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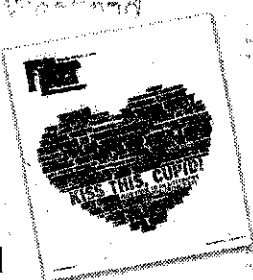
Fishing for meals

TASTE, SECTION D

No date? No problem

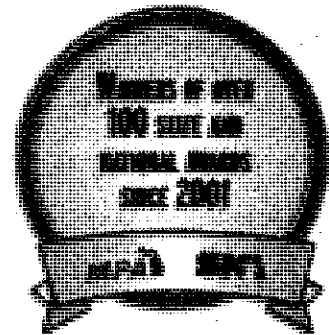
Alternative Valentine's Day guide.

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THURSDAY

February 10, 2005

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VOLUME 40 NUMBER 74

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'With so many of our children affected by the tsunami, we wanted an opportunity to raise money for others.'

Jackie Beitz, School Age Child Care district coordinator



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nankin Mills second-grader Dominique Denson cuts out some cookie hearts for a sweet School Aid Child Care program fund-raiser this week.

Sweet kind of giving

Cookies for Kindness raises money for disaster relief

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER



Nankin Mills Principal Ernie Terry and teacher Mary Ann Bubar buy their cookies from fifth-grader Abby Kirk. The Cookies for Kindness fund-raiser continues this week to raise money for the American Red Cross, and victims of the tsunami.

Anyone who entered Nankin Mills Elementary School on Monday was welcomed by the warm smell of fresh-baked cookies. The school, located in Westland, was just one site of many in Livonia Public Schools that transformed into a virtual cookie-baking wonderland for a cause this week.

Jackie Beitz, School Age Child Care district coordinator, organized the all-elementary fund-raiser - Cookies for Kindness. All the money raised on cookie sales this week will be donated to the American Red Cross International Disaster Relief Fund, she said.

The idea was cooked up soon after a tsunami devastated 10 nations surrounding the Indian Ocean on Dec. 26.

"With so many of our children affected by the tsunami," said Beitz, "we wanted an opportunity to raise money for others."

Students enrolled in the SACC programs spent much of their before-and-after school program baking and frosting a variety of cookies, or making cookie-shaped clay refrigerator magnets, all for sale this week.

PLEASE SEE COOKIES, A4

New law creates 1 precinct for all elections

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Voting just got easier in Westland. Some voters who live in the Wayne-Westland school district have, until now, had to cast ballots at different polling places for school board elections and city elections.

That will change now that City Clerk Eileen DeHart's office will be handling Wayne-Westland school board elections as well as city races.

"I think it will be better for the voters," DeHart said.

Some voters have been confused by past elections. For example, some residents who vote at Madison Elementary School for school board races have had to

PLEASE SEE ELECTIONS, A4

School election attracts only incumbents

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

As it now stands, two Wayne-Westland school board members will be unopposed in the May 3 school election.

Incumbent board member Ed Turner and relative newcomer Steve Becher were the only candidates to file petitions by 4 p.m. Tuesday for the election.

Turner, a Westland resident, is seeking his third four-year term on the board. First elected in 1997, he has served as board secretary and most recently board president.

"With the condition of the state's finances, I didn't want to jump ship," Turner said. "I'm going to be a kids-first, parents-second and staff-and-administration-third candidate. The kids have got to come first."

Becher was elected to the board in June 2004 to fill the remaining one year of a term that had been held by the late Mathew McCusker. Becher is seeking his first four-year term on the board.

The Wayne resident spent his entire 26-year career teaching in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. In his first bid for a full term, he stressed his knowledge of the school district, experiences in the classroom at Madison Elementary and Marshall Middle schools, and his educational background.

"It's been a very nice experience," said Becher, adding that he has several things he'd like to accomplish in the next four years - single sex physical education, mathematics and science classes.

"I'm a big proponent of single sex classes and would like to see the district try them," he said. "I think it worth giving them a shot."

The two candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday to withdraw from the election, which is being conducted by the cities of Wayne and Westland under last year's election consolidation act.

Residents interested in running and who missed Tuesday's filing deadline can still campaign as write-in candidates.

Weaver: District has no privatization plan

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school board President Frederick Weaver made it perfectly clear Monday evening. Exercising his privilege as board president, Weaver said the board is not planning to vote on privatization.

"There is no existing privatization plan, and the Board of Education does not presently intend to formally consider or take a vote on any privatization issue," he said, reading from a prepared statement.

Weaver acknowledged that board members were aware of fliers that had been left at businesses in the community and had "received numerous e-mails from district employees



Weaver

who have been unnecessarily alarmed about their jobs."

Weaver took the unusual action of speaking on behalf of the board to address rumors about privatizing services that have been circulating in the district for several weeks. They started after MEA Local 4 members learned that the district had been gathering information about privatizing.

The union has been working without a contract since last July and had planned to protest at the meeting. That protest, however, was called off last Wednesday, when it was announced that the union and district were

returning to the bargaining table in hopes of working out a new contract.

Superintendent Greg Baracy confirmed that the district did investigate privatization to "be prepared to answer any and all questions on where we can contain costs."

A third year of no increases in state school aid, Wayne-Westland now faces cutting \$7.5 million to balance its 2005-06 budget. According to Baracy, school officials are looking at all areas of the budget to find ways to trim costs.

Weaver also spoke about the district's money problems, calling it a "significant financial hardship brought on by the state

PLEASE SEE WEAVER, A4

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INDEX

Apartments F8
At Home B1
Automotive G4
Classified Index F6
Crossword Puzzle F7
For The Record A6
Jobs F10
Movie Guide E6
Obituaries C9
Real Estate F1
Sports C1
Taste D1

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Coming Sunday on the PINK page

Exclusive interview with designer Dana Buchman



01/6

Familiar faces, new places spell success

BRONZING STARS

Sister-brother team Leslie and Mike Osman are already earning praise as the new owners of **All Exposed Tanning & Nails in Westland**.

Lori Brist, president of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, said she believes the new owners will be quite successful in this venture.

"I'm such a people person," said Leslie Osman. "I love working with the public."

She said she's always willing to answer questions or share advice on how to tan safely. After all, she said "we tan to look good."

The salon offers nine tanning units, and sells single visits or packages of five, seven or 10 for \$6-\$40. All Exposed also runs promotions.

Currently first-timers can tan for \$4. And those who purchase unlimited tanning at \$49 a month earn a second month free. Nail services such as manicures and pedicures range from \$15 to \$35. Bridal and student discounts are available, as are gift certificates.

Hours have been extended to



10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. All Exposed Tanning & Nails is located at 38409 Joy Road, facing Hix Road, in Westland.

FLOWERS AT 50

Floyd's Flowers solidifies its status as a Redford institution this year, by marking its 50th year in the business of blooms.

Floyd Bennett, the shop's namesake and original owner opened its doors June 1, 1955, with just \$38 left in his bank account. Since then, the shop has expanded three times.

Denise Necker, owner for the past 13 years, has credited their family-friendly atmosphere and an array of flower and planting services for the flower shop's continued success. In 2004, the shop was voted the "Best of Redford" in

an *Observer* reader's poll.

In addition to fresh cut flowers and arrangements that mark life's milestones, Floyd's offers personalized planting services each spring. With Valentine's Day fast approaching, the Floyd's staff is working to fill orders faster than ever - it's the holiday that requires the quickest turnaround of all.

Floyd's Flowers is at 25096 Five Mile, between Beech Daly and Telegraph in Redford Township. Call (313) 535-4934.

FAMILY-STYLE

Passers-by can tell by the sign. It's no secret that Livonia's Leather Bottle has changed ownership. Now called **G. Subu Leather Bottle**, the restaurant is under the guidance of father-and-son team George and Johnny Subu.

If their names sound familiar to local residents, it's no coincidence. George Subu served as co-owner of Sandtraps - formerly on Five Mile in Livonia.

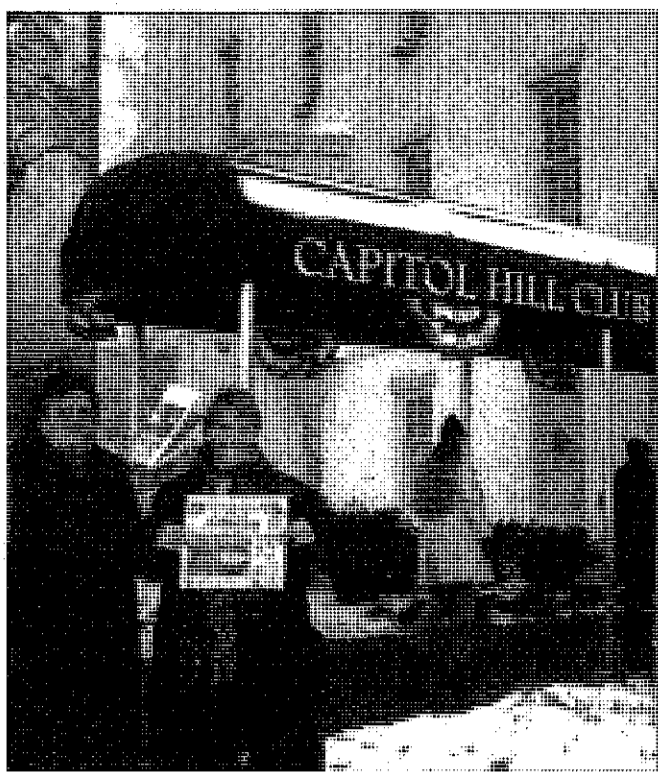
"We are a family-owned business," Subu said. "A lot of

people in Livonia know us."

He called Livonia a "great, established community," and mentioned the restaurant as easily accessible, particularly with its proximity to Farmington. Subu said he looks forward to serving his former customers and drawing in new ones.

The menu ranges from the Leather Bottle's famous pizza and pasta, to seafood, steaks and other specials. Prices range from \$10-\$15 for most dinner entrees. The space offers banquet facilities and will host live music on week-ends. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, and noon to midnight on Sunday. G Subu Leather Bottle is located at 20300 Farmington Road, just south of Eight Mile in Livonia. Call (248) 474-2420.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.



Wish you were here

In Washington, D.C., for the inauguration, State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, and Garden City Mayor Jaylee Lynch took time out from all the festivities to pose with copies of the Garden City and Westland Observer newspaper outside the Capitol Hill Club. If you go on vacation, and pose for a picture with your Westland Observer, Wish You Were Here, the Garden City Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

PLACES AND FACES

Toy show

The Westland Rotary Club will host a toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt.

The show will feature new and antique toys, collectibles,

Beanie Babies, action figures, die cast toys, slot and model cars, Matchbox, Hot Wheels and more. There also will be 50/50 raffles and drawings for door prizes.

Show admission is \$3 for adults with children under age 12 free. Proceeds will support

Rotary charities.

Table space is available at \$30 per table and is available by writing to Westland Rotary Toy Show, 6600 Burnly, Garden City, MI 48135. For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

New staffer

American Aqua Inc., providing clean water systems to southeastern Michigan, has welcomed Brian Long of Plymouth to its sales staff. Long brings with him 14 years of water treatment experience in the sales field, and he will be working in the communities of Plymouth, Canton, Westland and Troy.

Long has a degree in liberal arts. He is a member of Business Network International/Ann Arbor West. His hobbies include golfing and piano.

Women's health

Garden City Hospital is sponsoring a free lecture series by women's health specialist Dr. Chadi Haddad.

The series, which kicks off on Tuesday, Feb. 15, will address specific topics in women's health care, such as birth control, hormone replacement therapy and other important health concerns.

Space is limited, so register in advance. For further information or to make a reservation, call Garden City Hospital's Community Services department at (734) 458-4330.

Euchre tournament

The Village of Westland is hosting its first Euchre Tournament for seniors age 62 and older at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at the senior community, 32001 Cherry Hill between Merriman and Venoy, Westland. There is no fee, however, space is limited and reservations must be made by Feb. 15 by calling (734) 762-8926. Pinochle and Bridge players are welcome for open card games.

Free seminar

William Gramzow, an advanced planning counselor and funeral director with R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, will conduct a funeral planning seminar at Westland

Convalescent Center on Thursday, March 10.

The seminar will be 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the convalescent center 36137 W. Warren, between Wayne Road and Central City Parkway in Westland.

Gramzow will cover such funeral planning topics as funeral prearrangement planning, how to select a funeral home and understanding Medicaid and SSI as it relates to funeral planning.

The public is invited to attend the free seminar. Call Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for the special event.

In concert

Another date to remember is May 18. That's when the Brigham Young University Singers will perform in concert at Wayne Memorial High School.

Tickets go on sale beginning March 1.

For ticket information, contact Howard Mahler at (734) 419-2245 or meherh@wwcsd.net or Matthew Diroff at (734) 419-2244 or diroffm@wwcsd.net.

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"What's Your Best Chance of Receiving Fast Relief From Your Back Pain Without Any Drugs, Cortisone Shots, or Risky Surgery? The Answer Below May Surprise You!"

Garden City, MI - If you are sick and tired of suffering with your nagging back pain, then it is time to throw aside your pain pill bottles and begin getting rid of the cause of your problem, before it becomes serious! A new natural and revolutionary procedure is helping thousands of back pain sufferers get out of pain safely and gently, without side effects, and without having the bones of your back manipulated!

Sure, you've lived with the pain up until now, but you and I both know that if it hasn't gone away yet, it is probably more than just a simple ache or muscle strain. Taking drugs or cortisone shots may help temporarily, but it is time to take some action to finally get rid of the cause of your pain.

This FDA approved procedure is one of the safest and gentlest methods for treating back pain. It is called the Pulstar, and what it does is gently measure the muscle and joint tension of the back. It can also be used as a treatment device to gently and safely decrease the muscle and joint tension, thereby reducing any muscle spasm present and eliminating any nerve pressure or irritation. Here are some additional benefits of this fantastic treatment device:

• **It is all-natural.** This means that you don't have to worry about any dangerous side effects. Pain medication and cortisone shots not only are temporary, but they also can have damaging effects on the stomach lining, liver, and kidneys.

• **You get the benefit of a chiropractic treatment without the doctor manipulating the bones in your back.** If you never even considered going to a chiropractor because you were scared of someone manipulating your back, then you will be pleased with this gentle procedure. Although traditional chiropractic methods are safe, many of my patients that have previously been to another chiropractor have told me that I can get the same or even better results than a traditional chiropractic treatment without manipulating the spine.

• **You won't receive an unreasonably long treatment plan.** With the Pulstar, you can actually see how you are progressing, so you will never receive more treatments than you need!

• **You will receive a safe, gentle, and a very specific treatment for your pain.** Listen, I don't want you to get the wrong impression and think the other chiropractic methods are unsafe, because they are very safe. Most chiropractors do a wonderful job taking care of their patients. However, we do have many people who come to us that have been to other chiropractors, and many say they

prefer the Pulstar treatments to traditional chiropractic methods.

• **Treatments are affordable.** While we do process insurance, we also have many patients with no insurance that can afford the Pulstar treatments.

While I know there are many people who are happy with their chiropractor, I also know there are many people out there who have had a bad experience with a chiropractor and are afraid to give another one a try. Plus, there are plenty of people that truly love the Pulstar who had previously never been to a chiropractor because they were afraid of the pain getting worse.

So How Does This State of the Art Back Pain Reliever Work?

When analyzing the spine, the Pulstar tests each vertebral level of the back by generating a mechanical impulse (light tap, no shocks!) and uses a sensor in the impulse head to measure resistance to the impulse. What this means is that the Pulstar simply measures the muscle and joint tension of the spine.

When all of the joints in the back are moving normally, the muscle and joint tension is expected to be approximately the same. If some of the joints are restricted in motion, the Pulstar will measure this and display a graph on a computer screen that shows me where the problem is.

Once a joint is determined to be restricted, the Pulstar may also be used to give small, gentle, mechanical impulses into the restricted joint to help break up the tension, relieve muscle spasm, and restore normal joint movement, which will help reduce or eliminate your back pain. Not only is the analysis and treatment pain-free, but most of my patients find it relaxing and look forward to future treatments.

Why Haven't I Heard of This Gentle & Relaxing Procedure?

First of all, there are only a few hundred doctors across the United States that use the Pulstar. I'm one of only a handful of chiropractors in Michigan that have this instrument. The Doctors at Gregg Chiropractic Life Center have been using the Pulstar for over 5 years.

Another possible reason many chiropractors may be hesitant to purchase a Pulstar is that it is expensive and requires them to spend more time with the patient.

Who Else Wants A Back Pain Evaluation For Only \$20?

For a limited time, you could receive a complete back pain evaluation for only \$20! This back pain evaluation will include:

- A Health History and Consultation,

Plus a Pulstar Evaluation. This will help me determine if I can help you and if you're a candidate for receiving Pulstar treatments. Unfortunately, not everyone can be helped with the Pulstar. If for some reason I don't think I can help you, I will try to refer you to the appropriate health care professional.

• **A Gentle Examination and Any Necessary X-rays.** This will allow me to come up with a diagnosis, so I can see what I need to do to help you get and stay out of pain.

• **Report of Findings.** Here we'll sit down one-on-one and I'll give you my recommendations. If I can help you, there will be no pressure to receive any treatment in my office. This entire package is normally a value over \$200, but is yours for only \$20 if you call (734) 525-8422 and schedule an appointment by March 15, 2005.

Now you are probably wondering why I'm giving such a great deal. It's simple. I know there are many people that are suffering from back pain but are hesitant to see a chiropractor because they're too afraid of having a bad experience. This is just my way of introducing this breakthrough in back pain relief to you without any strings attached.

I'm so confident you'll be impressed with the Pulstar that I will guarantee complete satisfaction. After the report of findings, if you are not completely satisfied with the evaluation, I will give you a full refund without any hassles. This removes any risk on your part.

~ Dr. R. James Gregg

P.S. Remember, there are no catches to receive this back pain evaluation for only \$20. There is no manipulating of your spinal bones and joints, no side effects, and as mentioned it is one of the safest and gentlest treatment devices for treating back pain. So call us now at (734) 525-8422 before it's too late.

"I had back pain, and the Instrument was a big help in relieving my pain. It was gentle and did not cause any discomfort, and I recommend it for anyone who is having back pain."

Gary Zimmerman

"The Instrument was a new experience for me and the results were precise and painless. My back pain was completely gone after only three treatments with the Instrument!"

Sharon Kaiser

"I had sharp pains in my back, and was hesitant to have a chiropractor manipulate my back. The Instrument gets rid of the pain without twisting the spine, and is gentle and relaxing."

Betty Michaels

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Susan Rosiek Executive Editor (734) 953-2100 srosiek@oe.homecomm.net	Keely Schramm Filter Editor (734) 953-2105 kschramm@oe.homecomm.net
Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor (734) 953-2149 hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net	Frank Cibor Retail Sales Manager (734) 953-2177 fcibor@oe.homecomm.net
Sue Mason Community Editor (734) 953-2112 smason@oe.homecomm.net	Cathy White Retail Advertising Rep. (734) 953-2073 cwhite@oe.homecomm.net

Newsroom (734) 953-2104 Fax (734) 591-7279
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Westland teen is 1st person sentenced in drive-by shooting

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland teenager who drove the car during a drive-by shooting on a residential city street has been released from jail.

Kimberly Ann Wells, 18, was released Tuesday after a Wayne County judge sentenced her to 138 days in jail and gave her credit for time she has served.

Wells had pleaded guilty to felonious assault for driving a 2003 Monte Carlo along Elbridge Court while Marc Alexander Davis, 23, of Taylor opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle.

No one was shot during the incident, which happened last Sept. 25 in a residential neighborhood near Palmer and Wildwood.

Davis opened fire after residents lobbed the Monte Carlo with beer bottles and rocks, then fired a paintball gun at it, police Sgt. David Heater has said.

The two sides clashed while Davis, Wells and a third defendant, 23-year-old Daniel Jeffrey McGrath of Wayne, drove up and down Elbridge looking for two men who had earlier assaulted Davis.

No one was shot during the incident, which happened last Sept. 25.

Davis never found the two men, but stood through the sunroof and opened fire amid the confrontation with residents on Elbridge.

One woman suffered minor injuries from metal shards that flew through the air when bullets struck a parked vehicle, Heater has said.

Wells' sentencing by Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette

Berry came after she pleaded guilty to felonious assault in late January.

She could have faced penalties ranging up to four years in prison.

McGrath and Davis haven't yet been sentenced. Like Wells, McGrath pleaded guilty to felonious assault and could be given credit for time he has served.

Davis, however, will face at least two years in prison because he pleaded guilty not only to felonious assault, but also to a felony firearms charge that carries a mandatory two-year term.

McGrath is scheduled for sentencing Friday; Davis, on March 4.

The three defendants had initially been charged with assault with intent to murder, punishable by penalties ranging up to life in prison.

In court Tuesday, Berry also placed Wells on probation for four years and warned her that she will go to jail for any violation, according to a court clerk.

Berry also ordered Wells to get her GED and to go on to college, the clerk said.

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Growth Works honors efforts of youth, community leaders

Young people who have turned their lives around were the center of attention at the annual Growth Works recognition dinner, held last week at St. John's Golf and Conference Center in Plymouth Township.

Youth nominated for recognition awards for achievements in the past year include Carl Hightower and Lance Reid of Inkster, Christina McBride and Christopher Schendel of Plymouth, Emily Hipple of Dearborn, Amelia Casillas of Dearborn Heights, John Nardi of Belleville and Christina Smith of Westland.

April Fulks and Drew Fox of Garden City, Michael Kantz of Redford, Mike Wendling, Christopher Allen and Justin Knoll of Westland are the first group of young people who have earned their GED through Growth Works' partnership with Schoolcraft College and been successful in initial college efforts.

Other students receiving awards during the 16th annual event for outstanding efforts at Schoolcraft College include Edward Butler of Inkster, Alexandra Mitchie of Westland and Lance Reid. Growth Works also acknowledged Christa Cipparone and Dr. Deborah Daiek of Schoolcraft for their dedication and support of Growth Works students.

"Tonight, we are seeing young people, with the help of our staff and providers, overcome significant obstacles, developing skills needed to participate in a knowledge-based economy and developing a sense of hopefulness about themselves," said Dale Yagiela, Growth Works executive director. He said often too much emphasis is placed on labeling students as having mental health problems in the juvenile justice system.

"Most of their problems are due to drug use and the impact drug use has on the quality of



The annual Growth Works recognition dinner Thursday night at St. John's Golf & Conference Center drew an appreciative crowd of family and friends.

their family life, involvement in education and sets them up for delinquent activity," Yagiela said. "Stop the drug use, connect them with pro-social activities and kids can change their lives."

Growth Works is a nonprofit youth services agency active in western Wayne County. Award recipients have been involved in at least one of the GWI core programs during the year, including Youth Assistance, Chemical Dependency, School-Based and Care Management services. Youth recognized have made significant gains in addressing delinquency and/or dependency issues and have progressed in school, employment and into adulthood.

Jamie Fornwalt, of Wolverine Human Services in Livonia, Joseph Orban of Westland, of Wayne-Westland's Tinkham Alternative Education, and community members Ray and Michele Schmidt of Livonia were chosen for recognition awards for work aimed at improving young people's lives.

Youth Assistance is an early intervention program aimed at identifying at-risk behavior among adolescents and helping parents and adolescents

address behavior. Youth Assistance operates in four locations in nine communities of western Wayne County and is based in Canton.

Chemical Dependency Services provides drug treatment for adolescents in Plymouth and Grosse Pointe. It is the longest running intensive outpatient drug treatment program for young people in Michigan. Recently, an adult component has been added for people referred by the 35th District Court, Family Independence Agency and parents from Growth Works' Western Wayne Care Management Organization.

WWCMO is one of five care management systems funded by Wayne County to aid delinquent youth convicted of felonies by the juvenile division of the Third Judicial Circuit Court. It serves more than 300 youth a year.

School-Based programs provide in-school suspension rooms, truancy officers and school social workers for Inkster and South Redford schools, along with other services such as mentoring, summer programs, college tours and drug treatment groups.

God, family, friends key to success

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Christopher Schendel of Plymouth is one thankful young man.

"Definitely thank God above all," he said during the Growth Works recognition dinner Thursday. Schendel also thanked his parents and his friends "for supporting all my crazy ideas."

He was among a number of young people lauded at the dinner at St. John's Golf and Conference Center. Denise Smith, Chemical Dependency supervisor, said Schendel's been with Growth Works a year.

"That in itself is a miracle," she added. Smith cited his improved grades and home life, along with no legal troubles, as gains.

"He values that he lives today," she said of Schendel, a car enthusiast.

Another Plymouth youth, Christina McBride, was hailed for her efforts in finishing the Youth Assistance Program last year. Her perseverance was noted, along with completion of a job skills course and improved schoolwork.

"Isn't that why we do the things we do?" Executive Director Dale Yagiela said as the evening concluded. The staff and board of Growth Works make so much possible in the lives of young people, Yagiela said.

Another honoree, Joseph Orban, director of the Tinkham Alternative Education Center in Westland, was praised for his commitment to students.

"It's really easy to be involved with a group like Growth Works," Orban told the more than 200 gathered for dinner.

"Congratulations to Growth Works for putting on a great program."

Also lauded for progress and efforts in recovery were Ian Bojanic of Grosse Pointe Park and his parents, Tony and Corrine. Stephen Harper, Growth Works board president, noted how the agency has grown in his more than 20 years of service.

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RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Healthy men and women between the ages of 35-60 needed to participate in research studies exploring brain activity and chronic illnesses such as fibromyalgia and irritable bowel syndrome.

Interested candidates will undergo a screening assessment, pressure sensitivity, and MRI of the brain.

Financial compensation is provided for study participation.

For more information about the research candidate pool and/or to schedule a screening appointment contact the Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center at: 1-866-288-0046 (toll free)

IRBMED #2002-0980

Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Westland, Michigan 48185

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Bid Package #14,

Consisting of: Synthetic Football Turf & Stadium Renovations at John Glenn High School & Wayne Memorial High School.

will be received until 1:00 P.M. local time on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Wayne-Westland Community School Board of Education Office, located at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

Bid Division	Description
102	Site Utilities/Asphalt Paving
152	Synthetic Turf
154	Track Surfacing

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents, beginning Thursday, February 3, 2005, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reographics Technology, (248) 353-2950. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 am on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at the construction trailer located at Wayne Memorial High School. (3001 Fourth Street, Wayne, MI 48184) The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project sites, review the bidding process, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Wayne-Westland Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: February 10, 2005

060294351

Get on the ball. Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

COOKIES

FROM PAGE A1

"All children love cookies," said Beitz.

Fifth-grader Abby Kirk confirmed that. "It was fun, we got to frost (cookies). My glove got all frosty."

Abby said "it's a really good feeling" to know she might be helping a family get the clothes or shelter they need.

About 1,200 students are enrolled in the SACC program, which Beitz hopes will translate into plenty of cookie sales, and in turn, funds to donate. "I'm hoping for \$1,500 to \$2,000," said Beitz.

At Nankin Mills, as at other area schools, the cookie sale is one of many efforts to raise money for tsunami victims. Principal Ernie Terry said the school's Student Council held a can drive which raised \$841, and received matching funds from Ford Motor Co. The students are also planning a bracelet sale for the cause.

"The kids came up to us," said Mary Ann Bubar, fifth-grade teacher.

Terry continued: "They said 'How can we help?'"

Fourth-graders Jake Tripp and Evan Moran knew how - by baking. "The hardest part is waiting for them to cook," said Evan.

And fifth-grader Adam Clay said: "This is about the best

About 1,200 students are enrolled in the SACC program.

thing we could do for them. To just help out."

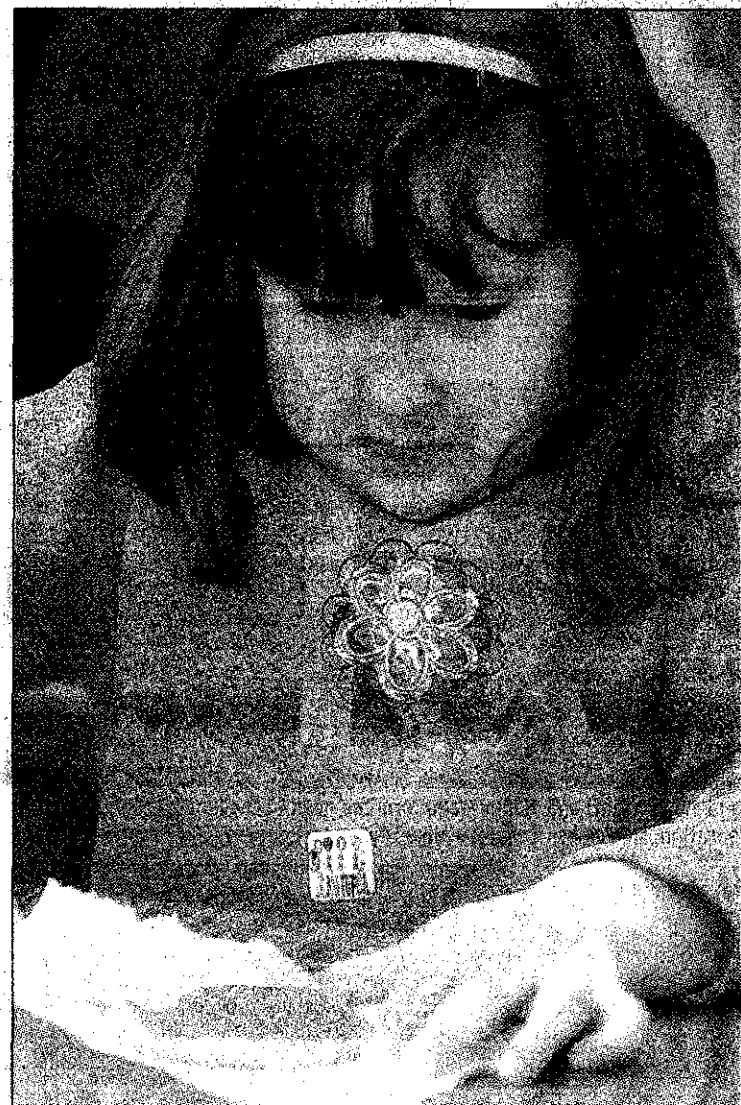
While the impetus of Cookies for Kindness is meant to teach children to help others, Beitz said, the students are also spending their time learning lessons like math - in measuring ingredients and in selling the cookies at 50 cents a piece. "It's real life," said Beitz. "We have the unique opportunity to create our own curriculum, to teach them about things that apply to everyday (life)."

Each school chose their own variety of treats - ranging from no-bake cookies to Rice Krispy treats to sugar cookies compliments of the Western Wayne Skill Center food service program.

For Allie Bay, a Nankin Mills second-grader, the chocolate chip cookies were calling. She and her mom, Lora Bay, took home \$13 worth of sweets on a big tray.

For more information on the SACC program and enrollment, call (734) 744-2813, Ext. 22130.

scasola@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2054



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kindergartner Nicole Augustyn works hard to get the frosting just right. Cookies are selling for 50 cents each.

WEAVER

FROM PAGE A1

funding crisis." He added that Wayne-Westland is "currently operating in deficit spending."

"The Board of Education will seek to contain costs at all levels in order not to compromise its educational mission," he said. "No member of this board can speak to what may come our way in the future, however, we can say with confidence that we are not planning to vote on privatization at this time."

Board Vice President Cindy Schofield and trustee Steve Becher also addressed the issue later in the meeting.

Becher, a former teacher, expressed hope that a contract,

fair and equitable to both sides could be negotiated.

"It's too bad we had so much turmoil over outsourcing," he added.

Schofield said she appreciate the concerns expressed in an estimated 30 e-mails she received. She stressed that she "doesn't take lightly" her responsibilities as a school board member nor do her colleagues and urged the e-mail writers to contact state officials.

"I trust you will write as passionately to the governor and legislators as you did to us to ask them to solve the problem," she said. "But we know that by working together, we can solve this and continue to be a success."

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ELECTIONS

FROM PAGE A1

go the Dyer Center for city elections.

Madison is on Carlson south of Cherry Hill; the Dyer Center on Marquette east of Newburgh.

With DeHart assuming responsibility for all elections, residents will cast all their ballots at their city polling places. DeHart predicted that the change will make it easier for voters and could lead to a higher turnout at the polls.

Under a new state law, either local city clerks or the Wayne County clerk will be responsible for handling school elections.

In Westland, DeHart will oversee all elections rather than shifting school elections to the county.

"I feel that it was my duty to handle the elections," she said.

In a 6-1 vote Monday, the Westland City Council approved an agreement that gave DeHart - rather than the county clerk - the responsibility for school elections. Even though the city will be

Eileen DeHart predicted that the change will make it easier for voters.

reimbursed by the school district for election-related costs, Councilman Richard LeBlanc voted against the change. He said he'd prefer to have the county handle the school elections.

"If we're doing school district work, we're not doing city work," LeBlanc said, adding that he'd rather have the clerk's office focusing solely on city business.

With election changes, school district voters this year will decide their school board races on May 3. In past years, school elections were in June.

DeHart predicted there will be no serious glitches. She already oversaw a presidential election in her first year as Westland's first elected clerk.

"We made it through the presidential election, so this is going to be a walk in the park," she said.

CLUBS IN ACTION

Listings for Clubs in Action should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

Genealogical society

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile. Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.



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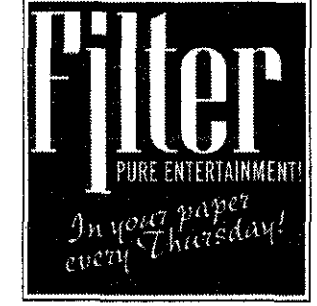


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MEDICARE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that on February 25, 2005 the agreement between Professional Rehab Plus, 2020 Middlebelt Rd., Suite B, Garden City, MI 48135 and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as a provider of outpatient physical therapy services in the Medicare program will be terminated.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has determined that Professional Rehab Plus is not in compliance with the following Medicare Conditions of Participation for providers of outpatient physical therapy services:

2 CFR 485.717	Rehabilitation Program
42 CFR 485.721	Clinical Records
42 CFR 485.723	Physical Environment

The Medicare program will not make payment for outpatient physical therapy services furnished to patients by Professional Rehab Plus on or after February 25, 2005.

Robert P. Daly, Manager
Non-Long Term Care Branch
Division of Survey and Certification

Publish: February 10, 2005 060294512



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Brian Leving (right) and Jimmy Wang form the head of the lion for this traditional dance during the Michigan Chinese School's New Year of the Rooster Celebration. Musicians (from left) Mike Leving, Stephanie Poe, Allan Lee look on.

Chinese School honors the Year of Rooster

Food, music, colorful hand-made lanterns and the traditional Lion Dance were all part of the holiday mix Saturday at the Michigan Chinese School New Year celebration.

Families from throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties ushered in the Year of the Rooster (Year 4702 by the Chinese lunar calendar) at a special dinner and program in Livonia's Stevenson High School.

Some 300 people enjoyed a seven-course traditional Chinese dinner catered by Best China of Canton Township and a talent show that celebrated Chinese culture in music, dance and art.

Taking home honors in the lantern decoration contest categories were Jerry and Eric Wu. (father and son), Charles Fan, Rachel Wang, Justin Fan and Ingrid Fan (family); Jenny and Angela Wu (mother and daughter); Frank and Jason Hsu (father and son) and Michelle Ho and Emea Ta (student group).

The Michigan Chinese School meets Saturdays throughout the school year at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Students from Canton, West Bloomfield, Livonia, Novi, Northville, Plymouth and Farmington Hills study traditional Chinese language, heritage and culture. Students from preschool through grade 12 are enrolled in the school which started in 1978 at Isbister Elementary School in the Plymouth Canton School District. Classes are taught by parents who are trained teachers. Classes include two hours

of language instruction followed by a session which focuses on Chinese culture and enrichment.

Chinese New Year started with the first new moon of Feb. 9 and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The Chinese calendar uses 12 animals to mark the year.

The rooster is described as flamboyant and unpredictable.

For more information about the Michigan Chinese School contact Steve Poe of Canton at (734)-306-5689.



Tiffany Lyn of Novi High School performs during the Year of the Rooster celebration.



Bee Wu and her nephew Eric Wu look at the lantern decorated with recycled paper and materials. The Wu family made the lantern, and it earned a ribbon award.



PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jimmy Wang creates the drumbeat as the Lion Dance begins, marking the start of the Michigan Chinese School's Chinese New Year celebration.

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DEATHS

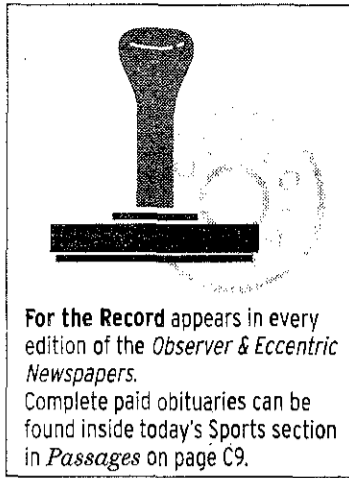
C
 Ingrid V. Carney, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Jan. 17.
 Patrick J. Chandler, 61, of Auburn Hills, died Feb. 1.
 Barbara Cihak, of Westland, died Feb. 4.

D
 Margaret Evelyn Davidsen (nee Cripps), 87, formerly of Farmington Hills, died Feb. 5.
 Jeanette A. Dorvee, 76, of Redford Township, died Feb. 5.

G
 Stephen M. Galida, 36, of Coshocton, Ohio, died Feb. 6.

H
 Ernest William Hobson, 78, of Oxford, died Feb. 5.

J
 Joanne L. Jackson, of Garden City,



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Sports section in Passages on page C9.

died Feb. 4.

K
 Marian C. Korth, 98, of Clarkston, died Feb. 3.

L

Priscilla T. Lightfoot, of Redford Township, died Feb. 5.

M
 Irene H. Marcinkowski, of Plymouth Township, died Feb. 3.
 Amelia Dolores McKee (Ruppersberg), 90, of Troy, died Feb. 7.
 Lawrence Lyndell Moore, of Canton Township, died Feb. 3.
 Minnie Myers, 94, died Feb. 2.

P
 Esther J. Parrott, 73, of Westland, died Feb. 5.

R
 Sandra J. (Sandy) Rosaen died Feb. 4.

S
 George F. H. Schaefer, of Westland, died Feb. 5.
 Helen R. Smith, 100, of Rochester, died Feb. 1.

T
 Edna Trombetta, of Canton Township, died Feb. 3.

V
 Kenneth E. VanderVen, of Livonia, died Jan. 31.
 Phillips Buick Van Dusen, 74, of Chapel Hill, N.C., died Feb. 4.

W
 John Hazen Wilson, 83, of Plymouth, died Feb. 6.
 Lena E. Wing, 93, of Rochester Hills, died Feb. 1.

charges she embezzled money while she managed a Westland apartment complex.
 Mary Adele Olson, 35, was ordered to stand trial after testimony concluded Tuesday during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.
 She remains free on a personal bond as she awaits trial. If convicted, she could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison.
 Olson is charged with embezzling more than \$20,000, although the amount lost to the apartment owners is more than \$76,000, police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said.
 Residents, accountants and others testified during Olson's hearing, which started Jan. 27 and was then delayed until Tuesday.
 Olson worked as manager of Warris

Farms near Newburgh and Joy at the time that she is accused of embezzling money, Borisch said.
 Olson is accused of renting to new tenants and then pocketing their money, which, according to Borisch, some renters paid in cash.
 Olson was charged after the management company found apartments that had been used by tenants even though they were supposed to be vacant and clean.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

How will you surprise your Valentine? A card on her pillow or a scented candle at twilight? How about a handwritten poem?
 Most of us long to be remembered on Valentine's Day and sometimes a small gesture deeply touches one's heart.

Let your library get you started with books abounding in tenderhearted themes. Whether you wish to plan a romantic dinner or a child's party, you will be pleased with the choices available to you. How about baking a heart-shaped cake or cookies? Many cookbooks feature treats for Valentine's Day.

Picture books are magical in their message of kindness. *With Lots of Love*, by Hans Wilhelm is a sweet story about Toby, who makes a comforting Valentine for Nana Bear, broken-hearted over the disappearance of her beloved pet cockatoo.

Children will be surprised how the little bird is recovered. Other children's Valentine books include *A Village Full of Valentines* by James Stevenson and *The Day It Rained Hearts* by Felicia Bond.

For an inspiring portrait of devotion and love, the tender relationship honored in Nancy Reagan's book, *I Love You Ronnie*, is very moving. You may be inspired to write your own love letters. *Pearls of Love: A Complete Handbook on Love Letters and Love Poems* by Ara J. Movsesian will guide you in this lost art.

In matters of the heart, poems echo one's deepest emotions. *Good Morning to You, Valentine: Poems for Valentine's Day* is an anthology of 23 poems. *This Valentine's Day, I Promise You All My Love* is contemporary in style.

Ribbons of pink and red weave creative patterns in rows and rows of craft books. *Country Needlecrafts* by Alma Lynne teaches how to make a child's sweater with hearts. Patriotic hearts are featured, too.

Juliet Bawden offers instructions for a delicately embroidered christening dress in her book, *Hearts: The Art of Making Gifts of Love and Affection*. Children love to create their own gifts. *Hearts and Crafts*, by Sheri Brownrigg is a book your children might enjoy.

Your library can help you enjoy a memorable Valentine's Day.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM

Baseball
 Children age 3-12 can participate in the program's T-Ball/coach-pitch baseball during the summer. Registration will be April 1-May 1, with practices and games taking place on Thursdays May 19-July 28 at Jaycee Park, Wildwood at Hunter in Westland. In case of inclement weather, games and practice will be in the gymnasium at the Bailey Recreation center, 36651 Ford.
 The program is open to siblings. Cost is \$50 for residents and their siblings without fund-raiser and \$51 for non-resident and siblings without fund-raiser or \$10 for residents and \$11 for non-residents with fund-raiser (selling \$104 candy bars at \$1 each).

For more information about the T-Ball/coach-pitch program or to obtain a Therapeutic Recreation Program application, call (734) 722-7620.

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 Actual savings may reflect state percentage off "Regular" and "Original" prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in actual sales. Merchandise selection may vary from one store to another.

Westland surgeon returns from tsunami disaster with hope

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

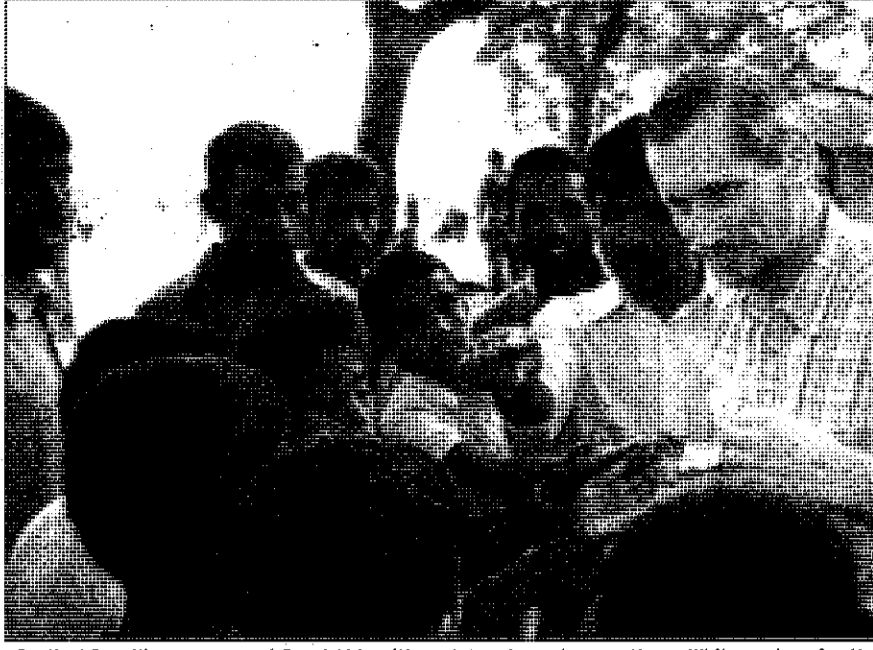
Dr. Karl Bandlien had just completed rounds at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital and was on his way to church when news about the tsunami tragedy came on the radio.

For the next week he couldn't eat and hardly slept until turning to prayer. An answer came and by Monday he was on a plane to Sri Lanka. Bandlien knew living conditions were below standard even before the tidal wave struck because he'd spoken at a conference for Healthcare Christian Fellowship in Sri Lanka in 2003.

"I had been in those areas, knew the people and had worked with them," said Bandlien who has a surgery practice in Westland.

"I'd never seen anything in regard to destruction of all the structures and massive loss of life. It was something that was beyond anything you could possibly imagine."

As senior medical officer for the Michigan Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Bandlien had been called upon to assist survivors of hurricanes in Hawaii, an earthquake in California but had never experienced destruction and death of this proportion. After traveling 24-hours by plane, he rode another seven hours in a van to reach the area where he, and physicians from San Francisco, Australia and Sri Lanka along with a dentist, would treat every-



Dr. Karl Bandlien passes out Band-Aids with cartoon characters on them. While useless for the types of wounds he was seeing, Sri Lankan men, women and children had never seen anything like them.

thing from infections to wounds.

Bandlien says it was a miracle how they all came together. His contact was the Healthcare Christian Fellowship, an interdenominational organization representing more than 100 nations. HCF coordinated all of the relief agencies providing assistance.

"It struck me as an impossible task," said Bandlien. "I had surgeries scheduled, meetings. I'm medical director for

Visiting Physicians Association. It didn't seem possible. It was amazing in the next 24-hours, I got plane tickets that would take me there on Monday. To me personally this was a miracle. From there it was an amazing set of events.

"It was a miracle how all these things came together, an answer to a prayer and an answer by God to the cries of these people." Part of the miracle was along with the wound care, bandages

and medical supplies Bandlien came equipped with, the San Francisco doctor brought a \$30,000 donation of antibiotics and medications. It wasn't long before all were in Trincomalee on the northern part of the east coast.

Along the way they saw parts of the peninsula where 1,200 were killed. They drove down the road to the local hospital where 65 patients plus all of the nurses and doctors died.

"It hit us so hard. Our stomachs were upside down. We tried to process what happened," said Bandlien. "They took us to where there was still a standing structure, a school house. We put up chairs and tables, set up stations.

"It was wall to wall patients. I'm convinced many would have had serious consequences or loss of life. They had open draining wounds and infections. Many were dragged across areas after the wave hit them and sustained injuries."

When Bandlien talks about the experience his voice shakes at certain points. He tells the story of a school teacher who studied tsunamis and remembered the warning signs. When he saw the ferry boat rise 30 to 40-feet in the air, he knew to run for his life. He screamed to his neighbors, but they didn't heed the warning. He and his family were the only survivors.

Bandlien brought back stories of hope as well. As he was gathering up supplies on the last day, Bandlien found colorful Band-Aids with cartoon char-

acters in the bottom of his bag.

"They were useless for the types of wounds I was seeing," said Bandlien. "I had an audience of kids around me all day, pulling foreign objects out of legs. I looked at their faces. It was like on Christmas day. They came from everywhere requesting these Band-Aids.

"I shared with these kids that God really cared about them. That's why we were there. It's not a Christian area - Hindus, Buddhists, Moslems. There had been a lot of tension, Christian churches burned and rebels fighting. There was a healing taking place between many of these different areas of conflict. Members of a church had gone to a Hindu area and started cleaning up and a Hindu priest wanted to apologize for something he said earlier."

"I'm still trying to understand what can we learn from this. Life is very fragile. It could have been any one of us in the vacation spots in Thailand. God is speaking to get our priorities in order."

Bandlien is home now and reassessing his life.

He wants to share his experiences and create awareness so others will help.

"Before I came home I met with my (HCF) counterpart in Sri Lanka and we prayed together. Since then I've been able to direct this in a positive direction rather than be overwhelmed by it and see solutions."

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OUR VIEWS

LPS tax renewals merit 'yes' votes

Livonia Public Schools voters have two fairly easy decisions when they go to the polls Feb. 22. Two millage proposals to pay for funding the district schools are on the ballot for five-year renewals, and both merit voter approval.

The first issue is renewal of the district's operating millage, which helps pay day-to-day operating costs: salaries, materials, transportation, etc.

The operating millage issue is a two-part tax, asking voters to approve 18.4568 mills on non-homestead or business property and a "hold harmless" tax of 0.63 mills on homeowners. Even though the district can only tax business parcels at a maximum of 18 mills, the extra millage sought is designed to allow the district to keep its rate at 18 mills for all five years, even if the Headlee Amendment forces rate rollbacks.

For homeowners, the rate sought is 0.63 mills, a reduction from the 0.75 mills approved five years ago.

That slight 0.12-mill reduction is made up in the other issue on the ballot — the sinking fund millage, which asks voters for 1.12 mills, an increase from the 1-mill tax approved by voters in 2000. The difference will bring in an extra \$750,000 to pay for updates and improvements on facilities, helping to protect the district's massive investment in school buildings.

Just as importantly, the money raised — which cannot be used for salaries — will keep the district ahead of emergency expenses that could drain the general fund and impact kids, such as broken water mains or leaky roofs, by replacing those types of items on a reasonable, planned schedule. The program, so far, has paid for roofs, windows and boilers at the schools, with plans to replace doors, water mains, pavement, cabinets and more in coming years.

There are certainly reasons to object to the district's decisions. This election should have been held not in February, but during the regular election in May to save money. And the district's athletic facility bond was originally promised to create facilities that would be made available to the entire community — and that pledge still has not been kept.

These two tax renewals, though, are too big, too important for any kind of protest vote on those issues. Protecting almost a quarter of the district's operating funds and maintaining the integrity of its buildings makes "yes" votes on these two tax renewals easy to support.

The best Valentine's gift: a healthy heart

This Valentine's Day, be kind to your heart — it's the best gift you can give those you love.

The American Heart Association — whose goal is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke — observes February as American Heart Month to educate Americans about preventative measures.

Despite recent news reports that cancer deaths surpass those from heart disease, the latter remains the No. 1 killer in the United States for the population as a whole, according to the American Heart Association.

The American Cancer Society's January report indicating more people under age 85 have died from cancer than heart disease each year since 2002 included deaths from heart disease only — not related cardiovascular diseases, the AHA says.

Nearly 100,000 Americans under age 60 die each year from heart disease — and another 17.9 million live with the ravages of coronary heart disease and congestive heart failure.

For women, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death — a fact the local branch of the American Heart Association is attempting to educate the public about through its Go Red for Women Luncheon on Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn. (For more information, call [248] 827-4214.)

The good news is, many of these deaths can be prevented by doing four simple things:

- Not smoking.
- Eating a healthy diet that includes fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Exercising and maintaining a healthy weight.
- Seeing your doctor for prevention and screening.

This Valentine's Day, commit to making these lifestyle changes — and increase your chances of living a longer, healthier life with your loved ones.

They'll appreciate it far more than a box of chocolates or bouquet of red roses.



Let lawmakers know

My fellow citizens: While attending various PTA, PTO, and PTG meetings, I have had the opportunity to speak with a large number of citizens in the Wayne-Westland School District.

They are being told, via the news media, about the financial condition of their state and the many proposed cuts in services, as well as in school funding. They feel that they have been double crossed by their state government. Some have expressed that they were sold a "bill of goods" with respect to voter approval of the lottery in the State of Michigan.

We were not told that the education "line item" in the budget would be effectively wiped out and replaced with nothing but the lottery money. There was absolutely no net gain.

Michigan is now financing the education of our students, and future leaders with an unstable lottery, and an equality unstable two cent sales tax.

Your Wayne-Westland Community School District has passed a \$108.3 million bond and a sinking fund to continue improvements in the district. The district made many promises to the citizens as to how the money would be spent before the respective passages.

The bond and sinking fund as you know passed successfully. Look around at every building in the district and you will see "Promises made were promises kept." Every building has had major renovation and improvements.

The State of Michigan has made promises to the school districts, too. First, we were to receive an increase in the foundation grant in the amount of \$200 per student every year. That didn't happen. The foundation grant has been frozen for the last three years and perhaps for many years in the future.

The talented and gifted money has been cut all together. Adult education money has been cut by almost 80 percent. In fact, the foundation grant is being eyed for significant cuts in the future.

Any business man knows that if your income doesn't meet the expenses there is not much chance that he will be in business for very much longer.

Almost 50 percent of the states student population resides in the tri-county area, and yet the majority of our law makers do not represent the majority of students. There is no equity in school funding in Lansing.

We approved term limitations a few years ago because we did not want career politicians. That, my friends, was a very big mistake.

Now, the only real concern these freshman politicians have is to keep their seat for eight years (those in the Senate) and six years (those in the House.) There seems to be no one in Lansing willing to step up to the plate and take the leadership the state needs. We did not create these revenue shortfalls, the legislature did.

I urge each and every citizen that reads this to communicate with your representatives in both the House and Senate; ask them to forget about party affiliations and remember that their first loyalty is to the citizens, the students, and the future of this state.

This state needs help, and it needs it

LETTERS

NOW. We can't wait until the spirit moves them or until some lobbyist tells you how to vote for this or that. Time will tell what kind of law makers served in this time of crisis and what kind of legacy they left.

Ed Turner
trustee, Wayne-Westland Board of Education

Hideous propaganda

I recently received an e-mail from a friend. It had been forwarded many times, but it caught my attention. It was typed in large bold print, indicating the sender was shouting. The message urged people not to buy the Islamic Christmas Eid postage stamp, because the Postal Service was cooperating with a terrorist group and that all Muslims were responsible for the attacks on the United States.

I was bothered at first, but I grew more irritated by the implications of the e-mail. After several days, I checked with the U.S. Postal Service which replied that the stamp simply commemorates the season and wishes all a blessed holiday. The Postal Service has done this with several religions, and asks those who don't approve to not participate.

After reading the explanation from the Postal Service, which is fair and well reasoned, I became quite irritated by the original e-mail. I sent a reply berating the implications of the message, and explained that these hysterical claims of wrongdoing, to divide people, were the same methods used by fascist regimes throughout history.

The surprising part of this story comes from my friend who sent the e-mail to me. She said I offended the originator of the e-mail.

"How could you accuse her of anti-Christian, fascist actions?" she cried, "She is an upstanding member of the church and the church choir director."

I thoughtfully read and reread her reply and remembered many people believe that simply participating in church activities makes you a good person in the eyes of God. Many Christians living in Germany in the 1940s believed the same and supported Nazis. I replied that the e-mail originator is not a fascist, but her ignorance should not allow her to condone fascist ideals.

I won't resort to the extremes of the e-mail originator, of making generalities based on propaganda, but I can make the conclusion the writer of the e-mail is participating in the conservative movement to divide this nation by exclusion.

As Mr. Bush has stated, "You are either with us, or against us." This very anti-American sentiment is the heart of the conservative movement, to exclude anyone not sympathetic to their agenda, and it pervades many aspects of conservative actions. This very one-sided, polarizing propaganda is very anti-American and is the heart of the e-mail.

As a Christian and an American, I am not sympathetic with those continuing to divide this nation in the name of Christ and patriotism. This country, the United States, is in desperate need of leaders, interested in the American ideal, the common good for "we the people."

Many e-mails like this one have been circulating frequently in the last several

years, confusing fact with fiction and creating hysteria instead of informing citizens. The truth is Muslims are not responsible for 9/11 and the post office is not cooperating with terrorists.

However, this e-mail has succeeded in activating a citizen. I, for one, am speaking out against this and calling it what it is. Hideous propaganda hiding behind the flag and the church.

Allan Biber
Westland

Social Security myth

In trying to sell the idea of private accounts for Social Security, President Bush advertises that, "Your children can inherit your account."

But that's only if you die before your private account is exhausted. If you die before it is exhausted, you are simply out of luck. Unlike the current system of benefits, it does not continue until death.

If your private account runs out, you will be stuck with minimal social security benefits, reduced once because the system is already underfunded, and reduced again because you opted for private accounts.

If you have a good pension or a well-funded retirement plan, this may be an acceptable risk for you. But for millions of people, Social Security is their only income. You can expect to see a lot more stories of elderly people living on cat food if this program is adopted.

George Shea
Plymouth

A big win

I always enjoy reading Phil Power's insightful pieces in the *Observer & Eccentric*. It probably helps that I agree with almost everything he says. I'm a member of the Nature Conservancy, my favorite of the many environmental/conservation groups I belong to. It's going to be a long four years with Bush.

It was helpful reading your Jan. 27 article ("U.P. land deal epitomizes the spirit of cooperation") to get a flavor on the difficulty and complexity of preservation efforts. A big win for everyone in the UP and Michigan.

George Dilgard
Birmingham

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"This is not a Band-Aid approach, this is a fix. We feel this is an ideal location and the time to do it. We see this as buying value for the city and bringing the value of homes up, but it has to be a joint effort with the community."

— Westland Youth Athletic Association President John Gellert, about a proposed massive parks improvement project adjacent to Central City Park

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

We need to view Detroit's problems as ours, as well

As stories about Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's evident shenanigans (putting it mildly) have flooded the media, I've started musing about Coleman A. Young, Detroit's first black mayor. Like Kilpatrick, Young was a former state legislator, first elected to the state Senate in 1964 and then chosen Democratic floor leader in 1966. He was bright and capable; people in Lansing affectionately called him "Coalie" and thought of him as the smartest black politician of his day.

After the 1967 Detroit riot shook Michigan to its core, it became perfectly clear that the city would become a majority African-American town — and that civil peace would depend on the election of a black mayor. Young ran in 1973, narrowly defeating John Nichols, then Detroit's police chief, charging "blackjack rule" by the mostly white police department.

For a time, the elite of Michigan — the business community, the media, opinion makers of all stripes — welcomed Young as the savior of our largest city. But his blunt language began to poison the well of general public approval. Early on, he invited criminals in Detroit to "hit Eight Mile Road," a remark interpreted by suburbanites as an invitation to invade their communities. Worse, as time went on, Young built and maintained a power base in Detroit by using essentially racist rhetoric to appeal to an essentially segregated black constituency.

By the time Young decided to call it a day in 1993, most serious people were happy to see him leave office.

Even at this early juncture in Kilpatrick's career, the parallels between him and Young are striking. Except that the city of Detroit is far, far worse off today than it was a decade ago. And Kilpatrick, at 34 and prone to youthful impulsiveness, is hardly the seasoned pro that the 55-year-old Young was when he took office.

Here's a quick look at some of the most awesome problems:

- The city faces a nearly \$400 million budget shortfall that will require hundreds of city employees to be laid off and draconian reductions in already skimpy city services.

- The city has lost more than a million residents in the past half-century, and experts predict another drop of 50,000 in the next five years. More than 15,000 businesses have left the city since 1972, and the unemployment rate is 14 percent, compared with 7.4 percent statewide.

- Yet the city's payroll is, well, bloated. According to a recent story in *The New York Times*, Detroit still has 18,000 employees (the same as a decade ago!) and 1.4 administrative employees for every 1,000 residents, far higher than the 1.0 median for other big cities.

- The Detroit school system sent last week a deficit

reduction plan to Lansing, which calls for hundreds of layoffs and the closure of more than 100 schools. The district figures enrollment will fall to 100,000 by 2008, half of what it was in 1999, the result of desperate families fleeing to suburban districts or to charter schools.

All in all, the situation facing Detroit constitutes the worst potential for crisis for Michigan since 1967. "To the extent bad politics continues to swamp good economics, I see no turnaround imminent," said David Littmann, just-retired chief economist at Comerica, who recently told *The New York Times*, "It does gravitate to a graveyard spiral." Incurable deficits at the city of Detroit and the Detroit schools could reach a combined \$500 million or more; nobody knows for sure. But both organizations are required by law to balance their budgets. And their situation could trigger a state law forcing the appointment of financial receivers to run the city and the schools, which would be, in effect, an involuntary state takeover of Detroit and its school system.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who needs unions and minority votes to turn out big time if she is to win reelection, won't welcome the prospect. Yet Kilpatrick's months-long struggle with the Detroit City Council over refinancing the city's debt suggests local politics are still in full denial and hardly clear-eyed about financial matters or tough-minded management.

Perhaps it's time to begin the politically very sensitive yet very badly needed discussion of just what, really, we are going to do about Detroit.

Up to now, most opinion can be summarized by the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's memorable phrase, "benign neglect," which was originally used to characterize government policy toward the breakdown of black families. But neglect, whether benign or malign, doesn't seem to be working. And the thought of a financial storm provoking another crisis of racial hostility is something nobody wants to entertain.

Maybe it's time to revisit the issue of just how Detroit fits with the rest of the state, either as an imploding black hole propagated by benign neglect or — shocking idea! — as part of a broader region.

An article on Cleveland in a recent issue of *The New Yorker* magazine put the point well: "Increasingly, Cleveland was becoming the shrinking center in a crazy quilt of suburbs and edge cities, connected by freeways and spread over eight counties. Each one competed for people, jobs and commerce, while contributing nothing to the city's eroded tax base."

The article goes on to quote the mayor of Cleveland, Jane Campbell: "We need a new mentality if we're going to turn things around. We've been thinking of Cleveland as a special problem where we need to be thinking of it as part of a regional problem."

This is hardly a popular idea. But I wonder if there are any better alternatives.

Phil Power is the chairman of the board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

Overcoming adversity gives these young people well-deserved moment

It was a proud moment to see the young men and women in their mortarboards. The occasion wasn't a high school commencement, but rather the Growth Works recognition dinner Feb. 3. Among those honored were students who have earned a GED certificate through a Schoolcraft College program.

"Isn't that why we do the things we do?" said Dale Yagiela, the youth agency's executive director, in summing up the feelings of many that evening at St. John's Golf and Conference Center.

April Fulks and Drew Fox of Garden City, Michael Kantz of Redford and Mike

Wendling, Christopher Allen and Justin Knoll of Westland are the first group of young people who have earned their GED through Growth Works' partnership with Schoolcraft College and succeeded in initial college efforts.

Also lauded for outstanding efforts at Schoolcraft were Edward Butler and Lance Reid of Inkster and Alexandra Mitchie of Westland.

Growth Works has faced budget challenges in recent years, but such talk was in the background Feb. 3 as the talk was on student accomplishments. "Still, we're able to make this work," Yagiela told the more than 200 gathered at the former seminary site in Plymouth Township.

Youth nominated for recognition awards for achievements in the past year include Carl Hightower and Lance Reid of Inkster, Christina McBride and Christopher Schendel of Plymouth, Emily Hipple of Dearborn, Amelia Casillas of Dearborn Heights, John Nardi of Belleville and Christina Smith of Westland. Ian Bojanic of Grosse Pointe Park and his parents, Tony and Corrine, were lauded for efforts and progress in recovery.

Young people weren't the only honorees. Christa Cipparone and Dr. Deborah Daiek of Schoolcraft College were recognized for their support of Growth Works students.

Jamie Fornwalt, of Wolverine Human Services in Livonia, Joseph Orban of Westland, of Wayne-Westland's Tinkham

Growth Works has been serving western Wayne County families for more than 30 years, and this was the 16th annual recognition dinner. The event has grown in attendance and scope, but the purpose of honoring student and community achievement remains the same.

Alternative Education, and community members Ray and Michele Schmidt of Livonia were chosen for recognition awards for work aimed at improving young people's lives.

These students typically don't make the newspaper, at least not in a positive light, so it's great to be able to focus on their accomplishments. Schendel, of Plymouth, knows he couldn't have done it alone, and thanks God, family and friends for what he's been able to achieve in the past year at Growth Works.

Improved grades, absence of trouble with the law, freedom from substance abuse — all these and more are gains these young people and their families have made. Yagiela thanked the Growth Works staff and board for hard work and for putting young people in the community first in their hearts.

Growth Works has been serving western Wayne County families for more than 30 years, and this was the 16th annual recognition dinner. The event has grown in attendance and scope, but the purpose of honoring student and community achievement remains the same.

Student achievement is to be lauded regardless of the circumstances, but it's nice to be able to put the spotlight on a group of young people who have had difficult pasts. They've worked hard to overcome obstacles, with capable and loving help from family and professionals, and this is truly their moment to shine.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. She may be reached at (248) 901-2565 or via e-mail at jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.



Julie Brown



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<p>Sestano 2002 Venezia Gulia, Italy Pinot Grigio \$11.99 750 ml</p> <p><small>Still, fruit aromas that is very long lasting and a dry mouth taste.</small></p>	<p>Zatarain's New Orleans Style Pasta Dinner Mix 2/\$3.00 5.2 oz box</p>	<p>Sestano 2001 Toscana, Italy Sangiovese \$12.99 750 ml</p> <p><small>This wine offers a full range of cherry & cranberry aromas and hints of cinnamon.</small></p>

Join Susan, our Wine Consultant each Friday, for a "demystifying" wine segment at 12:00 noon & 5 pm each Friday and on Saturday at 12:00 noon & 3:00 pm. This week Susan will give you information on Chardonnay vs. Sauvignon Blanc.

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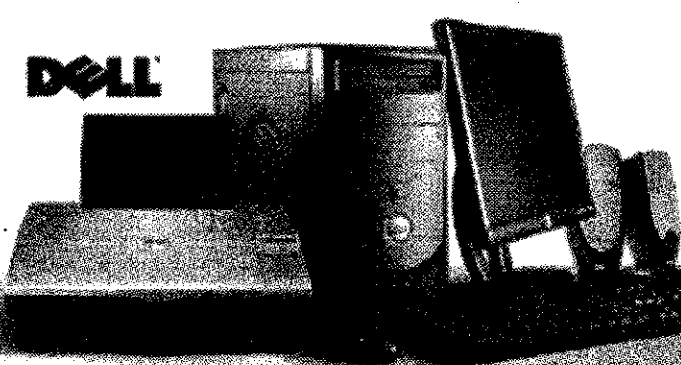
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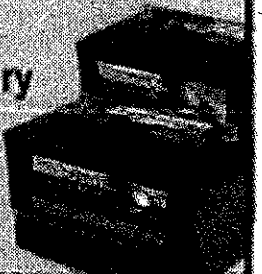
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\$79.95
MSRP
with 100-month warranty

MSRP with exchange. Taxes and installation extra. See participating Dealership for limited warranty details.



Genuine Motorcraft® Premium Wear Indicator Wiper Blades

\$19.95
OR LESS

Genuine Motorcraft® wiper blades with wear indicator, per pair, installed. Taxes extra. See participating Dealership for details through 3/1/05.



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