Your hometown newspaper serving Westland for 40 years



Spring check up Ford Field show offers home improvements, garden ideas

AT HOME, SECTION B



Art of war

Exhibit and film series at Cranbrook Art Museum see Iraq through the artist's eyes. INSERTED SECTION



THURSDAY

February 24, 2005

75 cents

DON'T BLAME THE CARRIER FOR LATE DELIVERY Today's late delivery is not the fault of your Observer carrier. Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to get the newspaper out on time.

(DUSCULLE)

Volume 40 Number 78

Council schedules session on Frontier Park plan

BY DARRELL CLEM

Westland city officials have agreed to engage in talks with a youth athletic group that has proposed a massive sports complex near Central

City council President Charles Pickering confirmed this week that the Frontier Park proposal, with an estimated \$35 million price tag, will be the focus of talks scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, March 14, at Westland City Hall.

Elected leaders will discuss the plan with the Westland Youth Athletic Association, which has suggested asking voters to approve a 1-mill tax

increase to support the project.

"It is a good thing for the city," WYAA President Mark Rodriguez said Tuesday, during a council session. "It's something the city needs and it's something the city deserves."

The Frontier Park proposal would convert 80 acres of land west of Central City Park for a comprehensive sports complex. The bulk of the land is owned by Wayne County.

WYAA officials have shared their vision with some elected officials and local newspapers, and Rodriguez said Tuesday that a public forum will eventually be scheduled.

One local hockey enthusiast, Jerry Smith, indicated during Tuesday's council meeting that he would support a 1-mill tax increase to pay for the project, although some residents have criticized the plan as too costly and grandiose.

The WYAA has proposed demolishing the city's Mike Modano Ice Arena and selling off land at Voss Park to help pay for the plan.

On Tuesday, Rodriguez conceded that the biggest hurdle to the Frontier Park project money aside - will be acquiring the land needed to build the facility. The joint talks between the council and WYAA officials will be open to the public on March 14.

Frontier Park would include the following: ■ Eight to 10 baseball-softball fields, including one designed for special needs children.

■ Three multipurpose turf soccer fields, including one indoor.

A 118,000-square-foot facility for ice hock-

ey and figure skating. It would accommodate 1,000 spectators and use a state-of-the-art geothermal heating and cooling system.

Next to the ice facility would be a geothermal indoor pool with a leisure area for senior

■ Expansion of the nearby Bailey Recreation Center to add two basketball courts.

A set of walking trails, particularly for senior citizens.

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

A Transaction of the Contraction



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABC-TV

After making the best of reality TV, Guy Flummerfelt and sons Rashad (second from right) and Marques were happy to have Doreen home again.

Family finds reality TV isn't really reality

STAFF WRITER

Guy Flummerfelt didn't flinch when his wife, Doreen, suggested that he swap her for a new woman.

He was watching television in the family room of their Westland home, paying little attention when she made her

"I did the typical male thing and said, 'That's fine, dear,' not knowing what would happen," he said.

What happened would catapult them and their two sons into television history on Wife Swap, an ABC-TV reality show that switched Doreen Flummerfelt with a Baltimore wife for a week in December.

Their story was set to air Wednesday night as the Flummerfelts watched with family members, friends and reality show junkies during a special viewing at Emagine Canton theaters.

"It had some funny parts, and it had some tension," Guy



Doreen Flummerfelt helps Mia Bray with her shoes while filling in as her

Flummerfelt, 46, said.

AVID VIEWER

Doreen Flummerfelt admits she'll watch any reality show. Still, she didn't really expect to appear in one when she went online last July and submitted an application for Wife Swap.

The show's producers called her in late October at Helm Inc. of Highland Park, where she works as a sales assistant for a company that produces publications for the Big Three automakers. By December -

after a series of family background checks - the Wife Swap segment had been taped.

We found out that reality TV isn't really reality," Doreen Flummerfelt said. "We found out how real it really wasn't."

The show couldn't have switched her with a woman more different.

Doreen Flummerfelt is a working mother who has two sons, Marques Banks, 17, and Rashad Hamilton, 12, from her

PLEASE SEE SWAP, A7

Police begin probe of fatal shooting

Driver exhibited 'really bizarre behavior'

BY KEVIN BROWN STAFF WRITER

A man who started fleeing from Westland police Monday morning was shot and killed as he tried to run over an armed Canton police officer.

According to Michigan State Police officials, Christopher Slay, 42, of Ypsilanti stopped to take a hit off a crack pipe from behind the wheel of his Jeep Grand Cherokee before tryofficer in a snow-covered yard north of Ford Road and east of Beck.

That's when the gunfire started," said MSP Lt. Harold Love.

Five police officers - two from Canton, two state police troopers and one Wayne County sheriff's deputy - fired at Slay as he drove the moving truck. "The officers were able to

get out of the way," Love said. "He drove through the yard striking another vehicle. He made a small circle and ran into a fence and building. Officers approached the vehicle and saw he had been shot."

Slay was pronounced dead a short time later at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"My brother was working in his garage (on Ford pened," said Jeff Rosa, gesturing west down Ford where it intersects with Beck Road, roughly an hour after the shooting.

He and other bystanders were kept several hundred yards from the shooting scene Monday by yellow

PLEASE SEE POLICE, A7

80th birthday brings accolades for Barns

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

Westland political matriarch Justine Barns - a trailblazer for local women in government - received

elected city leaders paid tribute to her 80th birthday. Barns, who rose through the

praise

Tuesday as

ranks from school PTA president to state representative, was honored in a joint proclamation signed by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and the Westland City Council.

"She has done a lot for the community," Cicirelli said

during a council session. "She certainly has paved the way for a lot of us women in government who have followed in her footsteps."

Barns didn't attend the meeting, but she is expected to greet her supporters during a coffee-and-cake gettogether 6-7 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Westland City Hall. The public is invited.

Barns celebrated her 80th birthday on Feb. 2 - 53 years after she started her community involvement in 1952 as president of the Jefferson Elementary School PTA.

Wayne-Westland school officials eventually renamed the school as Jefferson-Barns Elementary in her honor.

PLEASE SEE BARNS, A7

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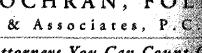
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Coming Sunday on the PINN page

Dressing Your Guy



Paraprofessional garners Golden Apple Award

Cindi Gutowski became the latest recipient of Livonia Public Schools' Golden Apple Award.

The special education paraprofessional works at Livonia Career Technical Center. Her co-workers filled the board room to share in the honor.

"I'd like to thank everyone for this award," said Gutowski. Without their support and help, I could not do what I do."

Principal Janet Haas nominated Gutowski, noting that "Cindi coordinates all staff functions, causing our staff environment to be positive, caring and joyous.

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

Teacher Joe Costa said, "Cindi is always, by her nature, giving personally and professionally of herself to both staff and students."

Gutowski mentioned Costa in her public acceptance, saying that thanks to him she "learns something new every

The Golden Apple Award recognizes time, talent and effort in support of students, parents and staff of the district.

by Stephanie A. Casola



Cindi Gutowski with her Golden Apple plaque.

Resale shopping grows up to fill Livonia space

RESALE AND RESTORE

Talk about expansion. Canton-based resale store, Consignment Outlet, has swapped its former Plymouth location for a mammoth space in Livonia.

Owners Todd and Michelle Schiftar have purchased the former home of Ethan Allen at 15700 Middlebelt in Livonia, which encompasses 18,000 square feet.

"We opened the Plymouth store two years ago," he said. "It was only 1,800 square feet. We closed that store to purchase the Livonia store."

The new space accommodates more than 1,500 consignors who work with Schiftar to sell everything from home furnishings, furniture, and jewelry, to clothing, tools, antiques and electron-

While much of the merchandise is gently used, the store also offers new, closeout items from area big box

What's in

sales. Since it opened four weeks ago, two showrooms worth of

stores, and from liquidation

furniture has been sold. "Our motto is 'Resale beats

retail," said Schiftar. He said he tells friends and relatives not to buy anything without coming to Consignment Outlet first. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday in Livonia and at 44125 Ford Road in Canton. Call (734) 261-9423 in Livonia or (734) 844-9423 in Canton.

TIMES TWO

The fashion forward will head to downtown Plymouth this Saturday, Feb. 26, to check out the newest area boutique ~ Dueto. Owners Nicole Jaskulka and Alexandra Papasifakis have been talking about opening their own clothing store since. childhood. Both Troy residents, they've worked in retail since age 16.

Despite bachelor's degrees in elementary education and premedicine respectively, the longtime friends made their move four months ago. They took over the lease at 470 Forest Place, Suite 2.

The name Dueto represents not only their longtime friendship, but also the fact that the store offers clothing for both men and women.

Much of the merchandise is denim-based, but includes day and evening attire, and accessories - all featuring upand-coming designers, said Jaskulka,

She'll be selling her own line of original jewelry, as well as designer handbags and coming this spring - men's and women's shoes. Prices range from about \$40 to \$200.

Dueto will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 454-4700.

NEW DEL!

Livonia's latest addition for the lunch crowd, simply called The Deli, held its grand opening Tuesday. Owner Paul Muonio made the easy decision to bring this latest restaurant venture straight to his hometown.

"I grew up here," he said. "I went to school at Stevenson. It's a good community."

Topping the menu is the hot corned beef sandwich, Muonio said, but The Deli offers everything from fresh lunchmeats, salads, soups and fresh bread baked daily. But above all, he hopes new customers will notice the "consistently excellent service."

The Deli isn't a pricey choice, either, as most sandwiches cost \$4.99 each. And a wide array of candies will satisfy any sweet-tooth. "You'll always be tempted," Muonio said.

The Deli, at 20235 Middlebelt, between Seven and Eight Mile, is currently open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (248) 442-7827.

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.

PLACES AND FACES

Strike!

Bowling for a Cure, sponsored by Westland Jaycees, will take place 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 5, to help the local Relay for Life cancer-fighting benefit in June. The bowling event will be at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne.

Minimum donation for the event, which includes two games of bowling and shoe rental, is \$15 per person. All checks should be made payable to the American Cancer Society. Pledge sheets are available at Westland Bowl.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call (734) 729-6683. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, Feb.

Dinner at Archie's

The Livonia Franklin High School Marching Band is sponsoring Dinner at Archie's Monday, Feb. 28, to raise money to purchase of new concert and marching band instru-

Twenty-five percent of the food bill will be donated back to Franklin High School between 4-10 p.m., when band supporters and their families, friends and neighbors sign the bill with "Franklin Band."

Open house

St. Damian School will have its annual Open House on noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27. An accredited Catholic

School, St. Damian is accepting enrollment for all classes at the school at 29891 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Westland.

The school has preschool classes for three-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday Preschool and for four-yearolds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

It offers both three- and fivefull-day kindergarten classes and a five-day half-day program (morning session) as well as grades 1-8.. Before and after-school childcare also is available. For more information, call

(734) 427-1680.

Best mother, father

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli has announced that nomination applications are available for

Mother of the Year and Father of the Year - awards she will give during her State of the

City address in April. Applications are available at the city cable station WLND, 33455 Warren Road, or on the city's Web site at www.ci.westland.mi.us. Applications are due in the mayor's office by 5 p.m. Friday, March 4.

The program will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the senior citizen Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Bit of history

The Friends of the Westland Historical Museum will host a talk, "What is an Interurban?," at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 6, Richard Andrews, at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, just north of Ford, Westland.

Richard Andrews, a local historian and author, will give the presentation. Admission is (free. For more information called the library at (734) 326-6123 or by e-mail at nankinhistorian@comcast.net.

Going for gold

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department will host the Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Tots will be able to compete in 18 different events, including the Marshmallow Shot Put. the Toddler Trot, the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles and Obstacle Course. Every child will receive a certificate of participation. To be able to have enough time to compete in all the events, children should register before 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 7227620.

Casting call

City of Wayne Arts and Entertainment Department's Actors Community Theatre is holding auditions for Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella at 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, March 7-8, at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Auditions include singing,

dancing and reading. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.





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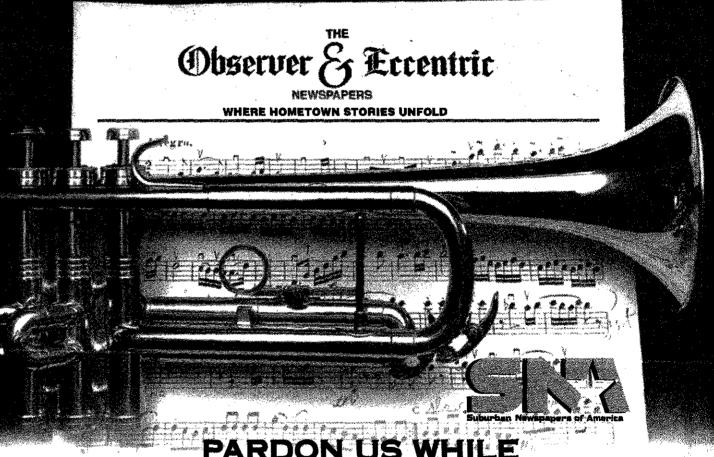
A HomeTown Communications Network publication











PARDON US WHILE WE TOOT OUR OWN HORN.

We grabbed our horn because we've just received the results of the 2004 Suburban Newspapers of America's (SNA) annual competition.

Our staff received nine awards for excellence in journalism in 2004. What makes this even more exciting is that of the 2,246 entries, we brought home more awards than any other non-daily newspaper in the state.

And here they are:

Best Lifestyle Section

Susan Steinmueller - Second Place, Birmingham Eccentric

Best Entertainment Section

Third Place - Filter, Keely Schramm, Nicole Stafford, Lana Mini, Stephanie Tardy, Megan Pennefather, Randy Masters, Dan Dean

Best Editorial Writing Second Place - Troy Eccentric "Stop Recall, Insure Freedom, Don't Mess With Charter"

Best Column Writing

Third Place - Sandy Armbruster, Troy Eccentric

Best Editorial Page Cartoon

Second Place, Geof Brooks "Budget Cartoon."

Best Opinion Column First Place - Brad Kadrich, Plymouth Community Editor

Best Sports Writing

First Place, Jim Toth, Troy/Rochester Special Editor Sports "Court Ruling."

Best Sports Writing

Second Place - Ed Wright, Plymouth/Canton Special Editor/Sports "Aluminum Bat Usage Spurs Debate."

Journalist of the Year

Third Place - Kurt Kuban, Canton Community Editor

-HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ficano says Pinnacle project on track for this year

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited Pinnacle Aeropark development south of Metro Airport will break ground this year.

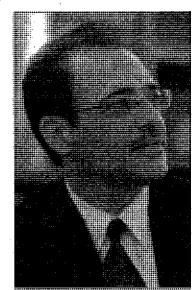
Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano declared "the time for talk is over" in his annual State of the County Address Feb. 16 at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. Pinnacle was one of several initiatives proposed to deal with the county's lingering economic problems.

Ficano said \$7 million will be invested in new roads and sewers to develop the first 150 acres for business development at the county-owned Pinnacle site.

"Jobs are leaving. Revenue is declining. State and federal programs are being eliminated," Ficano said. "As county executive, I must manage the downsizing of government while growing the economy and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens. We are in rough waters. However, I assure you – together we will weather the storm and restore hope, opportunity and prosperity."

GROWTH SOUGHT

Ficano proposed several pro-



Robert Ficano

grams to encourage housing and small business development. He said the county is committed to granting about \$3 million to support housing development in economically distressed communities of Hamtramck, Highland Park, Inkster, River Rouge, Ecorse and Melvindale.

Ficano and County Treasurer Ray Wojtowicz are proposing creation of a Land Bank Authority which would enable the county to market abandoned properties with tax incentives.

A plan to provide financial incentives for new construc-

tion or rehabilitation programs has been labeled TURBO for transforming underdeveloped residential and business opportunities.

Under the program, Wayne County would provide a year of no property taxes on undeveloped parcels. In future years, the county would give back up to 50 percent on property tax payments to offset investment.

"I see TURBO serving as a catalyst for new family restaurants opening in Detroit, for job growth by attracting new retail businesses in East Dearborn and for housing in our core communities such as Trenton, Highland Park and Harper Woods," Ficano said.

Livonia Mayor Jack
Engebretson said he is encouraged by Ficano's optimism and sees opportunities with in the Land Bank and TURBO proposals.

"His new TURBO program is something that is an outstanding opportunity for the county and local units of government to refurbish businesses and homes," Engebretson said.

The details still need to be examined, but Engebretson said he believes there are properties in Livonia that would benefit from the county program.

CANTON VIEW

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack said he didn't hear Ficano's speech but was given a heads up on the development proposals. "I think most of those techniques are designed to help communities that are struggling economically and will have little impact on us," he said.

On the other hand, Yack said the county and Ficano have been very helpful in negotiations with IKEA, the Swedish furniture store that recently withdrew from a deal to build a giant store in Canton.

Yack said Canton and the whole area around the airport will benefit from the Pinnacle development.

He said the economy continues to be sluggish with rents lower than they should be. He said two auto related companies recently moved operations to Canton, but he hasn't seen any real diversity in the kinds of business coming to the area. He said the Pinnacle project has taken a long time to get started.

"You would think that the area around the airport would be ripe for development," he said. Yack said it was common to see research development parks and warehousing around major airports but they just

haven't developed around Metro.

Ficano said that in addition to the TURBO proposal there are other investment initiatives. He said Wayne County is taking advantage of a federal new market tax credit program to use \$27 million in federal tax dollars to encourage private investment in older communities. He said the federal money will result in \$150 million in new private investment.

The county executive said he continues to "strongly support" the efforts of the Magna Entertainment Corp. to build a horse racing track and automotive research facility in Romulus.

"They have made their investment to this region by spending \$28 million to buy the land," he said. "It is time for the state to issue the license and create thousands of muchneeded jobs."

On other issues, Ficano:

Proposed eliminating the Detroit Health Department to avoid duplication with the Wayne County Health Department. He proposed finding jobs for Detroit Health Department employees at area health facilities.

He continued to argue for the Jobs Tunnel, a new tunnel between Detroit and Windsor to handle truck traffic. Restaurants servers' tips help Red Cross

Red Robin team members throughout the state of Michigan and in Toledo, Ohio, have teamed up for a good cause. Following their Jan. 24 "Tips to Turn the Tide" fundraiser, a check for \$16,400 was presented to the American Red Cross to help the organization in its tsunami relief efforts.

The "Tips to Turn the Tide" fund-raiser, where team members volunteered to work and donate 100 percent of tips to the Tsunami relief, was a joint idea and collaboration among Red Robin team members in the Detroit, Flint, Lansing and Toledo areas.

Michigan locations are owned and operated by Red Robin of Michigan, and the Toledo location is owned and operated by Ansara Restaurant Group, both franchisees of Red Robin Gourmet Burgers.

"On behalf of the Red Cross, we would like to thank Red Robin team members for this commendable initiative," said Glen Hendricks, director of emergency services for the American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Chapter. "It's a very generous donation and will be used to fund continuous efforts to help all those who were affected by this tragedy."

Academic All-Star selection widens

The Observer Newspapers is proud to sponsor the 2005 Academic All-Star Team. This year marks the 20th consecutive year that the Observer Newspapers has honored a team of students for their academic achievements.

In the past, only high schools (public, private and parochial) located in the *Observer* circulation area have been invited to nominate students to the All-Star Team.

"This year, we are opening up the competition to high school seniors who live in the Observer circulation area but attend school in another community," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. "We want to open the competition to as many students in our circulation area and the 20th anniversary is a good time to expand the program."

Parents, students and school

Public School District approved two proposals to

sinking fund.

renew millages and provide more support for district's

"It's just an overwhelming

victory," said Jay Young, direc-

representing a total of 5,818

The proposal establishes an 18.4568 millage rate for non-

homestead properties - such as

businesses, and a 0.63 mill

hold harmless tax on homes.

The latter is 0.12 mills lower

than the previously approved

millage. About 24 percent, or

1,801 voters, opposed the pro-

The second issue, a renewal

of the sinking fund millage at

1.12 mills, was also supported

by the majority of voters. More than 68 percent, or 5,195 vot-

ers, approved Proposal 2. It

increases the initial rate by

0.12 mills, and could translate

More than 76 percent of voters said "yes" to Proposal I,

tor of communications.

Livonia voters back

millage renewals

principals can request an application by e-mail to srosiek@oe.homecomm.net.

Completed applications and transcripts must be returned no later than 5 p.m. Monday, March 14. Only nomination forms that meet the deadline will be considered.

Selection is based solely on grade point average in academic subjects and SAT/ACT scores.

Selection of the All-Star Team will be made by a committee of high school principals under the direction of Dr. Larry Boehms, principal of Troy High School.

The team will be featured in a special section published in the *Observer Newspapers* on Thursday, May 12.

Team members receive public recognition and gifts.
Runners-up are also mentioned in the special supplement.

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

into a tax increase of about \$12

a year for owners of a home

tax rate will stay the same.

one vote.'

worth \$200,000. Overall the

"including absentee ballots by

Voter turnout was lower

compared to the 2000 bond

elections tend to be.

the district.

election, said Young, but higher

than the annual board member

A total of 7,640 ballots were

The sinking fund was set to

2006. With these renewals, the

by Stephanie Angelyn Casola

millages will last another five

expire this year, and the oper-

ating millages run through

cast, representing just over 9 percent of registered voters in

"Both proposals passed in all of the precincts," said Young,

The absentee ballots came in as 1,004 in support of both proposals, and 1,003 against

celebrate EDUCATION

a day of shopping to raise money for education

2000 OFF all* purchases during the event, including regular-priced merchandise, with your ticket!

At Parisian locations Saturday, February 26, 2005

10:00 am to 9:00 pm

An event to raise money for education. Tickets \$5.00 The total \$5.00 ticket price goes directly to the school selling the tickets.

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Nielson visits Joe's Produce

Health and fitness expert
Peter Nielson will answer questions on nutrition and exercise
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday
at Joe's Produce in Livonia.
Nielson is the host of "Peter's

Principles" which airs on Channel 4 WDIV-TV and WWJ News Radio. Nielson will pose for pictures

will customers and sign auto-

graphs in addition to answering health and exercise questions.

Joe's Produce will also feature a "Sweet and Crunchy Spinach Salad" demonstration and sampling from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Joe's Produce is at 33152 W. Seven Mile, two blocks east of Farmington Road, Livonia. YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL

save an extra 10% when you open a Parisian account – no exclusions

TO ORDER ANYTIME, CALL 1-800-424-8185: MONDAY THRU SATURDAY, 10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM EST. AND SUNDAY, 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM EST. American Express not accepted with phone orders. STORE HOURS: The Village of Rochester Hills (249) 276-6705 and Laurel Park Place (734) 953-7500 open Sun. 12-6, Mon.-Sat. 10-9. CHARGE IT: Parjaign Credit Card, MesterCard, Vise, the American Express® Card of Discover®, LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCH ESTER HILLS CORNER OF NORTH ADAMS ROAD AND WALTON STREET; AND LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD. Percentages off regular prices or original prices, as shown. Actual savings may exceed stated percentage off. "Regular" and "Original" prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in social sale

23 and 25.

Benson said.

vehicle.

said.

confirmed.

wrongdoing.

and the two sides apparently

didn't know each other when

the shootings occurred Jan. 21,

"Everybody claims that no

one knows this guy and that he

just arbitrarily picked them,"

Officers in the Westland

Police Department's Special

Investigations Unit started

watching the neighborhood

and they spotted a pickup

description of the suspect's

Police checked to see who

owned the truck. Ultimately,

where Benson said they confis-

The victims had damage

done to a Chevy Beretta and a

van that they kept parked in

front of their house. The wife

who lives there told police she

"She'd hear the shots, look

Green's house, they found four

long guns and two handguns -

rounds of ammunition, Benson

His hearing today will deter-

mine whether he should stand

trial in Wayne County Circuit

out and see the truck," Benson

When police searched

loaded - and some 2,000

Green has denied any

saw the suspect's truck after

she heard shots fired.

they went to Green's house,

cated several guns.

truck that matched the

following the initial incident.

Man faces hearing in random shooting case

STAFF WRITER

A Westland man faces a court hearing today amid allegations he drove by a northend couple's house and randomly fired shots at their parked vehicles.

Robert Mark Green, who lived within a mile of the victims but apparently didn't know them, had several guns confiscated from his house when police executed a search warrant, police Sgt. Chris Benson said.

"He denies doing anything," Benson said.

Green's defense attorney, Gregory Holland, couldn't be reached for comment.

Green, 35, faces a hearing in Westland 18th District Court for malicious destruction of property over \$1,000, discharging a firearm from a vehicle and a felony firearms charge.

He could face five years in prison, if convicted. He remains jailed on a \$150,000 cash bond set by 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

Police arrested Green last week following allegations that ballistics tests linked his .40caliber handgun to shootings on Conway, near Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail, Benson said.

The incidents happened near where students attend the Livonia school district's Western Wayne Skills Center.

Green had no known motive,

DEATHS

Mary Aquaro, of Troy, died Feb. 21. Margaret "Punkin" Carol Burden, 36, of Belleville, died Feb. 18.

Thomas R. Durkin, 62, formerly of Northville, died Feb. 18.

Betty (nee Quarton) Hoard, 90, of Birmingham, died Feb. 19. Dorothy Ruth Howard, 87, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Feb. 18.

Mildred C. Murdoch, 89, of Plymouth, died Feb. 18.

Patricia L. Owens, 47, of Wayne, died Feb. 20.

Edmund "Bud" E. Peitz Jr., 77, of 8ingham Farms, died Feb. 17.

Donna L. Wyland, 85, of Southfield, died Feb. 15.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Maybe you remember the 19B4 Super Bowl half-time advertisement for Apple's Macintosh personal computer, which featured a hammer-wielding sprinter facing off against an Orwellian "Big Brother."

In 1995, Advertising Age magazine named it the best commercial of the last 50 years. Many consider it the

dawn of the PC Age. Well, that was 21 years ago, and the personal computer is now a fact of life. Your level of comfort with computers often determines how well you interface with the working world today.

Whether you're a computer novice or a software engineer, the library has material to help you get along better with your personal computer.

If computers make you uncomfortable, you may find useful Absolute Beginner's Guide to Computer Basics, The Seniors Guide to PC Basics or the

For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Sports in

aptly titled I'm Turning on My PC. Now-What?!

Passages on page C9.

Those new to the Internet might borrow Que's Practical Internet, Mr. Modem's Internet Guide for Seniors, or SAMS's Teach Yourself the Internet in 24 Hours:

The library also stocks a number of introductions to PCs and the Internet on VHS tapes, and regularly offers a free Internet 101 class for the very

You may simply be a computer user. Perhaps you find yourself wishing you knew more about Microsoft Word or Excel. The library is well stocked with books and videos on these and other common productivity software programs (PowerPoint, Access, Quicken, Acrobat, FrontPage and more).

Then again, using a computer may be as natural to you as breathing. The library has a wide range of material for the expert. Whether you're interested in programming and scripting languages (Java, C++, Visual Basic, PHP), database applications and environments (Oracle, SQL), operating systems (UNIX, LINUX, BSD, OSX), graphics software (Photoshop, Flash), or Web architecture languages (HTML, XML),

the library carries a reference for you. We can help you get up to speed on standards-based Web design (Jeffrey Zeldman's Designing with Web Standards), learn Microsoft's NET Web framework (Matthew MacDonald's ASP.NET: The Complete Reference) or

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

ELEMENTARY

March 1, 2005

1:30 p.m. EST

Board of Education

Westland, MI 48185

distribution on or after February 14, 2005.

36745 Marquette

Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Association of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP

ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West

Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the McGraw-

Hill Construction Dodge Plan Room, Southfield, Michigan; the Reed

Construction Data Plan Room, Novi, Michigan; or the Construction

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of

the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days

after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete,

in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other

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

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect,

accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five

percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory

Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in

part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the

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thirty (30) days after date for receipt of bids.

accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

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

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Time:

Specifications.

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Networking). The Public Library of Westland offers free public Internet access to patrons, making it a great place to get online. And along with the aforementioned print titles, the library offers hundreds of titles of computer software - for business, education and leisure - all available free for borrowing, just like a book.

See for yourself in the online catalog at http://www.westland.lib.mi.us or give the library a call at (734) 326-6123 to find out more.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Nursery School Olympics The Westland Parks and Recreation Department will host the Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, at the 8ailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Tots will be able to compete in 18 different events, including the Marshmallow Shot Put, the Toddler Trot, the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles and Obstacle Course, Every child will receive a certificate of participa-

The cost is \$3 per athlete, parents and spectators are free. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not necessary. However, to be able to have enough time to compete in all the events, children should régister before 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 7227620. The event is sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitan Club and Dad's Athletic Club of Westland.

Spring Quilt Show Grange No. 389 will have its annual spring quilt show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at the senior Friendship Center, 1119 S. Newburgh, Westland.

The show will feature quilt classes

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follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

SCHOOL; ROOSEVELT-McGRATH

- a cathedral window quitted pillow and special kids classes 9 a.m. to noon, quilted book cover class 1-4 p.m. and paper piece project 1-6 p.m. – quilt displays, demonstrations, appraisals and lunch. There also will be a display of old, new, - 44 unfinished quilts, wall hangings and quilted clothing. The entry fee is \$10% per piece to be judged.

Table space also is available for Sala vendors. The cost is \$25 for a 10-by: 10-foot space.

The kids class costs \$5, the pillows and book cover classes cost \$20 - \$4. each, and the paper piece project 🗯 \$30. Preregistration is required. Tickets are \$1 in advance and \$2 at 40. the door.

For tickets or to register, call LA Sharon Strebbing at (734) 722-4857. Registration also can be sent to Strebbing at 5692 N. Globe, Westland, MI 48185. Include your name address and telephone number as well as an alternate phone number.

Power Soccer Clinic

The Westland Parks and Recreation 2 Department will host a Power Soccer Team Clinic 2-5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the Bailey 175 Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Power soccer is a team sport for 30% individuals with disabilities who use power wheelchairs. It is the first - seg sport designed specifically for power wheelchair users. The game 🖼 is usually played in a gymnasium on a regulation basketball court. Teams of two power wheelchair users attack, defend and maneuverms. an oversized ball into a designated hold goal to score points.

The clinic is designed to build a Westland power soccer team. For more information, call Margaret Martin at (734) 722-7620, Jerry Frick, power soccer executive in Atlanta, Ga., at (770) 654-0715, Alan Pomranka of Michigan Wheelchair Veterans at (517) 490- 163 3893 or Ken Britton at (734) 595~ 368

Brunch with the Easter Bunny Star your Easter celebration off with brunch with the Easter Bunny 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 19, vol at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323;65 1055 \$. Wayne Road.

The cost is \$3 per child up to age 353 12 and \$4 for adults. The brunch est includes homemade, hot-off-the- off griddle pancakes, sausage, juice, চাৰ coffee, tea and milk, a photograph will with the Easter Bunny (additional photos cost \$2) and Easter bonnet 619 parade. Children should make bon- 100 nets or hats to wear to the brunch. 15%

Tickets are available in advance at is: the Bailey Recreation Center, 366516# Ford, or at the door. For more informa mation, call Donna Jensen at (734) sh 728-8075

The brunch is sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Westland Civitan Club,

Easter Egg Scramble The Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Westland Jaycees are sponsoring and Easter lov Egg Scramble 1-4 p.m. Saturday,

March 19, at Jaycee Park adjacent to the Mike Modano Ice Arena at - 46% Wildwood at Hunter. The first scramble begins at 1 p.m. 3% Youngsters will be broken up according to ages - up to 3 years, 1809 4-6 years, 7-10 years and 11-14

years. Youngsters should bring a basket or bag for their eggs. There also will be inflated games, surprises and activities. Juice and 460 cookies also will be served. For more information, call (734) and

522-8402. The event will be canceled if there is inclement weather. Call the recreation department at habit (734) 722-7620 after 11:30 a.m. the tak day of the event to verify if the event is canceled.

Earth Day Scout groups, classes, church groups, home school groups, civic ass clubs or preschools looking for an and Earth Day activity can adopt a 24, 363 planter box outside the Bailey 3 4 46% Recreation Center. The plating will 538 take place 4:30-6 p.m. Friday, April.

For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620. 508 Community Garage Sale

More than 80 garage sales all in 5:09 the same place at the same time in 10% the parking lot west of Westland 1998 City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, next to Jose the Police Department. For further information about how you can reserve a spot, call Margaret Martin 🙉 at (734) 722-7620.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

SIT Sile

City of Westland

Mayor's Office - (734) 467-3200, earl? mail mayor@ci.westland.mi.us 18th District Court - (734) 595-Assessment - (734) 467,3160, e-

mail assessor@ci.westland,mi.us Building Department - (734) 467- 007 3210, e-mail building@ci.westland.mi.us

CATY/Community Relations - (734) 194 467-3198, e-mail cabletv@ci.west land.mi.us

City Attorney - (734) 421-5510, e-\(\infty\)

inquiry@plakasandassociates.com 63

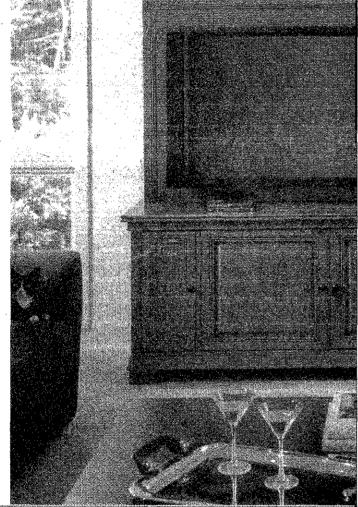
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ACHIEVERS

The following students from Westland earned a spot on the Dean's List for the fall semester from Schoolcraft College:

Faith O. Afolabi, Tracy L. Allen, Dion J. Angelosanto, Rodenc Asllani, Christopher W. Ayres, Karen E. Baker, Jennifer L. Barson, Julian Beqiri, Lisa L. Blaharski, Jill A. Blakley, James L. Bloom, Todd G. Boardman, Wendy S. Bodin, Sarah M. Boles, Sarah A. Bolish, Staci M. Branscomb, Jessica R. Brent, Linda M. Broaddus, Sarah A. Brown, Diane R. Browne, Janice L. Bruhnsen. Amanda L. Budnick, Allison M. Bungardas, Karen E. Butkowski, Crystal L. Campbell, Ashley N. Cecil, Teresa M. Chalifour, Gilbert J. Charfauros, Valencia F. Charfauros, Dawn M. Cheetam, Christopher P. Chiroka, Jason B. Clifton, Kimberly A. Corney, Alin V. Cosma, Geraldeen G. Crider, Kristen M. Curzytek, Sarah E. Daley, Matthew C. Darnell,

Richard J. Dearing.

Phillip W. Deck, Alicia M. Dehelean, Erin J. Demers, Elizabeth A. Demoss, Andrea L. Depollo, Gazmend Dervishaj, Mohamed L. Diallo, Erin K. Dickey, Geri A. Edmonds, Leandra Y. Edwards, Lisa A. Eggleston, Leah M. Enright, Julie I. Farhat, Amy M. Feltz, Lucy A. Finney, Patricia R. Fitzer, Nicholas G. Fotiu, Jason D. Foxz, Alicia Fragoso-Rodreguez.

Laurie A. Gaffney, Sarah M. Garbutt, Lynn Gazdag, Leisha C. Genaw, Megan R. Giacchina, Jonathan D. Gietzen, Ylli Gocaj, Joseph A. Goldwater, David A. Gonzales, Deborah O. Goodling, Maureen A. Guardiola, Kathy J. Hamilton, Kristi M. Harrison, Patricia S. Haxton, Jeffrey P. Hayton, Catherine E. Hearn, Januszkowski, Stephanie L. Jerore, Adam W. Jinks, Bobbie J. L. Johnson, Nadia J. Kassis, Peggy A. Kazmierczuk, Mary L. Ketegwe, Tami Kirn, Louis E. Kolenc, Sydney C. Korth, Darcie K. Krause, Michael D. Kurgan, Gene P. LaPouttre, Herman D. Locust, Mary J. Macphail.

Aini M. Mahfooz, Mohammad H. Mahfooz, Renee A. Marhofer, Christina A. Matejcik, Christopher S. Matthews, Jaime L. Mayer, Steven A. Meek, Joe Menchaca III, Charles B. Meyers, Cheryl A. Mikolajczyk, Matthew A. Moenaert, Denise L. Mozham, Christina L. Mufarreh, Sarina A. Mytych, Andy A. Najjar, Rula Nesheiwat, Bridgette A. Nicholas,

Provot, Jaclyn R. Puhlman, Cassandra J. Reed, Lisa M. Rich, Neil D. Robert, Paul Nicholas Robertson, Summar D. Ronning, Leah R. Russell, Penny M. Rutledge, Brooke A. Samelko, Maryanne Sandoval, Kerri M. Sarb, Jordan S. Saunders.

Christina L. Sawula, Robert L. Schultz, Amy M. Settles, Lori A. Shaney, Rebecca A. Sharoian, Angela M. Shiemke, Sarah M. Sikora, Tito V. Silvestri, Katherine L. Simmons, Bethany L. Slack, Terry R. Spurgeon, Laura A. Stanton, Rebecca M. Stockstill, Lucille M. Suchan, Dena M. Swope, Daniela Tadokoro, Dawn M. Tappen, Maria Tasi, Kathleen R. Thiem.

Brittany J. Thompson, Renee M. Tobin, Felix Torjoc, Matthew B. Tykoski, Deanna J. Tyler, Jamie L. Vernier, Amy S. Webster, Nicole L. Wertz, Douglas E. Wesolowski, Paul E. Wilcox,

FRANKLIN HONORS

Named to the second honor roll for the 2004-2005 school year at Franklin Middle School are:

Summer Adams, Ali Ahmad, Adeela Ali, Muhammad Ali, Nyleve Allen, Ryan Allen, Brittney Anderson, Danielle Anderson, David Arnold, Shelby Arnold, Michael Bailey, Robert Baker, William Baker, Alexander Baili, Farrah Barnes, Delancey Barron, Matthew Beard, April Beaugard, Jasmine Bell. Alexis Benefield, Shelby Benefield, Mahelia Benjamin, Cynthia Berean.

Cheisea Biamer, Brittany Blanton, Karissa Bolish, Edward Boros, Parris Bowen, Christopher Bowie, Amanda Bowman, Amber Nuoffer Bradley, Tyler Brechtbill, Jonathan Bryant, Dominic Burnett, Christopher Burtraw, Fred Butler, Alaina Butner, Aaron Byrd, Jonathan Cahill, William Cain, Samantha Calladine, Cody Campbell, Danielle Capraro, Erina Carmelo.

Samantha Carrier, Amanda Carver, Amanda Chalmers, Denecia Charles, Muhammad Chaudry, Taylor Clark, Ashley Clarke, Alicia Cole, Christopher Collingsworth, Megan Connolly, Kiara Cook, Heather Copeland, Nastika Cukali, Patrik Culey, Melissa Dabelstein, Quentin Dawkins, Joseph Dawson, Alexander Dayton, Cierra Decraene, Staci Delezenne.

Jessica Denny, Felicia Desselles, Michael Dewulf, Nicole Dezoete, Samantha Domeier, Elizabeth Douglas, Brandee Eckford, Ashley Elliott, Shelby Erickson, Antwanetta Faulk, Brittany Faulk, Heather Favazza, Pilar Felan, Jessica Fick, Jessica Fielhauer, Alyssa Florn, Katie Fogg, David Fourment, Scott Franklin, Anita Freeman, Scot Fretwell, Shannah Friedman.

Thomas Goachee, Michelle Good, Jenna Graham, Michael Grayer, Joshua Green, Jonathan Greene, Kayla Greene, Allison Hammond, Cassandra Hardy, Richard Hardyniec, Zachary Hardyniec, Brandon Harnos, Kelsea Harris, Renee Hartert, Amber Hartford, Amanda Harvey, Amber Hauk, Haley Hayes, Christopher Henisse. Donald Herber.

Callie Holiman, Kelsie Honeycutt, Paris Horgrow, Pierre Horgrow, Chelsea Housewright, Jeffrey Howard, Stefanie Huffman, Briana Hunter, Miles Hutchinson, Frances Jackson, Gabrielle Jackson, Alicia Jacobs, Taylor Jacobs, Arooba Javed, Anthony Jett, Cassie Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Jenna Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Alexis Jones.

Diamond Jones, Kaitland Jones, Hope Kaminski, Jordyn Karpinski, Ishpreet Kaur, Hunter Kennedy, Vivian Kennedy, Torrance King, Monica Kmet, Kayla Korinek, Dylan Korzetki, Christopher Kouri, Henry Kozlowski, Mary Kreutzkamp, Courtney Kucharski, Jessica Kuder, Samantha Kull, Jessica Labean, Jory Labert, Patrick Lafferty, Halee Lankton.

Timothy Lauderbach, Heather Lavegue, Dakota Leming, Shayna Lenox, Kateri Little, Michael Little, Trisha Lloyd, Bradley Lockhart, Meah Long, Samantha Lossos, Bryana Love, Joshua Lowe, Alyssa Lucas, Eric MacDonald, Kayteland Manning, Keena Marable, Emily Marshall, Paris Martin, Ashley Mashatt, Brianne Mason, Rebecca McClester, Sinead McGiffert.

Megan McGregor, Scott McIntosh, Derek McManaway, Shae Miller, Christina Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Kristy Molner, John Moore, Raymond Moore, Michael Morgan, Darrell Musselman, Tiah Napolitano, Vera Neci, Gary Neill, James Nettie, Allen Nugal, Rebecca O'Harris, Stephani O'Harris, Brandee Ochel, Steven Ogg, Kelsey Osborne.

Candace Papineau, Cailee Parendo, Cory Parendo, Sunnie Patterson, Laura Pegg, Emily Penner, Daniel Pianowski, Jacob Pine. Sean Pipe, Chelsea Pobur, Amanda Poirier, Trevor Pollard, Meghan Pollington, Renaldo Powell, Brittney Pruett, Dylan Ritter, Justin Robinson, Daniel Ross, Keshia Ross, Rebecca Rowlings, Samantha Rowlings, Vivian Ruczynski.

Jerold Runion, Robert Runstrom, Brandin Samples, Cary Scheuermann, Rachel Shackleford, Yasmine Shitta, Solomon Shurge, Andrea Sigler, Andrea Sims, Chelsea Skivers, Jamie Smith, Lauren Smith, Zachary Smith, Bernardina Spaqi, Shantelle Spencer, Camille Springer, Jessica Spytko, Ashley Stamper, Keiara Stevenson, Cnorey Stewart.

Christopher Stewart, Eric Story, Rachel Sullivan, Sara Tackett, Nicholas Tarnowsky, Corey Taylor, Jacob Tenerovich, Jane Thayer, Amanda Thomas, Chantel Thomas. Kristy Thomas, Matthew Thompson, Michael Toms, Alyssa Torres, Ashley Trobley, Taylor Tucker, Martin Urbaniak, Chloé Ursem, Ashley Venters, Kneco Veres, Ashlee

Vernon, Shelby Watts. Aleshia Whaley, Korie-Lynn Whitlark, Danile Wilson, Krysta Wilson, Barbara Wimberly, Joanna Witte, Kellie Woodart, Katherine Yax, Torri York and Andrew

Christopher R. Niemi. Benjamin B. Ogden, Lynne M. Olderman, Lauren A. Hewitt, Ishandev P. Hiremath. Gina L. Hitchcock, Holly K. Hofsess, Vanessa Philip C. Perry, Antoine F. Pierce, Albert Plloci, Sarah J. Wisniewski and Baiyao Zheng. D. Hotoph, Yola R. Jabbour, Amy L. Janice M. Porte, Nancy E. Potts, Mary A. **GOING ON NOW** take an **ENTIRE STOCK ladies' red-lined clearance** semiannual ladies' apparel Learance

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Young musicians earn symphony scholarships

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 24, 2005

A Livonia trombonist and a bassist from Canton are among the seven winners of the 2005 Youth Artist competition sponsored by the Plymouth Symphony.

Thanks to an anonymous donor and gifts from the Plymouth Rotary Foundation and the Plymouth Optimist Club, some \$1,550 in scholarship money will be awarded.

The competition also is supported by the Michigan Council for the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Evola Music of

Trombonist Miranda Kalish, a 16-year-old Churchill High School junior, received a \$500 scholarship as the first-place winner in the Senior Instrumental Division. In addition to begin an active member in the Churchill High School instrumental music programs, Kalish has attended the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and Interlochen Center for the Arts. She is currently first chair for the Michigan Youth Band and Orchestra.

Kirstin Thieleman of Canton is the principal bassist in the Celebration Sinfonia. She gets a \$250 first-place scholarship in the Junior Combined Division. So does John Denton of Novi. currently a seventh-grader who plays trombone in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Youth Ensembles.

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Northville High School sophomore Elliott Huang receives a \$250 scholarship as the secondplace winner in the Senior Instrumental Division. Huang began violin study at age 4 and has played in the Dearborn Youth Orchestra, Livonia Youth Philharmonic and the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra.

Honorable-mention scholarships of \$100 are being awarded in the Senior Instrumental Division to cellist Derek Thieleman, in the Senior Piano Division to Tiffany Pao and to pianist Chance Miller in the Junior Combined Division.

The Youth Artist Competition is held each year by the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra to recognize young talent in the Clarenceville, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren and Wayne-Westland school districts.

The competition was open to all orchestral instruments and piano, and was hosted by Evola Music in Canton earlier this month. Winners will be recognized at the Plymouth Symphony's "Sacred Sounds" concert March 12.

Young musicians interested in participating in the 2005-2006 competition may place their names on a list now to receive information in the fall 2005. For further information e-mail the symphony office at plymouthsymphony @aol.com or call (734) 451-2112.

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Scrapbook crop to raise money for kids

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

It seems no one can say "no"

to Michele Fuher. The Livonia resident has turned her hobby of scrapbooking into a fundraising effort that will benefit students throughout Livonia Public Schools. And so far, it's all coming together rather easily, she said.

She's contacted area businesses and restaurants to sponsor the affair, and so far she said, she hasn't heard "a single 'no."

The event, Crop for our Kids, will benefit the Livonia Public Schools Foundation, a nonprofit which supports programs in the schools. It is set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at Dickinson Center, 18000 Newburgh Road in Livonia.

Laura Jannika of Creative Memories, will assist with the event. She's an expert in the

craft, which has become increasingly popular.

"I personally think of scrapbooking as documentation and storytelling, first and foremost," Jannika said. "We all want to be remembered and honored for what we do. Cameras have gotten so much better and cheaper and we are

all taking a lot of photos. What does a picture mean if it doesn't have a story?'

Fuher has herself been participating in scrapbooking for about six years. She isn't sure what sparked her interest, though she always did enjoy taking photographs and keeping photo albums.

"It's rare someone starts off and very soon isn't doing extensive albums," she said. "It's not just a matter of putting photos on a page, but doing it decoratively. It's not just pictures. It's journaling, adding dates and names. It's a

way of preserving memories." Fuher said she originally

thought she'd approach her son's elementary school with the idea for a fundraiser. But

once she read about the LPS Foundation in the Observer, Fuher thought "it might be a better route, to reach more people." The event can accommodate

90 "croppers," with each receiving a continental breakfast courtesy of Caterrific Catering, and lunch provided by California Pizza Kitchen. Raffle prizes have been donat-

ed by Cookies By Design,

Charisma Salon, Parisian and TCF Bank, among others. In addition to Jannika, representatives from local scrapbooking businesses will be on hand to help, including Barb

Gentile, owner of Livonia's

Scrappin' and Stampin', and

Michele Sawyer and Rachel

Wubbenhorst of Stampin' Up. Creative Memories will provide a gift bag to all who register, and give away prizes every two hours, Jannika said. "We

plan on helping people with page ideas and showing them how to use their products easily and efficiently.

Fuher made a concerted effort to keep the event "Livonia-based."

"I'm so impressed by the community outpouring of support," she said.

Registration is open-ended and costs \$35 per person. Send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address, along with a check payable to Livonia Public Schools Foundation to register. Mail the information to LPS Foundation, to Jay Young, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

For more details, send email to mfuher@hotmail.com. For a registration form, see the

http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/ and click on "Crop for Kids Fundraiser."

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Luncheon kicks off NAMIWalk for Mind

NAMI Michigan (formerly National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) is inviting walking enthusiasts to lace up their shoes for the second annual NAMIWalk for the Mind of America walk-a-thon and salute the courage of those individuals and families who are living with mental ill-

The organization is hoping to build on the success of last year's walk which attracted 1,200 participants and raised \$64,000 to directly benefit NAMI Michigan (headquartered in Lansing) and several local Michigan affiliates, including Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw,

Genesee, Detroit, Lansing and Dearborn.

People interested in learning more about the 2005 walk are invited to attend a free kick-off luncheon noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at Burton Manor, 27777

Schoolcraft, Livonia. Following the luncheon, which is sponsored by NAMI Michigan, representatives will provide details about the walk and discuss ways to partici-

NAMIWalks for the Mind of America is a national fund-*raising and mental health awareness program that will be held in 50 communities around the country during the month of May, National Mental Health Awareness Month.

The goal is to raise public awareness and funds to benefit individuals and families affected by mental illness. The Detroit area NAMI Walk will take place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 21, on Belle Isle.

There is no charge for the luncheon, however, advance reservations are required and must be received by March 2. For more information or to make a reservation, call (248) 531-2404.

NAMI of Michigan is the State of Michigan's leading voice on mental illness. It is a

nonprofit, grassroots, selfhelp, support and advocacy organization of consumers, families, and friends of people with severe mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and other severe and persistent mental illnesses that affect the brain.

NAMI Michigan has a network of local affiliates which meet regularly to share information, support each other, and assist persons in identifying and obtaining the resources they need for intervention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.







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Arbor Hospice CEO annouces retirement

Markey Butler, the president and CEO of one of Michigan's most established hospice and home health care agencies has announced plans to retire.

Butler, who heads up Arbor Hospice and Home Care, has served as president and CEO since January 1999. No date has been set for her departure, but will come between June 30 and Oct. 31.

During her tenure, she has led the organization through a significant financial turnaround and has succeeded in positioning the agency as a valuable community asset widely recognized as one of the "crown jewels" of its kind in the country.

"The season has come for me to retire and share with my husband our life's journey ... together," said Butler. "My initial commitment to Arbor Hospice's Board of Directors was for a minimum of three months, then six months, and now I find myself completing

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the sixth year as CEO.

"I reflect back now on the many tribulations and triumphs we have been through as an agency ... and as a family. Each tribulation has made us stronger, each triumph reaffirming our work each day, from one season to the next."

Butler and her management team have a d notable milestones, including increased volume growth, establishment of The Arbor Hospice Foundation, expanded branch operations serving the Western Wayne and Oakland counties, a BraveHeart Grief Center in Northville, development and expansion of the agency's home health services, pediatric hospice care, and enhanced endof-life education and related care delivery services throughout the region.

"During her six years at the helm of Arbor Hospice, Markey Butler has brought her commitment, knowledge, leadership, and vision to the organization, directing it through difficult times to its current status as a leader in the provision of high quality hospice care and positioning it on solid foundation for continuing success in the future," said John Martin, chairman of Arbor Hospice and Home Care's Board of Directors. "We recognize, appreciate and are grateful for Markey's outstanding contributions."

Over the course of the next few months, Butler will conting ue to work with Arbor Hospice's staff and community leadership team to complete the goals and objectives related to the agency's strategic plan.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my past six years with Arbor Hospice and treasure the communities and staff who are so dedicated to the mission of this phenomenal institution," she said.





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PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC-TV

Marques Banks (left) and his brother Rashad Hamilton share a moment with LaShelle Bray, who temporarily switched places with their mother for the reality TV show Wife Swap.

FROM PAGE AT

two previous marriages. "The third time is the charm," she said of her current six-year marriage.

LaShelle Bray - the Baltimore woman she replaced for a week - is a stay-at-home-mother who is schooling her five children, ages 2 to 9, at home.

"She has four girls and one boy. I have no girls," Doreen Flummerfelt said.

About the only thing the two women have in common is that they are in interracial marriages. Doreen Flummerfelt is a black woman married to a white man; LaShelle Bray is a white woman married to a black man.

Doreen Flummerfelt quickly learned that she wasn't prepared for the swap.

"The biggest change for me was, one, the kids, two, how dirty the house was, and three, she was a housewife who was home-schooling her kids," she said.

"I go to work every day, and I come home and my family all shares in the chores," Doreen Flummerfelt said. "I'm a take-charge person, but she is told what to do. And even when my house is dirty, my friends always say

it's clean. "This woman had a George Forman grill that still had grease it in from October, and this was December," she said. "The ceiling fans were dirty. For two days, I did not eat in that house."

TOUGH SLEDDING

Back in Westland,

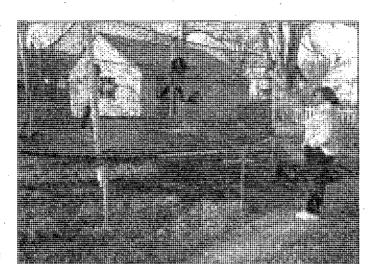


PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC-TV

Doreen Flummerfelt of Westland watches her temporary children - Eric Bray Jr., Kalea Bray and Mia Bray - at their home in Baltimore.

Flummerfelt's family wasn't exactly charmed by LaShelle Bray.

"The first few days, she had to live by our rules," said Guy Flummerfelt, who, with his brother, owns a business, HAF Industries, that serves as a manufacturing representative for the casting indus-

"She would spend her time leisurely watching TV and doing whatever she wanted," he said. "Then, she became a mother and homemaker, and we butted heads on a few things.

"She took her impression of what a family should be meaning her family - and applied it to ours," Guy Flummerfelt said. "She approached it like she was going to fix us, but we didn't

need fixing." The Flummerfelts, who live in Millpointe subdivision near Palmer and Newburgh, learned that TV family life, especially when wives are swapped, isn't exactly like Ward and June Cleaver from

Leave It to Beaver.

"She left my house like hers," Doreen Flummerfelt said. "When I came home, my house was so messy I started crying. My mother was waiting for me, and we spent time cleaning. That's the first thing we did as a family."

Guy Flummerfelt couldn't have been happier to have his real wife back. What was the worst part of the experience for him?

"The fact that she insulted my family," he said of LaShelle Bray's behavior. "She basically told me that my family was falling apart, that I was not a good role model for my boys, that I was not a real man, and that my sons didn't have an appreciation for their heritage. It was all bull."

Guy Flummerfelt learned a valuable lesson. "Seeing another family and how they live gives you a greater appreciation for your own."

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

FROM PAGE A1

police tape stretched across the roadway, contrasting with white snow that covered nearby fields. A Wayne County Sheriff's Department patrol officer used his marked patrol car to block westbound Ford at Beck, directing traffic away from the shooting scene.

THE PURSUIT BEGINS

The incident started at about 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Wayne and Warren roads in Westland. There, Slay made an. illegal right turn while the traffic light was red, police said.

Rather than stopping for police, he eluded them for miles, driving east on Warren, north on Farmington, east on Cowan, south on Venoy, east on Warren again, south on Merriman, west on Ford, north on Newburgh, east on Warren yet again, and north on Central City Parkway to Wayne Road, where he continued north until he left the Westland city limits at Joy Road.

His fastest speed in Westland was about 70 mph on Ford Road, police said.

Westland police put out an area broadcast describing the suspect. He was next spotted by patrol officers with the Wayne County sheriff's department and the Michigan State Police, driving west on M-14. Police continued on a chase

that reached speeds of morethan 100 mph.

Love said police pursued Slay to U.S. 23 in Washtenaw County, before he changed direction and headed east along Ford Road back to Canton.

"He (Slay) sees a police car at the intersection of Ford and Beck. He turned around to come back westbound on Ford Road and drove off the roadway, across several yards on north side of the road," Love said.

Trying to elude police patrol cars, Slay backed into a blue state police car. When he tried to drive the Jeep into an officer on foot, five officers fired the shots that killed him.

"None of the shots hit any homes," Love said.

INVESTIGATIONS

Each department will conduct separate investigations of the shootings to determine if the officers followed proper policy. But both Love and Canton Director of Public Safety John Santomauro agreed the decision to shoot appeared justified.

"He was attempting to run over an officer on foot," Love said. "If that is the case, they're justified within the guidelines."

"The preliminary reports I received stated that the initial volley of rounds that were fired were the result of officers feeling their safety was in jeopardy or threatened," Santomauro said. "The person made eye contract with police personnel and demonstrated the intent of running the officer over. That would certainly indicate the first volley of rounds that were

fired were justified." Following standard procedure after a shooting, Santomauro said the state police would investigate the

actions of the Canton officers. Also in following procedure after a shooting, both Canton 🦠 officers have been placed on leave and have been given options for counseling. They can be returned to active or limited duty, pending the completion of investigations.

Santomauro said Tuesday he is aware of the notion in popuso lar media that some suspects shot and killed by police are in effect seeking to commit "suicide by cop.

Was that the case here? "I don't really know," Santomauro said. "I do know the driver from the onset of the traffic stop was exhibiting some really bizarre behavior. Whether or not that plays into that theory, I don't know."

"He had an extensive record 🗀 of auto theft, breaking and entering, fleeing police, assault, and drug charges," Love said.

Staff writer Darrell Clem contributed to this report. kbrown@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700

FROM PAGE A1

Even those who had political differences with Barns have indicated respect for her. On Tuesday, Councilman Richard LeBlanc commended Barns for substantial donations she has made to the Westland public library and for once donating a house she owned to an organization that helps abused women.

City Clerk Eileen DeHart, who worked as Barns' legislative aide in Lansing, remembered Barns as "a boss and a friend."

DeHart read aloud the proclamation, which noted that Barns became "an influential part of this community" some

14 years before part of Nankin Township became Westland.

A staunch Democrat, Barns was a Democratic precinct delegate for several years and served on the Westland Planning Commission for five years as her political career began to flourish. She became the only woman

elected to a charter commission that helped pave the way for Westland to become a city. She was the first woman elected to the Westland City Council, and she became that body's first female president in 1976.

Barns wrote an ordinance for the Westland Commission on Aging, and she led negotiations for the donation of land used for the Westland city golf course. She was the first - and

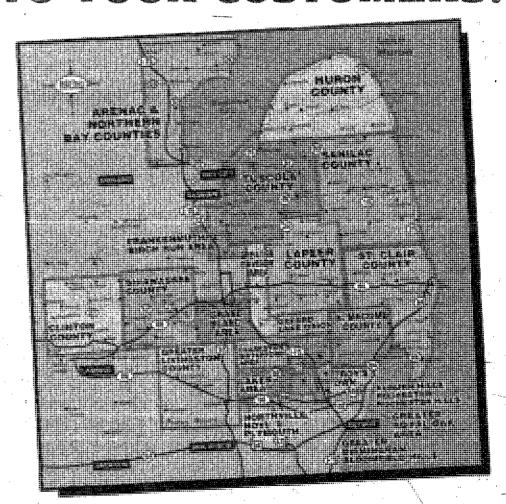
only - woman to serve as acting. mayor in 1974.

Barns was named Citizen of the Year in 1967 by Ford Motor Co., and she was honored as Westland Woman of the Year in 1975 by the Westland Jaycees. She started serving on the Wayne County Charter Commission in 1981 and was the panel's first vice president.

Barns served as a state legislator for 12 years starting in 1983. She successfully fought against part of the old Eloise property in Westland being converted into a state prison in

In conclusion, the proclamation honored Barns for her years of "service, compassion and dedication to her family, friends and the entire city of Westland."

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OUR VIEWS

WYAA plan has plenty of merit

Ambitious, impressive and massive. Those are the words that come to mind in looking over the Westland Youth Athletic Association's Frontier Park Plan.

The WYAA's plan would transform the 80 acres of land west of Central City Park into a sprawling recreational complex, featuring among other things three multi-purpose turf soccer fields, two sheets of ice, an indoor pool and two additional basketball courts.

It is an ambitious proposal in terms of the scope of the project and a massive undertaking in terms of its cost—an estimated \$35 million. But the WYAA seems to have done its homework, proposing a 1-mill tax increase, sponsors for portions of the plan and the sale of land at Voss Park to help finance the project.

There is a lot to be said about the Frontier Park Plan, and most of it is good. It most definitely would greatly improve the city's recreational offerings, which pale in comparison to those available in neighboring communities like Livonia, Canton and Wayne.

The city's recreational facilities are old and in need of updating. The Bailey Center was built with federal public works money in the early '80s. Unlike its twin, the Inkster rec center, its updating has been mostly cosmetic with fresh coats of paint and new carpeting.

And the Modano Ice Arena, opened initially to offer skating in the winter months and indoor tennis during the summer, needs more than just being named after an NHL superstar.

Swimming is only available in the summer, sower fields are scattered around the city and, other than the walking paths, the city's premier park, Central City, is deserted for six months a year. Families, school groups and the average Joe go to neighboring communities to swim; the Frontier Park Plan would keep them in Westland.

We believe city officials should give strong consideration to the WYAA proposal. The plan is well thought out and takes recreation to a whole new level in Westland in the 21st century.

It will be a massive undertaking, but we believe the end result will be well worth it. Kudos to the WYAA for coming up with the proposal. It shows the group's commitment to making Westland an even better place to live.

Sunshine laws serve public well

In the almost three decades since Michigan approved its so-called Sunshine laws — the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act — every community certainly has faced decisions about how information is released and how decisions are made and when meetings are held.

Many times our own communities have failed, knowingly or not, to uphold the intent of these laws. The intentions of the laws are clear. The FOI regulates the definition of public records by public bodies, while the OMA is to "strengthen the right of citizens to know what goes on in government by requiring public bodies to conduct nearly all business at open meetings."

During the week of March 13-19, we celebrate Sunshine Week, a reminder of just how important these laws are for the operation of our nation's particular brand of governance — for the people, by the people and of the people.

The idea for Sunshine Week comes from newspaper editors in Florida, and it's sponsored nationally by the American Society of Newspaper Editors and, in our state, by the Michigan Press Association. And, while we newspaper types may often harp about freedom of information and open meetings issues, this isn't a "press" issue — it's a citizens issue.

These laws, for instance, prescribe that meeting announcements be posted in advance, that minutes be taken and that, only in very specific and limited situations, public bodies meet behind closed doors. They allow "chance gathering" quorum meetings — but only as long as matters of public policy aren't discussed. And they limit specifically what information can be kept secret from the public.

So when councils, commissions and boards meet in hastily-called meetings, chart out plans in sub-quorum groups, use the phone or e-mails to plan out voting strategy, or find other ways to skirt these Sunshine Laws, they must be challenged. Not for the sake of the media, for the sake of the public.

Observer

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LETTERS

I am extremely concerned what the privatization of Social Security would do to our citizens. It sounds well and good to allow the people to invest in Wall Street, but what happens if stocks begin to fail then what are we to do?

What's really happening?

We know what happened during the depression and the recessions in the '80 and '90s. Millions of people lost a great deal of money in the stock market, including myself. We cannot gamble on our future financial situation.

Bush, as usual, is trying to create a crisis so he can "fix" it his way, just like he is doing with education. Before you know it even education will be privatized.

We have been told by the Social Security Committee that Social Security is safe for another 37 years. I am sure there are many other options to consider to fix the problem.

Presently, Social Security tax is exempt on salaries over \$90,000. Why not raise the ceiling on this?

Why is it that the middle class always has to take the fall? Is there a secret agenda? Is the government trying to do away with the middle class?

Why is Bush pushing privatization when there are several other ways the future Social Security problem can be handled?

We need to ask ourselves "What is really happening here?" I'm afraid the answer to that is the bigger issue and it scares the hell out of me.

Janine Smith Westland

We need road builders

I cannot understand what people are thinking when they say more gas tax will help. Gov. John Engler said the same thing a

Gov. John Engler said the same thing couple of years back and we raised the tax five cents a gallon and did it help?

No, the roads are worse now.

We need to have accountability from our politicians and state and county road departments. There are too many bureaucrats and money misappropriated. We are not getting our bang for the buck.

Even though I feel that will improve with our new county executive, Robert Ficano, I think a lot of the "do-nothing jobs" and very lucrative retirements are going to be a thing of the past.

Taxes are the only thing some politicians know. We need to hire road builders, not friends. It would be interesting to know how many graduated engineers work for the road commission.

I do not want to circumvent the system, but we need better roads which means better people that are more knowledgeable of the problem and more accountability from contractors. If you do the work, shouldn't a 25-year road last 25 years? And what recourse do we have, if it doesn't?

Wayne Mirth Westland

Politics and driving habits

Survey says "Republican supporters are more aggressive, reckless, discourte-ous drivers than Democratic supporters."

Being in tune to the environment around us is important. We keep

informed of the direction of society by surveys and studies. Many are quite involved, require experts to create and analyze them. But often, observations by everyday people have results reflecting overall trends in society.

Of course, caution must be used to generate an accurate study, such as including enough samples in the study and understand what can skew the results.

With these thoughts in mind, a study recording political decals on cars was done with the objective of observing behaviors of driving habits of politically expressive citizens around the city of Detroit.

This survey occurred over November and December during weekday travel, observing the driving behavior of vehicles with presidential bumper stickers. This study was initiated to respond to repeated runins with overly aggressive dangerous drivers with one or more Bush bumper stickers.

In order to ensure fairness and objectivity in this study, qualifying characteristics were established. The first is to include all and only cars and light trucks with Kerry/Bush bumper stickers, that were moving in traffic. No other bumper stickers counted and if the vehicle was parked or was not observed moving in traffic at least one minute, then it was not included.

The second was what qualified aggressive or reckless driving. To be as objective as possible, speeding more than 20 mph over the posted limit or any driving behavior that caused other traffic to change their driving pattern. This eliminated questionable 10 mph over the speed limit and cars that may have cut someone off but did not affect traffic flow.

someone off but did not affect traffic flow.
The total number of vehicles spotted over
the length of the survey was 62 vehicles.
The split for each candidate was in half—
32 for Bush and 30 for Kerry. There was
only one instance of a Kerry driver commit-

ting some type of irregular behavior.
It was very surprising that nearly half of all Bush supporters demonstrated some type of aggressive, reckless, discour-

teous behavior. This is a troubling issue.
Of course, Republicans will denounce this survey and Democrats will applaud the results. But the results correlate with each party's foundation. Democrats are passive, prone to cooperation, respect for others and concern of fellow human beings, while Republicans call for vehement actions toward those not following their thoughts, disrespect and a lack of concern of others.

I can only speculate the increase in violence and plummeting moral values parallels the rise of the Republican Party.

Allan Biber Westland

Fly the flag

In several states President's Day is a legal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. The general public is urged to fly the American flag to honor the veterans on this day.

I have lived under the leadership of 12 presidents. Men with awesome power of authority. Men who could make a nation great or men who could reduce a nation to ridicule.

During my study of the presidents and their accomplishments and famous quotes, I was moved by what President Herbert Hoover, who was president when I was a baby, was quoted as saying:
"Older men declare war ... but it is youth
that must fight and die. It is youth that
must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow,"
and the triumph that are the aftermath."

This is an excellent reason to fly the American flag as we honor the veterans on President's Day.

Jack Hoffman Westland

Westland America must do more

I recently became very enthused when I read that \$2 billion has been pledged to help the victims of the devastating tsunami. In the midst of so much pain and suffering, a person can only be hoping and praying for every life that was affected by this terrible tragedy.

Although in matters of life and death, monetary issues barely affect a conscious mind, it is very evident that modern societies must rely on financial courtesies to pull out of such tragedies. To me this is a tragedy in itself. Above, I used the term "financial courtesies," because of the simple reason that a great majority (not all) of the money donated is purely political.

For example, Japan has donated more money (\$500 million) than the richest country in the world (U.S. \$350 million). If we were being humane, we would do our duty to humanity and help out, over and above all other nations, because we are America.

Events like the tsunami take precedent over all economic, political or friendly ties between nations, for people who live within in these nations are not our enemies, they are simply citizens, who occasionally live under evil regimes, but they are still good humans, who simply want to live.

Therefore, it is our duty, not our privi-

lege, our duty to make sure that the people affected by the tsunami have every chance possible to live. As an extremely patriotic American, who does not take for granted what his nation has provided for him, I believe we must step up and put all political motives behind us. For the sake of humanity, the true universal link among all peoples, America needs to take a more responsible role in this tragedy, thus illustrating the respect it has to the Asian community affected, its people, itself, and most importantly, all of humanity.

Brat L. Dizik

Farmington Hills

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

"I think it's important for people to realize what homeless people go through, especially in the winter with the harsh climate. People take for granted what they have."

- Jordan Berry, who with friend Alex Shingleton is spearheading a Girl Scout project Friday night to help the homeless

Stewart has thankless task in funding state's universities

he new chairman of the higher education subcommittee of House Appropriations, one of the most powerful and consequential comrdittees in the state Legislature, is Rep. John Stewart, R-Plymouth. He's an interesting study 🏅 part evangelist, part hopeful Boy Scout, part calculating politician.

And he's got one of the toughest jobs in the state. In case you hadn't noticed, state support for our colleges and universities — without doubt the absolute core of any plausible economic strategy for Michigan — has fallen for the past three straight years.

pile felons in the state's prisons

than we do in educating our

bright young people for high-

paying productive jobs. And

with our elected representatives

united only in being -- to a per-

son - too timid to tackle our

state's \$1 billion-plus chronic

tion appropriations -

the Capitol. Stewart is a real rarity these days: He's an

unapologetic Republican moderate who admires

former governors George Romney and Bill Milliken. (We cannot let our party lose touch with the vast

majority of solid, sensible people in the middle," he

and universities. ("Our great universities are the jet

fael for Michigan's economic takeoff, and we simply

And he believes that today's partisan poisonous

atmosphere in Lansing will do nobody — least of

all the citizens of Michigan - any good. ("We've

got to find a way for the sensible center to work

civilly together to get the public's business done.")

want to reclaim the territory of higher education

for the Republican Party. It's a core part of our

and other Republicans will have to cut a deal with Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

values," he says. He recognizes that some day he

But he wonders aloud about the governor's "mag-

nificent hyperbole" in talking about how important

it is to double the number of college graduates in

Michigan in a decade even as she is presiding over

the greatest slide in support for higher education in

modern times. There are a few Democrats, frankly,

Dazzlingly handsome at 55 and possessed of a fine

Michigan University, a master's from Wayne State and

a J.D. from what then was the Detroit College of Law.

baritone (he sings in Plymouth's First Presbyterian

Church, where he's been a member for 21 years),

Stewart has a bachelor's degree from Eastern

who have been wondering the same thing.

Not that he's all Boy Scout and no politician. "I

says.) He's an unabashed defender of our colleges

cannot afford to let them run on empty.")

structural deficit, higher educa-

"approps," to use the Lansing

term — have become one of the

most highly charged subjects in



Power

smart and capable wife, Beth, is director of the Plymouth Historical Museum. Stewart's interest in education runs deep in his blood. Counting his mother (a Vanderveen from Holland, Mich.) and his aunts and uncles, he has seven relatives who have taught for more than 40 years in Michigan public schools. His uncles were superintendents in, respectively, South Lyon, Rochester and Mason. All in all, he's what we used to know as a salt of We now spend more to stock-

the earth, Main Street Republican. Problem is Stewart's party has moved hard rightward in recent years. "Are you a tough, mean SOB enough to deal with your caucus?" I asked him. "No, but I can be hard-core. My values are unshakable," he replied. Then, no doubt to the pleasure of the GOP House caucus, he threw down the gauntlet to Granholm: "She talks the good talk about how important our universities are to the future of the state, but where's the walk?" Next, moments later, he looks forward to a time when sensible people can reason together: "I want to know what Jennifer Granholm needs politically for her to provide an increase in funding for higher education. I think education is at the core of her values, and I want to find a way that we can work together to mesh these values to help our state."

He's practiced law in Plymouth for 25 years

and has been an active Kiwanian. He served as a

Plymouth Township trustee for four years before

being elected to the legislature in 2000. His

Stewart is nothing if not ambitious in his new committee assignment, undertaken with the explicit support of new House Speaker Craig DeRoche of Novi. As part of the appropriations process, he has scheduled a set of hearings on the role of higher education in Michigan. The starstudded lineup for March 23 alone is impressive: University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman, Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon, Wayne State University President Irvin Reid and former Senate higher ed approps chairman and now Congressman Joe Schwarz. "These hearings should be a seminar for my colleagues about how vital our great universities are to the future of the state," he enthuses.

Interestingly, Stewart says he gets his complex personality from his religious persuasions. He started out as a Methodist, which he thinks gave him his social conscience and his evangelistic tendencies. But when he married Beth, he became a Presbyterian and took on the church's orientation toward flinty intellectual honesty.

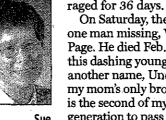
Personally, I think he'll also need the grit and deviousness of a Jesuit and the patience of a Buddhist in order to survive the ghastly supercharged atmosphere of Lansing during appropriations time. But I sure admire his instincts, and wish him well in his task. As should we all. Phil Power is the chairman 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.

We need to hear the stories of the 'greatest generation'

aybe I was oblivious, but I don't remember the ceremonies coming every 10 years for momentous events related to World War II. Don't get me wrong. In no way, shape or form do I think they're frivolous. I just don't recall.

But my head snapped to attention Saturday when I realized that it was that day in 1945 that the Marines stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima. Sixty years ago, they piled off landing craft with one order: you must take the beach. The battle was the bloodiest of the war in the Pacific. One of every three

> Marines was killed or wounded in the battle that raged for 36 days.



Mason

On Saturday, there was one man missing, Walter Page. He died Feb. 1. I knew this dashing young man by another name, Uncle Walt, my mom's only brother. He is the second of my greatest generation to pass in this new millennium.

The first to pass was my dad in 2000. Although he did not see combat, he served

his country with distinction. Dad had tried to enlist, but was sent home because of his poor eyesight. According to mom, the recruiting officer had told him they didn't need someone who had to feel their way across a battlefield.

His contribution to the war was to work with the team in Los Angeles, Calif., that helped develop the self-sealing gas tank for the long-range bombers. Many air crews would live to fly another day because of their work.

My folks were living in Pasadena during the war; Uncle Walt was at Camp Pendleton. My dad, having some connection or another, knew he was about to ship out, so they took a road trip to see him. My brother, age six months, was their ticket in.

Uncle Walt had never seen his godson, or so they told the guards who gave them a half hour to visit. Luckily, the guards didn't check the baby blanket. Mom and dad hadn't come without gifts. Hidden in the blanket was a bottle of whiskey and mom's homemade cookies.

They also gave Uncle Walt a photograph of my brother. He would carry it with him into battle and when the 50th anniversary rolled around, when his godson took him to dinner, he pulled it out of his wallet. He told my brother that it was that photo that helped get him through it. Uncle Walt liked his shots and beers and

when he was feeling no pain, he would talk about the war. He'd talk about the enemy and being wounded by a sniper on Iwo Jima. With me, the conversation would turn to talk of his work with his buddy, Al Josephy. Al was a military war correspondent. Uncle Walt was a Marine first and a photographer second. He would go out with Josephy to

Josephy liked to get up close and personal and more than once the dynamic duo got caught behind enemy lines. In his memoirs, Al said he

wouldn't be alive today if not for Walter Page. I've seen some of Uncle Walt's photos, both civilian and military. As a child, I loved looking into a box in a closet. Underneath some handmade models of World War II fighters were some of Uncle Walt's war photographs. Some were graphic — dead Japanese soldiers, some charred beyond recognition and there was one of a soldier using a flamethrower. In the white border at the bottom were typed remarks about the images.

How we got them, I don't know, nor can I. recall when they were taken or in what battle. And I'm clueless as to what happened to the box after we moved from Michigan to we Pennsylvania in 1963. That was about the last time I recall seeing them.

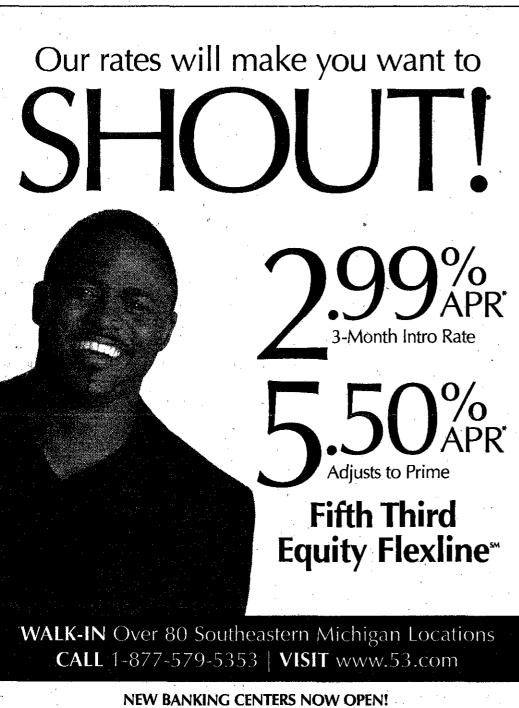
And forget that aforementioned one-inthree statistic, Uncle Walt, I discovered, was: one of five members of his company of 240 Marines to survive the battle for Iwo Jima.

And his buddy Al ... I really should have paid very close attention. If you're into native American history or the tribes of the West, the name may ring a bell. Al is Alvin Josephy Jr. He dabbled in journalism, screenwriting and short fiction, even interviewed Leon Trotsky as a Chicago Herald Tribune correspondent in Mexico. After the war, he was an associate editor of Time and eventually became vice president and editorin-chief of American Heritage magazine before authoring numerous books on native American history and tribes.

He was a networking opportunity I missed. Uncle Walt would talk some about his time in the service, but I unfortunately never took, the time to hear the whole story. I now realize it is my loss. As the journalist, I should have taken on the task of recording his memories of that war. We are left with bits and pieces and no way to complete the picture.

Each day, more and more of the greatest generation are passing. They all have a story to tell, and it behooves us all to listen. We need to make what they did a part of our own personal history. We need to remember their sacrifices and honor their commitment to this country.

Sue Mason is the editor of the Westland and Garden City editions of the Observer Newspapers. She can be reached by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net.



Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods, Ypsilanti, Detroit - East Jefferson, Detroit - Gratiot, and Bloomfield Hills (on Telegraph just south of Maple)



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