

3/24
All-Area swimming,
today in Sports

SECTION C

WESTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
3000 Library of Westland

Fire Rabulon
Death-defying dauntless daredevils
perform amazing feats of human endurance

FILTER, INSERTED SECTION

REFERENCE ONLY

Classic Rockwell
Kitchen expanded for family of 10
AT HOME, SECTION B

READY REFERENCE
Newspaper classified sections
are available at the Reference
Desk

WINNERS OF OVER
100 STATE AND
NATIONAL AWARDS
SINCE 2001

MPAA 5M

Your hometown newspaper
serving Westland for 40
years

**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.

**WESTLAND
Observer**

THURSDAY
March 24, 2005
75 cents

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 86 www.hometownlife.com ©2005 HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

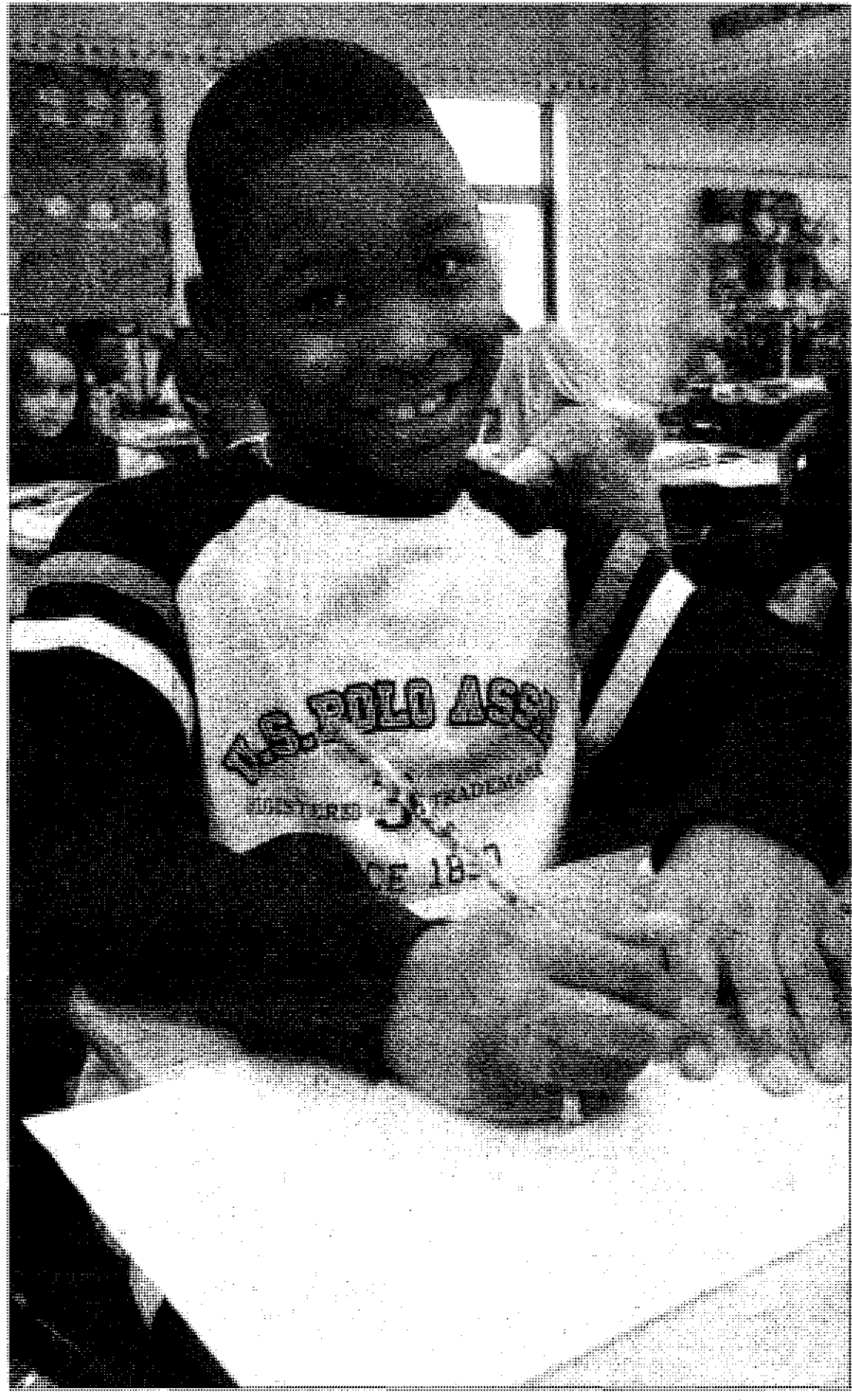
Child's gift
Student backs
up donation
with Scripture

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

At age 7, Michael Heyward already knows what he wants to be when he grows up, and it's not a police officer or firefighter. "I want to be the first black preacher president," said Michael. And as a second-grader at Elliott Elementary School, he is already showing his command of Scripture. Michael decided that to give \$50 his late grandmother had given him to go toward buying a new GameBoy to a schoolwide collection for the victims of the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami, and he used a Scripture verse to support his decision. "I back up what I say with scripture," he said. "The Bible says, 'Give it and I'll give it back to you.'"

His generosity came as a surprise to his teacher Karen Dodds. "I was shocked," said Dodds. "To have a 7-year-old that's so unselfish and giving, and to back it up. It's such good citizenship." Dodds told the youngster that "it's a good thing to do good things," but that he needed to check with his parents, Roberta and Michael, first. Since it was his dad's late mother who had given him the money, Michael called his father at work to get his OK. "I told Dad I wanted to give away \$50 and he said why not \$25," Michael said of the conversation. "I said, 'Dad, the Bible does say that if I give it, I'll get it back.'" When asked by his brother why he would give \$50 to the tsunami effort, Michael pointed to the house they live in, telling him that "all those people have is land." "I told him I'm giving it to them because I know they'll spend it on food, all you'd do is buy a pair of Air Force 1 shoes and a jersey," he said. "He just walked away." His persistence paid off and Michael got to donate the money,

PLEASE SEE DONATION, A5



Elliott Elementary second-grader Michael Heyward believes in giving. The youngster gave \$50 in Christmas money to a tsunami fund-raiser.

**Oehler says
killing was
a 'mistake'**

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Eight months after authorities dug up a body in his back yard, confessed murderer James Oehler of Westland wept and apologized in court Wednesday for killing William David Paul of Garden City and burying him seven years ago. "I loved Billy like a brother," Oehler, 44, said on the day he was sentenced to 23-40 years in prison for second-degree murder. "I want the family to know there was no hatred," he said. "It was just a tragic mistake that never should have happened." His apology did nothing to ease the grief of relatives who, just last June, had remained hopeful that Paul, 24, would miraculously show up for a family reunion with a wild tale of why he had disappeared in April 1997.



Oehler

PLEASE SEE KILLING, A6

**Developer has
proposal for
greenhouse site**

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

It's still flowers, plants and business as usual at Barson's Greenhouse as Westland officials hear about a proposal to replace the business with self-storage units. "I plan to be here for a long time. I've been in this situation before - it's all talk," said Joe Barson, who with wife Debbie has owned the business for 25 years. "We're in full production now. Nothing has been done now. These guys just came in with a pres-

PLEASE SEE PROPOSAL, A9

School bus fleet gets 'perfect score'

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The wheels on the bus go round and round, the lights work, the brakes work, and everything works, so state inspectors have given the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' bus fleet a standout 100 percent passing rate. "I think it's fantastic, the guys in the garage do a super job," said Dennis Gregory, Wayne-Westland director of transportation. The 100 percent rating is striking compared to the state average for school districts - 87 percent in 2004 and 85 percent in the first quarter of 2005. The perfect score is even more impressive when you consider that many rural school districts have just a few buses and that Wayne-

Westland has the sixth largest bus fleet in the state. "It makes you feel good," said Pat Rawson, one of five mechanics who service the 79 buses. "It's kind of an evaluation of our year." It also makes parents like Tina Reid feel and Nancy Lambert feel good. Lambert has three children, two grandchildren and a day care child who ride the school bus. "It's such a peace of mind to know that they're doing what should be done to protect our children," the Wayne resident said. "I used to hear about buses breaking down and children being transferred to another bus, I used to panic. Now, when I hear something has happened with a bus, I don't do that." Reid, a Westland resident, has two children who ride the bus to John Glenn High School and Edison

Elementary School. "It makes me feel wonderful," she said. "My kids have been riding the buses for 11 years. My little one loves riding them, it's a social life for him." Reid knows garage supervisor Jason Tamer and says the 100 percent is what she would expect. "I know how particular he is and getting 100 percent makes me feel even safer," she said. "Hearing it only verifies what I already know." School buses are inspected yearly by the Michigan State Police. The inspections cover 200 components, from obvious systems like brakes to less obvious items such as inside lights. Tamer saw how his former employer the Plymouth-Canton schools set a regular maintenance

PLEASE SEE BUSES, A5



Wayne-Westland school bus garage supervisor Jason Tamer (from left) and the staff - Dave Diehl, Randy Dennis, Pat Rawson, Dave LaChance and Brian Napier - have reason to smile after receiving 100 percent on the Michigan State Police school bus inspection.

CONTACT US
Newsroom..... (734) 953-2104
Circulation..... 1-866-887-2737
Classified..... 1-800-579-7355

INDEX
Apartments F8
At Home B1
Automotive G3
Classified Index F5
Crossword Puzzle F6
For The Record A4
Jobs F10
Movie Guide D14
Obituaries C11
Real Estate F1
Sports C1
Taste B5

**COCHRAN, FOLEY
& Associates, P.C.**
Attorneys You Can Count On

Auto Accidents | Workplace Injury | Medical Malpractice

Toll Free: 866.MICH.LAW • www.cochranfoley.com
15510 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154

Coming Sunday on
the PINK Page

A chat with 'Bridal Designer of the Year,' Reem Acra

Clothing, curves, care abound in county

SNAZZY NAST

Nat Nast - the favorite retro-style shirt brand of Hollywood stars Larry David and Charlie Sheen - will be featured at The Shirt Box Nat Nast Trunk Show 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, at 32500 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

Here's your chance to order from spring and fall lines. Light refreshments will be served.

"Nat Nast has a very loyal following among people that buy the merchandise," said Ron Elkus, owner of The Shirt Box. "Charlie Sheen and Larry David wear the shirts a lot on TV. In fact, David did a complete episode on a Nat Nast shirt. The new styles are more stylish than ever."

Nat Nast was started by two sisters in 1946 in Kansas City, Mo. The pair got the idea from seeing their father wear bowling shirts on bowling night.

NEED AN ADJUSTMENT

Michigan Chiropractic Specialists are growing their business, which opened in Garden City last year. Chiropractors Amanda and Adam Apfelblat will celebrate the first anniversary of the business 5-7 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at its first location, 30900 Ford Road. The public is invited to attend and learn more about their practice.

"We specialize in pediatric and maternity care," said Amanda Apfelblat. "We see a lot of families."

Trained at Michigan State University and Life University in Georgia, she previously prac-

ticed in Redford and Westland, before founding Michigan Chiropractic Specialists in 2004.

Recently, the West Bloomfield couple expanded their business to include a second spot at 1348 Scott Lake Road in Waterford.

While chiropractic adjustments are most important, Apfelblat said they also have massage therapists on staff. She

compared going to the chiropractor with going to the dentist. "It's spinal hygiene," she said. "You want to get evaluated one time a year, get a check up once a year to make sure your bones are properly aligned."

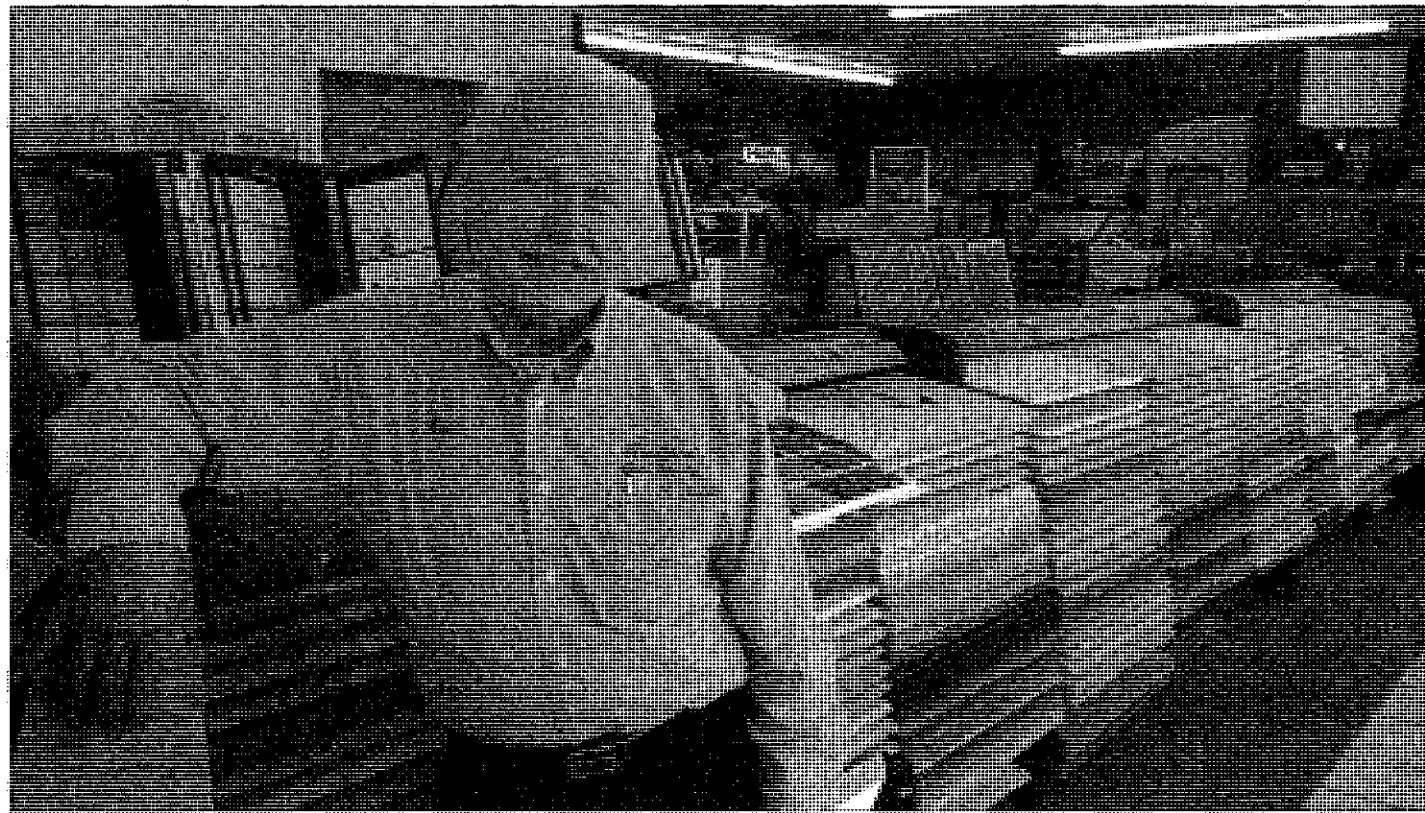
Michigan Chiropractic Specialists are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (734) 838-0353 for more information.

GET MORE CURVES

Curves Livonia has relocated and doubled in size.

The female-only fitness facility moved into a new 2,700-square-foot space in Civic Center Plaza, at Five Mile and Farmington roads.

The new location boasts a total of 28 stations hydraulic resistance machines for aerobic and strength training. In addition, members have access to a stretching area, changing rooms, and storage for their belongings. The business, based around a 30-minute workout, already serves over 1,000 women in Livonia. Curves is a national fitness franchise with 8,000 locations. Call Curves Livonia at (734) 466-9949 for more information.



Richard Strasbaugh, owner of Westland Floor Covering.

Business has success covered from ground up

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Even after many years in the floor covering business, Richard Strasbaugh still has his enthusiasm. The owner of Westland Floor Covering on Ford Road recently brought product samples to share with fellow Westland Rotarians.

"This is one of our more popular products," the Northfield Township resident said of a berber, good for hiding soil. Berber generally has a looped pile with a fleck, and sells for about \$3.25 a foot, including pad and labor.

Strasbaugh, who works with his two sons, showed a number of other samples, including vinyl flooring and vinyl tile.

"When they're put together, it does give you that ceramic tile look," he said of the latter.

His business is at 33468 Ford in Westland, near North Bros. Ford. Strasbaugh

recalled moving to the community in the late 1950s. At that time, it was Nankin Township and a friend was installing floor covering. Strasbaugh took up that line of work.

"I worked out of my home for approximately eight years," he said, adding that the factory work he did at that same time didn't suit him. In 1969, the chance came to buy a tile store from an acquaintance.

"I purchased his inventory and took over his lease," he said. At that time, the business was on Ford next to Mohawk Fence in Westland. The mid-1970s brought a move to the current location, although a 1978 fire was one event the businessman recalls vividly.

In 1981, he married Linda and moved from Westland. His business grew in that era with the 1994 purchase and demolition of a building for parking. In 1999, Strasbaugh

started to build a new home.

"It took me about a year and a half to build the house," he said, adding that his sons ran the business while he was occupied with the home construction.

Strasbaugh points to the many designs available in floor covering, including those with a wood grain effect that are resistant to damage. It needs a foam underlay to deaden sound, and is used mostly in kitchens, having cut considerably into the sheet vinyl market.

"It is made to look like a slat of wood, or a plank of wood," he said.

You don't have to go far to find satisfied customers of Westland Floor Covering.

"Dick has done most of my house," said Don Douglass of Canton, a retired Wayne-Westland school administrator. "He does an excellent job."

Strasbaugh's products are petroleum-based, so costs

have risen. He now offers both a deluxe and basic pricing package, with savings possible on carpet removal and furniture moving for do-it-yourselfers.

The business, which offers matching moldings, does installation.

Strasbaugh's also become an expert on stain removal, which varies according to the stain.

He recommends blotting stains with a white towel or paper towel, and not rubbing them.

These days, costs are figured per foot rather than yard, making the math easier.

"With the square footage, it makes it much friendlier," Strasbaugh said with a smile.

Westland Floor Covering is at 33468 Ford, Westland. For more information, call (734) 525-7888 or (800) 525-7898 or visit the Web site at www.westlandfloorcovering.com.

jbrown@oe.homecomm.net | (248) 901-2565

SPRING STORAGE SALE
SECOND MONTH FREE

Don't miss out - call now!

- Fenced, lighted, 24-hour video surveillance
- For home or business • Computer-controlled, 7-day access

www.fortknoxmi.com

(734) 981-0700 (734) 747-9060

39205 Ford Road 3870 Jackson Road
just east of I-275 1 mile west of I-94, exit 172
Westland Ann Arbor

THE GOLD STANDARD IN SELF-STORAGE

BARNETT
Roofing and Siding Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

Certainteed Select Shingle Roofer
Duro-Last Elite Roofer Award Winner
Professional Roofer Advisory Council

Family Owned and Operated for Over 40 Years

41700 Michigan Ave. • Canton • 734-397-8122

CLUBS IN ACTION

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

T.O.P.S.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M128, a support group for sensible weight loss, meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

Call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.
n Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M153 meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. John Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 721-5023.
Call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299 for more information.

Hospital retirees
The Oakwood-Annapolis Retirees meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne. All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

WESTLAND
Observer
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HOW TO REACH US

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
(734) 953-2100
srosiek@oe.homecomm.net

Hugh Gallagher
Interim Editor-Filter
(734) 953-2149
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor
(734) 953-2149
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

Sue Mason
Community Editor
(734) 953-2112
smason@oe.homecomm.net

Frank Cibar
Retail Sales Manager
(734) 953-2177
fcibar@oe.homecomm.net

Cathy White
Retail Advertising Rep.
(734) 953-2073
cwhite@oe.homecomm.net

Newsroom (734) 953-2104 Fax (734) 591-7279
Sports Nightline (734) 953-2104
Circulation/Customer Service 1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
Classified Advertising 1-800-579-SELL (7355)
Display Advertising (734) 953-2153

To purchase page and photo reprints go to www.hometownlife.com/oreprints.
For more information contact 1-866-88-PAPER.

Circulation Business Hours/Subscription Rates
Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. to noon

If you missed a delivery please call by 6 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Carrier Delivery	Mail Delivery
One year \$51.00	One year (in county) \$72.95
For senior citizen rate, please call 1-866-887-2737	One year (out of county) \$108.95

POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

A Hometown Communications Network publication
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

QUALITY AUDITING
CPC MPA SNA GDN
MARK OF INTEGRITY
Greater Detroit Newspaper Network

NOTICE OF LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN ON MAY 3, 2005

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, who is not already registered to vote may register for the Special Election to be held on May 3, 2005 in the City of Garden City.

Persons residing in the City of Garden City registering after the close of business on Monday, April 4, 2005, will not be eligible to vote at the election. Only City residents who have registered to vote with the Clerk of the City, or through registration at a Secretary of State drivers' license bureau or other agency designated to accept applications for voter registration under Michigan law, are registered electors of the City.

The following proposition will be submitted to the electors of the City of Garden City at the election:

JUDGMENT FUNDING BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the City of Garden City, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Seventeen Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$ 17,500,000.00) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore in one or more series payable in not more than fifteen (15) years from issuance, for the purpose of paying a judgment in the Wayne County Circuit Court against the City of Garden City, Michigan (the "City") in favor of Wayne Oakland Contracting, Inc., the costs and interest on the judgment, and all cost in connection with issuing said bonds? The estimated millage to be levied in 2005 is 1.9856 mills (\$ 1.9856 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 2.1498 mills (\$ 2.1498 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The millage will be used to pay debt service on the bonds.

THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE FROM THE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE CITY INCLUDING AD VALOREM TAXES LEVIED WITHOUT LIMITATION IN SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS TO PAY THE ANNUAL PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS.

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 3, 2005, WILL BE APRIL 4, 2005.

This Notice is given by authority of the City Council of the City of Garden City, Michigan.

ALLYSON BETTIS
Clerk, City of Garden City

Published: March 20 & 24, 2005

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the annual election for School District of the City of Garden City will be held in said School District on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended provides in part as follows:

The inspectors of election at an annual or special election shall not receive the vote of a person residing in a registration school district whose name is not registered as an elector in the city or township in which the person resides...

The last day for receiving registrations for the annual election will be Monday, April 4, 2005. Persons residing in said School District registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2005, will not be eligible to vote at the annual election.

Under the provisions of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, registrations will not be taken by school officials and only persons who have registered as general electors with the appropriate Clerk of the City or Township in which they reside, or through registration at a Secretary of State driver's license bureau, are registered school electors.

Members for the Board of Education of School District of the City of Garden City will be elected. At the annual election there will be elected two (2) Members of the Board of Education of the School District for four year term, beginning July 1, 2005 and expiring June 30, 2009. The candidates for said office to the Board of Education are as follows:

TWO (2) FOUR YEAR TERM
(two shall be elected)

David Stapleton
John Thackaberry

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education of School District of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, Michigan.

Ray Watts
Secretary, Board of Education
School District of the City of Garden City

Published: March 20, 2005 and March 24, 2005

Musician transforms class with songs, stories

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Cleveland kindergartners are in for a week-long treat of songs, dancing and storytelling as artist-in-residence Julie Austin joins their classes.

This week, the Ann Arbor resident and songwriter is working closely with Livonia Public School teachers and students at Cleveland and at Jackson Early Childhood Center. It's all part of the Michigan Wolf Trap Artist Residency program.

On her first day in the district, Austin literally pulled out a bag of tricks. It included an alligator puppet named Alice, a story bell, an assortment of recorders, and, next to the bag, her guitar. These were just a few tools that added to her music lesson.

Only two LPS schools were chosen for the Michigan Wolf Trap program, and according to principal Gloria Parrello, Cleveland was lucky just to be a recipient.

"They were looking for schools with three kindergarten classes," she said, adding that more students would benefit.

Parrello had a chance to sit in on a few sessions Monday and liked what she saw. She said the students were challenged to "think in different ways."

Suzanne Ray, a kindergarten teacher at Cleveland, said she met with Austin last week to discuss the types of things her class is currently working on, and to plan ahead. The Artist Residency program allows them to collaborate and create music, drama and movement that fits into the kindergarten classroom.

Austin said she generally takes curriculum goals and incorporates songs and stories that support learning. She chooses the songs and stories she enjoys and knows have worked well with students in the past, and then builds upon that framework.

CAN-DO STORIES

For example, instead of a traditional storytime, Austin rang the story bell and took out her "story can" to share a story with

the class. Each time she introduced a character, she brought a figure or doll out of the can and continued with the story. The technique can be used in many ways, she said, and students will "keep feeding ideas."

"I hope teachers will continue to do storytelling with the story can," said Austin. It can be used in a variety of ways, and fits into reading and writing goals.

The Michigan-based program represents a partnership between the Michigan Association for the Education of Young People and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. The program promotes the use of performing arts in education, and assists teachers with new ideas and techniques to enhance creativity in teaching.

"At this age, children are very uninhibited," said Ray. "They are very willing to join in and participate."

Lunch breaks give Austin time to work one-on-one with the teachers, as well. "Each day we'll plan further lessons and activities," said Ray. "It's exciting for me."

On Monday though, it was all about the students.

"We need to wake up the guitar," Austin patiently told the students, who sat in a circle on the floor.

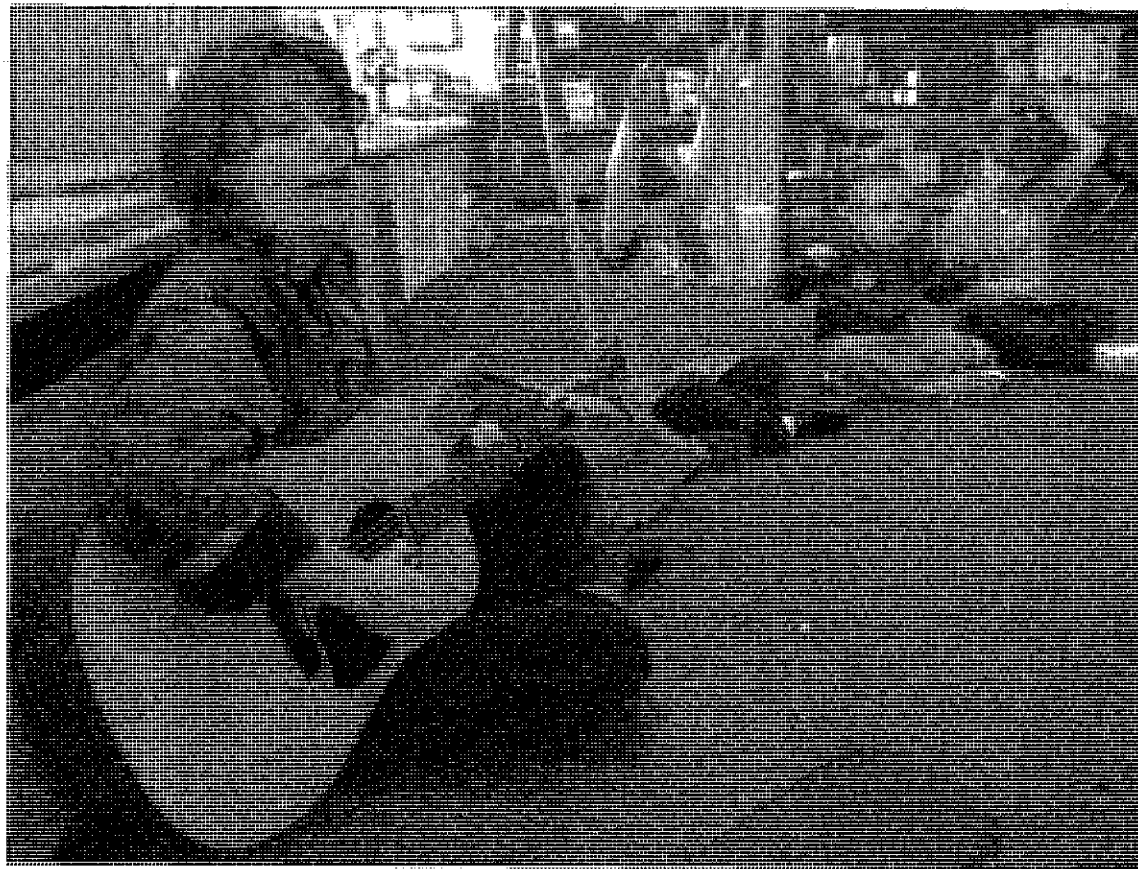
They tapped gently, and then more loudly with their hands and feet until she brought out and introduced the instrument. Each student had a chance to strum the guitar, as well.

ABSORBING IDEAS

Hands-on elements, listening techniques, memory cues, music and more were part of her lessons.

Austin, who travels around the state as an artist-in-residence, was impressed by the teachers she encountered in Livonia and said many of them are already incorporating music into teaching.

Austin said she chooses a lot of the activities she teaches based on "child interest." From a "name that tune" type of game to songs that kept kids in motion, each activity engages the students.



Julie Austin, an artist-in-residence at Cleveland Elementary, leads a kindergarten class in song. Students Shelby Grech, Jacob Strong and Cassidy Hammer follow along.

Parrello said: "I think it fits nicely into reading and language arts."

But students and teachers aren't the only ones who learn or gain from the experience. Austin said she discovers which activities will reach which children, and she tends to move onto other schools having learned a few more stories too.

"It's always inspiring to see the children," said Austin. "You bring an idea and they absorb it."

The program was made possible by a donation from TRW Automotive, a company that has partnered with Livonia Public Schools in the past. The cost of the program is about \$2,500.

For more information on The Michigan Wolf Trap Program, see http://www.miaeyc.org/wolf-trap/wt_blocks.html. For more on Julie Austin in particular, her Web address is <http://www.julieaustin.com>.

scasola@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054



Kindergarten teacher Suzanne Ray keeps her class on their toes. She's working with musician Julie Austin to come up with more ways to incorporate performing arts into early education.

POOR SLEEP?

If you are a woman 45-55 years old, with an irregular or stopped menstrual cycle and you sleep poorly, you may qualify to be in our laboratory sleep research study.

Subjects will be paid.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Contact: Elaine R. Douglas
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
C.S. Mott Center
275 E. Hancock • Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 577-6588
Email: ac1728@wayne.edu



Easter Meal Magic Made Simple with HoneyBaked®!

Enjoy the BEST this holiday - The Authentic HoneyBaked Ham®, spiral-sliced and coated with our sweet, crunchy glaze. Add a Sliced and Glazed Turkey Breast, our delectable homestyle side dishes and gourmet desserts for a simply delicious Easter feast!

dinners. catering. lunches.

HONEYBAKED® STORE LOCATIONS

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Ann Arbor
3446 Washtenaw Avenue
(734) 677-8500 | Dearborn Heights
23300 Ford Road
(313) 274-9600 | Livonia
15305 Merriman Road
(734) 525-2994 | Taylor
23143 Fureka Road
(734) 374-2600 |
| Birmingham
31190 Southfield Road
(248) 540-0404 | Detroit
3741 Fenkell
(313) 862-8622 | Roseville
29888 Gratiot Avenue
(586) 775-7900 | Troy
1081 East Long Lake Road
(248) 689-4890 |
| Canton Township
1657 Canton Center Road
at Ford Road
(734) 961-7000 | Harper Woods
Eastland Center
10800 Verner Road
(313) 371-2200 | Sterling Heights
44871 Hayes
(586) 566-4700 | West Bloomfield
33270 West 14 Mile Road
(248) 851-2400 |

HONEYBAKED EXPRESS™ LOCATIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Auburn Hills - Meijer
800 Brown Road
(248) 393-5100 | Monroe - Meijer
1700 Telegraph Road
(734) 457-1900 |
| Brighton - Taorello's Market
1007 Grand River Avenue
(810) 225-8900 | Northville - Meijer
20401 Hagerly Road
(248) 349-2700 |
| Chesterfield Twp. - Meijer
27255 23 Mile Road
(586) 598-0600 | Oxford - Meijer
900 North Lapeer Road
(248) 236-8000 |
| Detroit - Mike's Fresh Market
14383 Gratiot Avenue
(313) 578-0393
<i>Orders only</i> | Rochester Hills - Papa Joe's
2025 South Rochester Road
(248) 853-6263 |
| Ft. Gratiot Twp. - Meijer
4775 24th Avenue
(810) 365-2100 | Warren - Produce Palace
29300 Riquindre
(586) 574-3000 |
| Highland - Snook's Butcher Shoppe
468 South Millard Road
(248) 887-3205 | Washington Twp. - Meijer
5401 26 Mile Road
(586) 677-8000 |
| | Wixom - Meijer
39900 Grand River Road
(248) 449-8500 |

\$19⁹⁹

Sliced and Glazed Turkey Breast with any ham or Easter Dinner purchase.

HONEYBAKED HAM

Not valid with any other offer, shipment of HoneyBaked® products, or 91 HoneyBaked Express™ locations. Valid only at HoneyBaked Ham® retail locations in IL, IN, MI, and San Antonio, TX. Offer valid through 3/26/05, #99802

honeybaked.com

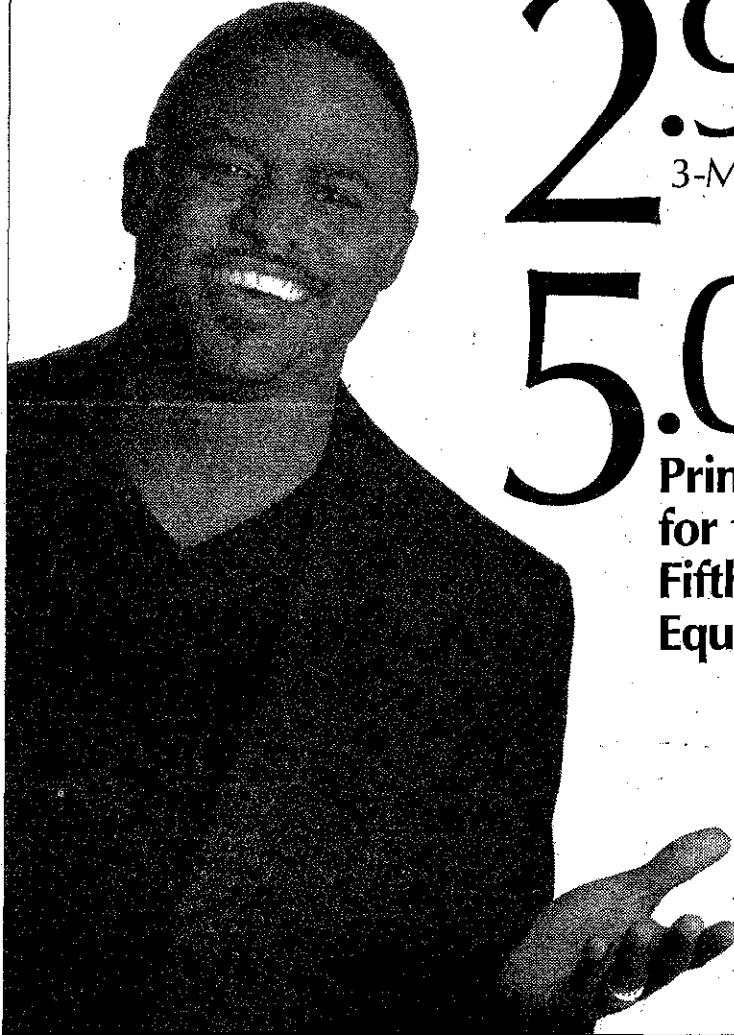
Coupon is not valid at Express locations.

52737 © 2005 and all trademarks property of HBB Limited Partnership.

Rates Below Prime will make you want to SHOUT!

2.99% APR
3-Month Intro Rate

5.00% APR
Prime minus .50% for the life of your Fifth Third Equity Flexline™



WALK IN any of our 80 Southeastern Michigan locations
CALL 1-866-53LOANS | VISIT www.53.com

Fifth Third Bank
Working Hard To Be The Only Bank You'll Ever Need™

Upon qualification, the 2.99% Fixed Introductory APR is available with any new or existing Fifth Third Bank Checking account and a loan to value ratio of 80% or less. When opened, the introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is as low as 2.99% for the first three months. Beginning with the fourth month, variable APR is as low as Prime - .50% and is currently 5.00% as of 03/20/05. Interest rates may vary and are indexed to the Prime Rate as published on the last business day of the month in the Wall Street Journal, currently 5.50% as of 03/20/05. Applicable interest rate varies depending on your credit qualifications and loan to value ratio from a variable APR of Prime - .50% (currently 5.00% APR) to Prime + 4.50% (currently 10.00% APR). \$50,000 minimum line amount and \$5,000 initial draw required to receive introductory interest rate. The maximum APR will not exceed 25%, or the state usury ceiling, whichever is less. \$65 annual fee waived for one year. Offer is not available for Fifth Third refinances. In Florida, documentary stamp tax and intangible taxes apply. The total cost of these fees will generally range from \$28 - \$275. Contact your nearest Banking Center for details. Terms and conditions subject to change without notice. Valid only at participating Southeastern Michigan locations. No other discount applies. Consult tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest. Fifth Third Bank and Fifth Third Bank are registered service marks of Fifth Third Bancorp. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

CEFC03030646

DEATHS

B
Donald C. Boegler, 87, of Livonia, died March 19.

D
William C. (Charlie) Dennis Jr., 52, of Hillsborough, N.C., formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Feb. 26.
Eleanor Dombrowski, 94, of Waterford, died March 12.

E
Gerald E. Elston, 83, of Four Seasons Retirement Center, died March 15.
Edwin J. Eustice, formerly of Birmingham, died March 17.

G
Roger Royall Gay, 72, died March 18.
Erma F. Gray, 93, of Frankenmuth, died March 12.
Mary Jean Guzick, 62, died March 19.

H
William A. Herd Jr., 72, of Oakland, died March 15.
David Hodgson, 64, of Rochester Hills, died March 10.

L
Howard Angell LaDue, 83, died March 16.
Jennifer Hay Luby, 44, formerly of West Bloomfield, died March 7.

M
Flossie B. MacDonald, 82, of Farmington, died March 17.
William L. McMurphy, 77, of Chesterfield Twp., died March 10.
Sofie Miess, 91, of Leonard, formerly of Eastpointe, died March 7.

P
Norman F. Prentice, 90, of Auburn Hills, died March 5.

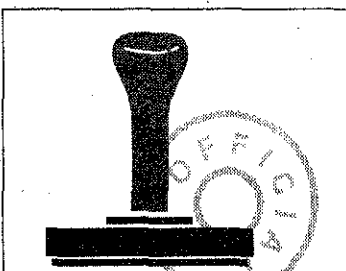
S
Allen L. Smyth, 71, of Pontiac, died March 18.

T
Catherine T. Theisen, 76, of Plymouth, died March 16.
Gordon Lee Townsend, 67, formerly of Northville, died March 18.

U
Myrtle E. Umbaugh, 92, of Lady Lakes, Fla., formerly of Canton, died March 18.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

There's something in the March air. Can you feel it?
No, we're not talking about that gentle hint of spring, with the crocuses peeking through the cold, damp earth, or the animals coming out of hibernation, or the birds, with their colorful plumage, putting on their annual mating dances.
Nor are we talking about golf clubs coming out of winter storage or the anticipation of baseball and soccer practice beginning soon. March Madness is upon us, and that can only mean, the NCAA Playoffs, the culmina-



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Sports in Passages on page C11.

tion of another exhilarating season of college basketball.

The Public Library of Westland can enhance your enjoyment of this annual ritual by providing access to a variety of sports information. Let's start with the basics. Books like *Total Basketball: The Ultimate Basketball Encyclopedia* and *Encyclopedia of College Basketball* will offer a basic history of the sport, along with statistics and biographies.

If you want to know how the game is played, or want to improve your own basketball abilities, we have books and videos that explain the game, such as, *Winning Basketball: Techniques and Drills for Playing Better Offensive Basketball* and *Let's Talk Defense: Tips, Skills and Drills for Better Defensive Basketball*.

For current information about the sporting world, we subscribe to the following magazines: *Sports Illustrated*, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Sporting News* and *ESPN Magazine*.

If your goal is to play college basketball, books like *Athletic Scholarships: Thousands of Grants - and more than \$400 million - for college-bound athletes* and *How to Play the Sports Recruiting Game* will be helpful. And for something completely different, try these books: *College Fight Songs and Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems*.

The Final Four playoffs will be held on April 2 and 4 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Mo. Borrowing our books, videos and magazines can make March Madness even more enjoyable.

Up-to-date sports statistics can be found online. A helpful Web site to investigate is www.ncaasports.com/basketball/mens.

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

RECREATION

The following programs are offered

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

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Karate
Discover the Shotokan style of karate with instructor Tony Valvona. Learn a form of self-defense that helps build self-confidence and self-discipline while improving fitness, coordination and flexibility. For additional information, call Valvona at (248) 348-8752.

Classes are available for men, women and children ages 6 and up. Courses are on-going, beginning the first Wednesday of every month and meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Wednesday
Cost is \$75 for residents per quarter (three months) and \$78 for non-residents per quarter, payable to City of Westland. There also is a \$25 First Year Club Registration, payable to Tony Valvona. Uniforms are free to new beginners only (all sizes in stock).

Lil' Dragons Martial Arts
Lil' Dragons teaches respect, discipline, confidence, flexibility, balance, coordination, self-control, cooperation, health, fun fitness and stranger awareness. The new program provides fun, high energy classes designed especially for 5-7-year-olds. These classes are 30 minutes long.

Half-hour classes for 8-10-year-olds as well as hour-long classes for those 11 years and older and adults are available.

Classes are available 5:30-6 p.m. for Lil' Dragons (cost \$25 per month and \$25 uniform fee), 6-6:30 p.m. karate for 8-10-year-olds (cost \$25 per month and \$25 uniform fee) and 5:30-6:30 p.m. ages 11 and up, including adults (cost \$35 per month and \$25 uniform fee).
Classes are at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information, call (248) 348-8752.

Gymnastics
Kids will love learning progressive skills that will encourage self-confidence and coordination. The classes provide fun in a friendly environment where children can learn to do gymnastic stunts safely.
Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, shorts, etc. Choose the class that best fits your child's needs. Classes are four weeks long unless otherwise stated.

■ Parent/Tot - For children ages 2-3 with no experience who would still need a parent with them in order to participate. Hours are 4-

4:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Resident cost is \$15 per student with parent, non-resident cost \$18 per student with parent.

■ Pre-school - For children ages 3-5 who do not need parental interaction during class. Hours are 4:30-5:15 p.m. Tuesdays. Resident cost is \$18 per student one day a week and \$30 per student two days a week; non-resident cost is \$21 per student one day a week and \$33 per student two days a week.

■ Beginner - Children ages 6-9 with no experience. Hours are 5:15-6:16 p.m. Cost is \$25 for residents and \$28 for non-residents. Session date is April 12-May 5.

ADULT CLASSES

Aerobics with M&N Studios
Drop in on this class for a fun aerobic workout. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes. This is a low-impact workout and each class offers a variety of activities.
Class is offered 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$3 per class resident, \$4 per class non-resident.

Aerobic/Kickboxing
Join Fitness Factory for this motivating and fun exercise program. This heart-healthy class will get your heart rate moving with easy-to-follow moves and all your favorite music hits.
Also included are kickboxing combinations for everyone, even those new to this workout craze. Bring a mat or towel and weights for the body conditioning part of this class. For more information call (248) 353-2885. Students may register after class has begun.

Classes are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and run for eight weeks. Join class anytime during the session; prices will be prorated. Cost is \$48 one day a week; \$79 two days a week; \$7 drop in

Aerobics and Cardio Kickboxing
Learn the basics of kickboxing while having a fun, cardio workout with martial arts master and professional kick-boxer Tim Formigan. This workout is designed to burn 700-800 calories per hour.

These are real kick-boxing movements so this will provide a better workout than step aerobics. The movements that are taught also can be used for self-defense training. Wear loose, comfortable clothing with athletic shoes and bring water, you will perspire.
The class is for all levels and for those 15 years and up. Middle school students may attend, if accompanied by a parent and with the instructor's permission. Classes are 5:45-6:45 p.m. or 7-8 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays on an on-going basis. Beginner orientation 15 minutes before each class. Cost is \$5 per person per class.

Light Contact Kickboxing
International Olympic light contact kickboxing is offered 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 5-6 p.m. Thursday at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Kickboxing provides excellent exercise while developing coordination, agility and self-confidence. It also is highly dynamic and makes use of all the major muscle groups. The classes are designed for men and women and children ages 10 years and older.
Cost is \$50 per month. The program is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation department and Shotokan Karate Federation of Michigan. For more information, call instructor Rahman at (586) 531-0645 or by e-mail at rashotokan@aol.com.

Belly Dancing
The beginner class will cover both traditional and contemporary techniques for the adult beginner. No prior dance training is required. All skill levels are welcome. This class promises to provide the opportunity for the artistic expression of the feminine spirit. Students who do not feel ready for the experienced class are invited to enroll for Session 2 or the beginner's class. All classes are six weeks long.
Class time is 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 resident and \$48 non-resident. Contact the instructor at (734)-422-1246 for dates.

The experienced class is for students who have previous belly dancing experience. This class promises to continue your dance experience in a fun atmosphere. Students may choose to be in a recital. Class time is 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 resident and \$48 non-resident for six-week session and \$23 resident, \$26 non-resident for three-week sessions. Contact the instructor at (734)-422-1246 for dates.

Belly Dancing Discipline
The discipline class is an optional, additional class that will run only 30 minutes in length and be taught as an extension of the dance technique class. Focus will be on specific skills that require more discipline and a higher level of achievement, including drills and conditioning exercises as needed, such as abdominal exercises to tone and prepare muscles for undulation or timed sets to build stamina. Course of study will be announced at the beginning of each session.

Tai Chi
Discover the secrets of the physical well being and spiritual serenity with the ancient Chinese art of Tai Chi. Your instructor will help you release the accumulated stresses of modern life under the benevolent influence of these gentle movements.
Class is for adults, middle school and high school students welcome with instructor's permission. It's ongoing and offered 10-11 a.m. or 8-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Cost is \$5 per person per class.

cal well being and spiritual serenity with the ancient Chinese art of Tai Chi. Your instructor will help you release the accumulated stresses of modern life under the benevolent influence of these gentle movements.

Class is for adults, middle school and high school students welcome with instructor's permission. It's ongoing and offered 10-11 a.m. or 8-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Cost is \$5 per person per class.

Yoga
The perfect class for beginners, you learn breathing and relaxation techniques, improve energy, flexibility and muscular strength through a well-chosen variety of yoga poses. You will leave class feeling peaceful! Remember to bring a yoga mat and dress in comfortable workout clothes.
The class is for adults and is offered April 18-May 23 (pre-register by April 15). Class time is 7:30-8:50 p.m. Mondays. Cost is \$36 resident and \$39 non-resident.

F.U.N. Quilters Club
The Grange No. 389 sponsors the F.U.N. Quilters Club for middle schoolers through adults. The group meets 5:30-9 p.m. every first Monday of the month and 9:30-1 p.m. the second and third Monday of the month at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Whether you like to do hand quilting or machine quilting, are very experienced or just a beginner, you are welcome to join this club. Large tables are provided as well as outlets for sewing machines.
Bring a project to share and a snack and learn new ideas from other club members. The group may decide to work on a project or discuss upcoming conferences.
The cost is \$3 per session, payable at the door. For further information, contact Sharon Strebbling at (734) 722-4857.

SPORTS GROUPS

Dad's Athletic Club of Westland - Softball for boys and girls ages 7-18. Sign up in March and April for summer season. Call Bud Prough at (734) 595-2951 or Michelle at (734) 721-7614 for more information.

Wayne Dolphin Swim Team
Come join one of the longest running recreational swim teams in the area. We need boys and girls ages 6-18 to continue a tradition of friendship and fun.
For more information visit the Web site or contact President Mary Schirmer at (734) 397-8196, Vice-President Donna Fox at (734) 729-5049 or Treasurer Tammy Deck at (734) 728-1099.

Leather...



The Look and the Feel!

Right now we are displaying updated designs that are spirited, beautiful and comfortable. The new styles, colors and leathers are well-suited to the demands of today's lifestyles.
Sofas, chairs, recliners can be yours now at **SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS!** Stop in today and let us explain the facts of this lasting alternative for the furnishing of your home.

Now Spring Sale Priced!
New Financing Rates Available
18 Months No Interest*



Walker/Buzenberg

fine furniture

240 North Main Street • PLYMOUTH • 734-459-1300
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-9 • Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6, Sun 1-5
*Financing With Credit Approval, Minimum Monthly Payments Apply
www.walkerbuzenberg.com

FRESH NEW LOOK
Under New Management

SAME QUALITY MEATS
Established 1980

BUTTER LAMBS
\$2.29
each

DAD'S

NEW STORE HOURS!
Mon.-Sat. 9-7 pm
Sun. 10-5 pm
Closed Easter Sunday

Now Taking Orders for...

Dearborn **HONEY BAKED**
Spiral Sliced Hams
\$3.39 lb.

Lean & Meaty **BONELESS PORK CHOPS**
Only **\$3.29** lb.

Meatballs

Stuffed Cabbage

City Chicken

Specials good through 3-27-05

Dad's Own Smoked or Fresh **KIELBASA**
Only **\$3.99** lb.

Hand-cut Smoked or Fresh **KIELBASA**
Only **\$4.49** lb.

28430 Joy Road (Between Middlebelt & Inkster • Next to Paris Bakery) 734.522.4770

The Adult Choir and Drama Team of Merriman Road Baptist Church Presents

"Bow the Knee"

Created by Chris Machen
Arranged and Orchestrated by Richard Kingsmore

A musical presentation of the passion of Jesus

March 25 & 26 at 7:00 pm

Merriman Road Baptist Church
2055 Merriman Road -- Garden City
1 block south of Ford Road
For further information, call (734) 421-0472
Deaf interpretation is provided
www.mrbc.us

FREE ADMISSION

SPORTS

Gridiron, Court, Pool, Arena, Greens, Diamond

We're there!

DONATION

FROM PAGE A1

although his mom sent a note to explain it. But Michael wasn't done talking. He met with Principal Johnnie Summerville and again quoted Scriptures in explaining the rationale behind the gift.

Summerville was so touched by his donation, she decided to give him some money.

"She said that she was really proud of me and because I did it and the note, she said she was going to give me \$30," Michael said. "She asked if it was all right and I said fine, but I thought in my mind that it (the money) did come back to me."

Summerville also told him something else.

"She said that sometimes adults can learn from kids," he said.

"It was such a caring thing to do, and the first time he told me, he did it with Scripture," said Summerville who has his mother's note tucked away in her Bible to read whenever she has a rough day. "It's such a

blessing to me. He's such a child and it's a very unselfish thing to do."

It's not the first time he's given his money to others. His family belongs to the Prayer Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit which asks that the congregation contribute \$25 per person to pay the bills. Michael decided he would take the money out of his pocket to cover his \$25.

Michael said he can wait until Christmas to get that double-screen GameBoy, but his parents and his other grandmother have told him he'll have it before then. Right now, he has \$55 saved up for the \$149 electronic toy.

"My grandmother said that if my parents don't buy it for me, she will," he said. "She said it was a good thing that I did."

As for being president, Dodds said his donation is a good indication of what's to come.

"I can see him definitely making a difference in the world," she said. "I just keep saying how proud I am of him."

smason@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2112

Senate panel hears cost-saving ideas

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Municipal leaders from Wayne and Oakland counties gathered in Livonia on last week to ask a Michigan Senate committee for policy changes that will save cities and townships money.

There was one condition: Don't ask the state for money.

"The money tree is gone in Lansing," said Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, who chairs the Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee. "If you need more taxes, you might as well go home because it's not going to happen. We have to be creative."

Some of the leaders from Livonia, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township suggested revising some outdated and pricey bookkeeping regulations, more opportunities to use the state's purchasing

power and fewer state restrictions on user fees.

The more controversial suggestions called for changes to the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A, which together harm funding for developed communities like Livonia and Southfield. They also called for tweaking of Public Act 312 binding arbitration for municipal employees.

The Headlee Amendment lowers millage rates as property values increase to control increases in property tax assessments. Proposal A caps those annual increases in property tax assessments at the rate of inflation, even when property's market value rises at a higher rate.

Those assessments are uncapped when a property is sold and the new owner pays taxes based on the full taxable value of the home. This increases the tax revenue the newly purchased property generates, often called a "pop-up"

Local units of government, however, don't receive the extra revenue. Instead, the pop-up money is used to maintain the lower annual tax increases for neighboring properties.

Municipal finance experts said these issues hamper developed communities because new construction is the primary way a municipality can generate more tax revenue without raising taxes.

For example, Livonia has averaged a 1 percent annual increase in revenue in recent years. Livonia Mayor Jack Engbreton is among those asking state lawmakers for a change in the law so cities can realize the pop-up income to alleviate recent budget struggles.

Binding arbitration is another problem for some civic leaders because arbiters render decisions for pay raises for police and fire unions based on what other police and fire

agencies receive, rather than what a municipality can afford.

"In many instances, we can't negotiate an agreement and we have to go to binding arbitration all the time," said West Bloomfield Township Treasurer Denise Hammond. "In many cases, the unions get a better deal, but then we're forced to cut other things to pay for it."

Some observers said they don't expect any immediate changes to the state's binding arbitration rules because it's a politically sensitive issue that could alienate police, fire and municipal workers.

Thursday's forum at Schoolcraft College was the second in a series of meetings across the state where Toy's committee is gathering suggestions from local leaders. Toy said the ideas will be brought to legislative leaders in Lansing for potential new bills.

dwest@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2109

BUSES

FROM PAGE A1

schedule. Upon starting work here in 1998, he set a schedule to inspect each bus every 3,000 miles.

"That's the key and we've been able to do well," Tamer said.

The Wayne-Westland schools inspection passing rate, 37 percent in 1997-98, rose to 73 percent in 1998-99, to 96 percent the next year and 100 percent in 2000-01 - and it hasn't fallen below 91 percent since.

With talk rampant about further cutbacks in schools funding, can Wayne-Westland maintain its perfect safety ranking?

Tamer said the district will seek to save money by seeking the best price for parts, and

through other savings.

"The (rising) fuel is hurting us," he said.

"We're fortunate in Wayne Westland that the administration gives us what we need to keep our buses as safe as can be," Gregory added.

"This excellent score reflects the continued emphasis on the bus safety program," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent of Administrative and Business Services, in a letter to Superintendent Gregory J. Baracy, presented to the Board of Education.

Some in Lansing are advocating shifting the responsibility for inspections from the state police to school districts.

"I think that's a horrible idea," Gregory said. "It would push the burden of that cost on the school districts."

kbrown@oe.homecomm.net

THINKING ABOUT CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING?
LENNOX
FREE ESTIMATES
(734) 525-1930
Our 31st Year!
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

FRENCH LANGUAGE & TRAVEL WORKSHOP FROM AWARD-WINNING INSTRUCTOR
Learn to travel like a pro!
Learn to speak survival French with confidence!
Sat., April 16, 2005
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Hawthorne Valley Country Club
Westland, MI
\$25 registration fee includes breakfast and a Frenchville Paris travel guide. For more information, contact Frenchville LLC at 313-300-6699 or go to www.frenchville.com
5693324262

Michigan's Play System Superstore
Best Selection... More Brands... More Models
Save Up To **20%** & Make No Payments "Til April 2006"
Early Bird Savings End 3/31/05
Cannot combine with any other promotion. *On approved credit thru Citifinancial. See details inside.
The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop 3947 W. 12 Mile, Berkley, 248-543-3115
Monday - Wednesday 10-5:30 Thursday 10-8:30 Friday & Saturday 10-5:30 Sunday 12-4 For Snowsuits

Shop Sugarloaf Style
There's nothing else like it!

Sugarloaf Art Fair
300 Craft Designers & Fine Artists
April 15, 16, 17, 2005
NOVI EXPO CENTER
NOVI, MI
Daily Adult Admission \$7.00
Children Under 12 FREE
Parking FREE - Compliments of Sugarloaf!
Friday & Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5

- Custom clothing
- One-of-a-kind furnishings
- Original oils & framed prints
- Award-winning photography
- Fine & fun jewelry
- Pre-packaged gourmet food
- Personal attention
- High-quality materials
- Unusual, original designs
- Fine workmanship
- Knowledgeable assistance
- Incredible selections
- And so much more!

FOR DISCOUNT ADMISSION COUPONS:
• Print them from our website at www.SugarloafCrafts.com
• Call 800-210-9900

SAY HELLO TO THE LARGEST HOME CALLING AREA IN AMERICA
SAY GOOD-BYE TO ROAMING

Get the new America's Choice™ and make calls from more places than any other wireless provider with no roaming charges from coast to coast.

MOTOROLA V265 CAMERA PHONE \$29.99
After Mail-In Rebate
\$79.99 Retail Price - \$50 Mail-In Rebate
With new 2 year Agreement on plans \$39.99 or higher.
Shipping charges may apply.

AMERICA'S CHOICE CALLING PLANS STARTING AT JUST \$39.99
Monthly Access

Now With **Unlimited Calling**
Talk to any Verizon Wireless Customer on the Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Area in America

Unlimited Night & Weekend Minutes

More Anytime Minutes than ever before
All when calling from within the America's Choice Coverage Area. New 2 yr Agreement required. (Activation fees, taxes, and other charges apply.)
Coverage not available everywhere.

verizon wireless
We never stop working for you®

UPGRADE TO AMERICA'S MOST RELIABLE WIRELESS NETWORK.

CALL 1.877.2BUY.VZW **CLICK verizonwireless.com**

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES

ANN ARBOR
2570 Jackson Ave. (Next to Blockbuster)
734-769-1722

BRIARWOOD MALL
(In Sear's Wing, Near Center Ct.)

AUBURN HILLS
Great Lakes Crossing Mall
248-253-1799

BRIGHTON
8159 Challis, Suite C (Off Grand River, in front of Target)
810-225-4789

CANTON
42447 Ford Rd. (Corner of Ford & Lilley Rds., Canton Corners)
734-844-0481

DEARBORN
24417 Ford Rd. (Just West of Telegraph)
313-278-4491

FAIRLANE MALL
(3rd Floor Next to Sear's)
313-441-0168

DETROIT
14126 Woodward (Model T Plaza)
313-869-7392

FARMINGTON HILLS
31011 Orchard Lake Rd. (S.W. Corner of Orchard Lake Rd. & 14 Mile Rd.)
248-538-9900

FENTON
17245 Silver Pkwy (In the Sear's plaza)
810-629-2733

FT. GRATIOT
4129 24th Avenue
810-385-1231

GRAND BLANC
12821 S. Saginaw St. (In Grand Blanc Mall)
810-606-1700

LAKE ORION
2531 S. Lapeer Rd. (Orion Mall 2 Miles N. of the Palace)
248-393-6800

NOVI
43025 12 Mile Rd. (Twelve Oaks Service Dr., North of Sear's)
248-305-6600

PONTIAC/WATERFORD
454 Telegraph Rd. (Across from Summit Place Mall)
248-335-9900

ROCHESTER HILLS
3035 S. Rochester Rd. (At Auburn Rd.)
248-853-0550

ROYAL OAK
31921 Woodward Ave. (At Normandy)
248-549-4177

ST. CLAIR SHORES
26401 Harper Ave. (At 10 1/2 Mile)
586-777-4010

SOUTHFIELD
28117 Telegraph Rd. (South of 12 Mile Rd.)
248-358-3700

STERLING HEIGHTS
45111 Park Ave. (M-59 & M-53, Utica Park Plaza)
586-997-6500

LAKESIDE MALL
(Lower Ct. play area)

TAYLOR
23495 Eureka Rd. (Across from Southland Mall)
734-287-1770

TROY
1913 E. Big Beaver Rd. (Troy Sports Center)
248-526-0040

Oakland Mall
(Inside Main Entrance, next to Food Court)

WESTLAND
35105 Warren Rd. (S.W. Corner of Warren & Wayne Rds.)
734-722-7330

WAL-MART LOCATIONS
Warren 29240 Van Dyke
586-751-0747

OR VISIT THE VERIZON WIRELESS STORE AT CIRCUIT CITY

ANN ARBOR
AUBURN HILLS
BRIGHTON
DEARBORN
HARPER WOODS
LAKESIDE
NOVI
ROSELVILLE

TAYLOR
TROY
WESTLAND

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE DETROIT PISTONS
Free Honda Software Upgrade!

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS, PLEASE CALL 1.888.889.2882

AUTHORIZED RETAILERS Equipment prices & return policy vary by location. Authorized Retailers may impose additional equipment related charges, including cancellation fees.

ANN ARBOR
Ann Arbor Wireless 734-327-5100

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Global Wireless 1-888-607-1800

BRIGHTON
Auto One Brighton 810-227-2808
Cellular and More 810-227-7440

CANTON
Cellular and More 734-981-7440

CLAWSON
Communications USA 248-280-6390

COMMERCE
Cellular Source 248-360-9400

Wireless Tomorrow
248-669-1200

DEARBORN
Kelly Cellular 313-582-1130

FARMINGTON
Diamon Touch 734-615-1177

FARMINGTON HILLS
Cellular City 248-848-8800
Fusion Communications 248-427-9476

FENTON
Cellular and More 810-629-7440

FERRISDALE
Communications USA 248-542-5200

FT. GRATIOT
Wireless Solutions 810-385-3400

GROSSE POINTE
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-Plus

HOWELL
Cartelias 517-548-7705

MACOMB
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-Plus

MONROE
Harkimer Radio 734-242-0806
Harkimer Too 734-384-7001

MT. CLEMENS
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-Plus

NOVI
MfWireless 248-476-0077

PORCY HURON
Port City Communications 810-584-5141

ROCHESTER
Cellular Technologies 248-299-0008

ROSELVILLE
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-Plus

ROYAL OAK
Fusion Communications 248-549-7700

SOUTHFIELD
Wireless USA 248-395-2222

STERLING HEIGHTS
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-Plus

SYLVAN LAKE
Wireless Link 248-681-1700

TROY
The Wireless Shop 248-458-1111

WARREN
Next Wireless 586-573-7599

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Global Wireless 248-681-7200

YPSILANTI
Ann Arbor Wireless 734-327-5400

BEST BUY
You're not qualified. You're not allowed.

RadioShack
You're not qualified. You're not allowed.

See store for Return/Exchange Policy.

*Our Surcharges (incl. 2.31% Federal Universal Service (varies quarterly), 5¢ Regulatory fee/min., & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-884-1888); gov't taxes and our surcharges could add 8% to 28% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35/1 yr; \$15/2 yrs.

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agreement, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. \$175 termination fee, up to 45¢/min after allowance, other charges & restrictions. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. Usage rounded to next full minute. Offers not available everywhere. Network details, coverage limitations & maps at verizonwireless.com. Nights 9:01 pm - 5:59 am M-F. While supplies last. Limited time offer. All brand and product names not owned by Verizon Wireless are the property of their respective owners. America's Choice Coverage Area covers 289 million people. ©2005 Verizon Wireless

DIRECTIONS: From I-96 East, take Exit 162 and turn right on Novi Rd. From I-96 West, take Exit 162 and turn left on Novi Rd. From Novi Rd., turn right onto Expo Center Drive. Follow signs to Expo Center.

Spaghetti dinner raises cash for scholarships

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Jacki Lynn Cohen had lost her fourth job as a training manager in four years and was wondering what to do when she decided to go back to school. On the same day she enrolled and attended her first class in the computer graphics technology department at Schoolcraft College.

Cohen was dedicated to finishing what she started even though her unemployment compensation eventually ran out. She'd put a son through college, but at age 52 once again didn't know what to do. Then someone suggested the Women's Resource Center on campus.

On Tuesday, March 15, Cohen was one of four graphics students showing their work at the Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow Scholarship Fund-raiser in the college's VisTaTech Center. All four received scholarships from the women's center because of money raised by the dinner.

"The Women's Resource Center paid for some of my classes and helped me apply for other aid," said Cohen of Royal Oak. "I already have a job in Plymouth."

Elizabeth Johnson was among the stream of supporters who stopped to look at Cohen's computer-generated children's book about her father's garden, and a design which was chosen for T-shirts and program cover for the Michigan Jazz Festival held annually at the college.

Johnson has been coming to the scholarship dinner for the last 22 years and is a WRC Advisory Board member and daughter of Jane Moehle, one



Schoolcraft trustee Mary Breen chats with Livonia Board of Education trustees Cynthia Markarian and Dan Lessard.

of the college's original trustees. "The WRC is so wonderful," said Johnson, a Plymouth attorney. "They do such great work for men and women of the community who have gone on to become productive members of society."

Angelique Bugeja's display was as popular as Cohen's. The 25-year-old graphics student is planning on studying transportation design at College for Creative Studies. She stumbled onto WRC by accident when the Financial Aid office was under construction.

"The Women's Resource Center was a big help financially and the teachers have real world experience," said Bugeja, 25.

WRC executive director

Nancy Swanborg took time from coordinating the event to look at all of the designs including Bugeja's.

This is why the dinner is so important. During the 2003-2004 academic year 291 students received scholarships from funds raised at the dinner. This year 147 students have received scholarships so far. The 52 tables that were filled Tuesday night will provide \$5,500 for scholarships in addition to donations from individuals and businesses who sponsored ads in the program.

"We sold 450 tickets this year," said Swanborg. "We're on a roll. We have a few more than we had last year."

Many supporters like state Sen. Laura Toy have come for

years because the dinner raises money for WRC. For Livonia Board of Education Trustee Cynthia Markarian it was her first time.

Markarian was invited to the dinner and wanted to learn more about the center so she went to the Web site.

"They help women who are struggling," said Markarian. "I was single for six years with two little kids so I can relate to that. This is a good cause."

Students Lorianne O'Brady and Yvonne Harris were grateful for everyone who came and supported the center. Both told their success stories after dinner.

O'Brady is a mother of 3 and volunteers with Garden City Schools. She is in the Micro Chips program that not only



Lorianne O'Brady and Yvonne Harris were student speakers at the event.



Student Angelique Bugeja's graphic artwork was on display.

gives students skills but provides them with gently used business attire donated to a boutique at the college's Radcliff Center in Garden City.

"I've been given the tools to build my life from the ground up," said O'Brady.

Harris was working in a billing department when she decided to go back to school. Swanborg helped her fill out a grant application.

"I'm so nervous but I'm so grateful. I wanted to come and tell what the WRC did for me," said Harris who is one-third of the way to earning an associ-

ate's degree in health information technology. "I'm doing well because of the support of the Women's Resource Center."

And so is the recipient of her bone marrow. Harris says she donated marrow to a 10-year old child who was dying because of what she learned in college.

"I wouldn't have known what that was if I hadn't taken classes at Schoolcraft," said Harris.

For more information about WRC, call (734) 462-4443.

lchomin@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2145

No one says you have to pick just one.



7-MONTH CD **3.25%** APY
\$500 minimum & Circle Checking

18-MONTH CD **3.75%** APY
\$500 minimum & Circle Checking

The only question about these great Charter One CD

rates is what you want to spend the interest on first.

Open one now so you can start earning right away.

Besides the outstanding rate, you also get the security

of FDIC insurance and the benefits of a Circle Checking Account. To open a CD, call 1-877-TOP-RATE

or visit us in person at any Charter One branch.

 **Charter One**
Not your typical bank.®

Member FDIC. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of this publication date. Limited-time offer may be withdrawn at any time. Minimum CD opening deposit is \$500. Penalty for early withdrawal. Fees, if any, may reduce earnings on the account. Minimum opening balance for Circle Checking is \$50. See a banker for details.

OEHLER

FROM PAGE A1

"Jimmy Oehler is just sorry that he got caught," Paul's brother, Charles Clevenger, said outside of a Detroit courtroom. "If he was sorry, he would have come forward seven years ago to say he made a terrible mistake."

"He's a monster," Clevenger said. "The day he dies - that's when he'll get his real sentence."

Defense attorney Robert Mitchell has called it an accident that Oehler shot Paul at least two times in the chest with an SKS Chinese assault rifle. He has said the two men, who grew marijuana in Oehler's home on Hiveley, had been drinking and getting high before the shooting occurred.

But, Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette Berry, who sentenced Oehler after attorneys reached a plea agreement, told Oehler that he showed no remorse by burying the body and denying Paul's family any closure for seven years.

"How could you do that?" she asked, reminding Oehler that he remained free during the years he allowed Paul's family to wonder what had happened to him.

Berry allowed only one of Oehler's relatives - his daughter, Mary - to make a statement on a day mostly reserved for the victim's family. The daughter, 19, said she had grown close to her father only in recent years after he sobered up from severe alcoholism.

"This is a tragedy to me because now I lose my dad, and I won't ever get him back," she said, adding that Oehler won't see her become a nurse, get married or have his grandchildren.

"He won't be there for the things a father should be there for," she said, before walking away from the courtroom podium and turning to say, "I love you, Dad."

But, Paul's aunt Beverly Krieb said Oehler, even in prison, will be able, unlike Paul, to see his family.

"At least he can hug his family when they come to visit," she said.

Krieb carried with her pictures of Paul celebrating his first birthday, enjoying a Christmas and embracing his girlfriend. She said she misses Paul's bear hugs and laughter.

"I don't think James Oehler will ever know the full impact of what he has done," Krieb

said, after recalling how she posted pictures of Paul and contacted the media for help after he disappeared.

Oehler's mother, Susan Nickerson, remembered her "precious son" and told Oehler that his true sentence will come when he meets "his Maker."

"Jail is just a stepping stone for where you're headed," she said.

Nickerson is not related to Oehler's co-defendant, 59-year-old William Jay Nickerson of Wayne, who faces sentencing April 15 after pleading guilty to being an accessory after the fact. William Nickerson, who has said Oehler and Paul argued before the shooting, helped bury the body.

Paul's cousin Theresa Dulaney recalled how Oehler always tended meticulously to his house and his yard, knowing all along that Paul was buried there and that "the yard was desecrated."

"You're not only a murderer," Dulaney told Oehler in court. "You're a thief. You took something very precious from us."

Paul's father, Bill, commended Westland police Sgts. Steve Borisch and David Heater for solving the case last summer after an informant gave them a tip that led them to Oehler's yard.

"I will never forgive you for what you did," the father told Oehler, as Oehler sat weeping in the courtroom before turning to face Bill Paul to apologize to him.

Oehler pleaded guilty in March to second-degree murder and a felony firearm charge. He will serve a two-year prison term for the latter charge before he starts doing 23-40 years for murder.

His arrest last summer stunned neighbors in his usually quiet neighborhood on Hiveley, southwest of Cherry Hill and Carlson. Neighbors remembered him as a friendly man who worked as a house painter and played guitar as a hobby.

Oehler would have faced a mandatory term of life in prison, if he had gone to trial and been convicted on an original charge of first-degree murder.

In sentencing Oehler, Judge Berry expressed sympathy for the Paul family and for Oehler's relatives.

"There are no winners here," Berry said. "Both families are victims."

dclern@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2145

Thomasville, Lexington, Bernhardt, Stanley, Bassett, Legacy Classic, Bedtime, Palliser, Serta Bedding, A.P. Industries, Moosehead, Huppe, Shermag, Wesley Allen, Universal, My Room, Laurier, American Drew, Bob Mackie, Bob Timberlake, Webb, Lea, Palliser,

FREE DELIVERY

FREE FINANCING

★ **GIANT** ★
house of bedrooms
EASTER EGG HUNT

NOW THROUGH NEXT MONDAY
PICK AN EGG WITH ANY PURCHASE
AND RECEIVE AN

ADDITIONAL

5% - 35%

OFF

THE SALE PRICE

OR

12 MONTHS

TO PAY

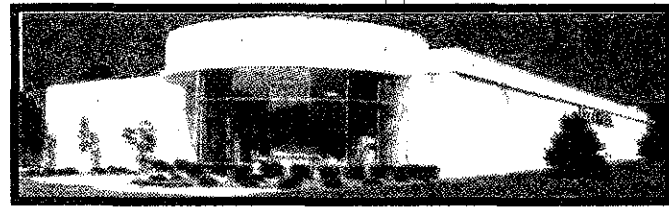
INTEREST FREE*

NO RAINCHECKS - NO LAYAWAYS

SALE ENDS MONDAY, MARCH 28 AT 9 PM!

*** CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY ***

Awarded Michigan's #1 Specialty Store Retailer of the Year!



248-334-4593

Master Bedrooms
 1700 S. Telegraph Rd.
 Bloomfield Hills

* Master Bedroom Store: O.A.C. with 6% Down Required.
 Clearance Items Excluded from 0% Financing Offer.
 Thomasville, Bernhardt, Lexington, and Clearance Items
 Excluded from 5%-35% Discount Offer.



248-745-0012

Kids Bedrooms
 1716 S. Telegraph Rd.
 Bloomfield Hills

* Kids Bedroom Store: O.A.C. with 25% Down Required.
 Clearance Items and Accessories Excluded from 0% Financing
 Offer. Clearance Items Excluded from 5%-35% Discount Offer.

OVER 160 BEDROOMS ON DISPLAY
FREE DELIVERY (WITHIN 50 MILES)
SERTA MATTRESS HEADQUARTERS
VISA, DISCOVER, MASTERCARD WELCOME

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!

Open Daily 9-9
Saturday 9-6
Sunday 11-5

www.houseofbedrooms.com

Samuel Lawrence, Barn Door, Moon Valley, Wynwood, A America, Broyhill

PLACES AND FACES

Off and running

North Brothers Ford and the City of Westland are sponsoring the seventh annual 5K Fun Run and Walk Saturday, May 14, for the benefit of the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Runners and walkers collect donation in advance of the race/walk which will start at 9 a.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center. Prizes and recognition will be awarded to the top three females and top three males in seven age groups - ages 1-10, 11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over. The pre-registration deadline is May 7 and T-shirts are guaranteed for all registered by that date. The registration fee is \$12 for students age 18 and under and \$15 for adults. After May 7, the fee is \$18. Registration starts at 8 a.m. on race day. For more information, contact Erin Jackson at North Brothers Ford at (734) 524-1232. Registrations can be sent to her attention at the dealership, 33300 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. Checks should be made payable to North Brothers Ford.

Do we hear bingo?

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3233 will hold a marathon bingo noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the Post Hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Proceeds will benefit cancer aid and research.

Let's hear your cheer

The Westland Stars Cheer and Dance Team is offering three clinics in April in advance of try-outs slated for 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 5.

The clinics will be 6-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 14, 21 and 28, in the multipurpose room of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, behind Westland City Hall.

Everything you need to know will be taught at the clinics. If you are interested come dressed to work out (no jeans) and bring water (no pop or food).

The coaches are Toni Lay, a Wayne-Westland school teacher with 22 years of coaching experience and former cheerleader; Keri Morten, a former high school dancer and college cheerleader, and Jillian Wehrheim, a Junior Olympic champion dancer and high school cheerleader.

The program is \$5 per class or \$25 per month. The Stars also will have a summer camp at Oakland University. All members will be invited to attend.

Historic fashions

Local historians will sponsor an "old-time" fashion show and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, to raise money to help repair the city's historic Octagon House.

The cost is \$12 per person. The event will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on Ford Road. The show will be held in memory of the late Howard Becker, who was a supporter of the Octagon House.

For more information or to inquire about tickets, call (734) 729-1605, (734) 522-3918 or (734) 729-2953.

Mom to Mom sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold its first annual Mom to Mom sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the church, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland. Used infant and children's items will be for sale. There also will be a raffle and food will be available.

Admission is \$1 for adults and children free when accompanied by a parent.

Poker Tournament

The Westland Jaycees is sponsoring a Texas Holdem Tournament and Vegas Night Saturday, April 16, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

The tournament starts promptly at 6 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m. Pre-register by mail by April 1 for \$40. Send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to the Westland Jaycees, P.O. Box 85191, Westland, MI 48185. Register at the door for \$50, beginning at 4:30 p.m. There will be no rebuy-ins during the tournament.

The Vegas Night will open at 7 p.m. and include blackjack, Let It Ride, Holdem and seven-card poker. Food, beer and pop also will be available.

For more information, call (734) 228-0400 or by e-mail at wholdem@yahoo.com.

Spring bazaar

The Edison Elementary PTO will have its Spring Bazaar 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.

The bazaar will feature a collection of 25 vendors, mostly direct-sell businesses like Tupperware, DK Books and Party-Lite candles along with a few cash-and-carry vendors selling jewelry, denim purses, stamped greeting cards and other fun items. There will also be a bake sale held in conjunction with the bazaar, which will be held in the gym.

No children will be allowed in the gym, however, baby-sitting will be available. Edison School is at 34505 Hunter, Westland.

Vendor fair

St. Damian Church is inviting parishioners and their friends who have home-based businesses to participate in a vendor fair 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at the church on Joy Road east of Merriman.

Vendors that will have exhibits and/or products include Arbonne International, Longenbarger, Princess House Crystal, DK Books, Pampered Chef and Party Light & Creative Memories. For more information, call Ritaanne Felczak Otto at (734) 425-8970.

Vets helping vets

Veterans Haven is looking for a qualified veteran to be a live-in driver/maintenance/groundskeeper at its transitional housing facilities.

The applicant should be a self-starter who can follow instructions. The individual should also possess the ability to do light carpentry, plumbing and electrical jobs and operate power equipment for yard work.

Benefits include room and board - laundry room and meals. Contact Vince Berna at (734) 728-0527.



Gloria Sniderman (left) and Jennifer Mendez meet to talk about the Art of Aging Successfully conference presented by Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology.

Seniors help to enrich lives

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Gloria Sniderman doesn't like to sit still even at age 72. She believes other seniors feel the same so she's invited them to the Art of Aging Successfully conference March 30, at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit.

Presented by Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology and the Elder Advisors to Research committee of which she is a member, the event features break-out sessions where participants discover the artist in themselves, dance the hustle, learn what baseball has to do with the aging process, and explore volunteer opportunities.

Sniderman, a Livonia resident, regularly volunteers in the archives and library at Wayne State University in addition to serving on the 40-member Elder committee. David, her husband of 35 years is just as active. Along with working part time as an electrical inspector for Plymouth Township, he serves as chief electrical judge for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of

America which holds competitions in industrial arts at various high schools.

"This is for seniors of any ilk," said Sniderman, who was a librarian for 25 of the 29 years she was at Wayne State University.

"Different communities have a senior day where it's a party, but it's entertainment. We're also doing that but giving them information, asking what is enriching your life. You're there to enjoy yourself as a senior. People have brought in quilts and woodworking, things they enjoy doing."

The conference begins with participants writing about what it was in their life that made them want to continue living. It will help researchers learn more about how they can help seniors age successfully. This year the conference showcases the creative work of non-professional artists age 55 and up.

"It's not academic, but a fun day for seniors," said Sniderman. "The guest speaker sets the tone. We'll have four different break-outs including Field of Dreams about baseball with representatives from the

(Detroit) Tigers. They'll learn about the creative process in another session and the Feel Good of Volunteering in another. "We find a lot of seniors spend time volunteering. Find a couple of good things you want to do and keep up with them. It adds to your life."

It's Jennifer Mendez's job to research seniors' lives and share that information with them. Mendez is director for education and the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology in the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University.

"We do research on aging and health, Medicaid and Medicare, issues that relate to seniors' lives," said Mendez. "We decided to do the conference six years ago because it's important to have sharing of information between community folks and academia - information for people with low vision problems, health issues specific to diet because of diabetes, issues related to driving because of not being able to see stop signs, seniors looking for things to do, how do you keep engaged and vital?"

lchomin@oe.homedcomm.net

Rotary conducts Easter flower sale

Westland Rotarians will again hold their annual Easter flower sale this weekend at two locations:
■ The northwest corner of

Wayne Road and Warren. ■ On Ford Road, the first building west of North Brothers Ford, west of Venoy. Hours will be noon to 7 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, flowers permitting. Easter lilies, tulips, ferns and others have been featured at past sales.

"All proceeds go to scholarships," said Richard Strasbaugh, a club member and organizer.

ANNUITY OWNERS READ THIS!!

Do you have a... Fixed Annuity, Variable Annuity, Indexed Annuity?

Like many investors over the past several years you may have watched your assets decline by as much as 50% in stocks or mutual funds. You then moved some or all of those assets into a fixed, variable or indexed annuity. You may have locked yourself into a long term taxable investment that's been earning between 0% and 5% over the last 5 years. At this rate it may take as long as 24 years to double your money and that will just get you back to even.

At your current age do you have 24 years to wait?

For the most part annuities have some good features. You may have purchased your annuity for any number of reasons. Now is a good time to get out that annuity contract and re-examine your reason for buying it. At Money Strategies of Michigan we have a creative solution for you to consider. We'll show you our **Annuity Rescue Program** and how to turn your low performing and taxable annuity into a phenomenal income tax free benefit for you, your spouse or your children.

Don't wait! This information is an absolute must-have. You don't even have to leave your home to attend a "seminar". We can bring this free information to you along with a certificate for lunch. Call 1-800-658-8836 today.

Michelle's Nails
Formerly of Wonder Nail in Livonia
Professional Nail Care for Ladies and Gentlemen
Specials for Students Everyday!

Gift Certificates Available	Acrylic Full Set Reg. \$25 \$19.99	Acrylic Fill In Reg. \$15 \$11.99	Manicure & Pedicure Reg. \$35 \$28.99
• OPI Products	Eyebrow Wax Reg. \$10 \$6.00	Full Set Gel Fill Gel Reg. \$30 \$27.99	Spa Pedicure Reg. \$25 \$19.99
• Airbrush Design	Manicure Reg. \$12 \$10.00		
• Pink & white Silk Nails			
• Crystal Nails			

Bring with coupon - Expires 4-07-05
(734) 266-4108
29443 Six Mile Road, Livonia (In Mid-6 Plaza) (South West of 6 Mile & Middlebelt)
Mon.-Sat. 10am-8pm · Sun. 12pm-5pm

TAX PROBLEMS?
We settle any tax, any year
(248) 985-HELP (4357)

The right look at the right price.

Grand Opening Special
734-542-0799
17392 Haggerty Road • Livonia
in the Marketplace at College Park
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-9; Sat. 9-6; Sun. 11-5

Great Clips for hair.
www.greatclips.com

\$2.99 HAIRCUT
Grand Opening Special (Regular Prices: Adults \$11; Kids/Seniors \$9)
Not valid with other offers. Good only at Haggerty Road location. Offer expires 4-15-05.

Editing makes Shakespeare understandable for audiences

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

James Hartman is concerned about the slow ticket sales for the opening weekend of *Othello*. He worked over two years to edit one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies so that modern-day audiences would understand the story of love, jealousy, hatred, ambition, and revenge.

Hartman admits his timing could have been better when scheduling performances.

The play opens on Good Friday in the Liberal Arts Theater at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Audience members have their choice of seeing a performance only or buying a package that includes a dinner featuring Breast of Chicken Tosca and a side of pasta with tiramisu for dessert.

"*Othello* is an extremely exciting play," said Hartman, director of the theater program at Schoolcraft College. "It's kind of a story of love gone wrong or loving too much."

"I edited it word by word to make it more understandable and still ended up with a 130-page script then I edited it again down to two hours. It's now easier to follow."

This the fourth time Hartman has edited Shakespeare for Schoolcraft productions that included *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Titus Andronicus*.

"I discovered in the first three the audiences were leaving saying it was the first time they could enjoy Shakespeare because they could understand what was happening," said Hartman. "I want to give young actors a chance to do classical work. Our production is a mixture of actors - young and studying with me, graduates of the theater department,



Tom Hoffmeyer | Staff Photographer
Ryan-Iver Klann as Iago rehearses with Jennifer Hathorne as Desdemona for Schoolcraft College's production of *Othello*.

and community theater people."

Among the actors is Ryan-Iver Klann playing Iago, the villain, Brian Taylor as Othello and Jennifer Hathorne, Desdemona.

"The biggest challenge is making sure actors understand every word they're saying," said Hartman. "If they understand,

the audience will understand."

Dinner theater performances of *Othello* run 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26 and April 1-2 and cost \$24. Theater performances only are 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 8-9 (\$12). Call (734) 462-4596.

lchomin@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2145

PROPOSAL

FROM PAGE A1

entation. I don't want people to think we're out of business."

Presenting the storage unit proposal to get council feedback was Mike McGovern of Wessex Properties and Development. McGovern said that no agreement had been reached on the sale of the four-acre parcel on Merriman at Maplewood.

Wessex and their partners had looked at various uses for the property, McGovern said, including single family residential and multiple family. Those projects were found to be cost prohibitive, he said, due in large part to extensive storm water drain work that will be required by Wayne County.

"We looked at retail and were told by the city in no uncertain terms that Westland has plenty of retail," he said, explaining the move toward storage units

"I think quite compatible. It's a low density use - people come, do their business and leave," McGovern said. "It will add significantly to the city tax base, creates additional awareness of Westland as a great place to do business and will clean up an eyesore."

In recent years, Barson had received approval to construct an expanded greenhouse and more recently reconstruct the existing building. He also found the storm water drain requirements a problem.

"The county put the kibosh on the whole thing - a dream went out the window," said Barson. "If I knew five years ago what I know now, I'd never have started it. I'm basically a farm, I can't justify the expense of the water recovery system."

A greenhouse has been on that location since the 1930s. The Barsons live in a home north of the business which would have to be rezoned from single family residential to commercial before it could be

included in the proposed storage unit development. A special land use also would be required.

Along with talking to these developers, Barson said he's also talked with someone who might be interested in purchasing the business to continue operating the greenhouse or enter a partnership.

"The property is always for sale, just like your property is always for sale," said Barson. "I have to have an offer I can retire on. The economy is right for a change. I could be here another 20 years."

With Barson's location, many people think the business is located in Garden City which has residential development to the south and east.

"I'm not really familiar with what they're proposing but we wouldn't necessarily be opposed if it's done properly," said Garden City Community Development Director Gary Palmer. "I'd rather see it stay the way it is."

15 towns represented at multi-chamber mixer

Nearly 500 business people from more than a dozen suburban communities gathered at Burton Manor on Tuesday for a first-of-its-kind networking event sponsored by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

Those affiliated with 15 chambers of commerce convened for drinks, snacks and

conversations. It was part of the Livonia chamber's regular "Five O'Clock Connections" program, but Livonia chamber president Wes Graff it's the first time he organized a social mixer that involved this many chambers.

Among those attending Tuesday's event included

chamber members and political leaders from Allen Park, Belleville, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Redford, Southern Wayne County, Southfield, Wayne and Westland.

By Dan West

G AND D FINANCIAL SERVICES

Have You Filed for Bankruptcy?

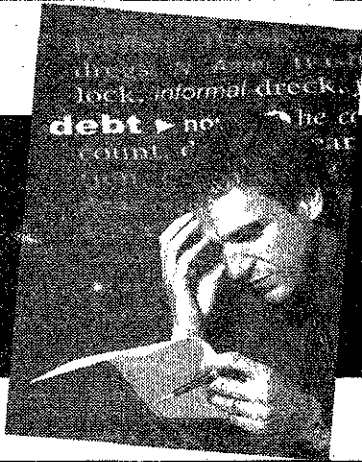
Banks Rejected Your Loan Requests?

Are You in Debt and Struggling to Pay Your Bills?

Do You Need Help Finding Financial Security?

Let Us Help You Be on Your Way to a Better Life!

1-866-775-6873

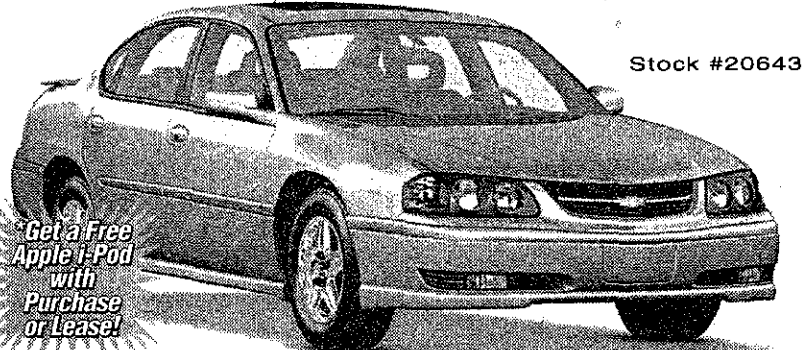


gordon

open saturday, march 26th 10:00-4:00!

You've Never Shopped A Dealership Like This Before!!

2005 IMPALA
V6, OnStar, power sunroof, XM radio and more!



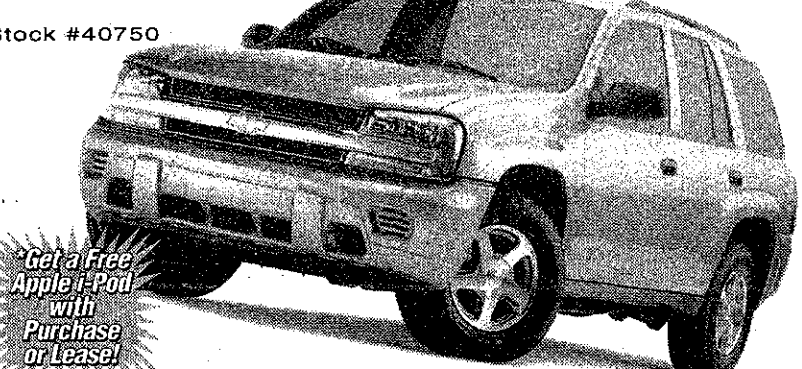
M.S.R.P. \$24,555
GMS \$17,343^{45*}

24 MONTH LEASE
GMS \$179^{00**}

gordon pull ahead

Now through March 31st Gordon Chevrolet will pay up to \$1000 of your remaining lease payments on any make, and model vehicle. Choose from a group of 175 new Chevrolets and we'll help you out of your current lease and into a new Gordon Chevrolet, Lease or Purchase.

2005 TRAILBLAZER
LS package, OnStar, power sunroof, XM radio, trailer package and more.



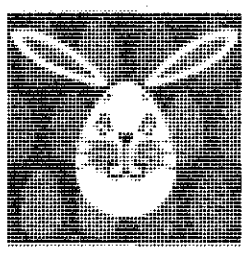
M.S.R.P. \$30,060
GMS \$22,829^{03*}

24 MONTH LEASE
GMS \$273^{00**}

- Fast!
- Simple!
- Friendly!
- Fair!

- The SAFEST place to PURCHASE A VEHICLE
- Payment/Appraisals in 15 minutes
- We'll show you (9) different Payments to Buy or Lease-you choose.

gordon 888-408-4444 31850 Ford Rd. Garden City www.gordonchevrolet.com



THE WESTIN SOUTHFIELD-DETROIT

Start a Tradition... Join us at for a bountiful Easter feast

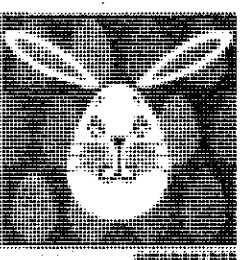
- An Omelet Station
- Prime Rib Carving Station
- A full array of Breakfast & Lunch entrees
- Seafood Raw Bar featuring Chilled Shrimp
- Dessert Station featuring assorted Cakes, Tortes, French Pastries

The Easter Bunny and Alice in Wonderland will be walking around passing out Easter Eggs and if your child receives the lucky Golden Egg your family will receive Easter Brunch Free*.

\$32.95 for Adults | \$18.95 for Kids - 6 to 12 years old | Kids 5 & under are free

Seating begins at 11:00am and we will be seating every half hour until 3:00pm. We have seating available from 2 to 50 people.

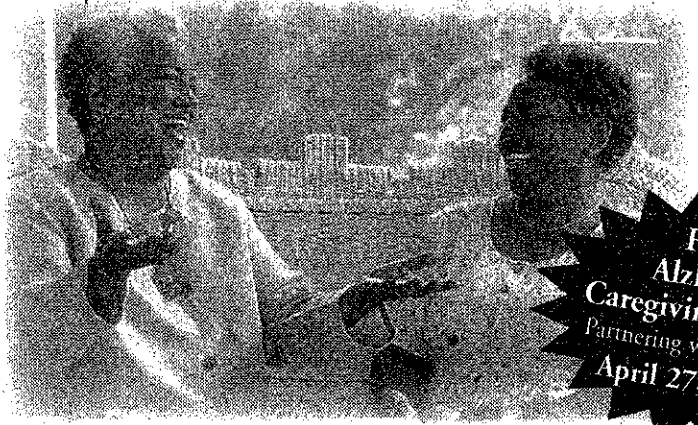
(248) 827-4000 for more information and reservations.



*UP TO SIX PEOPLE

Now Open in Canton! Brand New Luxury Assisted Living

Licensed Assisted Living ♦ Memory Care Living ♦ Respite Care



FREE Alzheimer Caregiving Seminar
Partnering with Your MD
April 27, 7-9 PM

Choosing the right care for your loved one can be difficult... Look to Waltonwood for comfort, care and peace of mind.

Please call (734) 981-5070 or tour our new community today!

WALTONWOOD

42500 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187
(Located on the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Hilley Roads.)
email: waltonwoodcherryhill@singhmail.com

AT CHERRY HILL
Independent, Licensed Assisted Living and Memory Care Community

www.waltonwood.com NO ENTRANCE FEES!



OUR VIEWS

ATHENA winner deserves honor

Sweet. That's the word that comes to mind in looking at the success of the recent Chocolate Fantasy Ball. It was a chocolate lover's dream come true, a sweet spot in what has been a dreary winter. But its greatest accomplishment was that all that elegance and sweet decadence was the perfect backdrop for presenting the 2005 ATHENA Award.

The past few years, the award has been presented at the Westland Chamber of Commerce's spring awards dinner, but after a one-year lapse, it returned as part of the formal ball, sponsored by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, the Westland Community Foundation and the Women of Westland.

The award, which recognizes a man or woman for excellence in business or a profession, service to the community and assisting women in reaching their full potential, went to Charlotte Sherman, deputy superintendent for instruction in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Sherman said she is humbled by her selection and that it "signifies that education is an honorable profession." But it is we who are humbled by all she has done for this community and its children.

She is, as Superintendent Greg Baracy described her, "an unsung hero." In her quiet way, she has forged a path for women to advance in education. When she moved into administration, there were few women in those positions, now a majority of school principals are women.

She worked tirelessly on the 1998 bond issue and saw the work that has transformed the district's schools into buildings of the 21st century through to its completion.

In nominating Sherman for the award, Baracy described Sherman as a "strong leader who works tirelessly to enhance educational opportunities for children and is committed to giving back to the community," and we must agree.

Charlotte Sherman is an excellent choice for the ATHENA Award. We congratulate her for her success and thank her for all she has done for our children and their education. Our school district continues to excel because of the commitment of educators like her.

Easter celebration matches message

Compared to Christmas, Easter gets the short shrift. There are fewer decorations in homes and malls, no gift exchanges and no office parties.

But Easter is the most holy of Christian holidays, commemorating Jesus' resurrection from the dead more than 2,000 years ago.

It sets Christianity apart from other world religions. Other faiths teach that people have to earn their way to heaven. Christians believe Jesus paid the price for them.

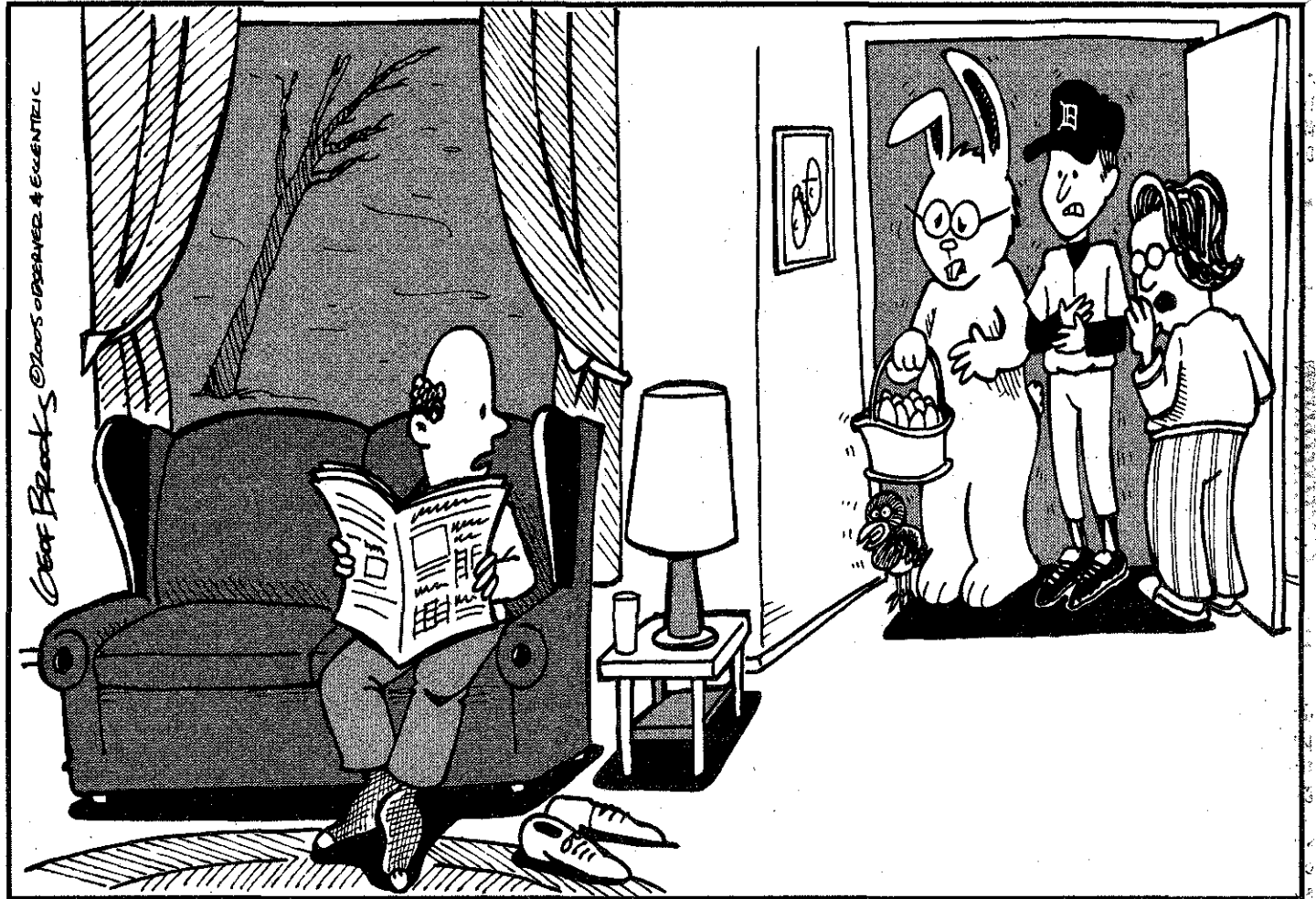
The Bible says Jesus was God's son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, who lived the only perfect life and took the punishment for everyone else's sins by dying on the cross. If we believe in him, the scriptures say, we too will live forever in heaven.

Christmas has little significance without Easter. If Jesus hadn't risen from the grave, as the Bible says, he would have been just another prophet or philosopher and his birth likely would not continue to be celebrated today.

Though it doesn't get the same attention Christmas does in secular society, Easter is many Christians' favorite holiday. Perhaps it's how simply the holiday is celebrated — there's no frenzied decorating, baking, wrapping and hurrying from one party to the next.

The uncomplicated observance is in keeping with the Christian faith's simple message: believe and be saved. The work has all been done.

The past few years, the award has been presented at the Westland Chamber of Commerce's spring awards dinner, but after a one-year lapse, it returned as part of the formal ball, sponsored by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, the Westland Community Foundation and the Women of Westland.



"Honey, it's the first robin of Spring, the Easter Bunny and Alan Trammell begging to come inside and get warm."

The wrong time

I've been concerned that a group of folks in our city would like us to increase our taxes to pay, or partially pay, for a new athletic complex. From my reading of the paper, I felt that our city was just hanging on financially, and I've been waiting for them to ask me for more money to support what I consider essential services.

And, lo and behold, many of my concerns are outlined on the front page of Sunday's paper.

The lead story tells us the city could lose money for "senior citizen services, a youth-help program, low-income housing repairs and firefighter equipment," and the next story tells us that we may be asked to raise our property tax to pay for an athletic facility.

Seems to me the "Frontier Park" idea is a little ahead of itself. Some governmental services are "essential" and some, no matter how badly we might want them, just don't fit that category.

In times of prosperity, yeah, but when the federal government is contemplating cutting back on support to its cities and citizens, one probably shouldn't try to raise taxes for an athletic facility.

Jim Cook
Westland

Our unsung hero

Our VFW Ladies Auxiliary has had many volunteers who have made a difference in lives of many. One of the members, Marian Langley, from Westland is one who should be honored for her "behind the scenes" contributions to our community.

Marian has befriended our new members and guided them in the purpose and causes of our Auxiliary. She has been a willing volunteer since joining our organization 45 years ago.

Marian has concentrated her efforts on visiting our homebound/ill auxiliary members and veterans weekly. She prepares a small surprise package for them or calls the person just in case they need something. This is a voluntary contribution at Marian's expense.

Marian has coordinated and called for donations of dishes to pass for every funeral luncheon held for our members plus coordinated the ritual services at the funeral homes.

Marian Langley has held several offices and chairmanships within our organization. Most notably was two years ago, at age 85, when Marian marched two miles in our Memorial Day Parade with her daughter, who also is a member.

Her other activities have been Memorial services at the cemeteries, POW/MIA tributes, flea market fundraisers, cancer aid and research bazaars, walk for the veterans, Ann Arbor VA Hospital bingos, soliciting gift certificates from area businesses and VFW National Home for Children events.

Marian's reason for all her volunteer activities is to make a difference in a person's life. All of these activities have been challenging and rewarding to Marian Langley. Her efforts have been tireless

LETTERS

and she is ready at a moment's notice to help.

For these reasons, Marian Langley deserves the recognition as the "Unsung Heroine" of our VFW Ladies Auxiliary to Post 3323, Westland. We commend Marian for her dedication to our community and honor her for efforts in making Westland a great place to live.

Sandra Borleo
publicity chairman

Just more propaganda

The latest revelation of Jeffrey Gannon, a.k.a. James Guckert, posing as a journalist attaining White House press pass, even with fictitious name and background, and then asking partisan questions in front of numerous credible and recognizable journalists, is another example of the continuing propaganda by this administration.

Given his background and the extremely tight security within the White House, Mr. Gannon's access had to come from within the inner circle of the White House. Mr. Bush selecting Mr. Gannon for questions while posing as a journalist also indicates Mr. Bush's familiarity with Mr. Gannon.

This follows several other examples of unscrupulous, unethical and sometime criminal actions of the right's editorialists and their behavior. Bill Reilly's obscene harassment of a co-worker, Armstrong Williams's illegal payment to propagate the administration's education policy, Maggie Gallagher and Mike McManus payment to support marriage initiative and other troubling incidents of how the administration is trying to shape public policy with propaganda.

In a democracy, the media is to inform citizens of facts and of the world around them, not inform with opinion. It should inform citizens of the world around them. The news should inform its citizens so they can form an opinion. Many right outlets are merely editorial forums posing as news. News is callous and usually sensational, sometimes boring, but not insulting, not sanitized or watered down or entertainment.

The firing of four staff workers after Dan Rathers' report on Mr. Bush's military record after non-partisan inquiry affirms the credibility of the media. When the actions of the media, frequently criticized by the right wing as being liberal media are in question, a thorough investigation determines the credibility of the persons involved and actions are taken to correct a situation. These are tenets of the media operates. The rights' opinions makers do not have tenets to give them credibility or a shred of integrity as those above has demonstrated.

There has been a great deal of criticism toward Dan Rather of his news story. The right-wing editorialists wailed about his sources for the story, but they, as usual, had missed the point of the story. Let's hope the media can stay focused and bring the news to us, and not fall to the rights' infotainment and propaganda.

Allan Biber
Westland

Two sides to every story

I disagree with your "slant" on your explanation of what is fairness in journalism.

I can't think of any administration's "spin" mastery better than during the Clinton years. There are always two sides to every story. During the Democratic years of the White House, you — the liberal press — were in your glory. Now, you — the liberal press — don't like a lot of things that you hear because you don't agree.

What's the difference between "slanting news" favoring either the liberal or the conservative side? It's just as biased either way.

You talk of 19th century journalism being either wholeheartedly Democratic or Republican — what has changed? It hasn't!

My "spin" on this is that I feel the No. 1 factor in our society that is missing is integrity. Many people in our society today never feel shame for what they say or do that is untrue. People today justify and rationalize their actions, which is immoral. I feel the very moral fiber of our society is corroding.

I am deeply concerned because your newspaper will be turned over shortly (or maybe this has happened already) to the Gannett Co. The company that is responsible for the brain drain from the ranks of *The Detroit News* during the newspaper strike in the '90s. The company that tried intimidating people to break the strike and come and work for them. And you want me to think that the *Observer* (editorially) will be "fair and balanced?" I think not.

You have the power to write whatever you believe because of your position at the *Observer*. When I read your articles, I rarely agree with your "spin" on a story.

Sooooo, this is still what makes America great. Anyone, even you, has the freedom and the right to write or say whatever you want ... and we have the freedom to disagree.

Maureen Wilkie
Livonia

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.

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
smason@oe.homecomm.net

QUOTABLE

"My biggest concern is that I believe it won't generate enough revenue to cover the cost. Westland has been able to survive and continue operations and provide basic services. If other cities aren't able to support these kind of developments, how can Westland?"

— Council President Charles Pickering, about a \$35 million recreation complex proposed by the Friends of Frontier Park

WESTLAND Observer

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

Sue Mason Community Editor	Marty Carry Advertising Director
Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Peter Neill General Manager
Susan Rosiek Executive Editor	Dick Aginlah President
Jack Lessenberry V.P. Editorial	Phil Power Chairman of the Board

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

Spring in Michigan is season of discontent

April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.

T.S. Eliot (*The Waste Land*) had it wrong, at least for Michigan. April isn't the cruelest month. It's March, not really winter — but not yet spring.

Officially, spring this year started at the equinox (when light and dark in a 24-hour period are equal) last Sunday. But this so far is the fifth coldest March since the 1870s, according to the National Weather Service. And the winter which has just officially ended — but still seems too much with us — was among the snowiest on record, with an average of 84 inches in southeastern Michigan.

Yet since it's officially spring now, there are grounds for hope. At our house, the snow-drops just started blooming over the weekend, pale green and white, and if I look carefully I can see the crocuses just beginning to stick their green tops above the winter-yellowish grass.

But it's still a cruel time for Michigan. The story that General Motors is going to lose money on automobile operations this year came as a big shock to most people. The folks I talk with at GM are saying that the best outcome they can see is to soldier on for another five years or so, when the "legacy costs" of hundreds of retirees begin to come down and, maybe, somebody will do something about the rising costs of health care.

Any chance for a radical restructuring of the company, along the lines of smaller but better? Negative, say my GM sources. It's too big, too complicated, and the iron grip of the United Auto Workers union on costs — labor contracts with the auto industry make labor, in effect, into a fixed cost — is as firm as ever.

Of course, now that Chrysler's long-forgotten side deal with the UAW has surfaced, which allows the company to do something about health care costs, you may be sure that the phone will be ringing off the hook in the office of Ron Gettelfinger, the UAW's president.

Until he answers it, you may be sure that the market share of our two remaining domestic manufacturers will keep going down. Michigan's unemployment, now tied with Mississippi for second highest in the nation, is hostage to the automobile industry, both manufacturers and the supply chain. To her credit, Gov. Jennifer

Granholtz is making a pitch to Toyota to put a new manufacturing plant in Michigan. But its nearness to Solidarity House seems more than likely to spook the Japanese.

Granholtz is also proposing some changes in the Single Business Tax designed to help out the manufacturing sector. But the insurance industry is howling. The state Chamber of Commerce, resolute in its opposition to any taxes at all, is grumpy. And the Republicans who run the Legislature are happy to let the governor twist slowly in the wind.

Just a quick glance at the situation in Lansing is enough to suggest despair. There are now so many constituencies at the table that any serious effort to change the fundamental rules of the game here in Michigan seems almost certain to get bogged down.

My old friend, Craig Ruff, advises me it was not always thus. He recounts the days in the 1960s, when George Romney was governor and the idea of creating a Single Business Tax was fresh on everybody's mind. When it finally came down to crunch time, according to Ruff, the only people gathered around the table in the governor's conference room were from General Motors, Ford and the UAW. Michigan's economics and politics were concentrated in those days in a way difficult to imagine today.

Which is why I'm beginning to lose hope that any public policy fixes might be a success. The climate is too partisan. There are too many contending constituencies. Term-limited legislators have been there too short a time and by and large know far too little about what they're doing.

But there is hope in the news from Oakland County, where County Executive L. Brooks Patterson wants to blanket the entire county with wireless Internet by 2006. Yes, all 910 square miles and 61 cities, villages and townships! The technology would let anybody with a PC, laptop or other Internet-compatible device have full access to the Internet without any direct wire connection.

He sees that widespread Internet access is a basic tool to connect people and companies with the essential technology of our age.

County-wide wireless access would help Oakland attract and retain "brain-based" businesses that are much more the future than old-fashioned "brawn-based" manufacturing that relies more on bending metal than bending neurons.

That — coupled with the certainty that spring will really come, some day — makes me feel just a little better.

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



Phil Power

'The Gates' should open eyes to value of public art

I flew into New York for the day to see "The Gates," Christo and Jeanne-Claude's vast public art installation in Central Park that was 30 years in the making.

I wasn't the only one. Amidst the businessmen and women on my week-day flight were two women who were doing just what I was doing. I know because I asked when I saw them on the return flight.

The *New York Times* reports that the project brought "thousands of foreign tourists" and pumped "an estimated \$254 million into New York's economy." In addition, the artists paid for the installation themselves and allowed the New York parks system to reap the sales of paraphernalia surrounding it.

Public art is often what sets cities apart. New York, of course, is a draw for many reasons. But it's hard to think of any reason to visit, say, Grand Rapids that doesn't begin with its renowned sculpture.

"La Grande Vitesse" (The Grand Rapids) by Alexander Calder was erected in 1969. And that begat the nearby Frederick Meijer Sculpture Garden as well as the ongoing downtown improvements that include 27 individual outdoor sculptures.

All our local downtown communities — Birmingham, Rochester, Farmington, Plymouth — are more dynamic because of public art already in place.

But at this moment, Birmingham, which many residents of the Bloomfields, Franklin, Beverly Hills and Bingham also consider their "downtown," actually has less public art than it once had.

The CityScapes project from the '90s was designed to rotate contemporary, Michigan-based public art bi-annually on four city-owned sites. It was inaugurated with an "Art Walk" that drew an excited response. And school children were offered tours, accompanied by art talks about each sculpture.

Sponsored by the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield, the project more or less fell by the wayside when its chief advocate, Corinne Abatt, turned it over to others.

It was in the process of being reinstated when the Public Arts Board (PAB) was created in 2001 and given the responsibility for Birmingham's future public art.

Four years later, that board has decided that the CityScapes project is worth reviving and has asked the Cultural Council to work with it.

Birmingham City Manager Tom Markus is excited about recreating the changing exhibi-

tion of public art he helped get off the ground early in his administration.

"I think public art is essential to the fabric of a community," he said. "A revolving display of new sculpture keeps it from becoming part of the landscape that sometimes goes unnoticed."

When I asked whether the buzz created by "The Gates" would resound and create an added impetus to get CityScapes in gear, he was candid.

"The resonance I hear is the death knell coming out of Lansing," he said, referring to the state's financial woes. "I would like to see something happen," he added, but "it (CityScapes) might be crawling rather than running at the beginning."

A recent article that ran in another newspaper got ahead of itself. "We have no timeline right now," says management specialist Joe Valentine, who is the city administrator working with both organizations. "It's a work in progress."

Abatt supports the return of CityScapes: "I'm so pleased about it. We got so much good feedback. The city won awards. It's very good timing. 'The Gates' created so much excitement."

One idea the Public Arts Board is mulling is leaving the final selection of the four works to the public.

Abatt isn't sure whether a public jury is the way to go. She recalls the gist of her initial presentation to the Birmingham City Commission: "We're going to put up some things you may hate. But you'll visit them and see more in them over time."

I, too, see that as a delicate issue. On the upside, it would give the community "ownership." On the downside, artistic decisions don't ordinarily lend themselves to the democratic process. The public's feedback on what would best replace the Twin Towers was an important exception.

Mainly, it's crucial to move ahead. Perhaps another way to give the public "ownership" is to have them contribute either funds or themselves to such a project. Estimates are that it would cost around \$25,000 to put the first round of sculptures in place. Anyone interested should contact Valentine at (248) 644-1800, Ext. 221.

It would be a shame if either red tape or lack of funds kept CityScapes off.

Birmingham's landscape for too much longer. It also has the potential to serve as a template for our other mainstreet communities.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomfield resident, is a former managing editor of the *Eccentric Newspapers* and a founding board member of the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield. You are welcome to comment by e-mail to jberne@att.net or to contact the editor of this newspaper.



Judy Berne

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

BOWEL BYPASS SURGERY

Bariatric surgery has become an increasingly popular way to treat obesity. In this operation, the surgeon connects a portion of the stomach to the small intestine. The result is a much smaller stomach, but the procedure also leaves a segment of the bowel that is essentially at rest. Being at rest means the bowel does not undergo the usual rhythmic movements (peristalsis) of intestinal tissue. Nor does the resting bowel experience the rush of fluid and food particles that usually traverse past the bowel wall.

The effect is that the flora of that segment of resting bowel changes. All of us have bacteria in our small and large intestine. The effect of motion and food through the bowel determines the type of bacteria that will reside in the intestine. Change the conditions of a segment of bowel and the bacteria residing in the segment will change.

In most cases, the body has no trouble accommodating to this change. However, at times, the new bacteria flora sets up an immune reaction in the body. The result is arthritis, called the arthritis of bowel bypass surgery.

This arthritis can come on at any time from 2 months to 2 years after bariatric surgery. The arthritis occurs in the hips, knee or ankles, involving one joint or several. The pain can be intense and incapacitating, attacks usually last for several days to a week. Joint injection, a short course of oral steroids, or non steroidal drugs resolve the episode. The arthritis may return in a month or year or later, and will resolve again with retreatment.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

EASTER PLANTS

We have potted Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils and other spring flowers to brighten up your house or your loved one's.

Closed Easter Sunday

SUMMER BLOOMING BULBS

Double Star Tulip
Tulip
Candy Crush
Candy Crush
Candy Crush
Candy Crush

PLYMOUTH NURSERY
and GARDEN CENTER

734-453-5500

www.plymouthnursery.com

Early Spring Hours
Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-4
Sunny Spring 9-5:30

3000 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI
7 Miles West of I-75
1-77 Miles South of I-94
Corner of I-75 and I-94



Using your home to get money is easy.

4.75% APR* \$250,000 or more Credit Line	5.00% APR* \$125,000-\$249,999 Credit Line
5.25% APR* \$75,000-\$124,999 Credit Line	5.50% APR* \$25,000-\$74,999 Credit Line

The **Standard Federal Bank Home Equity Line of Credit** is a smart, convenient way to get the money you need, when you need it. You can use the equity in your home for just about anything, from home improvements and debt consolidation to college tuition. Even emergency expenses. Access your money anytime with convenient checks or with Standard Federal Online. There are no closing costs and the interest may be tax deductible.* Applying is quick and easy. Simply call (877) 732-8240, stop by any Standard Federal Bank branch or visit standardfederalbank.com.

Standard Federal Bank
ABN AMRO

*The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on Standard Federal Bank's Home Equity Lines of Credit are tied to Prime. Prime is the highest Prime Rate as published in the "Money Rates" section of *The Wall Street Journal* on the last publishing day of the calendar month immediately preceding the billing cycle. The margin tied to Prime varies and depends on the approved credit line amount and combined loan-to-value. APRs disclosed above assume a combined loan-to-value of 80% or less. On February 28, 2005, Prime was 5.50% and the APR on Standard Federal Bank's Home Equity Line of Credit products varied between 4.75% and 5.50%. Prime is a variable rate, as it changes, the APR on your account will change. The maximum APR is 21%. A balloon payment will result at the end of the ten-year draw period. The Home Equity Lines are limited to owner-occupied, 1-4 family principal residences and are subject to no less than a second lien position on your property. You must carry insurance on the property that secures this loan. Flood insurance required if necessary. There is a \$50 annual fee after the first year unless you are a member of Credit Exclusives. Consult your tax advisor concerning the deductibility of interest. Closing costs paid by Standard Federal Bank are limited to appraisal, title insurance, flood certification and recording fees. Any additional fees or conditions imposed by the city, state or county that the subject property is located in will be the borrower's responsibility. The APRs are subject to change without notice. Member FDIC. ©2005 Standard Federal Bank NA

Follow your favorite high school sports team each week in the Observer



All of Us At Joe's Wish You a Joyous Easter!

Premium Ripe & Sweet

Driscoll's California Strawberries
\$1.99 lb.

California Navel Oranges
\$3.99 8 lb. bag

Jumbo Delmonte Cantalope
2/\$4.00

Sweet & Ripe

Best for Baking

Idaho Potatoes
\$1.99 10 lb. bag

Grade A Extra Large Eggs
79¢ Dozen

Louisiana Yams
59¢ lb.

Rich in Beta Carotene & Low in Calories

Great With Lamb

California Parker Station **2002 Syrah**
\$12.99 750 ml
Dark, Rich & Full Bodied with Lush Black Cherry Fruit

Joe's Pickles \$2.99 each
Dill, Baby Dill, Dill Spears, Bread & Butter & Hot Mix

Yelcho **Reserve Varietals**
\$9.99 750 ml
Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Carmenere

Full Flavored Delicious Wine

Nice Bouquet of Apple

Columbia Crest Grand Estates **Chardonnay**
\$10.99 750 ml
Melon with a hint of Oak, Great Finish

Come In & See Our Great Selection of Gewurztraminer & Riesling Wines Great with Easter Ham

Blind River **2002 Sauvignon Blanc**
\$10.99 750 ml
Vibrant Citrus Fruit with a Crisp Finish

Delicious

In a Variety of Delicious Flavors

Edy's All Natural Flavors **Ice Cream**
2/\$6.00 56 oz.

Joe's Tomatoes 2/\$3.00
Diced, Crushed & Whole

Edy's **Fruit Bars**
2/\$5.00

Naturally Fat Free

BYRD'S CHOICE MEATS • Closed Easter Sunday

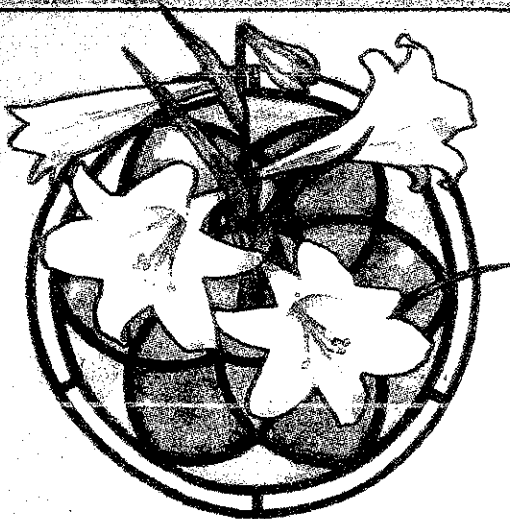
Honeysuckle Turkeys Frozen..... **\$1.19** lb.

American Spring Leg of Lamb
Fresh or Smoked Homemade Kielbasa
Dearborn 1/2 or Whole Spiral Glazed Hams

Atlantic Salmon Filet..... **\$3.89** lb.



SAVE DOUGH!
BUY ONE LOAF, GET A SECOND OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FOR \$1.00
33048 W. SEVEN MILE ROAD • (248) 442-1100 • Open Monday-Friday 8-7 • Saturday - Sunday 8-5
Expires 4-7-05 • Valid only at Breadsmith of Livonia. Not valid with any other coupon.



Come Into Joe's...
For a beautiful, colorful selection of
Spring & Easter Plants

- Calla Lilies
- Easter Lilies
- Mums
- Hyacinths
- Hydrangeas
- Tulips

Joe's Produce - Where Quality & Customer Service is #1!

Joe's Produce 33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia
www.joesproduce.com 248.477.4333

HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm Closed Easter Sunday Sale Good Through March 26