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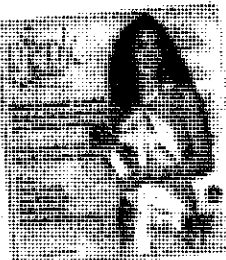
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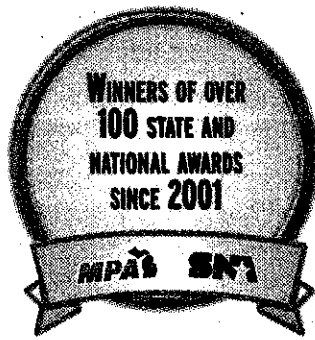
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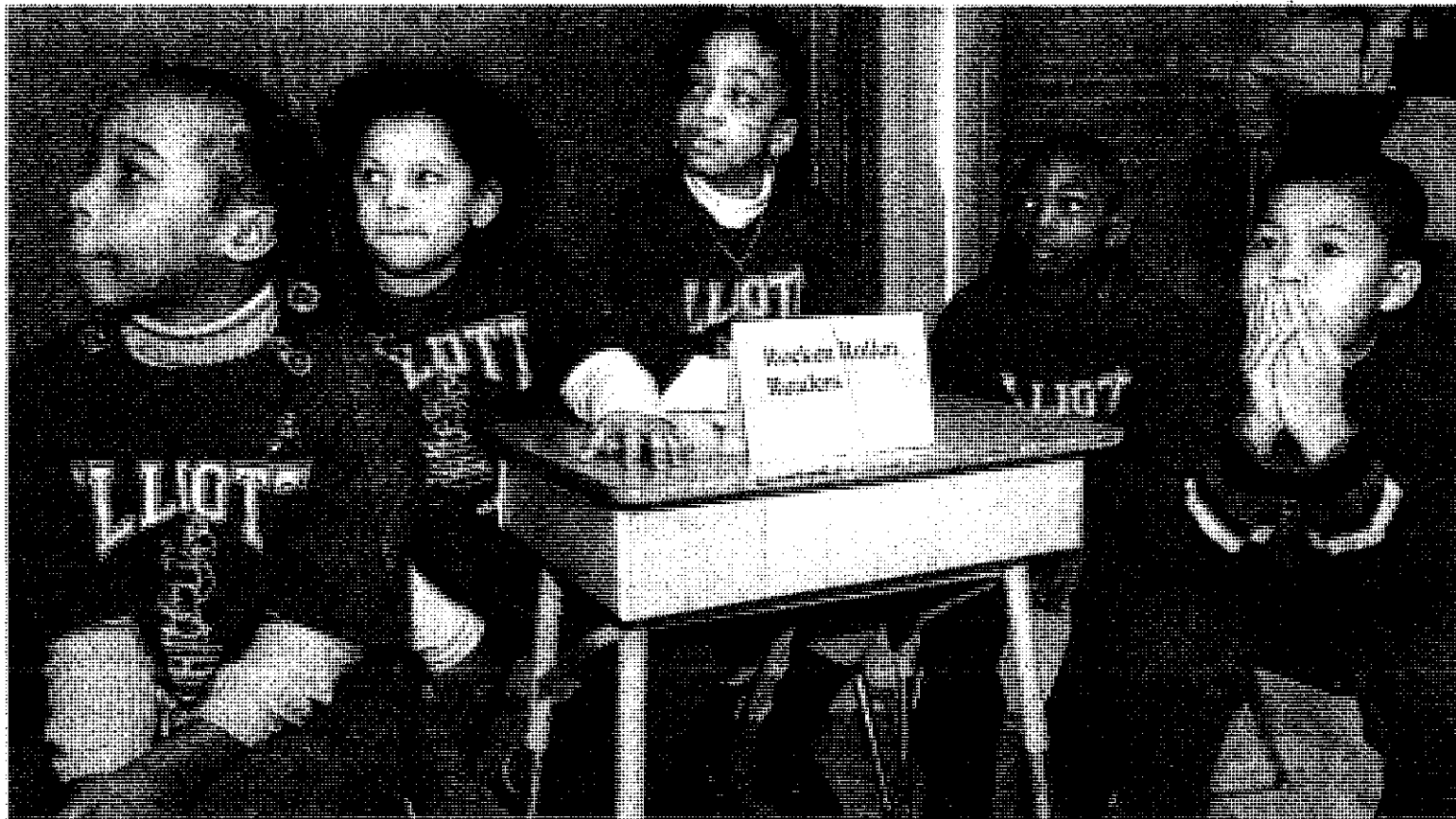


VOLUME 40 NUMBER 69

www.hometownlife.com

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"The purpose of the contest was comprehension, not winning. When they read, they need to tell you what they read. Our goal is to get them to read."



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

All eyes on the judges as the Rocken Rollen Readers ShTia McGlory (from left), Aubre Smith, Jeyna Jones, Antonio Gee and Joseph Gatton wait to see if their answer was correct at Elliott's Elementary's Battle of the Books.

Changes Patane realigns library's staff

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

In his third month on the job, Westland public library Director John R. Patane has started putting his stamp on the facility.

"I feel that things are moving in the right direction," library board President Michael Rintz said.

With board approval, Patane has realigned duties for some library employees and reduced his staff of some 50 full- and part-time workers by two positions.

Patane accomplished the change through attrition, meaning he didn't lay off any employees.

"We're getting the work done, and if we can do it with fewer people because we're more efficient, I think that's a wonderful thing," Rintz said. "As a taxpayer of Westland, if I can get the same bang for fewer bucks, I think that's great."

Patane has not reduced library services. Still, a preliminary budget that he has submitted to the Westland City Council amounts to \$2,058,092 - or \$151,626 less than last year's spending plan.

"I'm getting there," Patane said, when asked whether he has succeeded at making the changes that he believes are needed for the library.

Consider some examples:

■ He has one administrative assistant rather than two. Former assistant Joe Burchill left his job, and his post hasn't been filled.

■ He has two maintenance positions rather than three. One of them is full-time; the other one, 35 hours.

■ He has eliminated two 20-hour reference library positions and created one full-time reference librarian.

■ He has streamlined the job of circulation supervisor and removed certain duties, such as technical services, that he plans to handle himself.

Patane has received accolades for accomplishing his goals of making the library more efficient without laying off employees.

"That can be nothing but positive," Rintz said.

Patane started his job in November after he was hired out of the Akron, Ohio, area. He replaced former Director Sandra Wilson, who was fired after she lost support from a library board majority.

dclem@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

On the 'battlefront' Students put reading to the test

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

They had their medals. They had their trophies. And Rocken Rollen Readers had one answer that put their team on top in Elliott Elementary School's Battle of the Books.

"Joseph knew the answer," said teammates ShTia McGlory, Jeyna Jones, Antonio Gee and

Aubre Smith in unison, explaining how they had won.

Joseph was Joseph Gatton who knew what Glura thought about the world in Kate DiCamillo's *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

"My dad made me read the book again last night," said Joseph who admitted that he didn't want to, but in looking at his trophy, he was glad he did.

Organized by the school's



Reading Gladiators Diamond Davis (from left), Monica Smith, Ashley Williams, Lucas Gates and Rachel Hyams discuss their answer to one of the questions.

Reading First coach Sandra Laws, Elliott's Battle of the Books differed from the program usually offered through a library where students in grades 3-8 read 11 books and answer questions about the books.

In Laws' battles, 10 teams of third- and fourth-graders and

parent coaches spent one day a week, beginning in November, reading DiCamillo's book as well as *Class Clown* by Johanna Hurwitz and Sheila Hamanaka.

They gathered after school for

PLEASE SEE READING, A7

Livonia man to stand trial on holdup charge

A Livonia man has been ordered to stand trial on charges of robbing the 7-Eleven store at Wayne and Joy roads in Westland.

James Nathaniel Todd, 20, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted of armed robbery for an incident that happened about 3:30 a.m. Dec. 19. Todd was ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after he gave up his right to a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

During the robbery, a man wearing a Halloween mask went inside the 7-Eleven and threatened a store clerk with a sharp, broken chunk of concrete, police Sgt. John Hoak has said.

The man escaped with \$220 and a 20-pack of beer. Todd was arrested after authorities developed leads in the case.

Todd's decision to waive his preliminary hearing meant that his case was automatically sent to circuit court for trial.

He was jailed on a \$100,000 cash bond. A not-guilty plea has been entered in his court file.

Nominate a buddy for pizza

Starting next month, Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer Newspapers* will honor good citizens with "A Random Act of Pizza."

Each week, *Observer* readers will nominate a person or family who will receive a home-delivered Buddy's Pizza dinner. Tell us in 50 words or less why you or someone else deserves this home-delivered treat. Do you know someone too busy to cook because of volunteer work? Or do you know a single mom or dad who could use a break? Tell us about your great neighbors, the new family down the street or the

busy family who could use some time together.

Be sure to include the name, address and telephone number of the family you nominate.

Selection will be done by *O&E* staff members. Send nominations by e-mail to: Ken Abramczyk at

kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net. Dinner includes pizza, salad, Buddy Bread, soft drinks and table setting.

"The dinner is just a small way to celebrate a special person or family in 2005," said Marcy Brontman, marketing director for Buddy's.



BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Hockey association pays overdue bills

The Westland Hockey Association has paid \$47,280 in overdue bills it owed for using the city's ice arena in October and November.

"They are caught up," city Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski has said.

The association, which has some 250 members, still owes for the ice time it used in December, but that bill isn't considered past due, Kosowski said.

City officials publicly mentioned the overdue bills earlier this month, following a controversy that erupted over a rate increase for using the city's only sheet of ice.

Some hockey supporters, including association President Kristopher Simonian, became upset when the city last year imposed a \$20-an-hour rate hike that pushed rates to \$160.

Simonian has questioned whether the rate hike was justified, and he has said the city started charging more money while ignoring building repairs.

The ice arena, named after Westland native and Dallas Stars player Mike Modano, is located on Wildwood near Hunter.

Kosowski pledged that city officials will continue to

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, A7

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Magic Moments



Do you remember the magic that happened the first time you met that special someone? It's those moments that remain in our memory forever. Tell us about the first time you met your sweetheart and you could win our Valentine's Day package that includes a \$200 gift certificate from Murray's Jewelry in Redford, dinner for two at Antonio's Cucina Italiana in Farmington Hills or Dearborn Heights (\$60 gift certificate), a singing valentine by a quartet from the Renaissance Chorus of the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and two tickets to Phantom of the Opera at Masonic Temple on Wednesday, March 2. On Sunday, Feb. 13, the *Observer* Community Life section will feature readers' Magic Moments. Send yours by Friday, Feb. 4, to Hugh Gallagher, *Observer* Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

Coming Thursday in Filter

What's up with Jeff?

Michigan's own Hollywood movie star, Jeff Daniels, talks about the playwright's craft and his new comedy opening at the Purple Rose Theatre.

Gibson School hosts open house

Gibson School for Gifted Students invites the public to attend its Winter Open House on Tuesday, Feb. 8. Now in its 32nd year, Gibson School serves intellectually gifted students from 21 communities in Oakland, Livingston, Wayne and Washtenaw counties. Gibson's school-aged gifted program is open to children between the ages of 5 and 14. Gibson also offers a child development cen-

ter for preschool children ages 2½ to 5, which operates all year, and a summer program for children ages 5-12. During the open house, which runs from 6-8 p.m., Gibson School head Suzanne Young will make presentations. Gibson School is located just south of the I-96 (Jeffries) Freeway and four blocks west of Telegraph Road. For further information, call (313) 537-8688.

LPS is 'certain' of win in AYP appeal

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools officials aren't pleased with the 2004 School District Adequate Yearly Progress report, released Thursday.

The report shows that Livonia was one of the 20 percent of districts in Michigan that did not make AYP.

However, Livonia officials have appealed the rulings that put the district into that category. "Once they've been reviewed, we are certain that we will be listed as making adequate yearly progress," said Jay Young, district spokesman. He believes an "under appeal" category should have been included in the report.

Livonia was listed as not making AYP in the elementary and high school levels, based on subgroups in both levels not meeting achievement levels in Math and English Language Arts. The district's middle school level did make AYP.

Two of three levels - elementary, middle and high school - must make AYP for a district to pass. Livonia is appealing two issues involving the elementary level.

One is based on the large number of special education students in the district, which, officials say, is at least 10 percent of the district's 18,000 students. Many of those come from other communities for catchment or center programs at the Western Wayne Skills Centers or Webster Elementary.

Those students are allowed to take an alternate state assessment test to the MEAP, but rules only allow 1 percent of the special ed students to be counted as having passed that test.

That 1 percent rule, and the fact that Livonia has more special education students than a normal district, is the basis of the district's appeal.

The other appeal is based on elementary calculations of

achievement for Black or African American students. State figures list the district with 30 fourth graders in that category - which is the minimum for calculating achievement levels - while the district contends they only had 29 at the time of the count.

"We feel we have a very strong case and that these appeals will be successful in both of these areas," Young said.

Young was disappointed that the report was released without some mention of the appeals. Even after those are cleared, he said, the damage will be done. "The first impression is what people are left with," he said.

Meanwhile, Clarenceville School District was on the list of districts that made Adequate Yearly Progress.

"We worked long and hard to meet those standards set by No Child Left Behind and Education Yes!" said Supt. Cheryl Leach.

Clarenceville has just under 2,000 students, obviously a lot smaller than Livonia's enrollment. Since smaller student numbers in certain areas aren't subject to some calculations, Leach noted that "this is one of the times that smaller school districts are fortunate." She suggested the state should continually evaluate its process.

Districts must meet targets in 83 different areas to make AYP. Those that do not make AYP for two consecutive years are subject to federal sanctions, including setting up a district improvement plan with actions to improve student achievement. Federal consequences for not making AYP for four consecutive years include reducing administrative funds, replacing personnel, restructuring the district or other remedies. For more on the reports, visit www.michigan.gov/mde

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WESTLAND Observer

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Blood drive

Bova VFW Post 9885 will host an American Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at the post hall, 6400 Hix, south of Warren. Walk-ins are welcome, although appointments can be scheduled by calling the post surgeon Terry Dana at (517) 521-5646 or blood drive chairman Larry Tebor at (734) 377-8329.

All donors will be placed in a drawing for three free games of bowling at Vision Lanes in Westland.

Democrat meeting

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy. Officers will meet a half-hour earlier.

Members are asked to pay their club dues for 2005. Dues are \$12 a year, or \$6 for senior citizens.

PLACES AND FACES

Motivational

The Power Team - a group of world-class athletes who are motivational speakers - will appear at 7 p.m. nightly Wednesday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Warren Road Light & Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland.

A \$2 donation is suggested at the door.

For more information, call (734) 458-7301.

The Power Team has several world record holders, former NFL football players and professional wrestlers.

Tsunami help

Donna Cohoon, owner of Secretz Salon, will have a fundraiser 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, to benefit children who have been affected by the tsunami that killed thousands.

All proceeds will go to UNICEF.

The salon is located at 6522 N. Wayne Road.

Guests will be treated to \$20 haircuts, \$12 manicures, \$15 for a 15-minute massage, \$10 eyebrow threading and \$15 mini-facials.

There will be special raffles with giveaways such as Pistons tickets, 18 holes of golf and dinner gift certificates. Appointments are not necessary.

Business neighbor Pat Pivarchy, owner of Contours women's fitness center at 6558 N. Wayne, will donate the first month's membership fees (\$29) to the benefit for each person who joins the center in January.

Vegas Nights

James Caan won't be there, but the thrill of Las Vegas will be when St. Theodore Parish holds two Vegas Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4-5.

Hosted by the Confraternity of Christian Women and Men's Club, there will be Black Jack, easy craps, Let It Ride,

roulette, money wheel and 50/50 drawings. The maximum prize will be \$500 per person.

Food, beer, wine and soft drinks also will be available. Admission is \$2.

St. Theodore Parish is at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-4412.

Garage sale

The Westland public library will sell computer monitors, hard drives, printers, keyboards and mice, along with such furniture as a sectional sofa, chairs and lamps during a garage sale in February.

The sale is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6.

It will be at the library, on Central City Parkway south of Warren.

The sale is not open to city or library employees or their family members.

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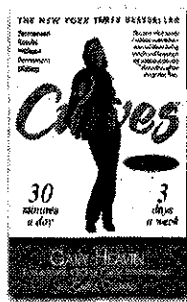
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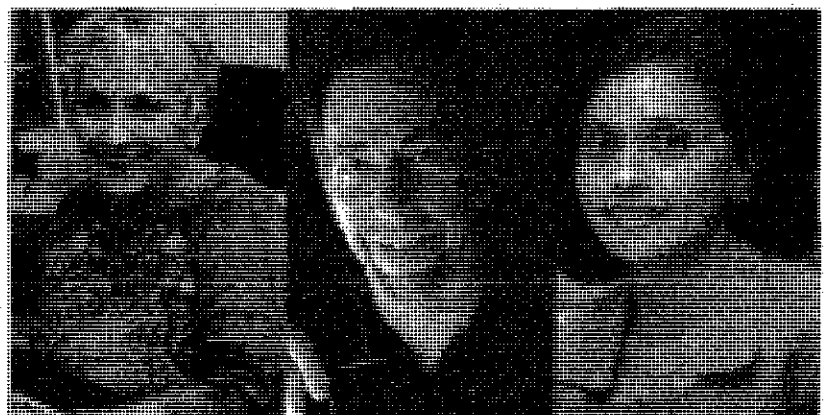
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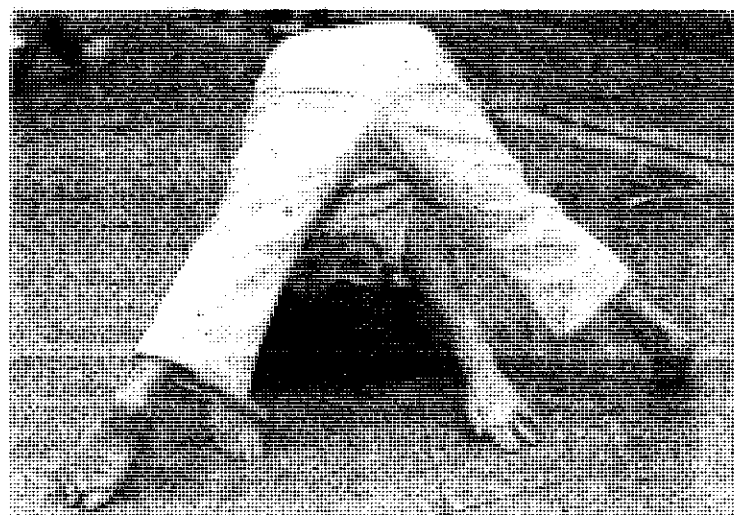
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MADONNA UNIVERSITY



Sarah Mominie, 4, of Westland works on her somersault in Melissa Holcomb's preschool gymnastics class at the Bailey Recreation Center.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hailey Castro, 4 1/2, of Westland works on her handstand with the help of teacher Melissa Holcomb.

Familiar place

Gymnast teaches classes where she learned sport

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Gymnastics and the Bailey Recreation Center have been a part of Melissa Holcomb's life since she was in the second-grade.

That's when the Westland resident started her training there and now she's training a new crop of young gymnasts in classes for tots, preschoolers, beginners and advanced beginners.

"A lot of kids in my classes have been in for a long time," said Holcomb, 22. "The ones I see the most improvement in are two girls who have been with me the longest."

Holcomb started with the classes five years ago when her high school coach needed an assistant. A year later, when the coach left to be with her family, Holcomb took over. She has been doing it on her own ever since.

Mats and high and low balance beams are spread around the gymnasium of the recreation center where Holcomb works her magic with the youngsters.

Under her guiding hand, they work their way across the balance beam, pausing every few steps to place their hands on the wood and extend their

left leg.

Against the wall are the high bars and there's also a spring board, two pieces of apparatus she discovered after she took over and quickly incorporated into her lesson plans.

But her favorite apparatus is the high beam.

"It's the most challenging, that's probably why I teach so much of it to the kids," she said. "It's the most challenging and if you learn to do it as a child, it's not as difficult."

"When I competed, I had my good times on the beam and I had my bad times on the beam, but it's what I felt I did best."

Holcomb spent her younger years training at Bailey before moving to the Michigan Academy of Gymnastics, also in Westland. From there, she went on to four years of competition while at John Glenn High School.

"When we were competing we'd train five days a week - Monday through Friday and Saturday - for three hours and the meets could be anywhere from one to three a week, plus the invitations which were always on Saturday."

Her students tend to stick with her, but Holcomb tries to keep up with what gyms are closest to where her students live, so if they move "they can

continue to practice."

Holcomb's classes are offered through the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. She has a half-hour parent-tot class for children ages 2-3 and with no experience at 4 p.m. Tuesdays. Her preschool classes for 3-5-year-olds last 45 minutes and are offered at 4:30 Tuesday or Thursday.

Rounding out the Tuesday lineup is the beginners class for ages 6-9 with no experience at 5:15 p.m. The class lasts an hour.

Advanced beginner classes for children ages 6-9 also last one hour and are offered at 5:15 p.m. Thursdays.

Enrollment is monthly, and the fees range from \$15 for the parent-tot class to \$25 for the

advanced beginners class.

The next session starts Feb. 1. Parents interested in signing up for classes have until Jan. 29 to do so. Registration can be completed at the Bailey Center, 36651 Ford, behind the Westland City Hall.

For more information, call the Westland Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 722-7620.

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Calling all former Academic All-Stars

Since 1985, the Observer & Eccentric has honored outstanding students through its Academic All-Star program.

This year marks the Observer's 20th year of honoring local students and we'd like to hear from our former Academic All-Stars.

If you were an Observer Academic All-Star, let us know what you have been doing since your selection. What did you study? What careers did you have? What's your life been like since that time? Tell us your story and include your high school graduation photo and a recent photo, too.

Special annual sections about the Academic All-Stars have saluted the intelligence, involvement and industry of the best and brightest students in public and private high schools around Oakland and Wayne counties.

This year, we're planning a special edition in May in honor of the program's 20th anniversary.

If you're a former All-Star or a parent who can provide information and photos about your former All-Star, e-mail Special Editor Mary Klemic at mklemic@oe.homecomm.net or mail to Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009 Attn: Mary Klemic. Be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached. You can e-mail photos in a jpeg format (please send largest size possible) and make sure photos are identified.

Lieutenant governor talks at Dem Club

If you've been wanting to put your 2 cents in about how things are going in Michigan, here's your chance.

Lt. Governor John Cherry will be visiting the Garden City Democratic Club 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Maplewood Center to talk with residents.

"He is spending a lot of time stopping in to visit clubs and groups to get grass roots comments. There is no specific topic," said Democratic Club member Carol Larkin. "I was really thrilled to hear he was coming to Garden City."

Cherry is expected to make

some brief remarks and then open up discussions with residents in attendance.

"I think he'll make some introductory comments on where we are at in the state vision for 2005," said Larkin.

In particular, Larkin said schools will likely be a topic that gets a lot of discussion, noting Cherry chaired a commission on education.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting which will be held in room 1 at the Maplewood Center, located on Maplewood west of Merriman.

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DEATHS

A
Alexander N. Adair, 82, of Olathe, Kan., died Jan. 15.
Marilyn Jean Anderson, 53, of Plymouth, died Jan. 18.

B
Paul Cameron Babcock, 45, died Jan. 19.

K
George "Tom" Kazen Jr., 56, died Jan. 20.

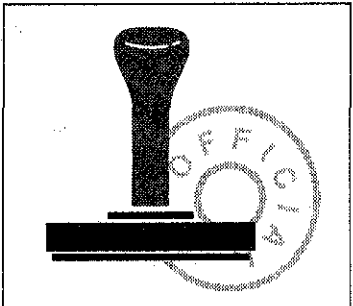
M
Olive Jeanne Mettetal, 81, of Plymouth, died Jan. 10.

O
Joseph A. Olkowski, 89, of Garden City, died Dec. 22.
James M. O'Toole, 85, of Westland, died Jan. 20.

R
The Rev. Michael (Gilbert) Rozewicz, 59, died Jan. 14.

S
Rose Marie (Wheeler) Shpiece, 79, died Jan. 20.

Z
Paul William Zuber, 52, formerly of Redford Twp., died Jan. 3.



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life section in Passages on page C5.

Sign up now for drama and movement classes for children with special needs provided by the Shoe String Theatre. Classes will be 5-6 p.m. Thursdays at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Six-week classes begin Jan. 27 and run through March 10 (no class Feb. 17). Register by Monday, Jan. 24. A second session will be offered March 17-April 28 (no class March 31). Pre-register by March 14. Class size is limited to a minimum of six children and a maximum of 12. Cost is \$30 for Westland residents and \$31 for non-residents. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

SWIMMING

The Therapeutic Program also offers swimming at the Dyer Orthopedic Pool on Marquette west of Carlson 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays now through May 31. The cost is \$2 per night or \$10 for five swims for Westland residents and \$3 per night or \$15 for five swims for non-residents. The Dyer pool is heated to 90 degrees and is wheelchair accessible. Those requiring one-on-one assistance or supervision in the pool or locker room must bring and aide or family member. Private swim lessons and water exercise classes also are available. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

RECREATION

The following programs are offered through the Westland Parks and Recreation Department at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Karate

Discover the Shotokan style of karate with instructor Tony Valvona. Learn a form of self-defense that helps build self-confident and self-discipline while improving fitness, coordination and flexibility. For additional information, call Valvona at (248) 348-8752. Classes are available for men, women and children ages 6 and up. Courses are on-going, beginning the first Wednesday of every month and meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Cost is \$75 for residents per quarter (three months) and \$78 for non-residents per quarter, payable to City of Westland. There also is a \$25 First Year Club Registration, payable to Tony Valvona. Uniforms are free to new beginners only (all sizes in stock).

Young American Self-Defense

This fun course is designed for self-defense purposes only and covers the Stranger Danger Technique. Safety papers will be handed out weekly. Basic through black belt levels are taught by certified black belt instructors. Awards and promotions are included throughout the program. The age level is 4-15 years of age. Session 2 is Feb. 7-May 16, no class March 28. Times are 6:30-7:15 p.m. for ages 4-6, 7:15-8 p.m. for ages 7-9 and 8-8:45 p.m. for ages 10 and up. Cost is \$5 per student per day, \$70 for entire session. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. For more information, call (616) 538-2888 or e-mail at melycoa@attbi.com.

Lil' Dragons Martial Arts

Lil' Dragons teaches respect, discipline, confidence, flexibility, balance, coordination, self-control, cooperation, health, fun fitness and stranger awareness. The new program provides fun, high energy classes designed especially for 5-7-year-olds. These classes are 30 minutes long. Half-hour classes for 8-10-year-olds as well as hour-long classes for those 11 years and older and adults are available. Classes are available 5:30-6 p.m. for Lil' Dragons (cost \$25 per month and \$25 uniform fee), 6-6:30 p.m. karate for 8-10-year-olds (cost \$25 per month and \$25 uniform fee) and 5:30-6:30 p.m. ages 11 and up, including adults (cost \$35 per month and \$25 uniform fee). Classes are at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information, call (248) 348-8752.

Pottery for kids and teens

Learn the basics of pottery with instructor Shirley Moore. This class will focus on hand-made pottery items, such as pinch pots, coil pots and small sculptures. Your teacher will help guide you in picking out a project that is special to your interests and skill level. Once you have created your project in clay, you will be able to stain or glaze your chosen piece before taking it home. The program is for those age 3 and up and is geared towards a variety of skill levels. Time is 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person for residents and \$33 per person for non-residents. There is a \$2 supply fee paid to the teacher at each class. The supplies include clay, glazes, stains and firing costs. Sessions are Monday, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 2005 (pre-register by Jan. 20) and Monday, March 7-April 11 (pre-register by March 3).

Aerobics with M&N Studios

Drop in on this class for a fun aerobic workout. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes. This is a low-impact workout and each class offers a variety of activities. Class is offered 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$3 per class resident, \$4 per class non-resident. Also included are kickboxing combinations for everyone, even those new to this workout craze. For more information, call (248) 353-2885.

On the job: Disaster help not new for Salvation Army

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

'We're heavily involved in all kinds of things. The Salvation Army will always be there in a time of disaster.'

George Aren
disaster services director

The Asian tsunami disaster has dominated recent headlines, but George Aren knows disaster relief is an ongoing effort.

Aren is disaster services director for the Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division, and got his start when Flight 255 crashed in 1987 at Detroit Metro Airport, killing all but one person aboard.

"That was my introduction to disaster work," said Aren, 69. "I knew nothing about disaster services."

Since then, he's served at four major plane crashes, many fires and in New York City at Ground Zero after 9/11. Aren said the Red Cross and Salvation Army often work together, with the Red Cross providing shelter and the Salvation Army food.

"We're heavily involved in all kinds of things," Aren, a former service station owner, told members and guests at a recent Westland Rotary Club meeting. "The Salvation Army will always be there in a time of disaster."

He described other churches that also provide disaster relief, and noted not all of those helped are low income. A North Dakota attorney was grateful for Salvation Army help he received during floods there.

Often, low-income people don't have homeowners' insurance, Aren said, and are displaced after fires. "You people insure your houses out in the suburbs."

The Salvation Army is working to build homes in Asia, getting a helping hand from Habitat for Humanity. Although Aren and his colleagues appreciate all who give, he said cash donations are best. "It sounds cold, it sounds hard." Cash, however, can be

used to buy whatever's needed, such as the pop that Pepsi delivered when Aren was in New York City.

"It might be better to hang onto your buck for a day or two," he told those at Joy Manor. Phony charities spring up after a disaster, Aren said, and it's important to know your donation's being put to good use.

Aren also described early Salvation Army disaster relief, such as that following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. These days, local donations, payable to the Salvation Army, may be sent to the Army's Eastern Michigan Division, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075. The notation "tsunami" can be added to the check memo if appropriate.

"The Salvation Army is a wonderful organization and is well-deserving of our support," said Margaret Harlow, Westland Rotary president. The club has pledged to donate money to aid victims of the tsunami crisis, she added, and recently hosted a speaker from a Rotary club in Thailand. Retired Salvation Army divisional commander Lt. Col. Clarence Harvey will speak Thursday, Jan. 27, to the Westland Rotary at Joy Manor, on Joy east of Middlebelt. Lunch is served 12:15 p.m.

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Looking back on history

She's 104 and recalls seeing Coolidge inauguration in 1925

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

The memories of seeing a presidential inauguration in person can last a lifetime. Just ask Bessie Brimhall.

The 104-year-old witnessed the inauguration of Calvin Coolidge back in 1925 while she was working in Washington D.C. On Thursday, as she watched another Republican, George W. Bush, take the oath of office — this time on the television in her Redford home — she shared her remarkable memory and sharp wit.

Watching the broadcast Thursday, she stopped her conversation to point at ABC's Peter Jennings. "Has he been ill? He's aged a lot," she said, then pausing, with a twinkle in her eye, "Of course, I haven't."

Eighty years ago, Brimhall recalled, inaugurations were different. The president was sworn in on the east steps of the Capitol, not the west. And the inauguration was held in March. The weather was cold that year, but nice, with no snow on the ground, she said: "We were beginning to get cherry blossoms. The cherry blossoms in Washington were so beautiful."

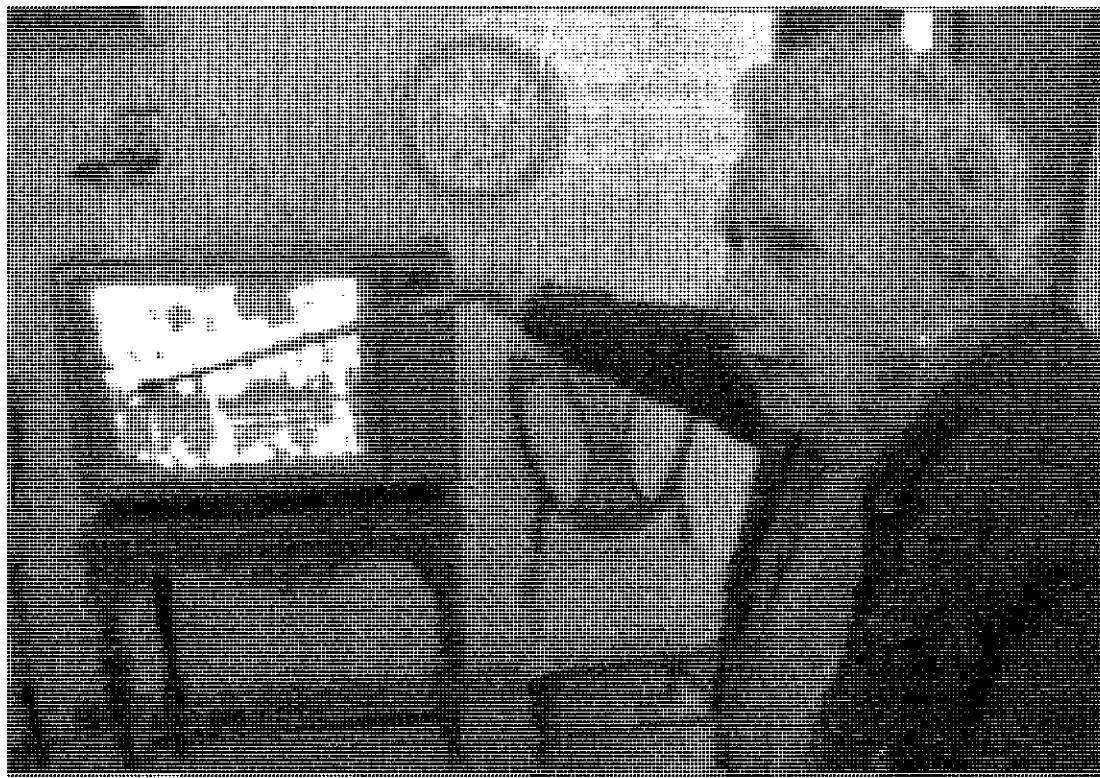
Brimhall, who grew up as a farm girl in Illinois, was still a young woman when she was hired as a clerk and typist in Washington, first for the Census Bureau and later for the Veterans Bureau. While there for three years, she saw and even met some of the politically powerful.

MEMORIES OF THE FAMOUS

She worked for a Mr. Fitzgerald, who was a cousin of Rose Kennedy, mother of the former president. He once invited her over at Christmastime to share the holiday with his school-aged daughter, and she remembers packing up donated presents for "mountain children."

She also remembers his perspective on the famous Kennedy clan. "He said, 'My cousin Rosie is an angel, but that Joe, he's a scoundrel.'"

In her time in the capital, she got to see several presi-



Bessie Brimhall watches George W. Bush's inauguration from the living room of her Redford Township home, but she was right there in Washington, D.C., when Cal Coolidge took the oath of office.

'I've tried to live a clean life and never abused my body and I'm a firm believer in a higher power. I believe in being neighborly and we have a wonderful neighborhood.'

Bessie Brimhall
104-year-old

dents. Former President Warren G. Harding and Mrs. Harding would go to the same church she attended, Calvary Baptist. However, she recollects, that was "when they came, they didn't come that often."

Brimhall left the area after three years "to be with my sweetie," Merle, who became her husband. In 1966, they moved to the Redford house she still lives in, where they raised a son.

Although her husband passed away years ago, her good health — plus the help of

many great neighbors, friends like Donna Thompson who visits regularly, twice-a-week visits by her son and other grandchildren and great-grandchildren — has allowed Brimhall to remain in her home.

Her letter carrier even makes a special trip to the house just for her; last month that meant delivering 72 Christmas cards. "I'm a miracle, blessed by God," she said.

In her younger years, Brimhall was active in her church, Grand River Baptist, Boy Scouts and Redford Union schools.

CLEAN LIVING AND GOD

She attributes her longevity to good genes, drinking green tea and never drinking or smoking. "I've tried to live a clean life and never abused my body and I'm a firm believer in a higher power. I believe in being neighborly and we have a wonderful neighborhood," she said, citing neighbors who bring by meals, baked goods and one who makes great chicken soup.

When it comes to politics, Brimhall is a staunch Republican: "I shouldn't say

that, living in Redford, but I am and always have been, and I'm not ashamed of it."

She doesn't hold back on her views of Democratic presidents either: "I've got a lot of respect for Carter. Not Clinton — I've got no use for him. Politics don't mean that much to me. I look at the person."

She says she's watched every inauguration — at least since she got her first television in 1954; before that, she listened on the radio. She's always just found it interesting. "Once you work in Washington, it gets in your blood," she said.

Asked about Bush's inaugural address Thursday, Brimhall seemed satisfied. "It was really what I expected. He was dwelling on the present time and of course, the war. He's a very devout Christian man. But, after all, we all have a right to our beliefs."

"Anyone who doesn't believe in God," she continued, "they'd better wake up and smell the roses. After all, if we didn't have God, where would we be?"

dvarga@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2119

Resource center offers parenting, ADHD classes

The Wayne Westland Community Schools Family Resource Center is offering two seminars for parents.

The first will be "Parenting Styles: A Parent Seminar" for any parent or guardian with children attending a Wayne-Westland school. The seminar will be offered 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, at Patchin Elementary School, 6420 Newburgh, south of Warren, Westland.

There will be a dinner and the seminar covering the differences between authoritarian, permissive and democratic parenting. Parents can chose to

attend one or both sessions.

The center in collaboration with Hegira Prevention will present "ADHD: A Parent Seminar" from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, at Vandenberg Elementary School, 32101 Stellwagen, Wayne. Some of the topics covered will include the origins of ADHD, the effects of ADHD and what a diagnosis means.

There will be medication education skills for parents and more. Attend one or both sessions. For more information or to register for the programs, call the Family Resource Center at (734) 419-2709.

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For Detroit schools to improve, society has to make its own AYP

Sometimes news events gather to a critical mass, forcing us to think about issues we'd almost rather avoid.

On Jan. 13, the Michigan Department of Education released the school district report cards, showing which school districts made adequate yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind criteria. While the majority of districts did make AYP, many urban districts did not. For some, like Livonia, this reflected the performance of special education students and its small

black student population. For Detroit, it represented an ongoing crisis in its predominantly African-American school district.

On that same day, Bill Cosby brought his bracing, some feel abrasive, message to Detroit. The comedian with a doctorate and a long history of social involvement has been preaching a bitter message to the African-American community. Beginning at last year's NAACP national convention, Cosby has been telling black parents that it is long past time to take responsibility for their children — for their studies, their lack of manners, their violence. It wasn't a message many wanted to hear. The educated, multi-millionaire Cosby has been reviled and accused of class snobbery toward poor black Americans.

But he hasn't given an inch, even in the direct language he uses, which would be roundly criticized as racist coming from a white commentator.

In a report on his Detroit speech in the *Free Press*, Cosby is quoted, "These are our people — our people — our young people, and they have to be taught and retrained and we have to do it and mean it. You can't throw them up against the wall anymore. You can't curse them anymore. We've got to bring them home, sit them down. We are the elders, and we've got to demand our place."

That same week, it was announced that the drive to end any form of affirmative action at state institutions was being revived for a run at the 2006 ballot. The movement has a black face, Californian Ward Connerly, and a hollow-ringing assertion that its purpose is to promote color-blindness and opportunity for all.

Finally, Monday was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The most revered leader and martyr in the cause of civil liberties has become a chameleon of virtue for a variety of viewpoints. For some, his message of non-violence is emphasized. For others, it's his steely determination in the face of violence for his cause — justice, equality, social upheaval.

All of these events can draw blood and ire. They all reflect unresolved issues, issues that didn't magically begin in Montgomery when Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat and didn't magically end with the death of King. These issues began the first time a slave trader took human beings from Africa to the New World to perform forced labor and they continue to this day for reasons as complex and tangled as any that have ever confronted a society that prides itself on its liberty and justice.

Metro Detroit is in many ways ground

The school report cards reflect not so much a failure of the schools, though that's what they are intended to uncover, as a failure of society to deal with the multiple problems that black children face long before they enter a classroom.

zero for trying to understand. Here we have an almost all-black city, surrounded by predominantly white suburbs. The city has been in a long decline, despite sputtering efforts to revive here and there, bits and pieces. Projects have brought in theaters, stadiums and a few major corporations (GM stayed in the city, Compuware moved there).

But no one pretends that Detroit will ever again be a retail center or be home to a large, thriving middle class or ever again project the energy and promise it once had. To the rest of the country, Detroit seems like some third world city. Its image is the image of the movie *8 Mile* and Eminem's harsh lyrical portraits. Super Bowls and All-Star Games won't bring change.

The school report cards reflect not so much a failure of the schools, though that's what they are intended to uncover, as a failure of society to deal with the multiple problems that black children face long before they enter a classroom.

While many come from good homes with the kind of concerned, loving but strict parents Cosby endorses, they still live in neighborhoods where the temptations are great and the reasons to resist get dimmer with every day.

While more and more African-Americans move into the middle class (and out to these suburbs), their success can't excuse the broader problems in the black community.

Cosby makes good points about the need for the black community to do its own house cleaning, to drive out the criminal element, to restore its own neighborhoods, to rescue and support its children. No matter how legitimate the effects of racism, it can't be an excuse for neglect, crime and a lack of self-respect.

But what we have here is not just a black/city/poor problem. What we have is a problem that affects us all. What we have is an infant care problem, a drug peddling problem, an unemployment problem, a run-down housing problem, a decaying infrastructure problem, a racism problem that cloaks itself in "color-blindness" rhetoric, a whites in the suburbs problem, a black middle-class problem.

We have a central city that no longer serves a vital purpose for the middle-class, predominantly white residents of the suburbs.

But if they don't do something and we don't do something, none of us will ever make adequate yearly progress to the better world of Drs. King and Cosby's dreams.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net, by phone at (734) 953-2149, or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

Writing to pope isn't one of Gumbleton's birthday wishes

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton is supposed to write a letter to Pope John Paul II this Wednesday.

Trouble is, he doesn't want to do it. "Traditionally, you are supposed to write to the pope on your 75th birthday and offer to resign," Michigan's most politically controversial bishop said, chuckling softly over breakfast. "But it's so arbitrary — some of them they ignore, but if you are the least bit progressive, they accept it immediately."

If that's the case, the Vatican may accept his resignation with the speed of the Internet. But Bishop Tom has no desire to lay his burden down.

He is a true child of Vatican II who was studying in Rome while the famous council was going on, and who was changed forever by it. He believes the church has a role to play, "standing up and safeguarding human rights for everyone." And as a bishop of the church, he feels it is his job to help lead that struggle. That mission has taken him, a man who resembles a gentle, kindly Irish elf, to El Salvador and Iraq and a dozen other countries. He has just come back from Haiti, where he helped get a prominent priest, Father Gerald Jean-Juste, released from prison, and he plans to go back soon.

He's been in Vietnam and Guatemala and a dozen other places, usually staying with the poorest of the poor, sometimes tempting dictators and fate.

Even if he is forced into retirement, he intends to continue his travels. Why? What influenced Tom Gumbleton most was a Vatican II document on the church's role in the modern world. "If you are saving souls one at a time you really aren't going to get very far," he said. But as he sees it, the church's role should be to try to "transfer this world into as close an image of the reign of God, what the reign of God might look like, as possible."

That would be a world, he said, where everyone has enough to live decently, and also where their human and political rights aren't trampled on.

That view of his role and the church has caused him to fast and commit acts of civil disobedience and irritate numerous governments, including his own.

Those sentiments are more or less out of fashion these days. He was one of the youngest (38) men ever to be ordained an auxiliary bishop in 1968. He laughed a few years ago when I asked if he thought he would have been made a bishop today. "Oh no!" he said, laughing.

Born in Detroit, Father Tom was a young priest studying canon law in Rome when Pope John XXIII convened the famous council. He was fas-

That view of his role and the church has caused him to fast and commit acts of civil disobedience and irritate numerous governments, including his own.

inated. John Cardinal Dearden, then Detroit's archbishop, was a main player.

"He was one of only a few — I think there were only two — American bishops who could really handle Latin, and all the discussions were in Latin."

Bishop Tom believes he has a traditional and pastoral role, too; he also serves as priest of St. Leo, a drafty, century-old brick church in the inner city where many of the parishioners are desperately poor, and death by gunshot is all too common. When we had breakfast last week, he was waiting to find out whether he or another priest would preside over the funeral of one of these. The last time I visited him there, it was so cold in his office I could barely write.

The good bishop had been sleeping there, in a pallet on the floor. He hadn't told me, but he had used some of his salary to help pay the tuition of one of my students.

What if he somehow just forgets to send the letter in? "I suspect I'll get a call saying that the pope is looking for my letter."

He thinks forcing him into retirement would be a waste. He says he knows another round of church closings is coming. "They say it isn't arbitrary, but it is, and they never address the real reason, which is that there aren't enough priests."

He thinks the archdiocese should train a network of lay pastoral ministers, and send priests in to perform the sacraments. But his advice tends to be ignored. He admired John Cardinal Dearden and sometimes got into shouting matches with his successor, Edmund Cardinal Szoka. But the current archbishop, Adam Cardinal Maida, mostly just ignores him.

Bishop Tom prefers a dialogue, even at high decibels. He shrugs and smiles, looking out the window of a downtown deli in a neighborhood devastated by the closing of Tiger Stadium.

"Maybe you could send (the letter) by sea mail," suggested Rudy Simons, who has traveled with him to Iraq and Haiti. Simons, who is Jewish, told me every morning he found the bishop silently reading his Bible, and sometimes it would be hours before he spoke at all. I never believed in saints. Now, I am not so sure.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.



Hugh Gallagher



Jack Lessenberry

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Death of Radio

Detroit, as one of the top broadcasting markets, has long been home to freeform radio until Clear Channel chose to remove Thayrone and end broadcast of the Bone Conduction Music Show from its Ann Arbor Affiliate WQKL.

Broadcasting music of distinction every week for more than 20 years, Thayrone has respected his listeners by playing a unique blend of vintage rhythm and blues, rock and roll and soul.

In an unprecedented move initiated by one single complaint under the direction of a Clear Channel executive, the

Bone Conduction Music Show was removed from the air without the consent of the public, bad ratings, or even evidence of registered complaints with the Federal Communications Commission.

As a weekly listener, I eagerly awaited his show and have been entertained by Thayrone's, one-of-a-kind on-air personality; however, I am left with no justifiable reason to listen to WQKL and have removed the station from my presets.

Thayrone has become a victim of the increased consolidation and corporatization of radio ownership and an out-of-town executive who has never heard the show.

Finally, if the new message of Clear Channel's ad campaign is to confront satellite radio by claiming new artists get their careers started on the radio, this would only support the Bone Conduction Music Show because its hallmark has been to play frequently unheard music.

Please, any advocate of freeform radio and especially any supporter of the Bone Conduction Music Show, join in protesting the removal of this show and contact WQKL and Clear Channel with complaints.

Kevin Gordish
Westland

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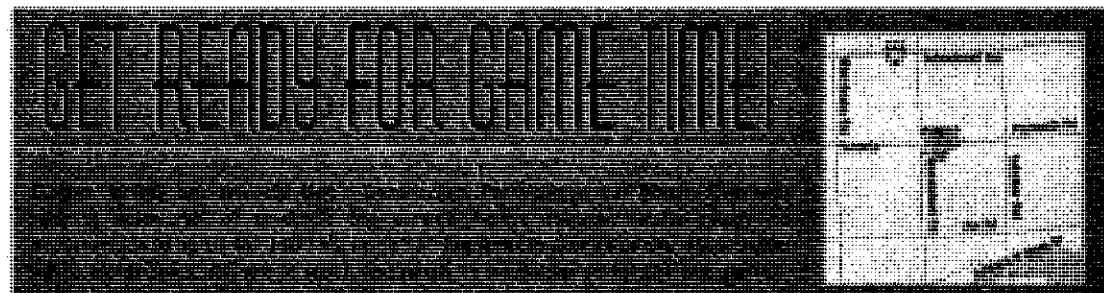
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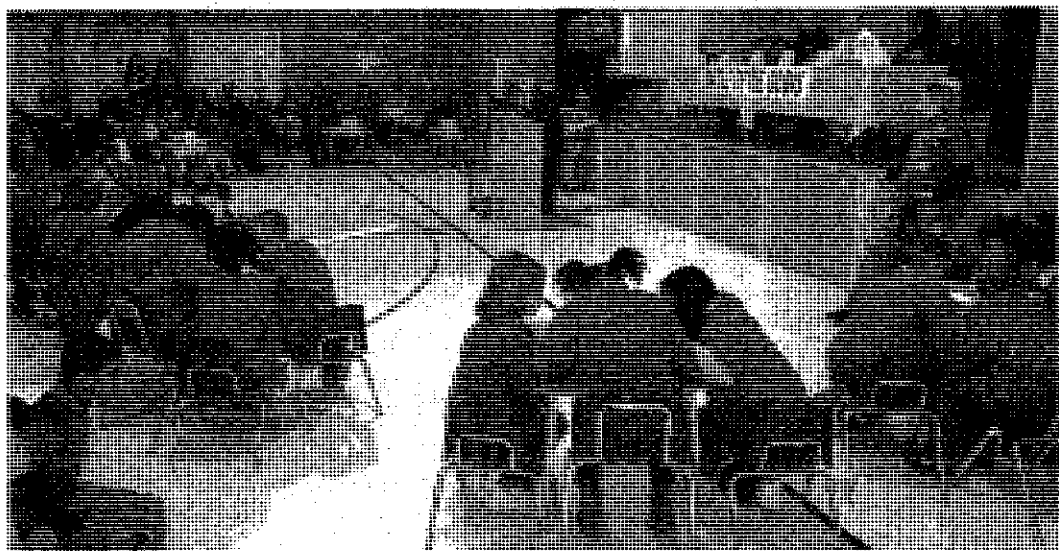
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The parent coaches watched from the far wall as their respective teams developed their answers to questions in the Battle of the Books.

READING

FROM PAGE A1

one hour each week, reading and answering questions their coaches had developed to test their comprehension.

And many of those questions were used for the Battle rounds.

"We took them right from the team sheets," Laws said.

They answered questions like what Glura thought about the world - "that it had an aching heart" - what happened to Opal India's mother in Winn-Dixie - "She packed her bags and left" - and provided the definition for the word obstreperous - rude, consistently out of control.

They had team names like Miss Mary's Book Warriors, Reading Rugrats, Champion Scholars, Masters of the Book Universe and Winning Rocket Readers and sat at tables in a semi-circle at the front of the school gymnasium.

The teams had 30 seconds in which to discuss their answer.

The final response was decided by the team captain, and the job of writing the answer on a card fell to the team scribe.

"The purpose of the contest was comprehension, not winning," said Laws to parents.

"When they read, they need to tell you what they read. Our goal is to get them to read."

Nancy Draper and her husband Jim were in the audience watching their son Alex. A fourth-grader, he was the scribe for the Winning Rocket Readers.

"I told him scribe was another name for secretary, and he said no, he's a scribe," said Jim with a laugh.

A panel of judges - Hicks Elementary Reading First coach Sandi Schutte, jazz recording artist Gene Dunlap, recording artist Jeffree Perry, Westland Assistant Fire Chief Robert Fields, former recording artist Wyonetta Motley of the Marvelettes and William Swartz, Wayne-Westland's director of media services - determined



Serving as judges were Sandi Schutte (far back to front), Gene Dunlap, Jeffree Perry, Robert Fields, Wyonetta Motley and William Swartz.

which answers were correct and award up to five points.

The teams all received medals for participating and the coaches were awarded plaques, but the trophies were saved for the winning team.

"We've already said you're all winners but we do have some who stood out, the Rocken Rollen Readers," Principal Johnnye Summerville said.

"These are children of various reading levels, but they were so cool about this process."

"They were so awesome," said their coach Mary Ann Kocsis. "They read the books and answered the ques-

tions ... I'm so proud of them, they did the work."

Kocsis also was glad they knew the answer about Glura, admitting that that was one "I didn't know."

"They worked well as a team," she added.

The competition was hardly over and Summerville was talking about the next round which would include spoken answers along with written responses and expanding the competition to other grades.

"Give yourself a pat on the back," Summerville told the teams. "You did an exceptional job."

smason@oe.homecomm.net

ACHIEVERS

More than 60 students entered a city-sponsored poster contest that honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

During a King ceremony Monday at Annapolis Park Church of Christ, Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli recognized the contest winners, whose posters were prominently displayed on stage.

The winners: **Monica Smith**, Elliott Elementary, first place; **Katelyn Thebeau**, Stevenson Middle School, second place; **Christian Larson**, Elliott Elementary, third place; **Blaire Saranas**, Lincoln Elementary, honorable mention; **Anya Straka-Conway**, John Glenn High School, honorable mention; and **Adam Grim**, Elliott Elementary, honorable mention.

The winners received gift certificates for Westland Shopping Center.

The remaining contest entries were displayed in a room of the church so that those attending the observance of King's birthday could see them.

Coleen Dziurlikowski of Westland is among 242 students named to the Dean's List for the 2004 fall semester at Olivet College.

To make the Dean's List, a student must be full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Westland students, **Susan Bear**, **Lavinia Bordusanu**, and **Dwayne Branum**, have been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall semester at Lawrence Technological University. To be named to the honor roll, a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the term.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE A1

try to work with hockey association leaders to resolve differences between the two sides. Simonian had taken his concerns about the rate increase to the Westland City Council, but he said Thursday that he won't continue pressing elected leaders to roll back the arena rates.

Simonian said he has reached the conclusion that "there's nothing they can do."

City officials have upheld the rate increase as necessary in the wake of financial losses that amounted to \$375,000 during the last two years, alone.

In another development, Simonian indicated that the

association would, on its own, like to hire an outside consultant to conduct an independent analysis of repairs needed at the ice arena. The idea has been shared with city officials, because the association wants permission before considering such a move, Simonian said.

"The ball's in their court," he said.

Such an analysis might provide a blueprint for facility improvements, although city officials have said they are strapped for money amid a continuing budget crunch.

"It would be better to bring in a third party who has no interest in it," Simonian said.

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Mall contest looks for beautiful baby

Does your baby have a face that delights everyone?

If so, you won't want to miss New Star Discovery Inc.'s regional Most Beautiful Baby Contest Saturday, Feb. 5, at Westland Shopping Center at Wayne Road and Warren.

The contest will include categories for infants up to seven months of age, eight-14 months, 15-23 months, 24-35 months, three-four years and five-six years for boys and for girls.

The entry fee for the main age division is \$45.

There also are eight optional categories to enter with fees of \$5 each. Registration starts at 9 a.m. for up to seven months and eight-14 months, and at 1 p.m. for the remaining four age divisions.

For more information, call New Star Discovery at (877) 330-BABY.

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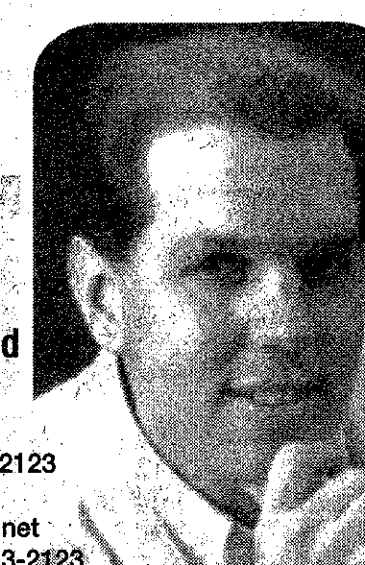
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State lends clout to quarantined counties

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to help communities affected by the emerald ash borer, an insect killing ash trees in communities all across southern Michigan, the state is lending it's considerable purchasing power to help clear out the dead wood.

Last week, the state awarded bids to 26 tree removal companies to help communities and homeowners get rid of trees ruined by the borer. The state used its contract system to pool demand and get lower prices from tree removal companies. The plan has been in the works since October of last year.

The program is available to communities in Oakland, Wayne, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw, St. Clair, Shiawassee and Washtenaw counties - all counties considered "quarantined" because of emerald ash borer infestation.

But just because a community is in one of those counties, that doesn't mean residents can sign up immediately. Charlene Molnar, Oakland County's horticultural advisor, said it's up to the individual community to take part.

"The municipalities choose to participate, the homeowners contact the municipality," she said. "If the community doesn't take part, residents will have to remove the

trees on their own."

The state, through the offices of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Department of Management and Budget, will hold a training session from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 27 at the offices of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, 535 Griswold, in Detroit.

A similar meeting was held in Wixom earlier this month and additional orientation meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays in coming months at the MDA's Southfield office.

Emerald ash borer Policy Director Patricia Lockwood said nothing in the state's plans will help pay for the removal of trees. Individual communities will not offer financial aid to residents to remove dead or dying trees. What the program does is allow communities to get a price break for residents.

"The prices are very competitive," she said.

"Based on the sheer number of trees involved."

State officials estimate that 10 million of the state's 760 million ash trees will have to be cut down. The program has nothing to do with a one-time \$1.2 million federal grant for tree removal approved in the 2004 budget.

Tree removal costs, for residents of communities which are participating, is based on diameter of the tree at breast height and location in

the front or back yard. For instance, a tree with an 18- to 24-inch diameter should cost \$360 to remove from the front yard and \$450 to remove from the back yard.

But the program is not popular with everyone. Judd Hart, of J.H. Hart Urban Forestry, said the fixed pricing in the program is misleading - a tree standing alone in the front yard is very different from the one in the back yard under power lines and over the pool.

"It's like calling a dentist on the phone and asking how much it's going to cost to fix a tooth," he said. "He has to look at the tooth."

Hart, the forester of record for the city of Birmingham, said the program is bad for the industry because homeowners are going to look at the state-generated price list and accuse small operators of trying to gouge them when they quote prices.

"It's bad for the industry," Hart said. "It's bad for the public."

The emerald ash borer came to the attention of the state in 2002 when ash trees started to die off. The extent of the infestation is different for each community, depending on the number of ash trees. Ironically, communities whose tree-lined boulevards were devastated by Dutch elm disease in the 1950's replaced those trees with ashes.

For more information about the program, call the MDA at (248) 356-1701 or go to the Web site at www.michigan.gov/eab.

Workshop tells all about emerald ash borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) beetles have killed about 10 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, with the most devastation in southeast Michigan. All homeowners need to know how this affects them, and what they can and should be doing about it.

The Emerald Ash Borer Information & Ash Wood Utilization Fair on Saturday, Jan. 29, will address everything anyone could ever want to know about the EAB. The event is free and will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. It is hosted by Washtenaw County Michigan State University Extension in partnership with the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Through educational displays and demonstrations, attendees will learn:

- How to identify an ash tree and tell if it is infested with Emerald Ash Borer.
- Whether and how to treat an infested ash
- Whether an ash needs to be cut down
- How to hire a tree service or tree removal company
- How to properly dispose of cut-down ash trees
- What trees to plant in place of an ash
- Laws against moving ash trees, logs, or firewood out of the quarantined zone

- Alternative uses for ash wood
- Chainsaw use and safety

Presenters will include representatives from many government agencies, area businesses (tree care services, sawmills, woodworkers, wood product industries, etc.), and local municipalities.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was discovered in southeastern Michigan in the summer of 2002. It most likely made its way to the U.S. in solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in Asia. An adult EAB may cause little damage, but the larvae feeds on the inner bark of ash trees.

This disrupts the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. The tree dies from the inside out.

Regulatory agencies have enforced quarantines and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs, or firewood from being taken out of the infested areas. Extensive information is available at www.emeraldashborer.info <<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>>

Michigan State University Extension programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by calling the Extension office at 734/997-1678, two weeks prior to the date of the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements.

Students display ideas for cities of the future

Auto-navigating vehicles running on electromagnetic roads. Climate-controlled underground homes in the desert with giant plasma screen windows that have interchangeable pictures so one day you have an idyllic Pacific sunset and another you're peering down the Rockies from 11,000 feet. Clean, safe, renewable energy sources powering everything from 1,000 mile-an-hour trains and covered moving sidewalks to homes, schools and manufacturing plants.

Sound like something out of a workshop for science fiction writers? Not really. These are just some of the ideas that will be shown at the Future City Competition from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at Burton Manor in Livonia.

And who are the creators of these "cool" ideas? None other than seventh and eighth grade students from middle schools around metropolitan Detroit who have a penchant for designing cities of the future that are safe, clean, fun places to live.

This year, more than 750 students and 40 middle school teams from 30 school districts including Ann Arbor, Bloomfield Hills, Detroit, Eastpointe, Royal Oak, Pontiac, Southfield and Waterford will be participating in the Michigan region competition.

Future City, part of National Engineers Week, is an annual event started in 1951 to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession. Teams from 36 regions around the country hold competitions in January and the winners go on to the national competition in February during National Engineers Week in Washington, D.C.

This program brings students together to design, build and present a city of the future-complete with roads, sewers, water, transportation, businesses, power plants, residential homes

and schools. It's a team-based program made up of students, a teacher and a practicing engineer mentor. The students learn how to conduct research, develop problem-solving skills, make decisions as a group and make presentations. But most importantly, the students learn how to apply the knowledge they learn to real world situations, while seeing first hand how an engineer turns ideas into reality.

The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) is the coordinator of the Michigan region Future City Competition. "Part of our mission as a professional society is to foster the growth and development of engineers and scientists of the future," said Don Goodwin, President of ESD and Vice President of Scientific Laboratories and Proving Grounds for DaimlerChrysler Corporation. "This level of participation is a testimony to our commitment to reach out and make math and science more interesting and relevant to students encouraging them to become Detroit's future leaders in these career fields."

Founded in 1895 and headquartered in Southfield, ESD is a multi-disciplinary society uniting engineers, scientists, architects and professionals in related technical fields to enhance their careers, foster the growth and development of future engineers and scientists, and improve the communities where members live.

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Parisian The Village of Rochester Hills will be closing at 4:30 pm on Sunday, January 30. JANE SEYMOUR HOME COLLECTION ALSO AVAILABLE AT LAUREL PARK PLACE.

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