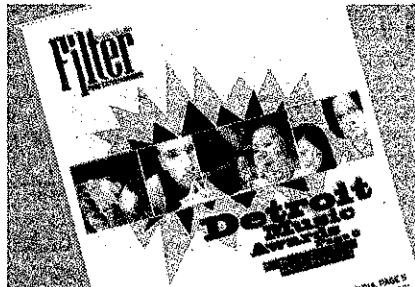


Magical carpet designs

AT HOME, SECTION B



Who will show up for this year's Detroit Music Awards?

FILTER-INSERTED SECTION



Chef adds little heat, lots of heart, to spices

TASTE, PAGE B5

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Police seek owners of recovered stolen items

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of stolen items - jewelry, foreign currency, cameras, watches, collector knives, rare coins - have been recovered from a series of residential break-ins in Westland, Garden City, Livonia and possibly other cities.

Now, authorities are trying to round up victims who can claim what was stolen from them.

Authorities said they found the stolen goods March 29 while searching a Westland man's residence at Wildness Park Apartments, on Warren between Newburgh and Central City Parkway.

The apartment search came after Livonia police made a traffic stop and found what they identified as stolen items in the Westland suspect's car.

The items will be on public display 1-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the Livonia police station on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile, said Westland police Lt. James Ridener.

"It's not going to be like a public shopping spree," he said.

Rather, he said theft victims who have filed police reports should contact their local police department to let authorities know that they plan to show up for the public display in hopes of finding their belongings.

"We will require that they have a case number, and hopefully they'll make contact with their local police department before they go there," Ridener said. "They'll be able to look at the merchandise. If they find items that are theirs (and can prove it), they can leave with it."

He urged theft victims, before going to the Livonia station, to try to contact any specific detective who is investigating their claim.

"If they've made a report with whichever police agency, they need to speak to that detective that was assigned to the case and make arrangements to show up at the Livonia police station," Ridener said.

As Westland police receive calls from potential victims, they are routinely printing out copies of police reports that they will be taking with them for Tuesday's public display.

Victims trying to claim property will be taken to a basement area where the thousands of stolen items have been laid out, Ridener said. They will have to show identification to obtain their property.

In Westland, theft victims who want to view the stolen items should contact the police department's detective bureau 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays by calling (734) 721-6311.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the items recovered is a John Wayne collectible pocket knife.

Program gives students real world work skills



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kimara Ramirez (left) of Redford Thurston High School and Nicholas Spence of Wayne Memorial High School set up an experiment on measuring heat flow in the TEAM program physics class.

The TEAM approach

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Like most high school juniors, Bri-Ane Edwards has begun thinking about life after graduation.

For the Thurston High School student, life after 12th grade will definitely include college. She is looking into studying engineering and has already checked out Michigan State

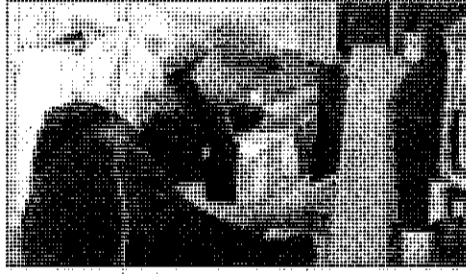
University and Kettering University.

What she saw surprised her.

"What they showed me, I'm already doing now," she said.

Edwards is enrolled in the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's TEAM - Technical Education/Academic

PLEASE SEE TEAM, A4



Tina Holly translated her experience with the TEAM program into a job as a quality technician at Spring Engineering and Manufacturing. Here she works with fellow quality technician Dan Carter.

Pope John Paul II: '... He was cool'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Cool isn't a word normally associated with a spiritual leader, but it's the word James Szymanski chose to describe Pope John Paul II.

His reason for the excellent rating is a big part of the legacy of the late pontiff - his ability to reach out to young people.

"He was a man of the people," said Szymanski, an eighth-grader at St. Damian School. "To teenagers and people our age, he was cool. He could relate to us and talk to the future of the church. Every time you saw him preach, he'd spread good news to teens."

"He taught this generation

to evangelize," added Kimberly Bruba of Canton, an eighth-grader at St. Raphael School in Garden City. "We've never had a pope who reached out to kids and helped them go out into the world and evangelize."

They were statements repeated many times by eighth-grade students at the two schools this week as they watched and listened to the events in Vatican City unfold in newspapers and on television.

"It's amazing how he affected youth and their commitment, how he touched them," said Karen Eldrid, the eighth-grade teacher at St. Damian. "To have touched so many ... he certainly was a people's priest."

For St. Raphael student Courtney Pellar of Garden City, the pope served as a role model in his faith because of his good deeds and because "he was a common man."

"I think he brought faiths together more than any other pope," she said.

"We should get a new pope who does some of the same things," added classmate Diana Chokr of Westland. "He went out to everyone instead of just adults. He went to the young people. It's important to connect with the people."



Pope John Paul II (1920-2005)

PLEASE SEE POPE, A6

Lack of support forces James to drop out of mayor's race

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Consumers Energy retiree Jay R. James has withdrawn from this year's Westland mayoral race, saying he couldn't mount an effective campaign against incumbent Sandra Cicirelli.

"I think whoever runs against her is going to have a hard time," he said Tuesday.

James, 61, had publicly announced his candidacy in February during a

Westland City Council meeting, calling for a change of leadership.

James had vowed to trim the mayor's salary from \$93,178 to \$84,035 - the amount paid to the city clerk and the police and fire chiefs - if elected.

He also campaigned on a platform of replacing some department heads, reducing the number of city vehicles provided to employees, guarding against any tax increases and slashing spending.

James established a campaign Web site and also mailed letters to residents who, he had hoped, would support his candidacy.

"I just couldn't get enough financial support and help," he said. "I can't swing it all by myself. I really tried hard and talked to people, but I just don't have the pull."

James didn't rule out resuming his candidacy - if he suddenly receives an outpouring of support. He conceded, however, that he isn't expecting it.

Moreover, he said he'd have to consult with his wife of 41 years, Jerilynn, before he would make such a move.

"Right now," James said, "I'm just kind of disappointed."

James lost a write-in campaign to become mayor four years ago when Cicirelli defeated him and Councilman Richard LeBlanc.

On Tuesday, City Clerk Eileen DeHart confirmed that no candidates had officially filed to enter

the mayoral race.

Several potential candidates have picked up the paper work they need to seek nominating petitions from voters, but no one has officially entered the race.

Cicirelli, in the final year of her first four-year term, has confirmed that she will seek re-election. She hasn't said when she will make her formal announcement.

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Coming Sunday on the PINK Page



Be hip and comfy in yoga class

Westland man nabbed in Internet sex case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who teaches in Linden Community Schools has become one of the latest suspects arrested by state investigators for using the Internet to try to meet minors for sex.

Michael Lee Phillips, 28, has been charged with one count of child sexually abusive activity and one count of using a computer to commit a crime. If convicted, he could face 20 years in prison.

Attorney General investigators arrested Phillips on March 31 in Southfield, and he was arraigned one day later in 46th District Court. He was jailed on a \$25,000 cash bond as he awaits a preliminary hearing.

Authorities arrested Phillips on the same day they arrested a 53-year-old Midland man in Lyon Township on similar charges.

The men were arrested by investigators from Michigan Attorney General Michael Cox's Child & Public Protection Unit.

"It is imperative that we

stop sexual predators before they harm a child," Cox said in a statement he issued. "By turning the secrecy of the Internet against these dangerous criminals, my undercover investigators are making Michigan safer for our children."

The child protection unit has made 29 arrests since it was recently restructured.

"The Attorney General investigators are approached online by Internet sexual predators who believe they are talking with minors who are 13, 14, and they ask those minors to meet for sex," said Allison Pierce, Cox's spokeswoman. "When they (the suspects) arrive, they are arrested by the Attorney General investigators."

Cox encouraged parents to visit www.michigan.gov/ag for tips on safe Internet usage for children. Citizens can report suspected Internet child predators through a link, Report Internet Abuses Against Children, or by calling the Child & Public Protection Unit at (734) 525-4151. dclem@oe.hometownlife.com (734) 953-2110

King: 'Wake up' board, look at outsourcing

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOL
STAFF WRITER

Steve King considers this a "pivotal year" to become a school board trustee.

A Livonia resident since 1956, King has four children - with two still attending Livonia Public Schools. The 54-year-old teacher and coach works in Berkley part time, and is employed at the Livonia YMCA. He is a band leader and namesake of Steve King and the Dittilies, which performs regularly.

Still, King maintains he has time and wants to share his time as a board member in the district.

"Someone's got to get in there and wake them up," he said.

King said he'd like to share new ideas and new ways of tackling issues in the school system. He said more cuts can and should be made to the administration.

"The first priority is the teacher and the classroom," he said. "Everything else goes down the list. You have

to at least look at outsourcing non-teaching things."

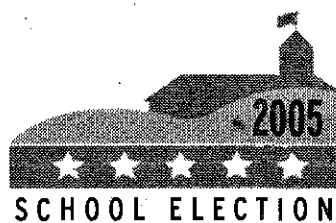
He suggested outsourcing food, and possibly custodial duties. In addition, he would encourage parents to take on roles such as lunch duty and score-keeping at games, which cost the district more for teachers and employees to do.

On a statewide level, King suggests a push toward "weighted funding" so that students with special needs are taken into consideration financially, because educating those students is more costly. He would like to see that reflected in school districts' foundation allowances.

King disagreed with the board's decision to hold a special millage election in February, rather than add it to the May 3 election date. "That millage election cost



King



2005 SCHOOL ELECTION

\$40,000 to run," he said. He also advocated moving to a biennial trustee election to save more than \$80,000 a year.

"It would get more people to the polls," he said. "Everyone has a vested interest in their school, or at least they should."

When it comes to state and federal requirements on standardized test performance, King said "testing is driving education. I'm totally against that."

He'd prefer if bureaucrats stayed out of the classroom, he said.

King also shared sentiments on class size, which he said is most important in lower elementary grades.

"After third grade and up, it's not an indication of outcomes," he said. As a teacher himself, he said the

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of candidate profiles for Livonia Public Schools Board of Education candidates. District voters will elect two people to four-year terms in the Tuesday, May 3, election.

makeup of the class, more than the size, determines the quality of teaching and learning. "You can't just put it into a number," he said. "It's not that simple."

King strongly supports the physical education program, and would like to see those teachers who lost positions hired back so the program could expand.

"We're in the middle of an obesity epidemic," he noted.

Overall, King said he would be a good listener as a board member, and he is passionate about his beliefs. "I can get along with anybody," he said. He sees a need for a new voice on the school board, and for change.

FOR THE RECORD

DEATHS

B

Sandra Marie Barr, 65, died April 3.

Marjorie Blake, 85, of Farmington Hills, died April 1.

Dorothea L. Brong, 90, of Troy, died March 29.

E

Ersine Wilkins Evans, 87, formerly of Birmingham, died March 31.

H

Robert A. Harris, 66, formerly of Farmington, died April 1.

Betty J. Henderson, 80, of Clarkston, died March 24.

Louise I. Humer, 83, of Lake Orion, died March 29.

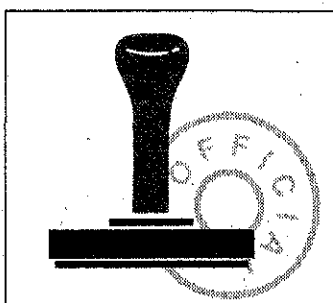
J

Alvina Conn Jahns, 76, of Rochester Hills, died March 28.

L

Robert John Laible, 66, of Plymouth, died April 2.

Jack Lawson, 78, of Westland, died March 31.



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 C9.

Bo Heung Lee, 73, of Clarkston, died March 25.
Vern Dale Lindstrom, 85, died March 31.

T
Norman E. Trudeau, 84, of Leonard, died March 30.

Livonia's PTSA Council and the local League of Women Voters are doing their part to make sure informed voters hit the polls on May 3, election day.

Both groups have coordinated public candidate forums, set for mid-April. This year five candidates are running to fill two seats on the Livonia Board of Education. Each seat represents a four-year term for those trustees who are elected.

The candidates include William C. Fried, Frank Kalinski, Steve King, Daniel Lessard and Cynthia

Markarian. Christopher C. Kaufman has announced he is dropping out of the race this time around.

The Livonia PTSA Council will host a Meet Your Candidate Forum, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the Livonia Board of Education office, 15125 Farmington Road, in Livonia.

The board candidates will answer audience questions about school-related issues.

On the following day, candidates will reconvene at Livonia's City Hall Auditorium, at Farmington and Five Mile roads.

"We do this every year,"

said Paula Bowman, president of the League of Women Voters - Northwest Wayne County. "Our roots are in Livonia. We do this one before we do any other (forums)."

The League of Women Voters - Northwest Wayne County will host a free, public forum from 7-8:15 p.m. Thursday, April 14. The event will be taped and aired on local cable stations prior to the election.

This forum follows a traditional format, said Bowman. Candidates will have the opportunity to make brief opening and

closing statements. In between, they will answer questions derived from the audience and posed by a moderator.

Bowman said questions are screened to ensure there are no personal attacks or duplicated questions during the forum. She expects all candidates will attend and participate.

Those who cannot attend but have questions for the candidates may contact a league member or send their questions through the Web site at www.wlvnw.org.

By Stephanie A. Casola

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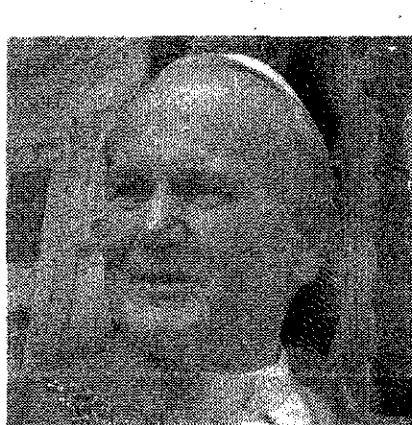
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Ex-teacher continues to influence new students 30 years later

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Tim Tindall wanted to be a teacher and pursued his dream, becoming a library specialist and English teacher at what was then Adams Junior High School in Westland. It came to an end when he was laid off.

But more than 30 years later, Tindall is still influencing students. He is using the business his father founded in 1952 to introduce high school students to manufacturing.

"Thirty years ago I was a teacher and I remember thinking that it was important to connect students with the community and for the community to connect with students," he said.

Tindall is making those connections through the TEAM - Technical Education/Academic Manufacturing - program offered at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland.

The TEAM program got its start in 1996 as a partnership with Detroit Diesel. The Career Technical Center had run a successful pre-hire program for the company for three years, when owner Roger Penske put up \$80,000 to develop a five-year high school level program that focused on such things as work ethics and skills to prepare students for entry into manufacturing jobs.

Four years into the program, Penske sold Detroit Diesel to DaimlerChrysler, and the funding for the program began to dry up. But when it looked like TEAM was at the end of the line, Tindall, by then the head of Spring Engineering and Manufacturing, stepped in.

Tindall wanted to make sure TEAM survived and lined up Bayloff Tool in Belleville and E & E Manufacturing in Livonia to become business partners and provide the resources for field trips, job shadowing and

mentoring.

"He always had an interest in young people and this is one vehicle that ties it together," said Kim Montgomery, Spring's human resource manager. "He's a huge supporter of the program and has ensured that that employees take time out of the day to show the students what they need to know.

"He has been able to give so much to the kids in the program."

At the time Tindall accepted his father's invitation to come and take over the business, Spring had two plants in Livonia. In 2000, he consolidated the manufacturing operations under one roof at a new plant in Canton.

Spring Engineering and Manufacturing of Canton has been a major contributor to the TEAM program. Its employees come into the classroom to teach the students the eight-step matrix for problem solving, then take them to the plant and give them a real problem to solve.

"The students interview the employees, get all the information, run through the process and tell them (Spring employees) how to solve it," said physics teacher Dave Christiansen. "Then Spring will tell them what they did because it was a problem they had."

As head of Spring, Tindall has served on the Workforce Development Board for Wayne County and has received the highest award given by the Scanlon Leadership Network, the Stewardship Award in 2005.

"The company is based on seven values and it's expected that all employees will adhere to those values," Montgomery said. Those values include integrity, identity, equity, respect and competency.

Tindall has retired and moved to North Carolina, but remains connected to the business and to the TEAM program.

'He always had an interest in young people and this is one vehicle that ties it together.'

He's a huge supporter of the program and has ensured that that employees take time out of the day to show the students what they need to know'

Kim Montgomery
Springs Engineering and Manufacturing

And it is now Steve Kay, vice-president and general manager and one of the owners, who goes into the classroom with the kids.

"He gives his time to train them so these kids get their training from industry leaders," said Montgomery. "They train in school and they train here."

According to center Principal Ginny Kowalski, TEAM has provided the "leadership, encouragement and financial support for 100 Wayne-Westland and South Redford students."

"It's opened many doors for them in the post academic arena," she said. "Many students have entered the program without an idea of what they wanted to do and found they have the aptitude for manufacturing."

Six students who when they started with TEAM had no interest in going to college have gone on to study engineering at Lawrence Technological University.

"I try to construct a connection with what they learn in school," Tindall said. "It's a wonderful program, and our folks get just as much out of it as the kids. They enjoy the mentoring."

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TEAM

FRONT PAGE A1

Manufacturing - program, which combines academics with manufacturing principles to produce students prepared to work in industry or to go on to study in an industry-related field in college.

Edwards and classmate Nicolas Spence of Wayne Memorial High School spend the first three hours of the school day at John Glenn High School in Westland, where they study three subjects - mathematics and technology, physics and technology and communications and technology.

"It's a challenge, but I've learned a lot," said Spence, who plans on becoming a tool and die maker. "Basically, it's what I thought it would be."

While other students change classrooms at the sound of the bell TEAM members stay in one room at Glenn and change teachers. When third hour is done, the return to their individual high schools - Wayne Memorial, Glenn or Thurston - to complete the school day.

"That makes it unique is the integration of academics with manufacturing," said Rick Hanrick, an assistant principal at tie Career Technical Center. "There's nothing abstract about the academics. We know it serves a very valuable purpose and that some real rich opportunities come out of it."

"The value of the academics is that it gives them the skills to make them successful."

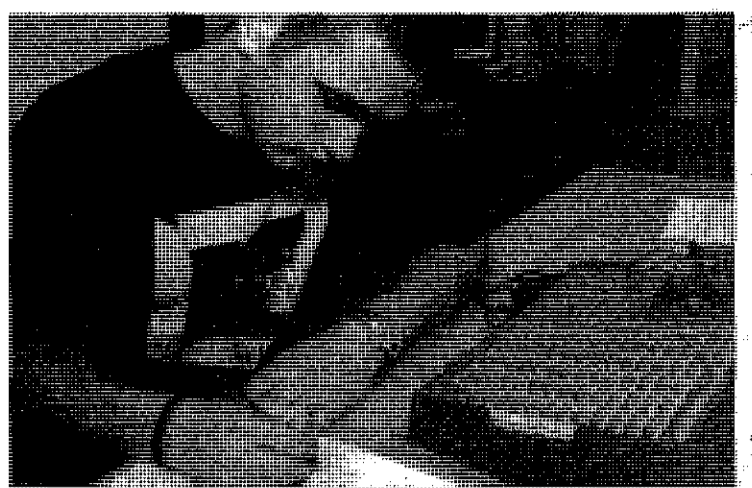
REAL WORLD ACADEMICS

According to Hanrick, what's done in the classroom has a relationship to the work world. Even the books they read deal with the workplace, books like *Everything I Learned About Manufacturing I Learned At Joe's Garage*, *Leadership As An Art* and *The God*.

"That's dynamite reading," Hanrick said of the latter title. "It's like a romantic novel, but it's set in a manufacturing setting."

Jave Christiansen's physics class offers a unique curriculum. The students do 15 varied manufacturing lab experiments that are real type hands-on problem solving. They all contain classic physics principals, but in a manufacturing setting.

"Everything we do here has a use in real life," Christiansen said.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephen Frost, a senior at Wayne Memorial High School, works on a lab test on measuring heat flow during his TEAM program physics class.

"I don't teach Einstein physics; everything I teach is related to the real world."

Former TEAM members Tina Holly and Jeremy Adkins both landed jobs at Spring Engineering after graduating from school; Holly attended Glenn and Adkins was at Thurston. She works in quality, while he is a machine operator, grinding and making springs.

Holly interned in the quality field at Detroit Diesel in 2002. After graduating later that year, she was hired by Spring Engineering.

"It was a good opportunity for me," she said. "Most people who come in off the street start at the bottom and work their way up. I was hired as a quality technician. That was nice, a great opportunity."

Adkins has been there for two years. He started there full time after graduating from Thurston in 2004. He has since bumped down to part time so he can study to be a firefighter. He heard about the training, took a look and joined.

"The most important thing was that we worked as a team," Adkins said. "We didn't go off by ourselves."

Holly didn't have a set plan for what she wanted to do in life, other than she didn't want to go to college right out of high school. It was her counselor who introduced her to the TEAM program.

"The TEAM program was a great experience for me," Holly said. "It gave me the opportunity to see first-hand what the manufacturing business was all about. We did things such as job shadowing, problem solving and even a summer paid internship."

TEAM gave me the knowledge and skills I needed to get the job I have now."

It also got her leaning toward the engineering field, although she said she'd rather be hands-on in the plant than sitting at a computer all day.

"I plan on staying here," she said. "It's been a great job, good pay, holiday pay and the people her are nice. I just kept forging ahead, doing the work like I did in the physics lab."

'NICE ELEMENT'

According to human resources director Kim Montgomery, a "nice element" of hiring TEAM members is that they already have a relationship with the company.

"They already have experience with Spring and we know their educational background and know they can work as a team member," Montgomery said. "They've gone through the training and we can trust that they're capable of learning another job."

According to Montgomery, seven TEAM graduates work at the plant and there have been times when it's been as high as 11-12 former members. Some have gone on to school, other to jobs in the public sector.

"We have great success in hiring and in having students who meet our requirements," Montgomery said. "They're always a huge success because the employees know them because they knew them as students."

"And the same skills that make them successful here make them successful at other manufacturing facilities."

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Newspaper-In-Education Activity Column

April celebrates the diversity and the vibrancy of Asian cultures. This month honors their struggles, traditions and promotes awareness of Asian American contributions to history and society.

April Fools Day or All Fools Day, the first day of April, is a traditional day for playing pranks on unsuspecting people. At the end of the day ask your family how many times they were fooled and how. Write a paragraph stating whether you think they were funny pranks or mean pranks.

Daylight Savings Time starts April 3rd. It's always the first Sunday in April. DST was first suggested by Benjamin Franklin in 1784. At this time we set clocks ahead to have more daytime during the waking hours. As a class or individually, make a list of the Pros and Cons for DST. Write a paragraph as to why you like or dislike the idea of moving clocks forwards and backwards throughout the year.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is celebrated on Sunday, April 17, 2005. The Holocaust, WW2 began in 1939. The Holocaust Memorial Museum located in Washington, D.C. is devoted to remembering the Holocaust, the mass murder of Jews and other minorities by the Nazis from 1933 to 1945. It features films, photos, eyewitness accounts, and various objects from the time. Write a brief paragraph on what you personally have learned about the Holocaust and how you think those who are still alive today are affected by what happened to them during this time.

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THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

Police look for tips about robbery suspect

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A knife-wielding man whose description is similar to that of Santa Claus - without the red suit - robbed a Westland business Saturday morning.

The incident happened about 11:40 a.m. at Allied Cash Advance, on Merriman Road north of Palmer. No one was injured.

A 36-year-old female employee told police that she was talking on a telephone behind the front counter when the bandit walked inside, revealed what was described as a machete-type knife and demanded money.

The worker described the robber as a white man, 50-55 years old, 250 pounds, with gray/white hair and a full beard. He wore a plaid, red-and-blue, button-up jacket and light blue jeans.

The employee turned over \$303 and, when pressed for more cash, told the bandit that

there wasn't any, according to police reports.

After seizing the money, the robber fled on foot - first northbound and then eastbound by the building, the employee told police.

The worker called Westland police for help, and officers surrounded the area and brought in a police dog to help in their search for the culprit.

Police dog Taz led officers to a nearby residential street, Barrington, but then lost the scent of the bandit, according to police reports.

Police had no suspects early this week, but authorities held out hope that the thorough description of the robber could prompt someone to come forward with information about the incident.

Anyone who has information is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

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

Hearing scheduled in sexual abuse case

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

After overhearing a conversation between younger siblings about inappropriate touching by their father, a 25-year-old woman contacted police with her own allegations of sexual abuse.

"I think she (the 25-year-old) thought what had happened to her was an isolated incident and learned that it wasn't," said Garden City Detective Sgt. Ron Umbarger.

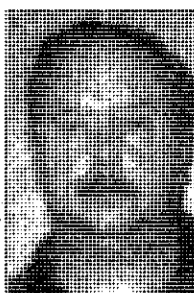
The police investigation led to Gary McCoy, 49, of Garden City being arrested on three charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct. After being arraigned Monday in 21st District Court, McCoy was ordered held in lieu of \$1 million bond.

Owner of a carpeting cleaning service, McCoy and his wife have served as foster parents to 43 children placed by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan over the last 17 years. The couple had adopted a number of children over

the years, including five of six children who had been living at their home on Bridge.

The charges brought against McCoy stem from allegations of sexual abuse made by his 14-year-old daughter, whose conversation was overheard by the 25-year-old. It was unclear at this point, Umbarger said, whether charges would be brought in the allegations made by the 25-year-old and another daughter, 27, due to the time that has elapsed.

"While we were taking information from the 25-year-old, the defendant called the Police Department and requested that we come to the house on an unrelated matter," said Umbarger. "One of our officers talked to the 14-year-old and were advised that she had been fondled." McCoy was arrested the



McCoy

evening of March 30, but his arraignment was delayed when he subsequently was hospitalized after complaining of chest pains. He was released from the hospital Monday and arraigned.

The six children living at the home were removed by police the same day.

"We brought the kids to the station while seeking placement," said Umbarger. Five of the children, all of whom have been adopted, are now staying with an adult sibling. One youngster, a foster child, was in the process of being adopted by another family and was placed with them, Umbarger said.

There had been no past allegations of sexual abuse against McCoy, Umbarger said, but he had been reported for physical abuse. That complaint was apparently not substantiated.

McCoy is scheduled for preliminary examination on Monday.

lrogers@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2103

Veterans invited to Job Fair

Veterans interested in getting a job are invited to a Southeast Michigan Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, at the Don S. Hubert VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft in Redford.

Visitors will be able to apply and interview with many employers and register with the local Michigan Works! Service Center. Veterans are asked to bring their DD214 form to validate they were honorably discharged.

"We'll have employers there, roughly 30 to 40 employers and these employers are taking applications," explained Ralph McKay of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Project coordinators for the event are Dave Marin and Carrie Headworth of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Although the event is targeted to veterans looking to start a career, change careers or move up in their career, non-veterans are welcome also; they should bring a resume.

For more information, call (800) 455-5228 or visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/veteranjobs.

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Confused About Stem Cells?

The Detroit Catholic Medical Association will be holding a conference on the topic of stem cell research at:

Madonna University • Livonia
Saturday, April 23, 2005 • 9 am - 1 pm

Speakers will include Fr. Joseph Howard Jr., Executive Director of the American Bioethics Advisory Commission, Dr. David Prentice from the Center of Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown Medical School, and State Representative Andy Dillon. Topics to be addressed include:

1. The differences between embryonic and adult stem cells.
2. What type of research is showing promise.
3. Where is the smart money being invested for the research.
4. Status of Michigan legislative initiatives.

For registration information, call Kathryn at 734-420-2784 or 989-831-1247.

You do not need a medical background to appreciate this conference.

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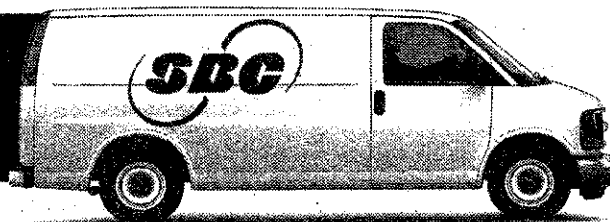
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OUR VIEWS

District makes grade with buses

As parents, we celebrate the good grades on the report cards that our children bring home and deal with the not so good ones. We emphasize the need to improve and strive for 100 percent — that perfect A.

It's an elusive grade that more than just school children seek. It's a score that the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' transportation folks have striven for and received in the annual Michigan State Police's inspection of the district's bus fleet.

Scoring 100 percent in no easy task. Wayne-Westland has the sixth largest bus fleet in the state. Its 79 school buses travel an estimated 1 million miles a year.

That's a lot of wear and tear and keeping the buses in top-notch running order in order to pass a state police inspection means more than changing the oil and filter every 3,000 miles. Those annual inspections cover 200 components, from obvious systems like brakes to less obvious items such as inside lights.

Wayne-Westland's 100 percent rating is well above the state average for school districts — 87 percent in 2004 and 85 percent in the first quarter of 2005. It also is a far cry from the 37 percent rating it received in 1997-98.

We congratulate the transportation department for 100 percent approval rating and look forward to more perfect scores. Such an accomplishment is a testimonial to the commitment school officials have made to the children of the district.

The district has devoted a lot of time and energy to make improvements to escape from the shadows of neighboring school districts perceived as being much better. It had improved its schools, improved its test schools and improved its bus fleet.

It's nice to see Wayne-Westland emerge from the shadows and stand in the sunshine of success. The district's motto is more than just a catchy phrase. It's a fact. Great futures do start in Wayne-Westland schools.

Wayne-Westland's 100 percent rating is well above the state average for school districts — 87 percent in 2004 and 85 percent in the first quarter of 2005. It also is a far cry from the 37 percent rating it received in 1997-98.

Pope's lessons extended beyond the Catholic faith

While millions of people the world over continue to celebrate the life of Pope John Paul II while mourning his death, one does not have to look far nor hard to realize the impact the "People's Pope" had on our communities.

That perhaps is the most remarkable legacy of this remarkable pope. John Paul II was a pope of firsts, which brought him out of the secrecy of the Vatican and into the lives and hearts of millions of everyday people.

And while Catholics rightly claim a special bond with their shepherd, they did not solely possess the respect and admiration so many felt toward John Paul II. That's because this pope treated all people as his flock, and fought tirelessly on their behalf regardless of their religious beliefs.

Christians and Jews, Muslims and Catholics were joined this week to pay homage to this pope, who helped defeat political tyrants, reached out to other faiths, had a special bond with children, advanced human rights and gave hope to the downtrodden.

More world leaders are expected to attend the pope's Friday funeral than ever before. Even more impressive is the estimated two million everyday people who will travel to Rome to say goodbye — and thank you — to John Paul II.

Hopefully, his message of love and hope, of peace and respect, will continue to resonate long after he is laid to rest.

More world leaders are expected to attend the pope's Friday funeral than ever before.

Geoff Brooks
4-7-05 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC



LETTERS

Efforts worth mentioning

It is great to see our politicians work with the interest of the citizens. There are a few efforts worth mentioning over the last few weeks.

Our Gov. Jennifer Granholm supports changing legislation that prevents insurance companies from using credit scores as part of the determination of insurance rates.

The insurance company assumes the behavior of an individual is reflected by their credit scores. And of course, there is no guarantee the credit report is correct and, if there is a mistake, it is up to the individual to make the correction.

This policy is both unfair and misrepresented. All evidence to support this claim by the insurance companies is developed by the same insurance companies. This is the fox watching the hen-house.

If I heard correctly, Ken Sikkema, does not support eliminating the tuition awards to students that have done well in high school and met the requirements for the program. He feels we should honor the commitment we have made to students. This is showing some backbone, but goes against his political party's stance.

Another group worth mentioning are the Democrats across this country. They have decided to combat Mr. Bush's propaganda campaign and proposed destruction of Social Security with public meetings where all citizens are welcome to discuss merits of current Social Security.

To attend you do not need to be a member of a particular party, swear an allegiance, or promise not to ask real questions. All citizens are welcome, something the exclusionary Republican Party has fostered over the last few years.

The Democrats are demonstrating integrity and the American spirit inviting all Americans, something sadly lacking with Mr. Bush and his followers. Claiming to be an American is one thing, living it is quite another thing. Thanks to the democrats for continuing the spirit of our nation's founders.

Allan Biber
Westland

Make Lincoln special

Bill (Ford), you can't come out with a car and put the name "Lincoln" on it and it is nothing special! You have a prestigious name that you have to live up to. And that Lincoln Zephyr doesn't look like anything special to us.

I just hope you don't mess up the Lincoln full-size car. Make the full-size Town Car something special like it used to be. Do not get rid of the full frame or I'm not buying anymore.

And don't mess with the suspension anymore. They don't ride as good as the '90s. You took too much out of the 2000. There's more road noise, less gas mileage, less or cheaper suspension, less bells and whistles. When you pay \$40,000-plus you should get something special. Don't you agree?

And let's trade Mr. Mays in for a designing engineer. He has too many los-

ers he comes out with. You can't take a prestigious name and put it on a trash can and expect to have people lined up to buy them. Give people bang for their buck. It's OK to have problems, but when you don't address them, that's the problem.

And Bill, don't destroy the Lincoln name. You have too many things going wrong in the company and you don't even know it.

Wayne Mirth
Westland

GM has ruined product

I am a GM baby-boomer employee, ready for retirement. Over the years, GM, as a company, has been very good to me as an individual, and to my family. I've been given many opportunities and have learned things schools are unable to teach.

But, as the headlines seem to indicate, GM is headed for self-destruct. GM's well-polished and flamboyant leaders have ruined the product and reputation of this company.

Just look at the many years the Buick Park Avenue has maintained the same design before it died; and the recent birth of the "sweet and sleek" design of the Pontiac Bonneville, only to watch GM discontinue the entire model, not to mention the other sterol models on the market.

GM's design problems began during the Roger Smith years, when GM's car lineup begin to look identical; when employees, devoted to a GM division, were forced to manufacture cars from other divisions; when "car guys," such as engineers, who had moved up through the ranks, no longer steered the company; when H. Ross Perot was "bought off" the GM Board of Directors and his advice ignored (inventories can be managed, but people must be led.).

Perot believed that if you take care of your troops, they will follow you into the battle. This is true. And there are a few independent managers and supervisors that do believe in this philosophy. But they are alone when it comes to GM's top brass. Today, the relationship between the union and management is still adversarial and contentious.

GM's dull lineup is a direct reflection of good advice that has been ignored over the years in favor of "dollars and cents," while GM's invigorating and innovative older workforce continues to retire and fade away.

GM's designs remind me of the facial features of Japanese cartoon characters: The big eyes and the small "other" features; something more in tune to younger generations than ours, although we are still in the majority when it comes to buying power.

GM has lost touch with the average customer because GM has failed to see that the "average" customer is the very workforce they seem to be leaving behind, their most valuable knowledge base. Employees were better devoted to a product and to the company division they belonged to before all the car lines were shuffled together like a deck of

cards. When Cadillac and Chevy Impala's were built on the same line, the pride of the product went out the window, and a car became just a car, and a job, just a job.

Although it is sad for me to see product guys like Ric Monkaba retire, it is inevitable that my generation continue to move on, and let things that are determined to be, be.

Stan Phillips
Pontiac Assembly Center
(always a Cadillac Motor Car Division guy)

Who's next?

Hugh Gallagher's column on March 27 brings up questions of states' and personal rights. The fact that the federal government considered procedural issues in the Schiavo case brought on accusations of intrusion of states' and personal rights, but no one will argue that this case pales in comparison with federal violations of these rights in the Elian Gonzales case five years ago.

Sadly, in both Florida cases, those in favor of protecting freedom and human life for those unable to speak for themselves lost. I was shocked to see that Americans whose ancestors (some of them still living) had given up everything to build a better life in this country felt that Elian would be better off in a place where people live without even the freedom to earn a decent wage, with a father who had long since left his mother to start another family.

I was shocked again in Terri's case to note that even practicing Catholics and Americans with disabled relatives watched an innocent woman starve to death without seeing what a violation her death was. What scares me the most is that in both cases, the people who represented these views claimed (rather patronizingly) to be with the majority of Americans. Who's next? It's a bitter irony that we have soldiers risking their lives to fight for freedom and democracy abroad while we fail at home to protect the core values upon which this great nation was built.

Christine Kluka
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We've possibly won one battle, but the war goes on, and there just appears to be attempts to slash a lot of domestic programs that are really good programs."

— Jay Gilbert, Westland Community Development director, on the future of the federal government's Community Development Block Grant programs

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

Wanted: Bold leaders to suggest sweeping changes

Sorry to have to tell you this, but while the media was consumed last week with the deaths of Terri Schiavo and Pope John Paul II, you may have missed the really bad news. For Michigan's economy, that is.

We now have the highest unemployment rate in the nation, 7.5 percent. And University of Michigan economists have revised their November 2004 job growth forecasts, now predicting the state will add just 15,700 new jobs this year, far less than their earlier predictions.

"The ongoing travails of the automotive industry are reflected in the continuing job loss for manufacturing over the forecast period, putting a damper on Michigan's economic recovery," wrote U-M's Joan Crary and George Fulton.



Phill Power

But what to do about it? To gain perspective, try framing the situation this way. Suppose you are the CEO of a company that:

- Is losing money.
- Has a bad balance sheet.
- Sports a terrible national image.
- Offers a product line that is outdated and selling badly.
- Operates according to a backward-looking business model.
- Faces the imminent financial failure of its largest subsidiary.
- Suffers from poor corporate governance and a hostile board of directors.
- Has a flawed corporate culture.

What would you do? Simple. You would restructure the company. Radically. Right away. And you'd probably be declared a Lee Iacocca-style managerial genius for recognizing how serious the situation is and for having the guts to do something far-reaching about it.

Well, it doesn't take a big stretch of imagination to realize that the company facing this dire situation is in fact our state, Michigan.

We're losing money. The state budget has been in the red time after time, even unexpectedly in the middle of fiscal years. We cut taxes when times were good and we can't afford our operations now that times are bad.

Our balance sheet stinks. We face a chronic annual structural budget deficit of at least \$1 billion, and we've run out of "rainy day funds" and accounting gimmicks to cover it up.

Our national image is terrible. We are regarded as a high-cost, rust belt state, heavily unionized and burdened with a tax system 30 years out of date.

Our main industry — old-fashioned, brawn-based heavy manufacturing — is both dated and evaporating before our eyes.

Yet our business model has been to do everything we can to help our old manufacturing base, while taking only baby steps intended to diversify our economy and update our tax system. In recent years, we have failed to invest in our intellectual property resource by starving our universities.

Our biggest subsidiary, the city of Detroit, is facing a \$300 million or so deficit, while Detroit's public school system is looking at more than \$200 million in red ink. The only real question is whether they will be taken over by financial receivers, as state law requires, before the 2006 elections.

Our "corporate governance" is terrible. It's in the hands of a term-limited Legislature which, when not playing musical chairs, demonstrates general cluelessness about what's going on. Worse, the CEO (i.e., Gov. Jennifer Granholm) is a Democrat, while the board of directors (i.e. the Legislature) is controlled by Republicans. Neither have demonstrated much interest in working together.

Our corporate culture (i.e. the assumptions underlying the operation of our political system) is rooted in the unshakable assumption that anybody who votes for radical change or a tax increase is sure to lose the next election. This goes all the way back to 1983, when incoming Gov. James Blanchard chose to raise the income tax to meet a state budget deficit and John Engler, then Senate Republican leader, masterminded the recall of two Democratic state senators, Phil Mastin and Dave Serotkin.

If all this isn't a clear-cut cry for a program to radically and rationally restructure our state, I don't know what is.

To her credit, Granholm is at least taking some steps in the right direction. Her Cherry Commission on education and the economy has set out a compelling case for doubling the number of college graduates in the work force (while, however, offering no money to do it).

State Treasurer Jay Rising has proposed modifications in the Single Business Tax that would ease the tax burden on manufacturers, while Granholm herself has called for a \$2 billion state bond issue that would fund investments in high-tech jobs.

Yet measured against the gravity of our situation, this is still pretty small beer. What is needed is a clear call for a fundamental remaking of the underlying structure of our state.

The last time I recall anybody doing anything this bold was during the early 1960s, when George Romney, then chairman of American Motors, headed up a group called Citizens For Michigan that advocated re-writing the 1908 Constitution, a document which in fact hadn't been substantially changed since 1867. The process resulted in a Constitutional Convention, usually abbreviated as Con-Con. The document it created was adopted by voters in 1963, and the momentum it generated propelled Romney into the governor's chair the year before that.

Times are much worse now. That was an age of leaders who, whether you liked them or not, dared to be bold. And where are our bold leaders these days, now that we need them so desperately?

Phillip Power is the former chairman of HomeTown Communications Network. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Our Holy Father was truly a gift from God

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II — a wonderful beacon of wisdom, deep internal life and mysticism — has departed from this world. An incredible human being, anchored in God, who touched the lives of so many without religious discrimination, "has returned to the house of the Father."

I met the Holy Father for the first time in the 1950s, when I was a student at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He was a professor of Catholic Church social science. I attended his lectures and he was my examiner. To this day, I have kept my credit book with the exam's grades and his signature as a souvenir.

Karol Wojtyla was a serious, frequently published, academic philosopher, but at the same time a very friendly man, almost brotherly to students — the seminarians — with a great sense of humor. The following is an anecdote from the time he was a professor at the Catholic University in Lublin. It was a quite well-known story there:

It was the end-of-term examination. One student, who never attended lectures, was asking around to learn the favorite questions of the examiner. Finally he spotted a new face and approached him. He asked the same question.

The man told him one of the favorite questions of the examiner and gave him the full answer. The student was astonished and said, "Wow, you will really ace the exam," but the other just smiled. When the student arrived for the test, he learned that the man was actually the examiner — Karol Wojtyla.

John Paul II was a unique example: How he prayed and how he preached tirelessly, especially how he set an example for seminarians of how to celebrate the Mass. We all felt that he was not only a professor, but truly a man of God. He was always so focused on the altar and sacred mystery of the Mass, as if the whole world around him had disappeared.

Later, from time to time, I met the Holy Father when he was an auxiliary bishop serving Archbishop Baziak in Krakow. What really surprised me was that his style of homilies changed drastically from the academic style I had heard at the university to an informal one. We all experienced his perspicuity as Pope John Paul II. He was able to carry on a conversation on the level of each person. Later as cardinal in Poland, he was highly respected by the priests and the Polish episcopate.

A few times I met the Holy Father at the Vatican, as well as during his pilgrimages to Poland and the Ukraine. I especially hold deep in my memory the meeting on October 17, 1997, when the Holy Father invited me and his longtime friend, Cardinal Marian Jaworski, for supper.



Monsignor Jan Jagodzinski, spiritual director of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary prays at the Grotto on the campus of St. Mary's College.

I was working at the Orchard Lake Schools at that time and Cardinal Jaworski had visited Orchard Lake one year before as a director for our seminarians' retreat.

The Holy Father conversed with us about his trips to Orchard Lake, first in 1969, then again in 1976, before he had been elected pope. SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, along with St. Mary's Preparatory, were always very close to the heart of the Holy Father. The "Polish Seminary," as the former is often called, has formed nearly 3,000 priests for service in dioceses throughout the U.S. since its founding in 1885 by Polish immigrant the Rev. Joseph Dabrowski.

The great majority of the students continue to arrive from Poland to this day, which of course connected Orchard Lake to Pope John Paul II.

One of the secretaries to the Holy Father was my former student, Monsignor Mokrzycki. He told the Holy Father that I was his rector in the seminary. The Holy Father looked at me and said, "He is OK. One can live with him."

Monsignor Mokrzycki, Archbishop Dziwisz, Cardinal Jaworski and the Polish nuns who served him, were among the people present at our Holy Father's death. I think that we all would have liked to be with our Holy Father in those last moments to thank him, to express our love and respect for him. He led a life worthy of greatest admiration. Monsignor Jan Jagodzinski is the spiritual director of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. While he is fluent in English, he wrote this piece in his native Polish. It has been translated by the Orchard Lake-chancellor's secretary, Anna Mazur, for publication.



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U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter meets with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in 2004. McCotter sponsored a resolution honoring the pontiff on his 25th anniversary as pope last year.



McCotter remembers pope's 'God bless America'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Last year U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter sponsored a resolution recognizing Pope John Paul II on the 25th anniversary of his papacy and delivered the resolution to the pontiff at Vatican City.

"I had met him earlier when we had a parliamentary exchange with the European parliament, but that was with a big group," McCotter said Monday. "This was an audience, just three of us. It wasn't a good day for him. He was having good days and bad days and this wasn't a good one. But the mind was sharp. He kept saying God bless America. The one thing he stressed was God bless America."

McCotter said it seemed like John Paul was telling the Americans to continue America's leadership in spreading freedom. He said that as a former resident of a Communist country, the Polish pope understood how important that was.

"Temporally and spiritually he was important. Where those roles converged is his role in the collapse of communism," McCotter said. "Communism is an atheistic ideology that held captive nations."

John Paul was Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland, before his election as

pope in 1978.

McCotter, a Roman Catholic, said John Paul spoke to religious everywhere and of every generation, not just to Catholics.

"It's hard to say if it would have been the same effect having a pope from Italy," McCotter said.

John Paul was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

McCotter said he would like to see the Conclave of Cardinals, who will select a pope in the next few weeks, reach out again to another part of the world.

"I would hope they look toward Latin America," McCotter said. "Latin America plays such a large role and so many Latin Americans in the United States are Catholic."

He said a Latin American pope would have a political impact similar to John Paul's in opposing Fidel Castro and Communist forces in the region.

On Tuesday, McCotter introduced a resolution in the House "honoring the life and expressing the condolences of the House on the passing of Pope John Paul II."

McCotter was not selected to be part of the U.S. House 23-member delegation to the pope's funeral Friday.

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Michigan, county court Airbus manufacturing plant

Michigan is making a bid to attract a new engineering and manufacturing complex to design and produce the KC-330 aerial refueling aircraft for Airbus. The multi-phase project could bring more than 1,000 jobs and \$600 million in investment to Michigan.

Willow Run Airport is one of three potential Michigan locations mentioned in a proposal by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The other locations are Alpena and Chippewa County/Sault Ste. Marie.

"We have really rolled up our sleeves to create a solid proposal for Airbus' consideration," Gov. Jennifer Granholm said in a press release last Thursday. "The field will be competitive with as many as 38 states in the running for this project. I am confident that our favorable business climate, impeccable workforce and creative economic incentives will be the

winning combination that will land this project in Michigan."

Business incentives will be available to Airbus at whatever Michigan location it chooses, with specific incentives varying due to the unique characteristics of each site.

"We are in the ring with a number of tough contenders for this project," MEDC President and CEO Don Jakeway said in the release. "Even though the competition is fierce, we have a very convincing proposal for Airbus to consider that would benefit the company and our state alike."

Willow run has 350 usable acres in the northeast corner of the airport. The county released a statement saying that the county, Van Buren Township and the airport were proposing \$77.5 million in economic incentives to bring the project to Willow Run, including \$49 million in county Renaissance Zone Tax Savings.

County accepts hazardous waste

Wayne County will hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, April 16.

Waste will be collected from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center, 11111 Wayne Road. The county is accepting everything from smoke detectors and fire extinguishers to unidentifiable waste.

"We will collect old computer monitors, televisions, car batteries and fertilizer to help ensure that

this waste is disposed of in a proper manner," County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, said. "We will even be accepting old mercury thermometers and replacing them with a new, safe digital thermometer."

The drop-off day is only open to residents of Wayne County. No commercial or industrial waste will be accepted.

For more information, contact the county's Department of Environment at (734) 326-3936.

Buddy's 'Slice of Life' event aids Capuchins

Buddy's Pizza will host the 29th Annual "Slice of Life" fund-raiser for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, April 11, at its nine metro area locations.

Tickets are available through the Capuchins or can be purchased at the door. For more information, call (313) 529-2100, Ext. 201.

"Buddy's pizza is happy and honored to be involved with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, an organization that helps so many people in so many ways," Buddy's Pizza President Robert Jacobs, explained.

Capuchin Soup Kitchen Interim Executive Director Father David Pruess agrees.

"This is a very important event for the Soup Kitchen. Last year we had wall to wall people, eating pizza, enjoying the activity, all while helping the Soup Kitchen. Over \$72,000 was raised last year. That money goes to help the chronically poor and the working poor. And unfortunately, those who need our help continues to grow. Buddy's Pizza has been an important partner for 29 years. Not to mention that

they have darn good pizza!"

The 2005 event marks the 29th year of the fund-raiser. Capuchin brothers will be available to answer questions. "Lovely the Clown" and friends from 2clowns.com will create balloon sculptures during the evening hours.

The event features all you can eat cheese and two-topping pizza and salad (Greek, garden and antipasto) when dining in one of Buddy's Pizza's six locations on April 11, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Carry out is also available as four squares of a two topping pizza or as an individual sized salad. Carryout is available at all nine locations.

Buddy's dine-in restaurants are located in Auburn Hills, Dearborn, Detroit, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Detroit/Grosse Pointe and Warren. Carry-out only

shops are in Royal Oak and Bloomfield Township. For a complete listing visit the web at www.buddypizza.com

Founded in 1929, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen has served more than 2,400 meals a day.

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