pop-up storybooks in the mall's Fountain Court. Several photo packages will be offered. For details, call (313) 593-1370.



Center to visit with children, sit for portraits and pass out small Easter gifts 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday between April 8 and 22. Peter Rabbit will inhabit a recreated version of Beatrix Potter's garden complete with oversized flowers and vegetables and giant pop-up storybooks in the mall's Fountain Court. Several photo packages will be offered. For details, call (313) 593-1370.

WHERE CAN I FIND?

This interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate merchandise that's difficult to find through reader feedback. If you've seen or are looking for an item, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We publish readers' requests for merchandise twice. If you don't hear from us or see information about the item within a few weeks, we were unable to locate it. When we find an item owned by another reader, rather than for sale at a store, we will call you. But, please, be patient; we handle an overwhelming number of requests each week.

WHAT WE FOUND:

- Nailtiques for nails can be purchased at Levin's Beauty Supply stores in West Bloomfield and Oak Park. Jacobson's beauty salon at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia and Plymouth Beauty Supply in Plymouth.
- To purchase Scrabble game letter tiles, call (888) 836-7025 or write Milton Bradley, P.O. 200 Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02862. They will send ten letters for free.
- For locations to purchase Hammerite Rustoleum, call (800) 733-4413. Also, you might try Krylon Tuff Rust or liquid sandpaper.
- A 1998 Sugar Plum Bear can be purchased at Hattie's Hallmark on Campbell in Royal Oak for \$49.95.
- A countertop dishwasher can be purchased through the Get Organized catalog, (800) 803-9400.
- Tall, black kitchen trash bags can be purchased at the Kroger store on 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads.
- Jimmy's Rustics in Birmingham sells 16-inch, chair cushions.
- A reader has a Scarlet O'Beare bear.
- An ear alarm can be purchased through Things You Never Knew Existed, (941) 747-6654 (item JF22487) or at flea markets in Florida.
- For the reader looking for an appraisal of her ceramic Chinese dog, the antique store on Farmington Road at Grand River (south side of Grand River) may be able to help you.

FIND & SEARCH NOTES:

- Midwestern jeans were made exclusively for Winkelman's stores and the jean pattern is no longer being manufactured.
- **WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**
 - An Amway distributor in the Redford/Western Wayne County area.
 - A Party Lite consultant in the Canton/Western Wayne County area.
 - Someone to appraise a John Lennon lithograph for insurance purposes.
 - A store that sells covers for ironrite mangles for Eleanor.
 - A store where a nautical theme shower curtain can be bought for Lu of Canton.
 - A store where a silver shower curtain is available to purchase for Naomi.
 - An arts and crafts store that sells 14-inch, flat, round, wicker circles with a lace design for Ethel of Redford.
 - A craft store that sells directions for making copper sprinklers, as seen at craft shows, for Karen of Garden City.
 - A store that sells miniature Detroit Red Wings banners from 1997 and 1998 for Carole of Melvindale.
 - A professional photographer who would take a photo of a family of puppies for Marilyn.
 - A store that sells the birthstone Baby Bleeze.
 - A grocery store that sells Pillsbury's Grand Sweet, caramel sweet rolls for Jean.
 - The videocassette tape of the television show "My Little Margie" for Kertia of Southfield.
 - A store that sells potato chips that you slice and make in the microwave (with a plastic dish) for Gail.
 - A large poster from the play "Showboat" for Dolores of Livonia.
 - The game Bubble & Squeak for Nancy of Commerce Township.
 - The Henry Mancini Orchestra Romantic Piano CD sold through "Reader's Digest."
 - A store where a calf-length, cotton beach cover-up in white can be bought for Virginia of Waterford.

- A company of group in the Rochester/Oakland County area that recycles all plastic bags for Lois.
- A 1977 Mumford High School yearbook for Pamela of Canton.
- A 1966 Cooley High School jacket and letter sweater for Roger of Redford.
- A June, 1997 Rochester Adams High School yearbook for Bryan.
- The Nintendo game North & South for Doug.
- A store that sells parts for a counter Nutone blender.
- An electric omelet pan by Sultan (formerly Maxim) for Kathy of Garden City.
- A Detroit Tigers comforter/blanket (full-sized) for Tama of Canton.
- A store that sells 3M's Scotch Brite Rescue soap pads for Frances.
- A store where ice cubes trays that form letters of the alphabet can be bought for Christine.
- A videocassette tape of Disney's "Bambi" movie and the soundtrack for Norma of Livonia.
- A business that will repair a GPX phone (with a clock and an alarm) for Daniel.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

Retailers hold benefit events

It's spring. You're going to be out shopping, anyway. Why not clean out your closet and offer your support to an important cause all at the same time? Sounds like quite an undertaking, but several upcoming events might make the task of combining shopping and helping others an easy, if not enjoyable, occasion.

Several retail-based benefits are slated for April, including:

- **Clean Your Closet Weekend**, a women's business clothing drive sponsored by Art Van Furniture, to help needy women who are entering the workforce through the Dress for Success agency and WJBK-FOX 2's Working Women program.
- Gently used business attire, including scarves, shoes and dresses, will be accepted April 7-9 at all Art Van Furniture stores in the metropolitan Detroit area. Store hours during the drive are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday.

be available. For additional information, visit www.artvan.com or call a nearby Art Van Furniture store.

Share Our Strength benefit dinner, a black-tie, strolling dinner slated for 7 p.m. Friday, April 7 at the Somerset Collection in Troy. The event benefits the anti-hunger efforts of Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners Food Bank, Food Bank of Oakland County and the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute.

Featured at the event are culinary creations from the chefs at Duet, Morels, Portabella, Beverly Hills Grill and Capital Grill. Wine selection for the event will be done by the Unique Restaurant Corporation's Master Sommelier Madeline Trifon. Entertainment is provided by the Simone Vitale Band. Tickets are \$125 per person. For details or to purchase tickets, call the Somerset Collection concierge desk at (248) 816-2086.

- A runway show of St. John

Fall 2000 Collection that will benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Sponsored by Neiman Marcus, the event is slated for noon, Monday, April 10 in the retailer's St. John Boutique (third floor) at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

Tickets are \$50 and \$100 and include lunch. A champagne reception at 11 a.m. is included with \$100-benefactor tickets. For additional information or to make reservations, call (248) 557-8277.

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SINGH

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Take a photo of your ugly bathroom and bring it into any Mathison Supply store or mail it to WJR, Ugliest Bathroom Contest, 2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202. The winner's bathroom will be upgraded with new fixtures, tile, medicine cabinet and accessories with a value of up to \$10,000. And be sure to visit the WJR and Mathison Supply booths at

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Home & Garden Show

All entries become the property of WJR. No cash equivalents. Judges decision is final. No purchase necessary. Winner will be announced May 13, 2000.

Employees of WJR Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, BIA and Mathison Supply are not eligible to enter.



Sun, fun sure bets in Cancun

Sparkling blue water greets tourists

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER
LMINI@OE.HOMECOMM.NET

Soft, clean, white sand and water bluer than one can imagine is what attracts hordes of tourists worldwide to Cancun — from spring breakers to honeymooners.

It's what attracted myself and two friends there this year.

Our journey to Cancun, we had hoped, would be filled with Mexican food and music, interesting Mexican shops, perfect weather and pristine beaches.

We didn't exactly find what we sought.

To our dismay, Cancun is more like Florida — except with prettier beaches — than actual Mexico. In downtown Cancun, American chain clothing stores and steak houses dotted much of the area. At first, we felt like we were in a Michigan mall.

However, to our delight we fast discovered the turquoise waters and beautiful coral reefs attract not only many Americans, but tourists from throughout the world — Europe, Africa, Australia.

Rather than spend a vacation dining on fine Mexican food amongst ourselves, we were pleasantly surprised to spend the week eating mediocre American food on the beach while indulging in conversation with tourists from Germany, Italy and Mexico. And human companionship, of course, is more important than any food.

Of all the beaches we've trav-

eled to over the last decade Cancun's are the friendliest — and that's the greatest part of the 17-mile-long peninsula.

Cancun is a place for adult socialization. We didn't see a single child during the entire week of February 21. It's a place to parasail, snorkel, boogie board, dance by the hotel pool, dance at nightclubs and swim in the clean ocean. (Be warned though, Cancun's waters and undertow can be harsh).

Days are for water fun and nights are for discos.

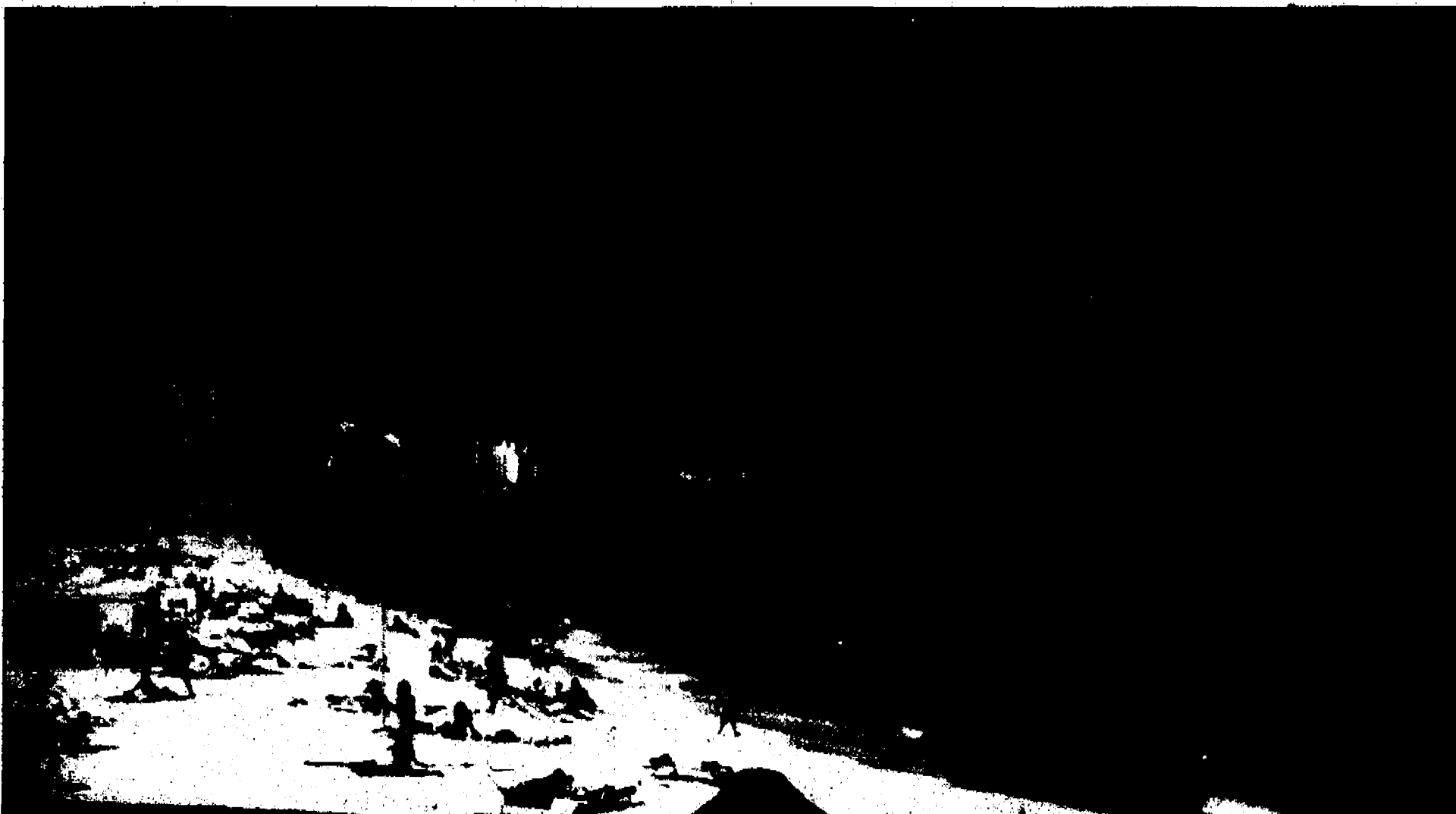
During winter and spring months Cancun is not a place for those who want to escape crowds or be alone — even the honeymooners are social. People mingle everywhere; on the beach, in the restaurants and on the buses. (Tip: don't spend \$10 on a taxi cab. All the buses in Cancun — no matter how far the distance — are just 10 cents, or 50 pesos.)

We took our trip just one week before American college students begin spring break. When they started to pour in and the beaches seemed too crowded, we headed west to break away from the parties in search of something richer.

Mexican culture

Nearly three hours west of Cancun lies Chichen Itza, the incredible ruins of the ancient Mayan civilization whose wealthy population believed that voluntarily sacrificing themselves to the gods granted them eternal life.

The nine-hour day begins with



True blue: Turquoise waters, while somewhat rough, and powdery white sand are the main attractions of Cancun. The northern end of the hotel zone is the most lively, while those seeking quiet and relaxation head to the south end of the peninsula.

a bus ride through the lush Mexican forest into Chichen Itza where educated Mexican tour guides impress visitors with tales of the Mayans and their inventions of calendars and calculus.

The largest ruin is the high-light — created partially to help Mayans determine the start of seasons. Ninety-one steep steps high, tourists climb the tower with only a chain as a railing.

Once they conquer it, even the brave often are too frightened to climb down on foot and instead take each step down on their behinds.

The cost of the tour was a mere \$55 — or 550 pesos — and included lunch, a Mexican ballet and stop at a Mexican Catholic Cathedral. It is recommended to book tours at hotels. Money swindlers who offer cheap tours (that don't exist) are everywhere in Cancun.

The island of women

Weary of techno clubs and Latin discos toward the end of our trip, we headed for an evening cruise to the island of women — Isla Mujeres.

For \$60, a double deck boat takes passengers to the Caribbean Carnival — a 45 minute-long sunset cruise filled with Conga lines and tequila. At the island, guests enjoy a two-hour evening on the beach that includes an outdoor dinner and a lively, elaborate traditional Mexican and Latin dance show with silly audience participation.

Back in Cancun, surrounded by stores like Tommy Hilfiger, Outback Steakhouse and The Gap we found a wonderful Mexican flea market filled with treasures of sterling silver, exotic tapestries, hammocks and wood

Planning your trip

Thinking of going to Cancun? Here are some Web sites that offer helpful information:

- www.cancun.com
- http://cancun.hotelguide.net

Where did you go on spring break? Would you recommend Cancun as a travel destination? Send photos, along with spring/summer travel suggestions to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Include a daytime phone number where you can be reached, and a self-addressed envelope if you would like us to return your photo. E-mail travel recommendations to kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net.

carvings at, of course, reasonable prices. Cancun is a place where visitors, and workers, take life in stride and not too seriously. The service in restaurants is laughable because while customers are desperately waiting for a soft drink, their server is busy dancing in the Conga line — too bad life isn't like that everyday. Despite bad food and big crowds, the culture of Chichen Itza, the beauty of Isla Mujeres, perfect beaches and friendly locals and tourists makes this Americanized peninsula worth a second week-long trip. Not bad for less than \$1,000.

<p>MAY</p> <p>25 Meadow Brook Music Festival & Pine Knob Music Theatre Opening Act Contest Finals Watch tomorrow's stars compete for the chance to perform at an event this summer!</p> <p>25 Trisha Yearwood* w/ Jessica Andrews \$30 pav / \$15.50 lawn</p> <p>27 André Rieu & The Johann Strauss Orchestra \$55.50 pav / \$22.50 lawn</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>21 Franklin The Turtle & The Magic Fiddle w/ Joanie Bartels 2 Shows - 11am & 7pm \$12.50 pav / \$6 lawn</p> <p>23 Pure Prairie League and Poco \$25.50 pav / \$15.50 lawn</p> <p>26 Michigan Professional Firefighters Union Presents B.J. Thomas w/ Billy Joe Royal \$15 pav. and lawn</p> <p>30 Weird Al Yankovic \$24.50 pav / \$12.50 lawn</p> <p>JULY</p> <p>1 Martina McBride* \$32.50 pav / \$22.50 lawn</p> <p>2 Get Back! The Cast of Beatlemania \$17.50 pav / \$10 lawn</p> <p>3 Todd Rundgren w/ Special Guest to be announced \$25.50 pav / \$12.50 lawn</p> <p>12 Maurice Sendak's Little Bear w/ Eric Nagler 2 Shows - 11am & 7pm \$12.50 pav / \$6 lawn</p> <p>18 "Grease" Featuring Cindy Williams & Eddie Mekka - "Carmine" from Laverne & Shirley \$25.50 pav / \$15 lawn</p> <p>26 Scholastic's The Magic School Bus...Live! w/ Norman Foote 2 Shows - 11am & 7pm \$12.50 pav / \$6 lawn</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>10 John Berry/Suzy Bogguss/ Billy Dean \$25 pav / \$15 lawn</p> <p>12 Rick Springfield \$27.50 pav / \$17.50 lawn</p> <p>13 Peter Paul & Mary 40th Anniversary \$32.50 pav / \$14.50 lawn</p> <p>24 Wimzie's House w/ Linda Arnold 2 Shows - 11am & 7pm \$12.50 pav / \$6 lawn</p> <p>25 Trinity Irish Dance Company \$35 pav / \$15 lawn</p> <p>27 Terri Clark \$30 pav / \$15 lawn</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>1 Lonestar \$32.50 pav / \$15.50 lawn</p>
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RAY & ELEANOR HEALD

M. Trincherio wines pay homage to family's heritage

Over the last few years, more Napa Valley wine brands have been launched.

Several are products from vineyard owners who originally sold grapes.

Considering escalating wine sales, they couldn't resist the temptation to have a brand of their own.

In many cases, such inaugurals have brought the market high-priced wines with little track record. However, this isn't the case with M. Trincherio (pronounced Trin-care-oh), Sutter Home's new wine brand, a tribute to its founder, Mario Trincherio.

Hearing the story from current generation owners Bob and Roger Trincherio and winemaker Derek Holstein, we sensed a serious dedication to grape growing and winemaking, not just as a business, but as a wholesome way of life—one with hardships, where hard work ultimately paid off.

With all that's new in wine country today, when one visits modern St. Helena in the Napa Valley, stories of its heritage are often missed. We think this is one you should know.

Winery revived

Born over 100 years ago in Italy's Piedmont, Mario Trincherio emigrated in the 1920s and made his first home in New York. To join his brother in joint winery partnership in 1948, Mario trekked his wife and three children across the U.S. to the then small town of St. Helena in the Napa Valley.

"My mother started crying when she saw the beat-up old barn that had been dormant for 30 years," recalled Bob Trincherio. "It was covered with weeds; it had dirt floors; no electricity or running water. My mother continued to cry for the next three months." Crying eventually stopped as she saw her family begin the revival of Sutter Home and the original winery dating back to 1874.

Now, a little over 50 years later, Bob Trincherio, his brother Roger, and their sister, Vera Trincherio Torres, celebrated a golden anniversary with the introduction of M. Trincherio Founder's Estate wines, a tribute to their late father Mario.

With this tribute, the Trincherios have a commanding place in the ultra-premium wine segment of Napa Valley appellation wines. To offer popularly-priced wines to a broader consumer base, they released M. Trincherio's Family Selection series including a chardonnay, merlot, and cabernet sauvignon, all with a California designation, in the \$10-15 price bracket.

Please see WINE, D2

Wine Picks

Pick of the Pack: 1996 Alexander Valley Vineyards Cyrus Meritage (\$45) is a smooth, elegant blend of all five Bordeaux varietals: cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, malbec, and petit verdot.

Cellar pick: 1997 Pine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain (\$50) has a broad spectrum of flavors and all the stuffing for long-term aging.

Not to be missed: 1996 Trentadue Old Patch Red (\$14), a blend of zinfandel, petite sirah and carignane is simply delicious. A bargain at this price.

Merlots worth the money: 1997 Hogue Barrel Select Merlot, \$15; 1996 Trentadue Merlot, \$18; 1997 Louis Martini Merlot, Chiles Valley, \$25; and 1997 St. Clement Merlot, \$26. (Intensity increases with the price in the listing.)

Lush and lovely pinot noirs perfect for spring lamb: 1998 Morgan Pinot Noir, \$21; 1997 Archery Summit Pinot Noir, Archery Summit Estate, \$75. (Tops from Oregon.)

New-age white: 1998 Stags' Leap Winery Viognier, \$25.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

- Main Dish Miracle
- Eating at Comerica Park



TAMMIE GRAVES/STAFF ARTIST

HAIL TO THE CHEF

HE COOKED FOR 5 PRESIDENTS

STORY BY KEN ABRAMCZYK

President Lyndon B. Johnson grabbed strings off the pole beans on his plate and gave them to Henry Haller, White House executive chef.

"If you can't take off the strings, then don't serve them to me," snapped Johnson in his typical "Texas-style" manner—direct and on the spot.

About 15 years later, Nancy Reagan instructed Haller to prepare low-calorie, low-cholesterol meals, and limited her husband to only one egg a week. Haller admitted sometimes the pastry chef "cheated a little bit" to create dessert for the president.

"Sometimes Mrs. Reagan would go visit her mother in Phoenix, and the president and I would have a good time," said Haller.

With such anecdotes, you might say Haller cooked on the front burner of history.

Haller recently appeared at a Town Hall lecture series in Livonia and talked about his nearly 22 years as the White House executive chef for five different presidents, from Johnson to Ronald Reagan, and their families, with tastes as varied as their political dynamics, ranging from simple, Midwestern and Southern styled to California.

In fact, Haller occupied the kitchen at the White House nearly three times longer than Reagan, the longest serving president out of the five.

From 1965 to 1987, Haller prepared hundreds of dinners for heads of state— from peace talks at Camp David and the Statue of Liberty centennial to a homecoming for soldiers who fought in Vietnam and the bicentennial celebration.

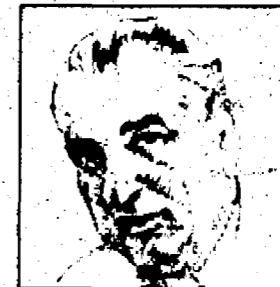
It was only fitting that Haller visit Livonia during a presidential election year. Proceeds from the lecture series are donated to the Livonia Symphony Society and the Livonia Community Foundation.

Swiss upbringing

Haller's cooking journey began in Switzerland. His mother grew snow peas, cabbage, leeks and onions in her garden. As a youth, Haller rode into town to sell the produce to chefs, and

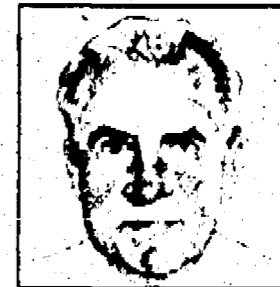
PRESIDENTIAL PALATE PLEASERS

If you threw your own party, what would you serve? Here are some presidential favorites from Henry Haller's "The White House Family Cookbook," (Random House, 1987), now in its 10th printing.



LYNDON B. JOHNSON
TERM OF OFFICE: 1963-1969

- Texas-Style Barbecue Ribs
- Garden Salad
- Dilled Okra
- Tapioca Pudding



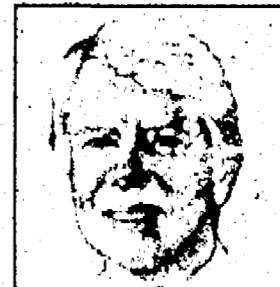
RICHARD M. NIXON
TERM OF OFFICE: 1969-1974

- Double Sirloin Steaks in Herb Sauce
- Baked Potatoes
- Chinese Cabbage
- Sponge Cake



GERALD R. FORD
TERM OF OFFICE: 1974-1977

- Sunday Roast with Cured Roasted Vegetables
- Braised Red Cabbage
- Lemon Sponge Pudding



JAMES EARL (JIMMY) CARTER
TERM OF OFFICE: 1977-1981

- Southern Fried Chicken
- Buttermilk Biscuits
- Home-Style Cole Slaw
- Georgia Pecan Pie



RONALD W. REAGAN
TERM OF OFFICE: 1981-1989

- Swordfish Steak with Lemon Butter
- Popovers
- Belgian Endive Salad
- Apple Brandy Betty

Please see HAIL, D2

Even if you aren't Jewish, you can enjoy kosher food



but many Seventh Day Adventists, Muslims and vegetarians believe kosher certification is the best guarantee that products, and their ingredients, are being supervised carefully. In the United States alone, at least 5 million people buy products because they are kosher.

Food investigated

Why aren't only Jews buying kosher foods? To obtain kosher certification, a food manufacturer must first contact a certifying agency. The manufacturer supplies the certifying agency with a detailed list of every ingredient in the product, each step involved in manufacturing that product, and all other goods produced on the same premises.

The certifying agency analyzes each ingredient, including additives, to the absolute source. This means that if the item is cheese or a cheese byproduct, the item cannot be kosher unless the cheese source itself is strictly kosher. In addition, the process by which ingredients are produced must be carefully checked.

It is necessary that hygienic standards be upheld to the fullest. Other

basic principles are that milk and meat products are not prepared using the same equipment, as they are not eaten together in Jewish dietary law.

The results of investigation are forwarded to the rabbinic authority of the supervising agency. If changes need to be made, the manufacturer must comply before the agency continues with the certification process. Once all is acceptable, the rabbinic authority determines how much on-site supervision is necessary which is written into a contract provided to the manufacturer.

If the manufacturer wishes to make any changes of ingredients or suppliers, it must have prior written consent of the certifying agency. Reliable agencies have symbols that indicate kosher certification, which also indicates that particular product is under the super-

vision of their agency. Unauthorized use of these symbols on labels is a violation of federal law. Common symbols indicating a food is kosher include the encircled letters U or K.

Eating out

Although many kosher items may be found at major grocery store chains, specialty grocery stores such "One Stop Kosher" in Southfield are available and sell only foods that are strictly kosher. Restaurants can also go through the certification process.

Brian Jacobs, manager of Jerusalem Pizza in Southfield, said 25 percent of his customers are not Jewish and come from Eastpoint, Detroit and Livonia. That eatery's specialty items include pizzas topped with vegetarian bacon, ground beef, pepperoni, sausage, chick-

Please see KOSHER, D2

Kosher from page D1

en, or seafood. "And, we score 100 percent on health department inspections," boasts Jacobs.

Out for an evening? You don't have to be Jewish to eat at La Difference in West Bloomfield, whose appeal is fine dining that embraces just one more segment of the population. Operated by Paul Kohn who also owns Quality Kosher Catering, specialty items include the Portabella Burger and Pasta Primavera at lunch and Grilled Vegetable Napoleon and fresh fish dishes at dinner.

And, when you want to entertain with good home cooking, try Rita Jerome's Unique

Kosher Catering in Oak Park. Her vegetarian liver and Israeli salad will be a hit at your next dinner party.

Beverly Price is a registered dietitian and exercise physiologist. She operates Living Better Sensibly, a private nutrition practice in Farmington Hills that offers programs for individuals and corporations. She is the co-author of "Nutrition Secrets for Optimal Health," Tall Tree Publishing Company.

Look for her column on the first Sunday of each month in Taste.

Kroger conducts bake sale to help March of Dimes

A Kroger Supermarket on Five Mile and Merriman in Livonia has scheduled two events to help the March of Dimes.

Kroger employees will be selling their baked goods 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, April 9. Prizes will be awarded to the employee who

bakes and sells the most to customers.

On Sunday, April 16, Kroger will sponsor a "Dog Gone Good" event for the March of Dimes. For \$1, customers will get a hot dog, pop and a bag of chips for a buck.

"This year our president, Mar-

nette Perry, wanted us to get more involved in the communities," said Lee Norris one of the event's co-chairs. "We thought it would be a good idea for the employees to bake items for the public."

For the hot dog event, Pepsi

has agreed to donate pop and hot dog wagons, Frito-Lay and Better Made will donate potato chips and Kroger will provide the hot dog buns.

That supermarket also will be participating in WalkAmerica, Sunday, April 30, in Plymouth.

Hail from page D1

saw their large, shiny copper pots. Those experiences planted a culinary seed.

His father encouraged him. "Hey, why don't you become a chef?" he asked. "You can travel the world. People always have to eat and you will always have a job."

'Mrs. Johnson was concerned about keeping the president happy, which I found out wasn't always so easy.'

Henry Haller
—former White House executive chef

Haller cooked in Switzerland for nearly a decade, then moved to Montreal, and eventually to Phoenix, then New York City. There he cooked lobster thermidor for then Vice President Johnson in the early 1960s.

When the White House sought an executive chef in January 1966, the staff arranged an interview with Haller and Ladybird Johnson.

Soon the Johnsons hired Haller. "Mrs. Johnson was concerned about keeping the president happy, which I found out wasn't always so easy," Haller said.

work."

Of course the cake was 9-feet tall for the Johnson wedding, and of similar size for the Nixons. "The Nixons wanted to have the wedding in the Rose Garden and it was raining that day," Haller said. "President Nixon said 'it has to stop raining' ... and it did."

Nixon wanted a steak dinner for only 1,300 people, many of whom were prisoners of war, among them John McCain, former Republican candidate for president and a U.S. senator from Arizona.

'President Nixon said, "It has to stop raining ... and it did."

Haller
—on the Nixon wedding

While Haller may joke a little about the presidents he cooked for while telling stories to an audience, he maintains a deep respect and reverence for those men and their families.

Haller said Republican presidents threw smaller gatherings, that, for the most part, required an easier dinner preparation. Each president since Herbert Hoover paid for their own groceries, but the U.S. State Department paid Haller's salary.

Haller said he was busiest with the Johnsons. "They loved people and always had guests," he said.

POW party 'fantastic'

Richard M. Nixon showed the most interest in food, asking many questions about meals. Haller cooked for weddings for the two first families: Patricia Nixon and Linda Johnson. On each occasion, "the press wanted the recipe for the wedding cake," Haller said. "And (the newspapers) said the recipe doesn't

the middle of the night, fraught with worry about the event, so he checked the refrigerators at 5 a.m. Everything went without a hitch for the generals from the Pentagon, prisoners of war and celebrities in attendance, including John Wayne and Bob Hope.

"It was a great experience ... when it was over," Haller remembered, calling it a "fantastic" evening. "President Nixon called and thanked me."

While dignitaries and guests often enjoyed the special events, there weren't always happy times. Haller remembers Nixon's

departure from the White House.

"The staff at the White House gets attached with the first family," Haller said. "It was a sad moment for us that he and his family had to leave before his time was up."

He remembers seeing Nixon in his pajamas and bare feet the day he left. "He said, 'Chef, I've been all over the world, and you're the best I've had,'" Haller recalled.

Ford 'relaxed'

President Gerald Ford was the most relaxed president. "He liked his job because he didn't owe anybody anything," Haller said. "He liked pork chops, mashed potatoes and red cabbage."

During the Ford administration and the bicentennial, the White House saw a constant flow of international leaders from Germany, England, Norway, Sweden, Holland, New Zealand, Austria and others.

"Every time it was 250 people and every time I had to have a different dinner," Haller said. "Actually the assistants to the heads of state were more difficult than the leaders themselves. My experience with the heads of state was the higher up they are, the easier they were to please."

Haller remembers President Jimmy Carter's negotiations on the peace treaty between Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat, which was a dinner for 1,300 people with salmon mousse, sirloin and vegetables and chocolate mousse.

The Carters liked the deep Southern foods, such as mustard greens, collard greens, grits,

fried okra and fried chicken. "The Carter family was very wonderful. (The president) wanted them to live like the average family."

A statuesque party

The 100-year celebration of the Statue of Liberty with the Reagans and the Mitterrands from France was an incredible challenge as Haller had to be at two different sites for the dinners for 40 people.

Because space was limited on Governor's Island, Haller could take only one chef. He proposed to the Reagans that he serve cold food that he could transport on that hot July day, which they accepted.

Haller planned for cold borscht and crab mousse with lobster, and three sorbets. A Statue of Liberty was re-created - in chocolate. But there wasn't room for error in the neat presentation which Nancy Reagan loved and preferred, especially as Haller and the staff transported the food on Marine helicopters.

"The helicopter was like 24 washing machines, and right then I was thinking about Mrs. Reagan," Haller said. "Another chef said, 'You go look at the (food storage) locker, I'm not looking at it,'" Haller said. But the dinners were a success, then the chefs returned to Washington in the helicopters. Haller remembers New York harbor filled with aircraft carriers and ships.

"We felt like pretty big shots," Haller said.

Even though he worked for many different presidents and personalities, he doesn't express any preference. Ask him what political preference he has, and he won't disclose it. Instead, he'll respond, "Politics and cooking don't mix."

See recipes inside.

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Wine from page D1

Tasting M. Trinchero Founder's Estate wines:

■ 1997 M. Trinchero Founder's Estate Chardonnay (\$25) is showcased by true-to-varietal aromas enhanced by citrus blossom, Granny Smith apple and French oak notes. Rich and well-textured, the wine finishes with just the right dollop of toasty oak.

■ 1996 M. Trinchero Founder's Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30) with barrel aging in about two-thirds French and one-third American oak cooperage for 16 months, has interesting nuances and a complex fruit melange. This is a

thoroughbred Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

Pre-release, but bottled samples of the next vintage of both these wines reveal consistent style and wines of character.

French wine

■ Want to learn more about French wine? If you're going to France, the Bordeaux Wine School in the heart of the city of Bordeaux runs a series of courses for beginners to experienced from April through November. Prices range from about (\$16) for a simple two-hour introduction to a more advanced course for about \$390.

For more information contact

Beth Cotenoff, Bordeaux Wine Bureau, USA at (212) 477-9800 or E-mail: beth.cotenoff@sopexa.com

Drop Stop

■ Many years ago, we introduced readers to Drop Stop, an ingenious sturdy, bendable, reusable Mylar circle that can be pushed into a wine bottle neck, to allow pouring without dripping. The U.S. agent stopped importing it from Holland. There have been look-alikes at inflated prices, but now, the original is back. Order a three-pack envelope for \$3.50 plus minimal shipping from the Wine Appreciation Guild (800) 231-9463. Get some to stop red wine drip stains on table linens and carpets.

Columnists take action

In October 1999, supported by the Hometown Communications Network, publishers of this newspaper, we wrote the first of several columns related to the ban on direct shipping of wine in effect in the State of Michigan. Many of you responded and wrote your legislators to protest

such restrictive legislation.

When Rep. Nancy Cassis (R- Novi) introduced legislation in February that further restricts the ability of adults to purchase wine via Internet orders, shipping direct from wineries or other sources to obtain wines they want at the best price, we knew it was time to act.

We and several Michigan wine aficionados became plaintiffs in a suit filed in Federal Court, Lansing, Michigan, the week of March 20.

Our attorney is Robert Epstein of EPSTEIN & FRISCH in Indianapolis, Indiana. Epstein filed similar suits in Indiana (and won this complaint) and in Florida (not yet decided).

We welcome your comments on this matter. Leave us Voice Message at the number listed below.

Look for Focus on Wine on the first and third Sunday of the month in Taste. To leave a voice mail message for the Herald, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864.

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Here's a little pork for your constituents

Try these meals out for your Grand Old Party

Having a few guests over and want to impress them with some meals fit for a president? Here are a few recipes from Henry Haller's book, "The White House Family Cookbook" (Random House):

TEXAS-STYLE BARBECUE RIBS (LBJ)

- Sauce:
 2 teaspoons butter
 1 large onion, chopped
 1 green bell pepper, chopped
 2 garlic cloves, chopped
 1 cup cider vinegar
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 1 cup chili sauce
 2 cups ketchup
 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
 1 bay leaf
 12 black peppercorns
 Fresh parsley sprig

- 6 to 10 pounds lean pork ribs
 3 tablespoons dry mustard
 1 cup white wine
 3 to 4 cups barbecue sauce

For the sauce, melt butter in a saute pan; saute chopped vegetables until slightly browned. Transfer to a large saucepan and mix in remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil and simmer for one hour. Strain.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Boil ribs in a large pot of salted water for 5 minutes; drain well. Arrange in a large baking dish. Mix mustard with wine and coat ribs with a pastry brush.

Brush ribs with barbecue sauce. Bake on middle oven shelf, turning often and brushing with additional sauce, for 45 minutes to one hour. Pork is done when meat pulls easily from the ribs. Serve with hot beans and cold beer. Serves 6.

SUNDAY ROAST WITH OVEN-ROASTED VEGETABLES (FORD)

- 6 pounds rib roast
 3 garlic cloves, pressed
 3 tablespoons salt
 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 6 small (1-inch diameter) onions, peeled
 12 baby carrots, peeled
 12 small boiling potatoes, peeled
 6 small white turnips, peeled
 1 bay leaf
 Fresh parsley sprig
 1 cup dry red wine, preferably Burgundy
 1 cup beef bouillon

A bunch of fresh watercress

Preheat oven to 375 degree F. Rub rib roast with garlic. Season with salt and pepper. In a large roasting pan, heat oil over medium-high heat; slowly brown roast on both sides. Turn roast bone up and transfer to lower shelf of pre-heated oven, roast for 45 minutes.

Remove pan from oven and drain off excess fat. Gently turn roast over. Surround roast with onions, carrots, potatoes and turnips; add bay leaf and parsley.

Roast on lower shelf of oven for 30 minutes (for medium-rare meat), occasionally basting meat and vegetables; remove vegetables when lightly browned and fork tender (they will cook faster than the roast) and keep warm in a covered casserole.

Remove roast and let stand for 15 minutes on a carving board. Drain fat from roasting pan. Add wine and bouillon, and simmer over medium heat to reduce to 1 1/2 cups; strain. Use a long, sharp knife to carve roast into thin slices; arrange on a serving platter. Surround slice meat with warm vegetables. Pour a little of the strained pan juices over all. Garnish platter with watercress. Serve at once, with a sauceboat of the remaining "jus." Serves 6.

SWORDFISH STEAK WITH LEMON BUTTER (REAGAN)

- Six 8 ounce fresh swordfish steaks
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground white pepper
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 2 teaspoons sweet paprika
 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, melted
 Juice of one lemon
 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
 6 lemon wedges
 Fresh parsley sprigs

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Remove skin from swordfish and discard. Season steaks with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, combine oil with paprika. Use a pastry brush to coat the steaks on both sides.

Transfer the fish to a casserole dish. Bake on upper shelf of preheated oven for 10 to 15 minutes, or until firm to the touch and lightly browned. In a small mixing bowl, combine melted butter with lemon juice and chopped parsley.

Place baked swordfish steaks on a serving platter and spoon on lemon butter. Garnish platter with lemon wedges and fresh parsley sprigs. Serve at once, with hot popovers and a crisp green salad. Serves 6.

Papa Romano's celebrates with free pizza slices

Papa Romano's is celebrating its birthday — and its customers are getting the presents.

This month marks the 30th anniversary for Papa Romano's, commemorating the chain's first store, which opened at Telegraph and Nine Mile in Southfield. Today that store and 71 others remain in operation throughout

Michigan.

On Wednesday, April 5, all Papa Romano's will offer its new menu item — The Big Slice — for free to all customers who visit a store from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Big Slice, a big 6-inch by 6-inch square of famous Papa Romano deep dish pizza, is a

new menu item created in celebration of the 30th anniversary. Except for the free distribution on Wednesday, the Big Slice will be available with a 20-ounce Pepsi for \$2.99 plus tax; two slices and a Pepsi will be \$4.72 plus tax.

Vegetarian dishes provide kosher fare

Recipes courtesy of Beverly Price, modified from Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood in Flint. See related column on Taste front.

VEGETARIAN CHOPPED LIVER

- 1 (15-ounce) can green peas
 2 onions
 2 eggs, hard boiled or equivalent egg substitute
 1 cup walnuts, finely ground
 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
 Salt and pepper to taste

Drain peas. Sauté onions. Mash peas, onions and eggs together. Add walnuts, salt and pepper and mix together well with mayonnaise. Chill and serve.

VEGETARIAN KISHKA

- 2 carrots
 2 celery sticks
 1 box round whole wheat crackers
 1/4 cup melted margarine (non-hydrogenated)
 1 onion, grated
 dash pepper

Grind all ingredients together. Mix and shape by hand in shape of kishka (round).

Wrap in foil and bake at 350° F for 45 minutes. Open foil 20 minutes to brown. May be refrigerated or frozen before or after baking.

STRUDEL

- Strudel Dough:
 1/2 pound melted margarine (non-hydrogenated), cooled

- 1 tablespoon sugar
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 1 cup low fat sour cream or non-dairy sour cream
 2 cup whole wheat pastry flour
Filling:
 6 ounces orange marmalade
 6 ounces apricot preserves
Topping:
 1/2 cup brown sugar
 1 tablespoon cinnamon
 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
 1/2 cup golden raisins

Dough: Mix together all ingredients. Roll in a ball and wrap in waxed paper and refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Cut into 4 pieces. Roll each piece in a rectangle.

Filling: Combine marmalade and preserves and spread on rectangles. Roll up strudel and place on greased and floured cookie sheet, then spread topping on it. Bake at 350° F for about 30 - 45 minutes or until golden. Sprinkle with powdered sugar as it cools. Cut in slices when completely cool.

Visit Beverly Price at the Michigan International Women's Show May 4 - 7 in booth 539. Don't miss Living Better Sensibly-A Multidisciplinary Approach to Menopause on Friday, May 5, 5:30 p.m. at the Seminar Stage of the Women's Show. Call (248) 539-9424 for more information. The first caller to leave a message will win two tickets to the show.

Read Observer Sports

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FRIENDSHIP FARMER CHEESE ONLY \$3.69 LB.

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Our Own Corned Beef \$3.89 lb. Only	LIPSON'S Real Yellow Mustard Cheese \$2.59 lb. Only	Limited Time Only Miller Light & Genuine Draft \$8.49 Only

MEDICAL BRIEFS

Grief recovery

Hospice of Washtenaw will begin their next five-week Grief Recovery Series 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, at the Hospice office, 806 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor. The series concludes May 2.

The series offers healthy ways for an individual to move through the grief recovery process and provides support, understanding and friendship to those who may believe they are alone with their feelings of grief.

Participants are encouraged to attend all five sessions. Pre-registration is required. Please call Dwight Forshee at (734) 327-3409.

Laser eye surgery

Learn how you can reduce your dependence on glasses and contact lenses by attending a free Laser Vision Correction Seminar 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, at Henry Ford OptimEyes Super Vision Center, 35184 Central City Parkway (north of Warren and west of Wayne Road).

Attendees will receive an overview of how LASIK and PRK surgery can help people with nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

The seminar is hosted by Henry Ford Eye Care Services. For more information or to make a reservation, call 1-800-363-7575.

Women's Health Boutique

The International Center for Entrepreneurial Development Inc. will open its newest Women's Health Boutique at 31209 Plymouth Road in Livonia on April 3.

The store carries breast prostheses, wigs and turbans for hair loss, compression garments, incontinence and skin care products, and maternity items, including support garments for moms-to-be and breast pumps. There's also a library of educational and inspirational women's health care books and videos.

For more information, call (734) 762-9324. Visit the company's Web site at www.w-h-b.com.

Safe haven for newborns

If you've kept your pregnancy a secret and want to keep the baby a secret, there's an alternative to abandoning your infant to die. Take your newborn to a hospital emergency room within 72 hours of birth and give the infant to a staff member.

You won't be required to answer any questions. If you wish to provide medical information about your baby, it will be appreciated and kept confidential.

You simply walk away. Your baby is safe. Your secret is safe. You will not be charged with abandonment.

For more information about the Safe Haven for Newborns program, call the United Way Community Services help line, 1-800-552-1183.

Clarification:

In the March 19 Health & Fitness article "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome," Sharon Parven McGladdery of Farmington Hills was misquoted as saying she consulted psychiatrists for her CFS-related health problems. She consulted "physiatrists," who are doctors of physical medicine.

We want your health news

There are several ways you can reach the Observer Health & Fitness staff. The Sunday section provides numerous avenues for you to offer news-worthy information including Medical Database (upcoming calendar events), Medical Newsletters (appointments/new hires in the medical field), and Medical Briefs (medical advances, short news items from hospitals, physicians, companies).

CALL US:
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E-MAIL US:
rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net

When silence isn't golden

Hearing loss halts development of language skills

BY RENE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER
rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net

Can't hear, won't speak. That's the simple connection between hearing loss and language skills.

"Hearing is the door that needs to be opened up in order for language and speech development to occur," said Paul Kilney, an audiologist from the University of Michigan Health System, in a recent press release on how parents can help spot hearing loss in babies and toddlers.

"And we all know that those functions are very closely related to the thought process, academic function and overall development. If hearing loss is not diagnosed early enough, some of the milestones associated with normal development just do not occur."

Significant hearing loss in both ears is present in about 1 to 3 per 1,000 newborn infants in the well-baby nursery, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. In the intensive care nursery, the ratio increases to 2 to 4 per 100.

The National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management, an organization at Utah State University, promotes the establishment of universal newborn hearing screening as a national standard of health care. Significant hearing loss in children in the United States is not detected until 2 1/2 years of age, according to NCHAM. Milder hearing losses often are not recognized until a child enters school.

Several states have enacted or are enacting legislation requiring newborn hearing screening. In Michigan, hospital compliance is optional.

Ideally, intervention must begin by 6 months, experts agree. In other words, just as a child must crawl before she walks, she must learn to make sounds before she talks. "Babbling, cooing responding sounds are a very important part of language development. Beyond two years, the outcome is not too

■ Sadly ... some parents may overlook comparisons in language development if they don't have another child. When their child fails to speak by age 3, they seek medical help.

—Dr. Kathleen Yaremchuk
Henry Ford Medical Systems

good," said Dr. Errol Soskolne, head of pediatrics at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Detecting hearing loss

Medical staff at many hospitals routinely test newborns for hearing loss within 24 hours of birth using an auditory brain stem response device. Earphones are placed on the infant that send clicking sounds directly into the ear. The brain's response is measured through electrodes on the forehead.

"If that is not normal, it's repeated," said Dr. Jeffrey Devris, director of children's health services for the Oakwood Healthcare System. "If it's still not normal, the child is referred for more definitive screening by an audiologist."

Years ago, physicians were restricted to evaluating hearing loss later in infancy based on the absence of babbling and cooing responses. "That was a pretty gross test, not really defined," said Soskolne.

Parents often unnecessarily delay a hearing test, said Dr. Kathleen Yaremchuk, an otolaryngologist with the Henry Ford Health System. "Sometimes I have parents come to me and say their child is not old enough." Not true, she emphasized.

Neither the auditory brain stem response test or the otoacoustic emission test — which measures the tiny echoes of sounds the ear emits in response to external sounds — requires the cooperation of the patient. "It's an objective

test," said Yaremchuk. The "window of opportunity" in speech development occurs between the ages of 1 and 2. If children don't hear the consonant sounds — the S's and T's — which most words end in, their speech will not be clear. "It's subtle," said Yaremchuk about consonants, "but it gives our words meaning."

Sadly, she said, some parents may overlook comparisons in language development if they don't have another child. When their child fails to speak by age 3, they seek medical help.

Risk factors

Certain children are at risk for deafness due to family or medical history, such as:

■ Family members, including brothers and sisters, with a hearing problem, especially one developed in childhood.

■ Premature birth and prolonged hospitalization or a difficult birth that may have involved oxygen deprivation or other problems.

■ Medical problems during a mother's pregnancy, including drugs and medications, rubella or other viral infections.

■ Scarlet fever, meningitis, chronic ear infections and respiratory problems.

In addition, some antibiotics may cause hearing loss, said Yaremchuk. Infants with multiple system problems, such as kidney disease, who are on certain antibiotics should be routinely checked for hearing loss.

As many as 4 to 6 percent of babies with one or more of risk factors may be fully or partially deaf, said Kilney. However, help is available. Depending on the cause and extent of the hearing loss, children as young as 3 months can be fitted with hearing aids, and toddlers as young as 18 months can surgically receive cochlear implants (see related story).

Both devices can improve hearing at times and give the child near-normal hearing. It's a matter of early detection, said Kilney. "We need to make every effort to educate both physicians and the public about hearing loss in the newborn and in infancy."

Baby's hearing checklist

The National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders offers the following guidelines for parents to recognize normal development of hearing:

■ **Birth to 3 months:** Reacts to loud sounds. Soothed by a parent's voice. Turns head when spoken to and smiles when spoken to. Awakened by loud voices and sounds.

■ **3-6 months:** Repeats sounds (such as ooh, aah, and ba-ba). Looks upward and turns toward a new sound. Responds to "no" and changes in voice tone. Imitates his/her own voice. Enjoys rattles and other toys that make sounds. Becomes scared by a loud voice.

■ **6-10 months:** Responds to his/her name, telephone ringing and someone's voice, even when not loud. Knows words for common things (cup, shoe) and sayings ("bye-bye"). Makes babbling sounds, even when alone. Responds to requests, such as "come here." Looks at things or pictures when someone talks about them.

■ **10-15 months:** Enjoys the sound and feel of own voice. Points to or looks at familiar objects or people by request. Imitates simple words and sounds, may use a few single words meaningfully. Enjoys games like peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake.

■ **15-18 months:** Follows simple directions, such as "give me the ball." Often uses words he/she has learned. Uses two- to three-word sentences. Knows 10-20 words.

■ **18-24 months:** Understands simple "yes-no" questions (Are you hungry?). Understands simple phrases ("in the cup," "on the table"). Enjoys being read to; points to pictures when asked.

■ **24-36 months:** Understands "not now" and "no more." Chooses things by size (big, little). Follows simple directions such as "get your shoes" and "drink your milk." Understands many actions words (run, jump).



Fifth child in Michigan family receives cochlear implant

Sixteen-month-old Alivia Anderson of Sparta, Mich., is the fifth child in her immediate family to receive the gift of hearing at U-M Hospital through the use of a cochlear implant. She and five others of the eight Anderson children were born with Mondini malformation, a genetic condition that left them severely or profoundly deaf.

The condition results in the malformation of the cochlea, the snail-shaped part of the inner ear that channels vibrations to the auditory nerve and the brain. Instead of a hollow spiral for the sound to travel through, the cochlea is incomplete, preventing or limiting the ear-to-brain communication that makes hearing possible.

Alivia was operated on at 13 1/2 months, one of the youngest patients in the nation to undergo such surgery. Of all the Anderson children, Alivia may get the most benefit from her implant, said Terry Zwolan, director of the U-M Cochlear Implant Program. "We're seeing that the sooner a child gets an implant, the sooner we can tap into speech and language development."

Advances in technology also help. Alivia and two of her siblings have the Nucleus-24 Cochlear Implant System, which uses a miniaturized device worn behind the ear, as well as a second processor the size of a pager worn on the body. It allows Alivia's audiologists to fine-tune the sound she hears and the way speech is interpreted.

Hearing aids and cochlear implants are very different. A hearing aid amplifies normal sound and uses the hearing a person has to let them process that sound. A cochlear implant replaces the hearing inside the cochlea. It transforms speech and

sound into electrical signals the brain can interpret. It bypasses the normal function of the outer ear, hair cells and cochlea by using surgically implanted electrodes and digital signal processors worn on the ear or body.

A small magnetic microphone on the outside of the head, held in place by an implanted magnet, picks up sounds and sends them to a processor. After the processor's programming translates the signals, the impulses travel through a coil to a receiver inside the ear. The implant transmits these signals through dozens of electrodes to the auditory nerve and brain, allowing the wearer to

detect and understand speech and noise.

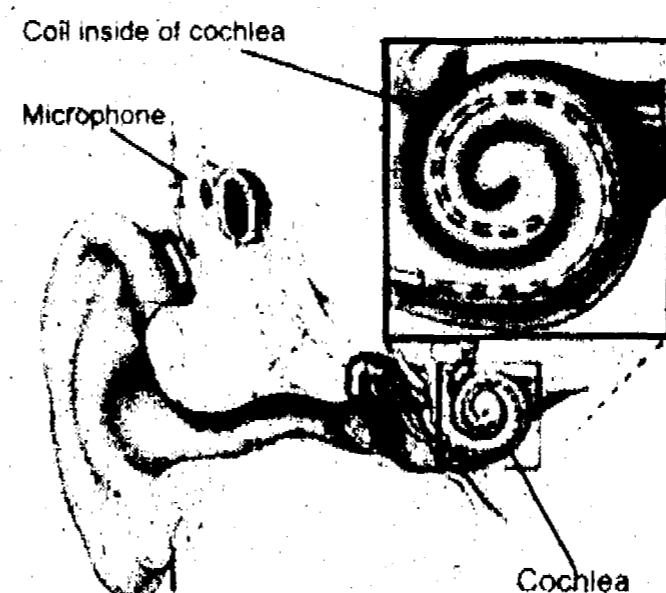
Hearing impaired children as young as three months can be fitted with hearing aids, but the more profoundly deaf may be unable to hear appropriately with even the most powerful hearing aids. Through the use of cochlear implants, physicians at the U-M and other centers are giving such children the chance to hear at as early an age as possible. Increasing numbers are receiving their implants as young as 18 months.

Cochlear implants are reserved for people who can't benefit from hearing aids, but they are not just for the deaf. "About 10 years ago, cochlear implants were only suitable for people who could hear almost nothing," said Zwolan. "Technology has advanced so quickly and we're getting such nice results that criteria have expanded to include adults and children with severe to profound hearing loss."

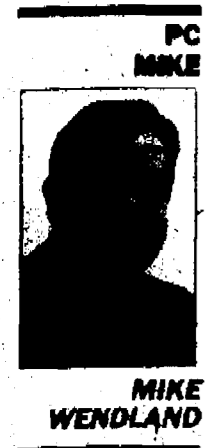
Although researchers are beginning to see proof the early intervention can help children develop normal speech and language skills, they will not know for sure until the first group of early-implant kids reaches school. "We have great hopes for these children that they will lead a normal hearing life," said Zwolan.

"But it's so recently that we've started to do these really young children that only time will tell if we're able to fully mainstream them into normal hearing classrooms."

Alivia Anderson was the 500th patient, and 300th child, to receive a cochlear implant at U-M Hospital.



Crackdown on online consumer fraud is long overdue



MIKE WENDLAND

Better late than never. Finally, a coalition of federal and state consumer protection agencies, helped by similar groups in a half-dozen other countries, are cracking down on the thousands of Internet Web sites that have been running phony get-rich-quick schemes, work-at-home scams, dubious online shopping mall "investment opportunities" and a whole slew of other multilevel marketing come-ons and rip-offs.

In all, about 1,600 fraud sites have been identified by the coalition so far and about 40 percent of them reportedly shut down or changed their pitches after being warned by the consumer agencies.

The ones that are still running are now being investigated for possible criminal charges. It's a start, I suppose. But I'd guess there are 5,000

other rip-off sites out there in cyberspace that are still trying to trick unsuspecting Net users into sending them money to make "fabulous returns" that inevitably turn out to be nothing.

Typical of the phony offers you can find on the Net are promises of income of \$20,000 a month through vending machine businesses, \$1,000 an hour from Web surfing, and \$1 million through variations of pyramid schemes. Most such sites target stay-at-home moms, the elderly, the disabled and students who want to earn money from home.

Watch for scams

Online auctions may be the latest Internet rage but they are also the latest hunting ground for fraud artists. A Los Angeles Police Department investigation has received complaints from over 100 people who have been ripped off in a pretty elaborate scheme involving the sale of computer parts and peripherals by an auction seller based in nearby Van Nuys, Calif.

The victims thought they were successful bidders and sent in

their payments but never got the items they purchased. That's just one case in a torrent of complaints being filed all across the country. The LAPD plans a conference with federal investigators to see how online auctions can be more reliable. But for those ripped off so far, there's little hope of getting their money back.

Concerns raised

A new anti-fraud online surveillance system by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is drawing concerns from some online finance sites and privacy advocates. The automated system allows the SEC to secretly monitor and gather information from Web sites, message boards and chat rooms, which is loaded into a database that is analyzed by SEC investigators.

Although the SEC says it will throw away any data collected that doesn't indicate possible wrongdoing, an official from the accounting firm Price Waterhouse sums up much of the criticism by blasting the SEC, saying the secret surveillance is their

Internet equivalent of wiretapping.

Maybe the consumer agencies cracking down on fraud sites should have also looked at automotive Web sites. An independent study by CNW Marketing/Research says authorized Web sites often overstate the price of a new car by thousands of dollars and that some sites allow consumers to configure cars and options that automakers are unable to deliver.

The national study measured what eight Web sites claimed were the manufacturers' suggested retail prices and dealer invoice prices for 86 models against actual manufacturers' data. "Considering that nearly 40 percent of new car buyers use the Internet as part of their shopping process, such misinformation is horribly misleading," the study said.

Legal to link

A federal judge ruled that it is legal for online companies to offer links to Web sites run by rivals, a service many new Internet firms use to attract new

users. The case involved a suit by Ticketmaster, which was mad that a competing online ticket sales site was linking to Ticketmaster.

But it also affects thousands of other sites, large and small, that "aggregate," or list links to stories and information produced by other sites. The judge ruled that linking was not illegal as long as Web users understand whose site they are on and that one company has not simply duplicated another's page. Groups advocating a free and open Internet praised the ruling. Ticketmaster says it will try to reinstate the case.

Protest gas prices

You can vent your anger over high gas-pump prices at a new Web site, greencar.org, that targets the Big Three automakers for being ignorant of the need for fuel efficient, "green" vehicles.

Anyone logging onto the site can send e-mails to Ford, DaimlerChrysler and General Motors, and express outrage over American dependence on oil — and the more acute problem of having to pay more than \$1.50 for a gallon

of gas! The group behind the Web site says the average fuel efficiency of 1999 model cars is only 23.8 miles per gallon, the lowest since 1980, reflecting the recent love affair many have for large sport utility vehicles and trucks.

Ready for the latest fashion trend? Try "e-jewelry." In Israel this week at a technology show called the Unwired World, models are showing earrings that light up when e-mail messages come in. You can also wear a mouse as a bracelet around your wrist that allows for Internet navigation by pointing in the air. You can check it out at Web site called www.charmedtechnology.com.

Mike Wendland reports about computers and the Internet for NBC television stations coast-to-coast. His "Net News Daily" Internet reports are on WWJ, NewsRadio 950 Monday-Friday at 6:26 p.m. and his "PC Talk" call-in radio show is heard every weekend on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT. You can reach Mike through his Web site at www.pcmike.com.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Items for Business Newsmakers are welcome from all companies and residents active in the Observer-area business community. Items should be typed or legibly written and sent to: Business Newsmakers, c/o The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Fax: (734) 591-7279 or e-mail rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net

Westland ranked and James Ellis of Livonia ranked in the top 17 percent in sales. The three men are with the Park Jarrett Agency of AAL, Livonia.

Assisted living

Marquette House Assisted Living in Westland has appointed Lori Wilson director of nursing and Kathleen Waldo marketing director.

Nomads

Nomads Inc., a Detroit-based air travel club, announced that Pamela (Penny) Harrison of Livonia has been appointed assistant to the director of operations. She has been with Nomads for the last 17 years both a flight attendant and trip director.

Division X

Division X of Farmington Hills, a division of Grace & Wild, Inc., announced the hiring of two effects specialists and a project manager. Megan McBurney joined the organization as animation technical director. She has worked on several movies, including "Armageddon" and "The Nutty Professor." Robert Clegg will serve as effects supervisor. He formerly was with 20th Century

Fox Animation Studios in Phoenix, Arizona. Jeff Somers, who has a background in project management, will serve as graphics producer.

Communications director

Boerema Chaben & Company, a Farmington Hills-based marketing firm, has appointed Zach Lowe director of communications. He formerly was manager of corporate sales for Ann Arbor-based book and music retailer Borders Group Inc.

Most reject using state funds to restrict land use

Michigan's Main Street business owners and family farmers reject the notion that state spending should be skewed to influence land use, according to a recent survey by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

In a recent press release, the NFIB stated that two-thirds (66 percent) of all small-business owners responding to their survey objected to directing state spending on roads, schools, public utilities and other services away from rural and outlying areas in an attempt to restrict suburban growth. Only about one in four (24 percent) endorsed the practice. The remaining were undecided.

Michigan small business owners also said "no" to using tax dollars to pay private landowners for commitments not to develop their property and "no" to creating regional planning authorities to manage growth. By nearly four to one, the respondents felt governmental decisions on land use should be made at the local level, rather than by state or federal bodies.

"Recently there has been a growing temptation among state lawmakers to slip language dealing with these issues into budget bills," said NFIB-Michigan director Charles Owens. Last year, he

noted, Rep. Bill Byl (R-Grand Rapids) added language to budget bills that would have funneled economic development grants, loans and technical assistance to urban areas at the expense of rural districts.

Owens said his group "fully expects" Rep. Byl and others will make the same "back-door effort to rob Rural Peter to pay Urban Paul, all in the name of addressing our alleged 'urban sprawl' problem."

In addition, he said his group is "disappointed" that controlled-growth advocates "seem uncommonly fond of trying to implement their policies by hijacking budget bills," rather than by presenting stand-alone proposals open to public debate and thorough legislative scrutiny. "The no-growth crowd always preaches that the public should be involved in anything to do with the environment, but apparently it's OK to slip their policy into budget bills while no one is looking."

Owens contends that proposals affecting land use and property rights deserve full debate in an appropriate legislative venue, such as the House Conservation Committee. "On issues this important, Michigan deserves better than 'stealth legislation' tactics," he said.

Sales reps honored

Three Aid Association for Lutherans sales representatives were honored in January for exceptional sales and service during 1999. Among nearly 1,700 AAL field staff members nationwide, Bruce Abbot of Canton ranked sixth in sales, and Jeffrey Long of

Valassis promotions

Valassis Communications, Inc. in Livonia announced the recent promotion of Rex Boatright to manager of creative and multimedia services. Boatright joined Valassis in 1991 as a graphic designer. He was the winner of the company's first "Team Player of the Year Awards" and designed an award-winning annual report.

Boatright has a degree in fine arts from Michigan State University.

Somers

Jeff Somers, who has a background in project management, will serve as graphics producer.

Sales and marketing

Comprehensive Data Processing Inc. of Southfield recently named Tony Hollamon of Redford director of sales and marketing. Hollamon, who joined CDP in 1990, is credited with establishing the company's marketing department and developing the employee relations department. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Items from the Observerland area for the Business Calendar can be sent to: ObserverNewspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150 attention: Business Calendar.

WED, APRIL 5

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Michigan Business and Professional Association will sponsor the 4th annual Women's Leadership Conference and Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon Wednesday, April 5 at Burton Manor in Livonia. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Conference is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Two workshops are planned: "How to Build a Successful Personal Strategic Plan" followed by "Is Your Business Checklist in Order?" The total cost is \$50; cost for luncheon only is \$25. For information about attending, co-sponsoring or advertising, contact MBPA at (810) 979-6322.

BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Regular meeting of Laurel Park Chapter will be held 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Archie's Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Road. Call (810) 323-3800.

ANN ARBOR IT FORUM

The Ann Arbor IT Zone and the Ann Arbor Software Council will sponsor a forum titled "Technology Changes. Economic Laws Do Not" 5:30 p.m. at the Ann Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, 610 Briarwood Circle, corner of State Street and I-94. Registration and book signing begins 4:30 p.m. Cost is free to members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for students. Call (734) 623-8286 or e-mail mail@annarboritzone.org.

FRI, APRIL 7

BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Regular meeting of the Livonia Chapter will be held 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Senate Koney Island on Plymouth Road near Stark. Call (810) 323-3800.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

BUSINESS IN CHINA

Oakland University's Professional Development and Education Outreach, School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) will present "Opening Doors in the 21st Century: Creating Business Opportunities in China after

WTO." The seminar will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 14 in Oakland University's Meadow Brook Ballroom. Co-sponsors include: The Detroit Regional Chamber, Pontiac Export Assistance Center - U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Leonard Woodcock Legacy. The seminar is an introductory course for individuals and organizations interested in developing or expanding markets in China. Jerome D. Hill, J.D., Ph.D. and Ledong Li will share their expertise on expanding interests and overcoming the challenges of doing business in China. Cost is \$295 and includes a Chinese luncheon and handout material. The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 5. Enrollment is limited. Contact the Professional Development office at (248) 370-3033 for a brochure or to register for the seminar. Fax registration with VISA or MasterCard payment is accepted at (248) 370-3137.

SECRETARIES WEEK

The Tri-County Chapter of the International Association of

Administrative Professionals will present a business seminar titled "Assistants and Executives Working in Partnership" 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Atheneum Hotel in Detroit. Seminar/luncheon tickets are \$35 for IAAP members and \$40 for non-members. For more information, call (313) 235-9232 or fax (313) 235-0185.

FRI, MAY 12

FIESTA HISPANA BALL

The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosts its 11th Anniversary Fiesta Hispana Ball at the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn. The VIP reception begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Bo Andersson, executive in charge of worldwide purchasing for General Motors Corp., is event chairman. The ball provides an opportunity to network with business representatives and meet corporate sponsors.

For tickets, contact MHCOC at (248) 208-9915.

Arthritis Today
 JONEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
 18829 Farmington Road
 Livonia, Michigan 48152
 Phone: (248) 478-7860

SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSIS

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune arthritis. If you receive that diagnosis, you may have been misled as SLE often involves more than the joints.

Therefore, your physician will consider, in addition to the condition of your hands, shoulders, knees, ankles and feet, the symptoms of status of your skin and red and white blood count and the state of your kidneys, eyes, heart and lungs.

In addition, SLE poses a particular threat for women with the diagnosis who become pregnant because of potential blockade of blood vessels that supply the placenta.

The production of unwanted antibodies, a hallmark of SLE that causes the potential for widespread involvement. Normally, the body's B lymphocytes (B cells) produce antibodies that are effective in killing off bacteria and neutralizing toxins. However, in SLE B cells are stimulated to produce antibodies that attack the body itself. The results are antibodies that produce inflammation and damage that does not respond to the body's own immune system.

The type of antibodies produced in SLE are called auto-antibodies. SLE can develop as a distinct disease or as a symptom of another disease.

The main clinical signs of SLE are joint pain, fatigue, weight loss, hair loss, skin rashes, and a facial rash. SLE can also affect the heart, lungs, kidneys, and other organs. SLE is a chronic disease and can be difficult to control in most cases.

DENTISTRY

For The 21st Century
 by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

BEATING GUM DISEASE

The primary culprit of gum disease is the sticky film of food particles called plaque that continually develops on the teeth. It should be removed every day with conscientious brushing and flossing. Otherwise, within two days, bacteria enter a substantial biofilm, which is called tartar. A professional cleaning is required to remove the plaque, brushing or flossing might have missed. If left untreated, tartar can lead to tooth loss. While most people do not have a significant problem with tartar, it is a major concern for the patient undergoing the treatment. The plaque is a major concern for the patient and a major concern for the dentist. Regular professional cleaning is

LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL
 19171 MERRIMAN • LIVONIA
 (248) 478-2110

CORRECTION NOTICE

In our April 2 insert, we advertised the Snoop Dogg CD, *Snoop Doggy Dogg at His Best* as being available Tuesday, April 4.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this CD will not be available on April 4, and there is no current estimate for when it may be available. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

BEST BUY

How Anxious Are You?

Answer the following questions based on the last 2 weeks or more.

YES NO

1. I feel keyed up, on edge or restless.

2. I feel stressed most of the time.

3. I have trouble sleeping (either too much or too little).

4. I have trouble concentrating or my mind goes "blank."

5. I feel irritable, I can't relax.

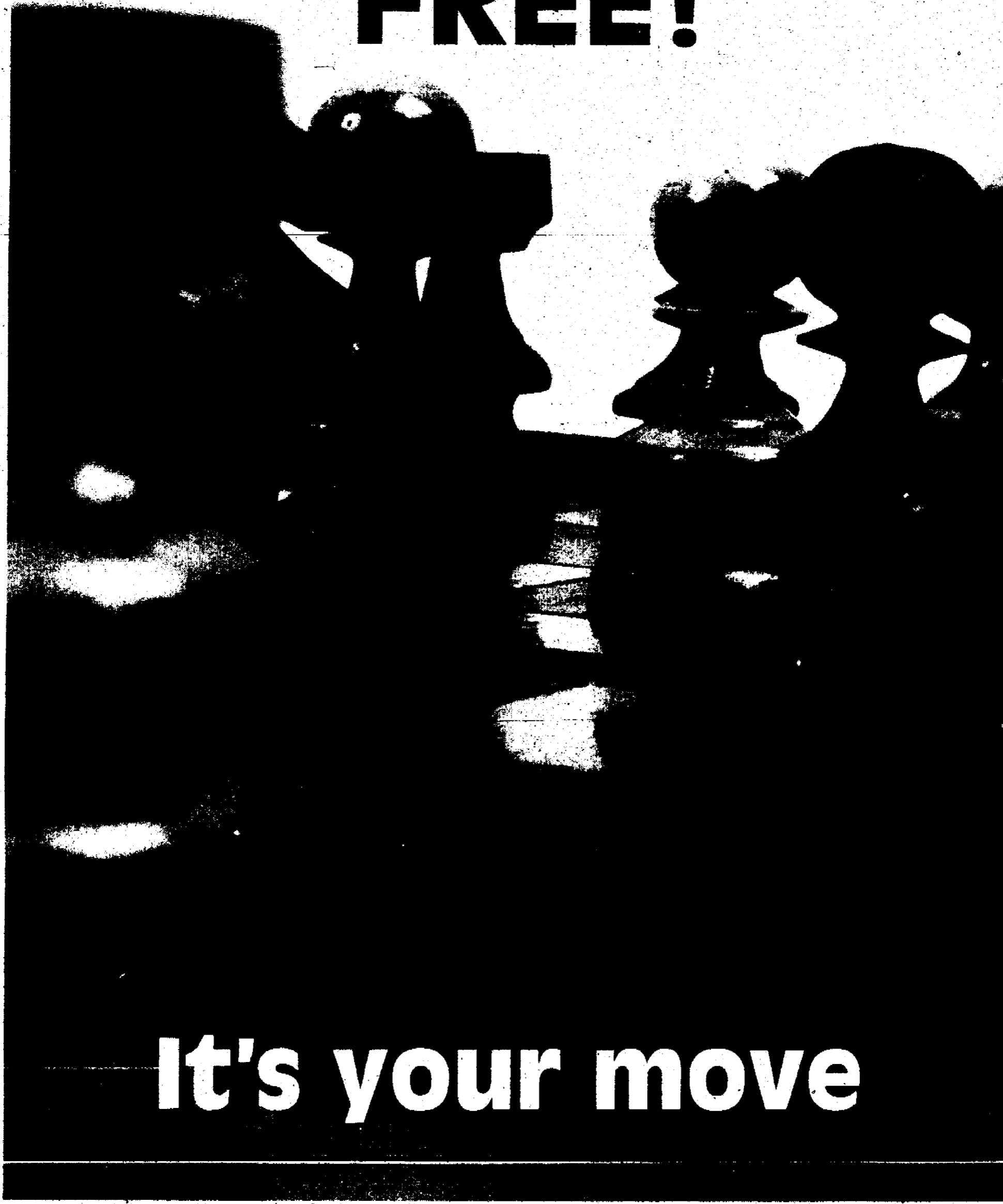
6. I notice my heart beating rapidly.

7. I feel worried, anxious and fearful.

If you answered "yes" to 2 or more statements, you may be suffering from an anxiety disorder, a common condition affecting millions of Americans. The Institute for Health Studies is currently looking for individuals experiencing the above symptoms to participate in a research study of investigational medication for anxiety. If you are selected, all research-related care and study medications are provided at no cost. Call now for more information about anxiety.

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH STUDIES
 (517) 349-5505 1 (800) 682-6663
 Robert J. Bielecki, M.D.

Your next three-line classified ad is **FREE!**



It's your move

We have a really great offer going on right now.

FREE ADS.

Yes, you read that right. When you place an ad for merchandise that has a total asking price of under \$100, your three-line ad is totally free!

In fact, we'll run your ad in two issues of your hometown newspaper—FREE!

The exceptions to this incredible offer are dealers, collectibles, pets and garage sales. Everything else in our Merchandise classification (#700-#799) is fair game.

So look around your house, garage, basement or attic.

Select an item or collect a pile of stuff—remember you can't ask more than \$100— and make your move.

Actually, you have a choice of three moves:

1. Fax your ad to us: 734-953-2232 or
2. e-mail it: mulfig@oe.homecomm.net
3. or fill in the form at the right and send it to:

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA MI 48150
Attention: Free Classified Ad Offer

Here's my three-line FREE ad please run it in the next two issues of my hometown newspaper's classified section under Merchandise For Sale (#700-#799 with the exception of Garage Sales).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

DAY TIME PHONE: _____

MY 3-LINE AD

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

We reserve the right to edit your ad to fit three lines.