

51
Window to
heaven

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



Rockin' Fashion: Shopping with Judy from The Mydols



Beautiful and bald

Sisters triumph over stigma of alopecia

HEALTH, PAGE C8

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Observer

SUNDAY
May 1, 2005

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Festival
focuses
on family

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Popular flutist Alexander Zonjic, Mother Goose characters, Clyde the Camel and "Funny Puppet Guy" Richard Paul will help make this year's Westland Summer Festival the best yet, organizers say.

Zonjic and friends will be the headline act when they take the main stage at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 2, in Central City Park, festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl said.

"He's really a big deal," Mehl said. "He's really well-known."

The 35th summer festival will start on Wednesday, June 29, and end on Monday, July 4. Most events will be in Central City Park.

The six-day festival - Westland's biggest annual event - will start at 6:15 p.m. June 29 with a parade that will go north on Wildwood from Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center, then west on Ford Road to City Hall.

Within two hours, the Miss Westland Summer Festival contest will begin during an 8 p.m. ceremony on the main stage. In past years, the pageant has been held indoors at such places as Westland Shopping Center.

"This is the first time it's been held in the park," Mehl said.

As always, carnival rides will lure young and old, alike, and \$5-off coupons will be available for all-day riding - a move that will reduce the cost from \$18 to \$13 on Wednesday through Friday. The coupons will be available at local businesses in early June.

Specific times will be announced later, but Mehl said the festival will include ventriloquist and "Funny Puppet Guy" Richard Paul; Mother Goose & Friends performers; a petting farm including Clyde the Camel; pony rides; and baby and toddler contests.

Humpty Dumpty, the Itsy Bitsy Spider and Old Mother Hubbard will make appearances, Mehl said.

Festival organizers already have received inquiries about the baby and toddler contests. Mehl said applications will be available starting June 1 at the Bailey Recreation Center and the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Special Olympics will have a fund-raising "jail," and the festival also will include horseshoe and golf-chipping contests. The festival will end with a Fourth of July fireworks display over Central City Park.

"This will be the biggest fireworks display that Westland has ever had," Mehl said.

Festival organizers tried to schedule events that would draw entire families.

"This festival is more family oriented than festivals in some of the other communities," Mehl said.

Meanwhile, here's a list of names and telephone numbers for those who may want to become involved in certain events:

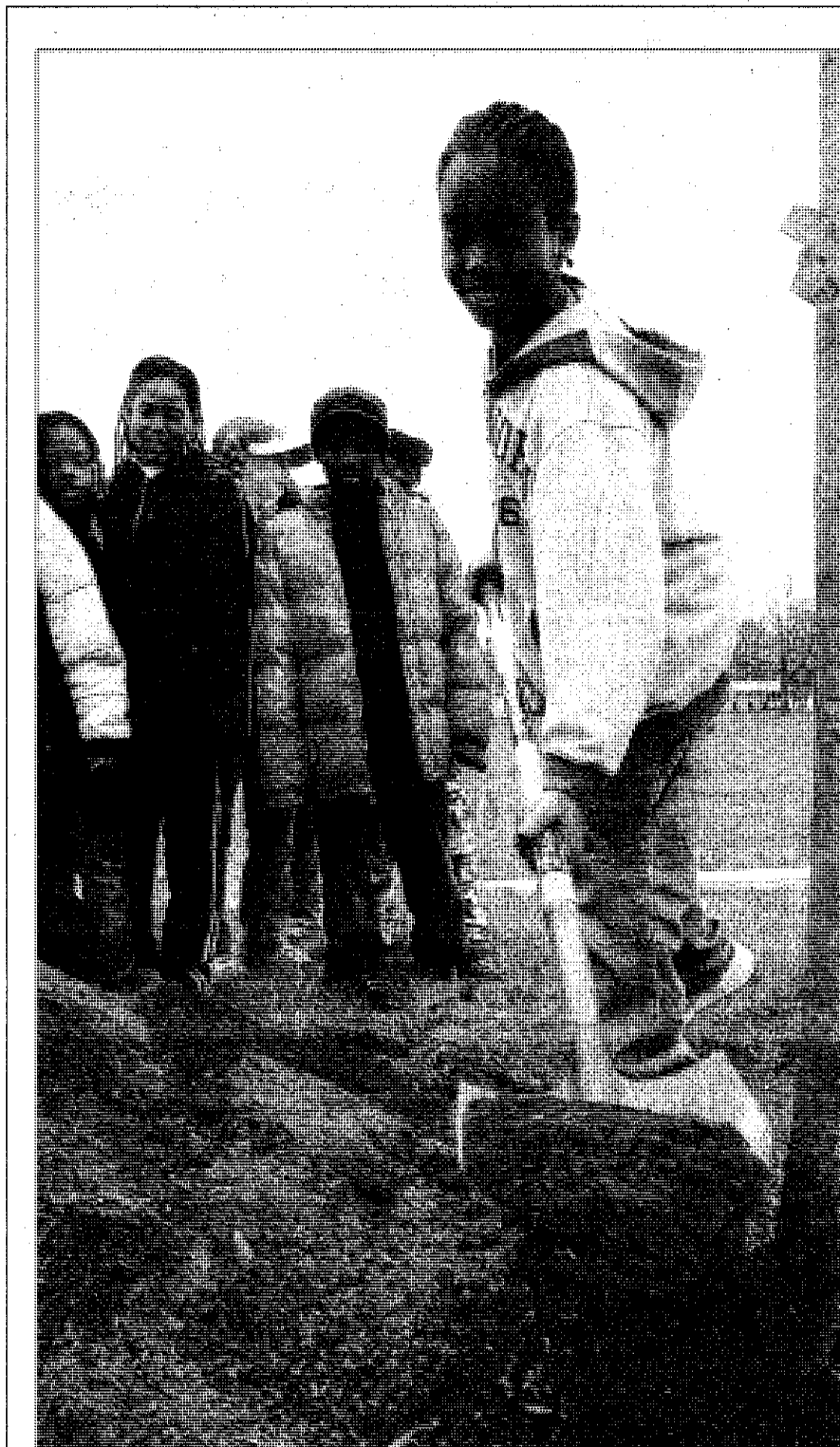
■ For the parade, call Jeanie Cox at (734) 722-6979.

■ For arts and crafts, call Gale Chaudoin at (734) 994-0450.

■ For the festival pageant, call Lisa Tesner at (734) 658-8088.

■ For concessions, call Sue Haslacker at (734) 237-4158.

■ For general information, call Mehl at (734) 261-5955 or Pam Martin at (734) 595-0697.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Growing together

It may be awhile before it offers shade, but fourth-grader Maleik Hull did his part to help plant a tree on the playground of Elliott Elementary School as part of the school's recent Earth Day celebration. Youngsters shared poems about the event and gathered around as six trees were put in place. At left, a student waits to share the poem he had written for the ceremony.

Voters face
changes for
school vote
on Tuesday

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With changes in voting, some Wayne-Westland school district residents may be confused about where to cast their ballots in Tuesday's school board election.

Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart offered this tip: "Go to where you voted in the last presidential election."

DeHart's office will handle Tuesday's school board election for Wayne-Westland voters who live in Westland, Canton, Inkster and Dearborn Heights.

A new election-consolidation law has shifted the responsibility for school board elections from school districts to city clerks.

That means that local voters will cast their Wayne-Westland school board ballots in the same precincts where they vote in city, state and federal elections, DeHart said.

In all, her office has sent out new voter registration cards to 55,000 voters, in the wake of the new state

PLEASE SEE CHANGES, A7

Voters pick 2 in
Livonia election

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Residents in the north end of Westland will head out to the polls Tuesday, May 3, to choose who will fill two seats on the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

In the past, voters had cast school ballots during June, but a state election consolidation law limited the election dates and Livonia chose the May date, as did most metro Detroit districts.

City Clerk Val Vandersloot said Thursday that 2,230 absentee ballots were sent out so far for the election, and that's some 330 more than last year. She expects turnout to be a bit higher than the uncommonly low 5.24 percent who voted during the election last June.

PLEASE SEE ELECTION, A7

Man enters guilty plea in drive-by shooting case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An Inkster man will spend two years in prison for spraying gunfire while riding through a Westland residential neighborhood.

Lee Charles Peterson, 20, was recently sentenced in Wayne County Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty to a felony firearms charge.

Peterson was accused of opening fire with a small handgun about

10:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, on Westchester, northeast of Palmer and Merriman. No one was injured.

An investigation revealed that shots were fired to scare a man who had been seeing Peterson's ex-girlfriend, police Sgt. James Dexter has said.

Peterson had been told that the intended victim was visiting a house on Westchester, Dexter said.

Police found six shell casings after the drive-by incident. Neighbors

reported that a man opened fire while riding in a purple Dodge Neon.

Peterson was originally charged with carrying a concealed weapon, discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle, reckless use of a firearm, and violating the state's felony firearms law.

If convicted as charged, he could have faced penalties ranging up to five years in prison. By pleading guilty only to the felony firearms charge, Peterson will serve a manda-

tory two-year term.

Peterson was with two other men when he fired the shots, but they didn't face criminal charges. They told police that they didn't know Peterson planned to open fire.

Authorities arrested Peterson in Inkster after receiving a tip that he may have been involved in the shooting. Police searched the home and found two small handguns in a dog food bag, Dexter has said.

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Coming Thursday
in Filter

If you don't have tickets to the playoffs, there are plenty of places where you can join the fun

Women lose \$150,000 to a man they met on an Internet site

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Presenting himself as a wealthy Christian gentleman looking for the right woman with whom to enjoy retirement, Robert Pugh seemed too good to be true.

He'd take the women out in his Corvette and to visit his \$600,000 home in Harrison Township. Trouble was, Pugh, 62, didn't own the car or home, wasn't wealthy and is now charged with conning two women, from Garden City and West Bloomfield, out of \$150,000.

The stories told by the women, both widows in their late 60s, are very similar, Garden City Police Lt. David White said. Both women met Pugh through the match.com Web site, White added.

"This was the first time they have really ventured out after being widowed," White said. "His description of himself and what he was ... he said the most important thing to him was taking care of his woman."

Following some contact over the Internet, the victims met Pugh, who seemed to live up to his Web site description, White said.

"After two or three weeks of wining and dining, being treated like royalty, he would come up with a sob story," White said. "Mean people who would kill his kids or grandkids over gambling or some other debt. He would kill himself, if that happened. He said he didn't have the money, but would be able to repay them soon."

White said Pugh asked the women about their financial status.

The Garden City woman told police she gave Pugh \$90,000 and the West Bloomfield woman lost \$60,000. In each case, Pugh accompanied the victim to the bank and signed a promissory note which was notarized.

In both incidents, White said the women were too trusting and took Pugh for what he appeared.

"These aren't dumb people. The West Bloomfield lady had owned her own business," he said. "She's very devout Christian. She took him with her to church to pray for him. She said she couldn't live with herself, if the kids were hurt, so she was helping him out."

Police found another promissory note that had been prepared but not executed for \$210,000 from the West Bloomfield woman.

Police reported that Pugh, who served time in prison over a 1991 conviction for a similar crime, had lost large sums gambling at casinos.

Pugh is being held in the Macomb County Jail in lieu of \$1 million bond following his arraignment April 14 in Warren District Court on five felonies, including two counts of obtaining \$20,000 or more under false pretenses, two counts of using the Internet to commit a crime and one count of conspiracy to obtain \$20,000 or more under false pretenses. The last charge relates to a Harrison Township woman, owner of the home and Corvette, who has been charged as an accomplice.

When Pugh began making computer contacts with the victims earlier this year, White said he was confined to the Harrison Township home while awaiting trial on an extortion charge.

"When he started meeting the women, he was wearing a tether," White said.

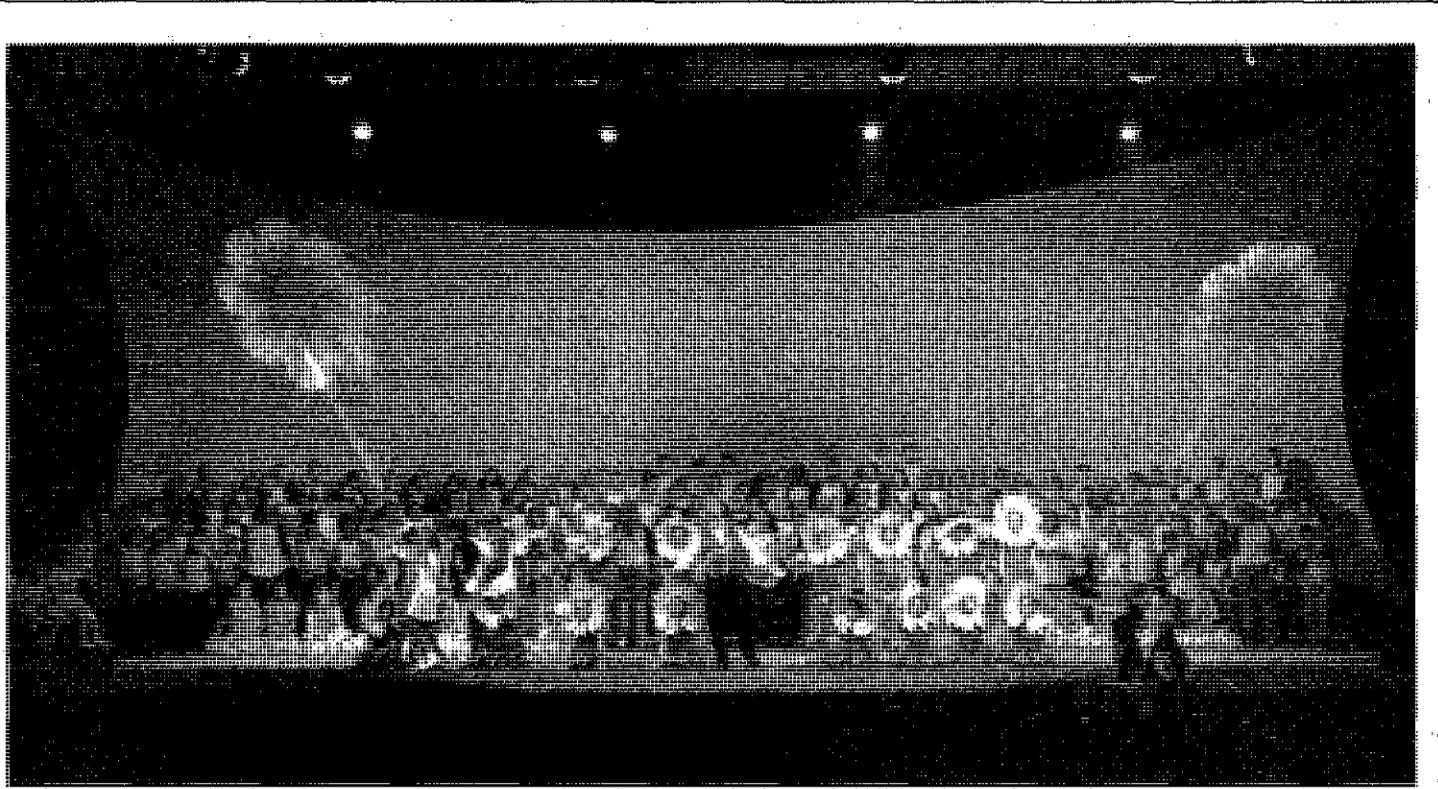
A preliminary examination is set for Tuesday. The hearing was adjourned one week after no attorney appeared to represent Pugh, who waived his right to preliminary examination within 14 days of arraignment.

Pugh told Judge Sherman Faunce that he has an attorney, but the attorney was unable to attend the hearing.

No attorney had filed an appearance on behalf of Pugh after his arraignment on the latest charges on which a not guilty plea was entered. Attorney Mitchell Ribitwter has been representing Pugh in the extortion case and did not return calls seeking comment.

The Michigan State Police, who were handling the extortion case, are heading the investigation on these charges which occurred in multiple cities and counties. Locally, officers from the Garden City Police Detective Bureau and Special Investigations Unit handled the case.

"We know there are other victims, but they are too embarrassed or afraid to come forward," White said. "They (the victims) were being truthful and took him that way."



Children in NorthRidge Church's Discovery Island program hit the stage with their production of 'Sermon on the Mount,' the story of a little rookie and his team as they began their little league season.

Kids' ministry in 21st century

Local church reaches out to 'Nickelodeon' generation

People who attended Sunday School as children might remember hearing stories using flannel board Bible story characters, singing "Jesus Loves Me," and using cotton balls on your coloring book picture of Jesus holding fluffy sheep.

Those who haven't attended Sunday School might imagine something out of the movie "Simon Birch," where stern ladies in tight hair buns read from the Bible through clenched teeth, and children fight to stay awake from fear of being smacked with a ruler.

Whatever the background, people might be surprised to see what Sunday School looks like for children in this generation.

Even the term "Sunday School" is gone from some churches' ministry terminology. At NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, kids attend "Discovery Island,"

where "their journey to faith begins," according to Discovery Island director Anita Weldon.

Using creative teaching methods, upbeat music, high impact drama and cutting edge video, Discovery Island reaches out with the message of Christ to this generation of Nickelodeon/Disney savvy kids. "Everything we do in Discovery Island is planned to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children," Weldon said. "This generation of kids has grown up saturated with colorful high-tech entertainment where even their Gameboys have color."

Discovery Island has more than 1,400 kids who attend one of four services every weekend.

The challenge of making everyone feel like they matter and are not lost in the crowd, is critical to both the staff and volunteers.

"The critical emphasis in a church this size is to maintain a 10-to-1 ratio of student-to-adult leaders," volunteer coordinator Christi Wilshaw said. "This is vital to accomplishing the 'close-knit' feel in our program. We maintain this ratio through strict screening and background checks on all volunteers who serve our kids."

Last week Discovery Island produced the Kids' Choir production "Sermon on the Mount." For the previous 13 weeks, kids rehearsed the story of a little rookie and his team as they began their little league season. Using music, dance and drama, more than 400 children in kindergarten through fifth grades communicated the importance of being part of a team or a community.

According to one of the shows directors, Carrie Childerston, "It is not enough for a child to be able

to know the story of David and Goliath," said Carrie Childerston, who directed one of the shows. "A child must also believe that when he or she faces Goliath problems, like David did, God will be there for them."

"We want to be effective in our communication to our kids, using whatever means necessary to communicate God's truth," Weldon said.

Discovery Island offers programs for children from birth to fifth grade and takes place during services Saturday at 5:15 and 7:15 p.m. and Sunday at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Discovery Island is also offered during their Wednesday midweek service at 7:00 p.m. NorthRidge Church is located at the corner of Ridge and North Territorial Roads. For more information concerning Discovery Island or other NorthRidge ministries call: 734-414-7777 or visit www.northridgechurch.com.

Potential threat causes lockdown of 2 schools

Wayne-Westland school officials placed two schools on lockdown Friday afternoon after Wayne police advised them of a potentially threatening situation involving a parent.

Officials placed Franklin Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary on lockdown for about an hour Friday afternoon, but the move didn't delay students getting out on time, said Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman.

"There was not an incident at either school," she said. "No children were ever in danger at

either school." Wayne police notified school officials of a potentially threatening situation involving a parent who was outside of the city of Wayne, where the schools are located.

"It may have been a domestic type of incident," Sherman said. "It may have involved an adult who had a child or stepchild in those schools. The police asked us to go into a cautionary lockdown."

However, she said, "there was never any danger in the buildings or on the school property."

Madonna registration continues until May 14

Madonna University in Livonia continues spring/summer registration for the 2005 term through Saturday, May 14, for new and returning students.

Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The office will be closed on Friday, March 25. Classes begin the week of May 9.

The convenience of Web registration is offered for returning students and will continue through April 22. Mail-in and fax-in registration will be accepted until April 25.

Students may enroll in day, evening and weekend classes, and non-admitted students

must obtain a permit-to-register from the Admissions Office. Transfer students are welcome.

Madonna University is an independent liberal arts university at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia. It offers men and women associate's and bachelor's degrees in more than 75 career-oriented majors and 22 master's degree programs in the diverse areas of business, clinical psychology, education, health services, hospice education, liberal studies, nursing, pastoral ministry, and teaching English to speakers of other languages.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.madonna.edu or call the Admissions Office at (734) 432-5339.

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<p>Susan Rosiek Executive Editor (734) 953-2100 srosiek@oe.homecomm.net</p> <p>Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor (734) 953-2149 hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net</p> <p>Sue Mason Community Editor (734) 953-2112 smason@oe.homecomm.net</p>	<p>Frank Cibor Retail Sales Manager (734) 953-2177 fcibor@oe.homecomm.net</p> <p>Cathy White Retail Advertising Rep. (734) 953-2073 cwhite@oe.homecomm.net</p>
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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
 The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
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 Thursday!**

1890s style education

Homeschoolers of all ages make a visit to historic Perrinsville School

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It was a sound not heard every day at the Perrinsville School ... Children learning.

A group of children were at the one-room schoolhouse to experience public education 1890s style.

The 14 pre-kindergarten through 10th-graders from Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills, spent the day at the school which was built in 1856.

The field trip was coordinated by GRACE - God's Requirements About Children's Education - a group for parents who homeschool their children.

"All the kids enjoyed it, all the parents enjoyed it," member Tammi Evans said. "Lord willing, we'll have more trips there."

Evans happened to stop by the schoolhouse during one of its monthly open houses. She talked to Westland historian Jo Johnson about the homeschoolers using the school. Johnson gave her a business card, but things didn't start clicking until they ran into each other at their doctor's office.

"Up until now we've had second-, third- or fourth-graders use the school, but this is the first time we've had all ages there," said Johnson. "It was more like it was years ago."

The Perrinsville School is the third school to be erected in Nankin Township in the 1800s. The first was a wood structure built in 1833 on the Marcus Swift farm. A second, larger one, was built on the William Osband farm in 1843.

The schoolhouse on Warren west of Merriman was built in 1856 on land purchased from Isaac and Hannah Swift Perrin by Nankin District No. 2, and was the first brick school in the township.

Classes were held here until 1937 when Henry Ford constructed the nearby Nankin Mills schoolhouse as a replacement.

After that the school served as a church from 1948 to 1968. Many of its features - the teacher's platform, the cupola and the wainscoting - were removed over the years, but were restored during a four-year renovation after the City of Westland acquired the building in 1990.

It's been open to school groups for field trips since the mid-1990s, according to Johnson.

"We do send fliers to the Wayne-Westland schools and advertise it on cable, but it's open for use by any school group," Johnson said.

For the homeschoolers, the school day began at 9 a.m. with play. The bell rang at 9:15 to signal the start of classes which ran through 1:30 p.m. Two mothers, who were formerly third- and fourth-grade teachers, reprised their roles in the classroom for the field trip.

The McGuffey Reader and Second reader were used, and



Three-year-old Madison Burkholder works on her slate board as 12-year-old J.C. Evans (in back, left) and 11-year-old Mariah Hobson (right) read through their schoolbooks.

students also worked on the writing and arithmetic.

"They worked on ABC with the little kids, while the older kids were taught a poem that went along with the ABCs," Evans said. "They also did a word game, and the kids did a story with the words they came up with."

There also was time to study the history of the school and look at the geography of the Nankin area. Students used a map on the wall to look up different locations in the township, the name of homesteaders and how many acres they had, Evans said.

"It was quite impressive with what the teachers put together," she added. "They even involved the preschoolers by having them point at colors on the map."

The field trip was so successful, that the plan is to do it again next year.

GRACE meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Grace Baptist Church, 28440 Lyndon, Livonia. In case of a Monday holiday, the meeting moves to the second Monday of the month.

The meetings allow parents to share resources, ideas and have discussions.

They're able to help with questions, share curriculum and scheduling.

GRACE tries to plan one field trip each month. In February the kids gathered to make Valentines as part of an enrichment project.

"We plan to do a science lab and home economics project," Evans said. "They'll prepare the meal and we'll eat it."

For more information about GRACE, call director Sherri Perry at (734) 266-2059.

For people interested in seeing the school, it's open to the public the last Sunday of the month through October.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, this month's open house will be Sunday, May 21.

People interested in information about using the building for a field trip can call Johnson at (734) 522-3928 or Virginia Braun at (734) 427-4648.

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Students ranging from preschoolers to 10th-graders listen intently to their lessons at the one-room schoolhouse.

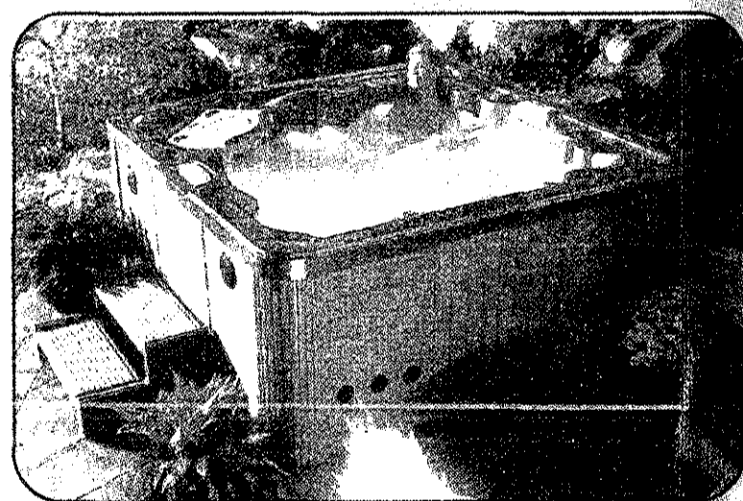
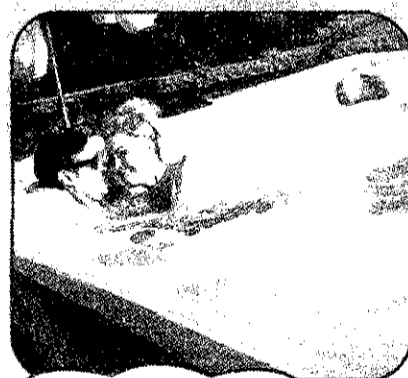
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Videos 'take viewers inside the school'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools has created a new way for parents to peer into school classrooms, without ever leaving home.

The district created *Measuring Up*, a new video series meant to show all that's involved in the learning process from the elementary to high school level.

"The goal is to increase the understanding of the school improvement process," said Donna McDowell, business partnership coordinator in the district. She added that the public hears education labels and terms, like AYP and MEAP, but might not understand all they mean.

Three focus groups were established - one at Cleveland Elementary, one at Riley Middle and another at

Churchill High School - to determine what parents want to know. They brought up questions about how the district assesses a child's progress and how assessments are used and how they impact children.

Rod Hosman, director of secondary education, said part of the plan will "take viewers inside the school."

The informational videos begin with teachers using their own words to describe the learning process. They discuss how students are performing, and what is being done to improve the learning process.

The school improvement strategy is an ongoing cycle of four components: Plan, teach, assess and analyze results. The videos put this strategy into action, guided by an actual class project.

Hosman said the videos will be included in the regular

schedule for LPS-TV, the district's cable channel. He also envisions the series growing into a reference library.

Trustee Rob Freeman shared his support, suggesting it be made available at Blockbuster Video. On a more serious note, he asked whether PTA groups will view it.

Trustee Dan Lessard took that suggestion further, asking whether the initial videos might be screened at the schools where they were created. Hosman said he does plan to return to the three focus group schools to do just that.

"Our goal is to produce four a year," added McDowell.

Board president Kevin Whitehead called the new program exciting, adding, "We have a better tool to assess what goes on in the classroom."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Be my guest

Andrew Kirchoff enjoys breakfast with his supervisor, Dawn Williams, at John Glenn High School's annual co-op banquet, held at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Some 250 employers and students attended the early morning breakfast.

Carpet One retailer joins board

Cathy Buchanan of Independent Carpet One in Westland has been appointed to the Advisory Council of Carpet One, North America's largest floor covering retailer with more 1,000 locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Carpet One's Advisory Council is a group of 18 Carpet One store owners who act as a liaison between company executives and individual retailers throughout North America. Buchanan now represents 115 stores in five central states.

"This is a great honor," said Buchanan who has been a member of Carpet One for eight years. "I'm very excited to be more involved in the strategic planning and development process of Carpet One. This experience will allow me to interact with my colleagues in the floor covering industry and learn more about Carpet One's business operations from both a retailer's perspective and a corporate perspective."

"I think being a part of the Advisory Council will help me improve the businesses in my

region, as well as Carpet One as a whole."

Members of Carpet One's Advisory Council meet with executives on a regular basis to review and evaluate Carpet One marketing, training and merchandising programs; discuss floor covering industry-related topics and trends; and continually develop and improve the company's strategic plan for the future.

Carpet One retailers, like Buchanan, are invited to join the Advisory Council based on their involvement in Carpet One programs, commitment to their fellow retailers and desire to improve the company as a whole.

"I'm pleased to welcome Cathy as a new member of our Advisory Council," said Evan Hackel, President of Carpet One. "She has demonstrated her dedication and enthusiasm for Carpet One over the years and I know that she will be a positive addition to the Council. Other Carpet One retailers truly respect her and are confident that she will represent them effectively."

Burton Manor to manage Hellenic Center

Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia recently signed a long-term agreement to manage Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland.

Hellenic Cultural Center will retain its name and affiliation with St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. Burton Manor currently owns and operates Karas House in Redford and Roma Banquets in Garden City.

"Hellenic Cultural Center has a great reputation with its regular customers, but, for others, it's a well-kept secret," says Bill Johnson, owner of Burton Manor. "This is just the sort of 'gem' venue we were seeking."

Burton Manor is on Schoolcraft just west of Inkster and hosts everything from small meetings to large weddings, conferences, trade shows, seminars and business events.



**TODDLER FEELING TERRIBLE?
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Canton (734) 398-7899
Ypsilanti (734) 434-3000

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

DEATHS

D
Dean W. Davis, 74, of Dearborn Heights, died April 28.

F
Janel M. Fisher, 38, died April 26.

N
Geraldine Helen Nagy, 79, of Plymouth, died April 26.
Arlie E. Neely Jr., 78, died April 26.

R
Margaret "Anne" Roberts, 84, of Jupiter, Fla., formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died March 21.

T
Allan A. Tharp, 59, of Birmingham, died April 26.

W
Carole J. Williams, 79, died April 27.

PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings 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.

Willow Creek
Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Wayne Road in Westland, is a non-profit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4 years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday and four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. Call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.

Preschool program
The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

McKinley
Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. Call (734) 729-7222 or visit the Web site at www.mckinley-preschool.org.

YWCA Readiness
The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

Charter school
The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

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Prayer Day

Several local Christian-faith churches are planning to observe the National Day of Prayer 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 5, on the steps of Westland City Hall. Prayers will be said for government, educational systems, churches, families, the military and media.

Memorial service

The Vermeulen Funeral Homes in Plymouth and Westland will hold two memorial balloon release services for people to pay tribute to their loved ones.

The services will be:

■ 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Vermeulen Funeral Home at 980 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, in Westland. For more information call (734) 326-1300.

■ 7 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at the Vermeulen Funeral Home at 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck, in Plymouth. For more information call (734) 459-2250.

Each balloon release will include a presentation by licensed grief counselor Wes Baldwin.

Anyone planning to attend is asked to call ahead because the funeral home, in preparation for serving refreshments, would like a head-count.

Fitness Day

The Westland Senior Fitness day will once again participate

in the National Senior Health and Fitness Day Friday, May 20. Local seniors and a variety of health and fitness professionals will participate in the event which starts at 9 a.m. with the traditional walk from the center to Central City Park and back.

There will be warm-up exercises led by Dorice Moylan, a certified personal trainer. She also will lead chair exercises for seniors unable to go on the fitness walk. There also will be free health screenings for blood pressure and sugar, door prizes and lunch. Fitness Day 2005 T-shirts will be available for \$6, while supplies.

Tickets for Fitness day cost \$6 for Friendship Center members and \$7 for non-members.

Parent seminar

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Family Resource Center in collaboration with Hegira Prevention is offering a parent seminar on Positive Discipline 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5, 12 and 19, at Vandenburg Elementary School, 32101 Stellwagen, Wayne.

The seminar will cover the difference between punishment and discipline, how parenting styles affect how children learn and more. Each participant will receive a copy of Jane Nelson's *Positive Discipline*.

Participants can attend one

session or all three. For more information, call (734) 419-2709.

Curtain call

The City of Wane Arts and Entertainment Department Actors Community Theatre will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21, and 2 p.m. 2 p.m. Sunday, May 8 and 15, at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for children.

There also will be a Mothers Day Lunch - *Cinderella* Spectacular at noon Sunday, May 8. There will be a full lunch buffet, served at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, followed by the matinee performance of *Cinderella* at 2 p.m. at the State Wayne Theater. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 years and under. Package fees are available.

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

Free seminar

Kate Ferrett, hospital liaison for Arbor Hospice and Home Care, will speak about such issues as advanced directives in a presentation 5-6 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at Westland Convalescent Center.

Ferrett will discuss such topics as what are advance directives, when is it time to

think about advance directives, who needs advance directives, what is the difference between advance directives and a living will and how to get started.

The seminar is free of charge and open to the public. Contact Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for this event.

Garage sale

It's like having more than 80 garage sales all in the same place at the same time. The Westland community garage sale will take place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7, in the parking lot west of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, next to the Police Department. For further information about reserving a spot, call Margaret Martin at (734) 722-7620.

Golf outing

The Westland Rotary Club will hold a Centennial Golf Celebration Thursday, May 26, at the Golden Fox at Fox Hills in Salem Township. The outing will have a scramble format and 11 a.m. shotgun start. It includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and beverages at the turn, door prizes and a filet mignon dinner and banquet.

The costs is \$160 per golfer or \$600 for a foursome. Sponsorships also are available. For more information, call Dr. Kim Shunkwiler at (734) 728-5533, Tom North at (734) 421-1300, Todd Blevins at (734) 425-7766 or Capt.

Matt O'Neil at (734) 722-3660.

To register, send a check, payable to Westland Rotary to the Rotary Golf Outing, Shunkwiler Chiropractic Health Center, 5978 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185. Proceeds will benefit the Salvation Army and Westland Rotary charities.

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.

Meet the author

Native Detroitier Richard Bak, award-winning author and historian, will discuss the history of the Civil War with an emphasis on Michigan's role during the tumultuous time when he speaks at the Wayne Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26.

Bak has written numerous books about such subjects as the city of Detroit, Ty Cobb, Henry and Edsel Ford, Abraham Lincoln, Joe Louis, Lou Gehrig, the Detroit Red Wings and Tiger Stadium.

There is no charge for the program, however, seating is limited, so registration is required.

Call the library at (734) 721-7832.

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Named to the fourth honor roll of the 2004-2005 school year at Wayne Memorial High School are:

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Cole, Joseph Coleman, Justin Collop, James Congdon, Karen Contreras, Charles Cooney, Chelsea Cooney, Timothy Cornett, David Covert, Sarah Craven, Ryan Crayne, Matthew Cretens, Daniel Crummey, Andrew Crushshon, Ruth Cuevas, Linette Cuevas-Zuniga, Alexandria Cupp, Stefanie Curcuru, David Czerwinski, Laura D'Arcy, Dale Dahlberg, Heather Daniels, Monique Daniels, Ashley Davenport, Holley Davidson, Brittney Davis, Dean Davis, Mark Davis, Michael Davis, Oriana Davis, Richard Davis, Tirrell Davis, Jennifer Dawson, Amber Day, Dylan Debruin, Amber Decker, Brittany Demaray, Sarah Demske, Katie-Lyn Dennis, Ryan Desiniewicz, Christopher Dewaelsche, Briana Dewyer, Kyrá Dewyer, Desart Dinkollari, Erina Dinkollari, Erica Dishon, Bryan Dixon, Kelly Doerr, Sean Doerr, Kevin Dombrowski, Amy Dore, Jordan Dottor, Jesse Dreon, Amy Dunham, Amanda Dye, Jessica Eastin, Tynikka Edwards, Evidio Edwards II, Danielle Elswick, Kevin Erdmann, Kyle Erdmann, Kenneth Ester Jr., Beonica Evans, Jessica Fellows, Jeremy Ferrac, Cody Ferguson, Tanya Fielhauer, Amanda Fill, Garrett Fischer, Kevin Fischer, Jeremy Flatt, Celso Flores III, Baily Floyd, Misty Fogg, Kevin Folster, Amanda Ford, Elizabeth Ford, Joshua Ford, Terá Foster, Dustin Franklin, Nicole Franklin, Danny Frantjeskos, Mary Freeman, Daniel Frey, Stephen Frost, Amanda Fulton, Lindsay Funk, J'naí Fuqua, Jacob Fyfe, Roneisha Gale, Michelle Gallardo, Jeremy Gallentine, Heather Galvin, Ryan Galvin, Cory Gamsjager, Allison Gardiner, Melia Garri, Alvin Geddis, Heather Gendron, Sarah Gibbons, Daniel Gill, Melissa Gill, Ravynne Gilmore, Justin Girouard, Nilton Gjecl, Andréia Goebott, Natassia Goines, Jennifer Gonzalez, Julie Good, Kristyn Goodchild, Adam Gorring, Patrick

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Equine Times www.equinetimes.com

REAL ESTATE
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Langard Realtors www.langard.com
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Weir, Manuel, Snyder & Ranke www.weirmanuel.com

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John McCollum www.jpccollum.com
Marie Schires www.marieschires.com
Marty Pouget www.marty pouget.com

RECYCLING SERVICES
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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
Center for Reproductive Medicine & Surgery www.reproductive-medicine.com
Midwest Fertility and Sex Selection Center www.selectgender.com

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RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
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YOUTH ATHLETICS
Westland Youth Athletic Association . . www.yyaa.org

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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.

Warriors of Westland
The Warriors of Westland sports team for the physically challenged trains people ages 5 and up to participate in track and field events. For more information, call Head Coach Cindy Hawk at (734) 513-8745.

Wayne Ford Civic League
The Wayne Ford Civic League provides T-ball, coach pitch, baseball and spring and fall soccer for children ages 4-10. For more information, call Patricia Tatum at (734) 467-8243.

Wayne-Westland Soccer Association
For more information, call (734) 467-5260.

Westland Hockey Association
For more information, call Chris Simonian at (734) 326-2146.

Westland Lawn Bowling Association
For more information call (734) 722-7630 or (734) 5228229.

Westland Wizardz
The Westland Wizardz wheelchair basketball team is for individuals 16 years of age or older with any impairment that prevents them from playing regular basketball. There is also a junior team for ages 10-16. For more information, call Shaun Graham at (734) 762-9573 or Jose Zavala at (734) 721-1835.

Westland Youth Athletic Association
The Westland Youth Athletic Association offers youth basketball, baseball, cheerleading and volleyball. For information, call (734) 421-0640.

FUN-4-ALL
This children's recreation scholarship program that was started by several concerned parents who wanted to find a way for children from financially stressed families who live in Westland to be able to participate in recreation programs. All applications must be turned in at least two weeks before the first class. Those who are interested in helping the program or need an application can contact Margaret Martin, program supervisor, at (734) 722-7620.

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CHANGES

FROM PAGE A1

law. DeHart is hoping there will be little confusion due to the changes.

Nothing will change in the portion of Westland that is in the Livonia school district. The city clerk's office in that district already handled school elections, even before the new law took effect.

Voting changes aside, Wayne-Westland voters will cast ballots even though two incumbents, Steve Becher and Ed Turner, face no challengers in their re-election efforts.

Even though the race is uncontested, DeHart's office has received 1,300 absentee ballots from voters. The clerk's office had sent out 5,400

absentee ballot applications to residents who routinely vote that way.

What is interesting, DeHart pointed out, is that the 1,300 absentee ballots have approached the total of all 1,400 votes - whether absentee or at polling places - cast districtwide in the last Wayne-Westland school board election.

And, that election was contested.

Even so, DeHart said turnout still will be low Tuesday in a district that has nearly 61,000 registered voters.

During an interview in her office, DeHart didn't seem surprised that the number of absentee ballots already has approached the total votes from the last Wayne-Westland

election. Her office sent out many more absentee ballots applications than the school district ever did.

Susan Piereson, the Wayne-Westland district's executive director of computer services, used to oversee the school elections. She said the district usually sent out about 500 absentee ballot applications, compared to DeHart's 5,400.

That's because the school district had far fewer voters, compared to the city, who routinely cast absentee ballots.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone who remains confused about where to vote Tuesday may call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3185, (734) 467-3187 or (734) 467-3188.

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

ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

The Livonia district school board seats coming available currently belong to nine-year LPS board veteran Daniel Lessard, and Cynthia Markarian, who was appointed as trustee last year to fill a vacancy. Both Lessard and Markarian are running in the election. They're challenged by Livonia residents William C. Fried, Frank Kalinski and Steve King.

Fried is a 66-year-old Livonia attorney who aims for more emphasis on early childhood and vocational programs

for students. He would like the board to look at new ways to solve ongoing problems.

Kalinski, a 48-year-old licensed builder and owner of Frank's Rain Gutter Service, is a father of two. He'd like the board to look at issues from a new perspective, considering a reorganization of administrators and more support for music programs.

King, a 50-year-old father of four, splits his time between working at the Livonia YMCA, teaching in Berkley and leading his band, Steve King & The Dittilies. His priorities remain in the classroom, he said, and with teachers.

Lessard, a retired Michigan Bell employee and father of

three, has had 11 years of board experience and gained numerous awards from the Michigan Association of School Boards. At 70, he said he's dedicated to the job, and not ready to stop.

Markarian is 35-year-old mother of three who works as a vice president at DFCU Financial, dealing with information technology. She has said she sees the position as a way to give back to the community.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, and to find your specific precinct, check the Web site at <http://sos.publius.org> or contact the city clerk's office at (734) 466-2230.

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Centenarians credit God and strong work ethic for longevity

It goes without saying that people are living longer. Reaching the age of 100 was once considered a rarity, now seniors are edging closer to 110.

A case in point is Henry Perez. An resident of American House Westland I, he is enjoying life at age 108 because he was a child who helped his mother.

After his father abandoned the family, young Henry sold newspapers and shined shoes. He gave his earnings to his mother, Elvira, who was struggling to feed her three boys and a girl in Monterey, Mexico.

"You have to ask the Lord that question," said Perez when asked about his longevity. "I'm the only child who helped my mother. That's why God gave me a long life."

Looking dapper in a black cap and polo shirt, Perez sits in a lounge at American House. he answers questions with the help of Spanish-speaking Lupe Rodriguez Richardson, an assistant at the senior living residence.

"He remembers Pancho Villa," Richardson said.

He inherited his good health from a father who was Spanish and a mother who was Indian. He never smoked. And when asked about alcohol use, he laughs.

"I drank beer because tequila was too much money," he said.

He never bothered to eat a fat-free diet. In fact, said Lupe Richardson whose parents also are Mexican, "we cook our tortillas and fried beans and tamales with lard."

Except for the need for a pacemaker, Perez is healthy. He uses a walker for trips to the American House dining room and outings with his large family.

"His children held a party here for his last birthday in October and the dining room was packed," said Richardson.

He left Mexico in 1913, when he crossed the border into Texas. He met his wife in San Antonio where he worked in a grocery store, drove a truck, and worked in the fields picking tomatoes and cotton.



American House I centenarians include Unsell McKay (from left), 103, Henry Perez, 108, and Esther Lynch, 102.

Perez said the family started coming to Michigan when he was 22 to find work in the fields. His wife and children came with him and helped to pick Michigan sugar beets.

They also found work in the fields of Minnesota. When there were no more crops to pick, the family would head back to Texas each year.

Eventually, he got a full-time job in Michigan, working first at Ford Motor Co., then at General Motors for 17

years. He bought the house on Magnolia Street in Detroit where the family lived.

His wife, Irene, died in 1985. Like two other centenarians at American House Westland, Perez has a pleasant disposition, despite his impaired eyesight and hearing.

"He loves listening to his radio and teaching the staff Spanish," said Michele R. White, manager of Westland I. "He has lots of family who keep very involved with him

and he enjoys being with them very much."

UNSELL MCKAY

Unsell McKay, age 103, is a small, quiet man who wears suspenders and a striped white shirt. He enjoys visits from his niece, Georgia Ruth McKay, in his studio apartment.

Both the uncle and niece remember coming to Inkster in the 1920s. She was two months old, the daughter of McKay's brother, Hazell. McKay was 20 years old when he arrived in 1923.

The brothers were among the first families to settle in Inkster, according to Georgia McKay's recently published

book, *I Remember Inkster*. They were active in the Pentecostal church, her uncle became the Rev. Unsell McKay.

Despite the loss of his left eye in a farm equipment accident when he was a child, he led an active life filled with acts of kindness. He became a carpenter who built his own house and helped many others build theirs.

He and his wife were childless, but they became foster parents to dozens of children until her death in 1972.

He and three later wives often gave food and shelter to the homeless in their community. He worked as a janitor at the Ford Rouge plant for 35 years, and before that spent more than seven years working at a foundry. Still he found time to help with the construction of Inkster's first church, the First Baptist.

His niece writes in her book that he grew tired of seeing a "horrible cover" over the well from which residents had to draw their water in pails. He dug down 44 feet on his own property, drew water and installed a pump. His act was appreciated by the author's family, who lived next door.

Today, he's a slender 102-pounder and lives by himself, with some help from attendants. He believes that God has made his long life possible. He recalls that "God Almighty's spirit spoke to me one time and said, 'You can live a long life.'"

He quit smoking in 1929 in order to be saved in the Pentecostal Church of God in Christ, which condemns smoking and drinking.

"I didn't like alcohol anyway," he added.

At age 102, he spoke at the 75th anniversary celebration of that church, and with help from fellow parishioners, he attends Sunday school every week at the Church of God in Christ in Inkster.

He has been battling cancer in recent years, but nevertheless remains congenial.

His motto for a long life? "Be nice to people and pray to God."

"He always has a pleasant attitude and has a very kind heart," said White.

ESTHER LYNCH

At age 102, Esther Lynch loves her many nieces and

nephews and they love her back.

She was the fourth of a family of 13 children, most of whom were born after their parents moved from her birthplace in South Carolina.

"Our father brought us here when he came to work at a big farm in Michigan," she said.

Convalescing after two blood transfusions to treat the anemia she has suffered for a lifetime, she invites her guest to sit beside her on the bed and digs into her past to answer questions about her long life.

Hard work was part of it, she said. She worked on the farm where they grew corn, peas and oats. She remembers that when she was a child she once picked 407 pounds of cotton.

"Children nowadays don't want to work," she said. "Work don't kill nobody."

She married at age 15, but that didn't last. She remarried at age 23.

"I had a good husband for 25 years," she said. "He was a sharecropper and a deacon at the church. He was a beautiful person."

The couple had no children, although many children enriched her life.

"Children are not bad, they are sweet," she said. "You have to teach them love and to love their parents."

She loved the two children in a Michigan family for whom she worked for 15 years.

"I could get them to eat, they wouldn't do it for anyone else," she said. "They were sweet children."

Later she took a 13-week nurse training course and worked in hospitals.

At American House Westland I where she has lived for the past six months, she enjoys mealtime with her friends in the dining room.

"She has a very positive attitude and does not like to be kept down," says White.

She never smoked or drank alcoholic beverages, but she was always active in her church.

Whenever she can, she attends services at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Westland.

"The children at the church love me," she said.

She credits God for her long life, saying: "I try to lead a Christian life. I know it's because of the Lord who takes care of me."

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- Breakfast: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Lunch: 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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OUR VIEWS

School, college trustees on ballot

Tuesday is election day, and depending on where they live, Westland residents will be electing school board and/or college trustees.

In the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, Ed Turner and Stephen Becher are the only candidates for the two seats on the Board of Education.

First elected to the board in 1997, Turner has been very involved in the schools as a member of the school board. He likes to call the students "my children" and on his list of whom he serves, they come first before parents, teachers and administrators.

Becher, who is completing his first year on the board, has been impressive. He, too, has been active with the district and has done it without slighting the work he does for his hometown of Wayne.

While their race is uncontested, we urge residents of the district to take the time to go to the polls and give Ed Turner and Stephen Becher their vote of confidence.

For Westland residents living in the Livonia school district, five candidates are vying for the two four-year seats.

All are caring, quality candidates willing to give of their time and expertise. We believe Cynthia Markarian and Steve King are the best choices.

Tuesday is election day, and depending on where they live, Westland residents will be electing school board and/or college trustees.

Markarian was chosen by fellow board members to fill a board vacancy last year. She has earned board certification and has shown an understanding of the issues facing the board and educators.

King brings a diverse background and common-sense viewpoint to the position. He has a bounty of ideas and a

renewed sense of urgency to look at new places to save money, all with a goal of protecting classroom teachers' jobs and bringing back more arts and physical education class time to the elementary grades.

We urge Livonia district voters to elect Cynthia Markarian and Steve King to the Livonia Board of Education on Tuesday.

Incumbent Schoolcraft College trustees Philip Cascade, Patricia Watson and Gregory Stempien are asking Westland residents living in the college district for their support.

The trio are running unopposed in the election. Watson and Stempien are seeking re-election to six-year terms. Cascade is running to fill the remaining four years of the six-year term held by the late Richard DeVries.

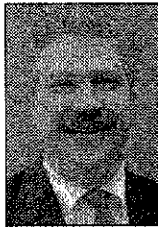
We are glad to see Philip Cascade, Patricia Watson and Gregory Stempien are seeking to remain on the Board of Trustees.

We also urge residents to take the time to go to the polls on Tuesday and show support for all of the candidates. Let them know you appreciate what they are doing for our schools and college.

Lack of health insurance has a toll

More than 45 million people in the United States lack health insurance and the number is growing. Four out of five of these individuals are in working families. Here in Michigan, 11 percent of our neighbors are without coverage.

Events are planned this week throughout Michigan to bring attention to this problem and its impact on people, small businesses and our economy. St. Mary Mercy Hospital and others will be joining with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Catholic Health Association, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and a diverse group of national organizations — including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO — to sponsor a week of activities to help our communities learn about the issue, share stories and find local resources for support.



David Spivey

The toll of this problem is both human and economic.

Those among us who lack insurance are more likely to receive care late or not at all. As a result, medical conditions often become worse, requiring more intensive and costly interventions. More importantly, those who become ill or who develop

chronic conditions face a diminished quality of life, worsened by the indignity associated with having to rely on others for support.

The economic impact is especially troubling here in Michigan, where we are already competing with other states and nations to attract job-creating investments. On the one hand, small businesses often find that insurance coverage for their employees is either unaffordable or simply unavailable.

On the other hand, large employers that do provide health insurance to their workers are bearing many of the uninsured's treatment costs, which are "shifted" to them through steeply rising premiums. The result is an "uneven playing field" for employers.

At St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, we see the problem in stark terms through the increasing number of visits to our emergency room — reaching more than 42,000 individuals during the last year. Most of these individuals have true emergencies.

But many are working families who are not eligible for Medicaid or whose employers do not offer health care coverage.

These families come to the emergency room for needed services because they have no other place to receive care.

They do not have a physician from whom to obtain preventive services or the ongoing

care needed to manage a chronic disease.

We at St. Mary Mercy, as part of our mission, have collaborated with other community-based organizations to understand and address the needs of the uninsured and other populations with special needs. Our community programs include health education initiatives, health screenings, support groups and women's services. We provide care to all persons in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

In addition, we collaborate with local leaders in developing strategies that aim to improve the health status of Livonia residents.

These kinds of efforts are part of the mission of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, and we expect to continue and expand them in the coming years.

But as a nation, we must address the larger problem. We urge elected officials to bring this debate to the forefront of the national agenda.

Covering the uninsured makes economic sense because it will mean more efficient and effective care, a healthier population and a more competitive local economy. More importantly, "coverage for all" is the right thing to do for our community. In a just society, no one should be left behind.

David Spivey is president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

LETTERS

District already is outsourcing

The purpose of a school is simple: to educate children. A school district's purpose, however, involves not only the education of children but getting the children to and from school, maintaining the school buildings and feeding the students all in adherence to a limited budget. It is not surprising that many districts choose to look at alternatives for providing some of their non-educational tasks.

The subject of outsourcing is one that touches raw nerves every time it is brought up for discussion. I am well aware of the political cost I incur for daring to even mention the word in the public forums allotted me during my campaign for a seat on the school board. I know there are LPS employees warning their associates not to support me based on ungrounded fears and rumors.

In spite of all this, I will not back down from my position of honest, open discussions with all parties concerned, on any subject pertaining to cost savings that will ensure our children get the very best education and taxpayers get the most for their

tax dollars. It is disingenuous for our current board members to say they are opposed to outsourcing while being actively engaged in the process. Our district provides food service, transportation, printing and other ancillary services to other districts while receiving tech support, maintenance of some equipment and other non-educational needs from private service providers. Garden City schools recently looked at competitive bidding for their cleaning services at a savings of over \$1 million. They opted instead for a plan presented by their employees, with substantial savings that allowed the district to keep things status quo. Not long ago, Wayne County bid out several state paving projects allowing employees of the Wayne County Road Commission to submit the winning bid, withstanding the test of competition.

I have many friends that work throughout the district in a myriad of different jobs and I have great admiration for the quality work they do. It is my intention as a board member to cut wasteful spending before programs. Education is not a line item in

the school board's budget — it is the only item. Won't you help me bring a fresh perspective to the workings of our schools. I will be very grateful for your support on Tuesday, May 3.

Steve King
Livonia

They're for the students

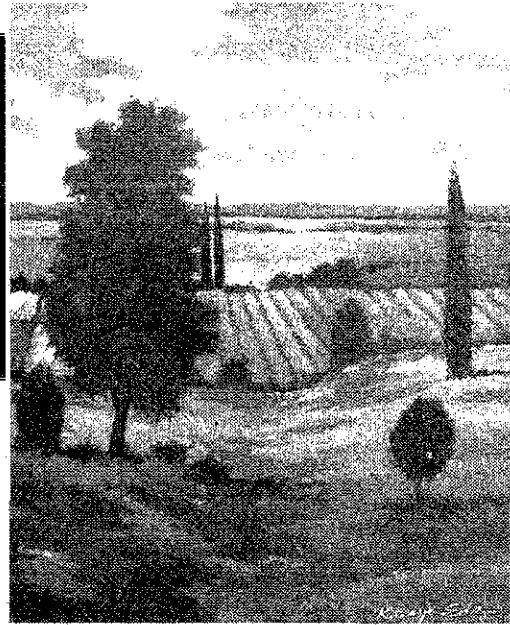
I am a sophomore at Churchill High School. I attended the two school board candidate forums on April 13 and 14 with my mother. I have been attending board meetings on and off for several years so I had an interest in how this all works.

After listening to the candidates both nights, my mom asked me who I would vote for, if I could vote, and why? I told her that I would vote for Daniel Lessard and Cynthia Markarian because they talk about what would be best for us, the students. So, if I could vote, my vote would go to the incumbents.

Elizabeth Sarlauskas
Livonia

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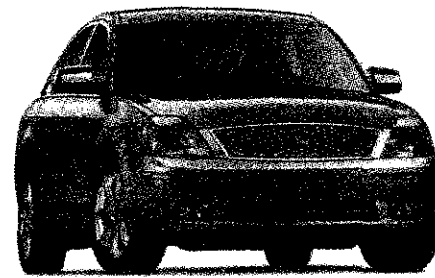
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