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Resident asks city to help curb rats

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Kathleen McDonald wishes that she, like most people, could come home, enjoy her dinner, perhaps do a few chores and then relax.

"I have to come home and kill rats," she said.

McDonald, a single mother raising two daughters, warned Westland city officials Monday that rats have infested her neighborhood on Dowling, northeast of Ford and Newburgh.

McDonald and a friend, Renee Tiano, went to a Westland City Council meeting to plead for help resolving a problem they say has worsened in recent weeks.

City officials conceded that rats have been drawn to a Dumpster - near Knockouts bar on Ford Road - that sits on a cement slab over a sewer line. The property borders McDonald's yard.

On Monday, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli tried to reassure

PLEASE SEE RATS, A3

Gunman sentenced in drive-by shooting

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who stockpiled weapons and ammunition will spend two years in prison for randomly driving by a north-end house and opening fire.

Robert Mark Green, 35, faces prison after he pleaded guilty to a felony firearms charge Friday in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Diane Hathaway.

"I am pleased at least to know that he got a mandatory jail sentence," said police Sgt. Chris Benson, who investigated three shooting incidents in five days involving Green. "I think it will bring some peace of mind to the victims."

Even though Green didn't know the residents, he was accused of opening fire on their vehicles while they were

PLEASE SEE SHOOTING, A3

Rating the Rouge



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tony Heberling (center) and his classmates at Schweitzer Elementary test the PH balance of water samples taken from the Rouge River in Hines Park.

Students give river its checkup

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Ten-year-old Brian Gallagher patiently sifted through mud and pebbles that his classmates had scooped out of the Rouge River.

"I'm trying to see if I can find any bugs," he said. Not far away, Jessica Thomas, 9, and Jessica Marshall, 10, performed chemical tests on Rouge water they had placed in test tubes.

"This is cool," Marshall said. "We're learning a lot of stuff about the Rouge River."

About 70 students from Schweitzer Elementary School in Westland descended Tuesday on the riverbank in Hines Park, performing tests in the Levan Knoll area in Livonia.

Schweitzer students were among 6,000 pupils from 88 metro Detroit schools to participate this week in the Rouge Education Project, which promotes awareness and involvement in the Rouge River watershed through school-based activities.

Students received help from educators and parents as they studied the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of the Rouge.

Wearing protective clothing that allowed her to wade into the river, 9-year-old Ashley Wallace set out to measure the water's depth.

"I like doing this, because I like going in the water," she said. "It's important to have clean water so we don't drink the bad water or something like



Schweitzer fourth-grader Brin Houston and teacher David Schofield set to take measurements of the River Rouge site at Levan Knoll Recreation Area.

PLEASE SEE ROUGE, A6

Motorcyclists help Relay with their own Ride for Life

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

If Robin Murphy has her way, it'll be a thunderous sound when 500 motorcycles rev up for a Ride for Life Saturday, June 11.

Murphy is organizing the motorcycle run to coincide with the annual Relay for Life Westland. The relay will take place Saturday-Sunday, June 11-12, in Central City Park, while the ride will have the adjacent Tot Town as its starting point.

"We're going to do about 80 miles," said Murphy. "It'll be four hours with one stop at the South Lyon Hotel."

Murphy started organizing the ride at the suggestion of Relay participant Lynn Hobiak.

"It's her fund-raiser idea and I was more than happy to do it, but I had no idea how big this would

get," said Murphy. "She came up with the idea in January. It usually takes a year to do one."

Registration will be at 9 a.m. with the actual ride starting at noon.

The Westland police and Wayne County Sheriff's deputies will provide an escort for the ride which will head out to Pinckney and then work its way back through South Lyon, Northville and through Hines Park.

It will finish up at the Ford Road Bar where there will be food, entertainment and door prizes.

"We'll come down Carlson, so everybody at the park will know the bikes are back," said Murphy who is looking for free entertainment to perform outside at the bar.

This is the first time she's ever done anything like this, but Murphy has found support for the ride from Motor City Harley Davidson-Buell, Biker Bob's

Motown Harley Davidson and the city of Westland, including Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, Police Chief Daniel Pfannes, and Deputy Chief Marc Stobbe.

The Motor City Harley Owners Group also has helped with the planning of the route and in providing ride captains.

"This group of individuals have gone above and beyond to make sure this is a successful event," Murphy said.

The ride costs \$20 for riders and \$10 for passengers. Those who register by June 4 will get \$5 off. Riders can pre-register 1-7 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Ford Road Bar, or by calling Murphy at (734) 237-4127.

"It's gone fairly well," said Murphy. "Now it's crunch time and it's coming together."

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Volume 40
Number 102



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PLACES AND FACES

Meet the mayor

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and her administration will have their next Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. this evening (May 19) at Holliday Park Townhouses Cooperative, on Fountain Boulevard off of Wayne Road on the city's north side. All residents are welcome.

Help Save Lives

Hayes Elementary School is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, at the school, 30600 Louise, Westland. Call (734) 427-2810.

Flea market

VFW Harris-Kehrer Post 3323 will sponsor an outdoor flea market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at its 1055 S. Wayne Road location. Cost is \$25 per parking space. No food or beverages may be sold. Call (734) 812-7978.

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. this evening (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.

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 20-21, at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for children. Call (734) 721-7400.

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.

Meet the author

Native Detroit 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.

Carnival time

The Wayne Ford Civic League at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland will host a carnival May 26-3. Adult and children rides, games and food will be featured. Call (734) 728-5010 for information.

Also on tap at the league:
 ■ IDENTA-KID 1-4 p.m. Saturday May 28. The Wayne Ford Civic League will sponsor it free of charge for the first 100 children to sign up for the process. Children are finger printed, photographed and critical information gathered to assist authorities in the event of an emergency.

There also will be sing-alongs with "The Music Lady," clowns and face painting. The Westland Fire Department will there to show kids the rescue and fire trucks.

■ Country and Western night Friday, May 27 The Over Easy band will perform, beginning 9 p.m. The charge will be \$5 per person. Beer, wine, and spirits will be available. Call (734) 728-5010 for information.

■ '50s Night Saturday, May 28. The Bonnie Rocket band will perform with the fun starting at 9 p.m. The charge will be \$5 per person. Beer, wine, and spirits will be available. Call (734) 728-5010.

'... A little drop of water'
Peacemaker brings her music and message to students

BY SUE MASON
 STAFF WRITER

Her name is Gemma Bulos. She's a globe-trotting troubadour who has a dream of creating a million voice choir to sing her song, *We Rise!*, on Sept. 21.

A former preschool teacher in the Battery Park area of New York City, Bulos sees her song "as the ring and I'm Prodo, carrying it to wherever it needs to be."

A Filipina-American vocalist, musician and educator, Bulos brought her music and her message of peace to the area, teaching elementary students her song and encouraging them to become a part of her choir.

Moved by the tragedy of 9/11 and the world's response to it, Bulos wrote *We Rise!* as a way of encouraging people to "celebrate the beauty of a simple, peaceful goal."

"I want to inspire you and let you know you can do this," Bulos told students at Lathers Elementary. "One act, one thought, one person can make a difference."

Bulos has taken her musical message around the world. She has taught people to sing the song in Russia, Korea, Israel, Spain and the Palestinian Territories.

She has performed it at the United Nations where she was asked to donate it to the organization. She said no.

"I opted not to because I didn't want it affiliated with any government," she said.

Bulos doesn't have dreams of making vast sums of money with it.

This is a woman who has spent her life savings and gotten help from her family to create her choir.

She's so committed to it that people interested in it can download the words, music and sheet music from her Web site, www.amillionvoicechoir.org, or purchase the CD for \$5.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Filipina-American vocalist, musician and educator Gemma Bulos sings *We Rise!* with students at Lathers Elementary School.

She's even created a choir packet for people who have never done something like this.

She has been invited to numerous international conferences to not only perform, but to offer her presentation on "Music, Water and Peace" in lectures and workshops.

On her Web site she states that, "Music's power has always transcended the rational mind, and has the ability to tap into that part of ourselves that knows compassion and harmony. My vision is simply to sing. Together. As one voice."

Last year, people in 100 cities in 60 countries sang *We Rise!* at the same time on Sept. 21, the United Nations' International Day of Peace and Global Cease-Fire Day, and Bulos would like even more voices this year.

Her idea is to have people

around the world sing the song at the same time on that day.

"I want to create a wave," she said. "I set the time in every time zone, so if people sing they sing with other people around the world."

Bulos uses a drop of water as the focal point of her song. For her, it is a wonderful metaphor.

She also ties in the words of Albert Einstein - "It takes a single drop of water to start a wave" - and photographs of a frozen water crystal and their response to the sound of different music - Mozart, heavy metal and *We Rise!*

"Water always looks for other water to join," she told the students. "After you see this, doesn't it make you think about the words you choose to say every day and how it affects others?"

Bulos held her digital cam-

era above her head, videotaping the scene of the children singing to put on her Web site.

She also joined them in their classroom, answering their questions and posing with them individually and as a group.

"I've never been to most of the places I visit," she told them. "I've been building the choir for two years and traveling constantly for four years. There are times where I'm exhausted and I want to stop and have a home, then I hear a story that I like and it makes it all worthwhile."

For more information about Gemma Bulos and her Million Voice Choir at her Web site, www.amillionvoicechoir.org or e-mail her at gemma@amillionvoicechoir.org.

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

Bill helps vets get state contracts

The Michigan Senate last week unanimously approved bipartisan legislation sponsored by Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, which would make it easier for companies owned by disabled veterans to secure state contracts.

"Michigan's veterans have risked their lives to defend our nation's freedom, and many have the scars and disabilities to show for it," said Toy. "As Michigan's economy continues to lag behind the nation's in the face of a changing global landscape, now more than ever, we must continue to help these individuals who have made

such enormous sacrifices."

Senate Bill 303, sponsored by Toy, would require that preference in awarding state contracts be given to qualified disabled veterans. It would also set a goal that not less than 3 percent of total state expenditures for construction, goods, and services are awarded to qualified disabled veterans.

Under a companion bill, the Department of Management and Budget would be required to report to the Legislature each year on its progress towards awarding state contracts to disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities.

FOR THE RECORD

DEATHS

A
 Mary L. "Granny" Adams, 91, of Bloomfield Hills, formerly of Titusville, Fla., died May 13.
 Felista S. Amburgey, 67, of Shelby Township, died May 7.

B
 Evelyn M. "Nana" Baker, 90, of Bloomfield Hills, died May 17.
 Mary Lou Bartholomew, 59, of Canton, died May 8.

C
 Barbara C. Campbell, 86, of Farmington, died May 16.
 Cynthia Nell Carden, of Westland, died May 11.
 Robert A. Colvin, 82, of Orchard Lake, died May 16.

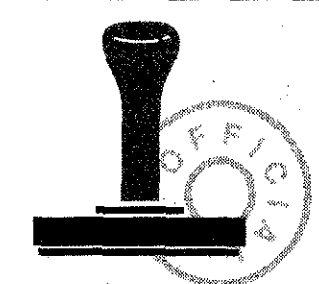
D
 Audrey L. DeWitt, 77, of Shelby Township, died April 30.

E
 Vera May "Dolly" Esper, of Westland, died May 15.
 Janet Evangelides, of Southfield and Birmingham, died.

F
 Paul H. Fejer Sr., 84, of Auburn Hills, died May 1.

H
 William H. Hardy Jr., 72, of Rochester, died April 30.

K
 Mary "Louise" Kidd, 97, of Lake



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

O
 Orion, died May 5.
 Jane Ait Kilgour, 96, of Mayville, died May 14.

M
 Russell P. Mahlout, 46, of Rochester Hills, died April 30.

S
 Marguerite D. Saranen, 94, of Rochester Hills, died May 5.
 Helen K. Strauss, died May 17, 2005
 Dennis Norman Styers, 60, of Westland, died May 16.

T
 Rhodie A. Tackett, 93, of Ufca, died May 7.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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RATS

FROM PAGE A1

McDonald and Tiano by telling them that the bar owner last Friday called in an exterminator to kill the rats.

"He has agreed to work with us," Cicirelli said, adding later that officials will monitor the situation daily.

Tiano told city officials that rats have burrowed holes in several neighborhood yards. She acknowledged that efforts to exterminate the rodents have left some dead, but she said others still roam the area.

McDonald, who teaches special education at Marshall Middle School, warned that she has seen rats during daylight hours - an indication that the problem may be severe. She has a wooden and metal shed in her yard.

"The walls of my shed have been chewed out by the rats," she said.

McDonald questioned why the city didn't previously insist that a protective "rat wall" be built behind the bar.

"I don't know how this can be allowed in the city of Westland," she said during the council meeting.

McDonald later told the *Observer* that she has had as many as six rat sightings in one day.

"I'd say over the last month I've killed at least one a day,"

Renee Tiano told city officials that rats have burrowed holes in several neighborhood yards.

she said. McDonald said she pays more than \$4,000 a year in taxes, and she noted that a new subdivision, with homes topping \$200,000, is being built just east of Dowling.

Referring to potential homebuyers, she said, "Do they realize they might be moving into a rat-infested neighborhood?"

McDonald also voiced concerns that her family or others could contract diseases due to the rat problem.

Westland Chamber of Commerce President Lori Brist, whose office is near Knockouts, said she recently saw a rat. She suggested that city officials explore the possibility of having the bar share Dumpster space with a nearby produce company.

Cicirelli pledged that the city and the bar owner will continue to explore options for resolving the problem. As part of that, she indicated that an exterminator may be called for return visits to kill rats.

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

Clark descendent helps christen ship

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Two centuries after Lisa Clark's great-great-great-grandfather William Clark and Capt. Meriwether Lewis led their famous expedition, the Garden City woman has been asked to honor her ancestor by helping the Navy christen a ship.

Next week, Clark will begin her own journey West to break a bottle of champagne against the Navy's newest auxiliary dry cargo ship, named USS Lewis and Clark. Along with a descendent of one of Lewis' siblings, Clark will be in San Diego during the Sunday, May 21, ceremony honoring the men who led the famous journey.

"It's hard to believe," Clark said. "It's one of those things that is an opportunity of a lifetime. They're (the Navy) flying me out and putting me up in a mansion hotel."

Clark will be joined by her aunt and Clark descendent, Joann Small of Farmington and Clark's friend, Deborah Smith, a Garden City resident. Small's son is currently serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Clark's famous lineage was something "we were always made aware of" growing up, she said, explaining that family vacations often involved retracing the expedition route.

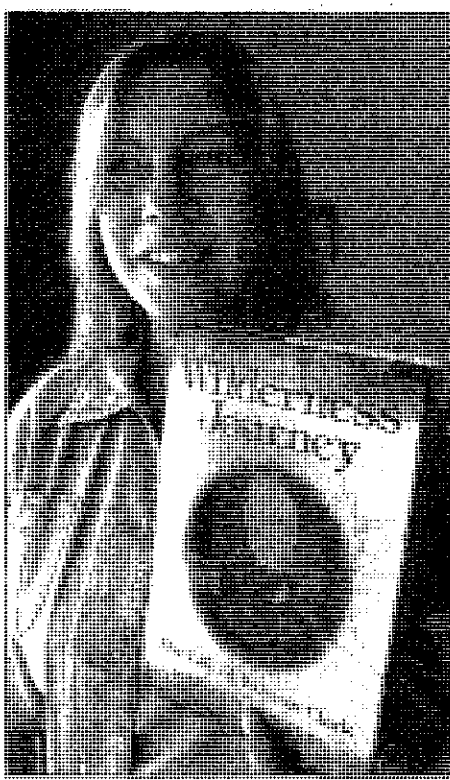
Clark's father, Peyton "Bud" Clark, is taking part in a three-year re-enactment program, "Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery."

Peyton Clark, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer living in Dearborn, is portraying Capt. William Clark in the dramatic living history that gives viewers a chance to visit life as it was 200 years ago when the explorers first met the indigenous tribes.

"A lot of Indians look at the expedition as the beginning of genocide of their people," explained Lisa Clark, a 1984 Garden City High School graduate. "It was the end of life the way they knew it."

LEADING THE WAY

Congress approved the plan in 1803 and President Thomas Jefferson named Lewis to head the exploration of the ter-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lisa Clark holds a book about her great, great, great grandfather William Clark. She will help christen a naval vessel named for the explorer and Capt. Meriwether Lewis,

ritory of the Louisiana Purchase and the western part of the country in general. He selected William Clark as his associate in command. They started in St. Louis in May 1804 and arrived back in St. Louis in 1806.

"Most of the trail is pretty much untouched," said Lisa Clark, 39. "It's been a great way for people to learn the real story of Lewis and Clark, because it's not what you read in the textbooks."

"A lot is left out about what happens to the American Indians," she added. "It's a way to start the healing process and bring everyone together and give everyone an opportunity to speak. Most Indian nations are embracing this and there are some small bands who are protesting it."

"They have a lot of reason to be angry. A lot of promises were made to them by

the federal government that haven't been honored."

Capt. William Clark was well-respected among Indians until his death, Lisa Clark added.

When her father was told the Navy was looking for a Clark descendent he knew his daughter would be honored to take part in that commemoration.

"He said, 'Sure, I have just the girl for you! I'm very proud of our branch of the family,'" said Clark, who also has a brother, Buddy.

The Clark legacy seems to live on, she said explaining that Buddy and his wife, Kim, have two children, Rachel and a son named William, who was born on the eve of the 200th anniversary of the expedition.

"And he has the same shock of red hair as his ancestor," Clark said. "Our family considers it to be divine intervention. We haven't had red hair in our family for several generations. And he's a little pistol and cutie pie."

DRIVING FORCE

It was family bonds, she said, that also was the driving force behind an enormous effort recently to restore the Clark burial monument in St. Louis, Mo.

Family members raised more than \$100,000 to restore the monument. Clark's father and his brother, John Clark, of Brighton, worked diligently to raise enough funds.

"The family went to St. Louis in May and there was a wonderful rededication ceremony," she added.

Meanwhile, Clark said she's excited about taking part in the Navy ship christening and has rearranged her work schedule as a Real Estate One residential agent, as well as her family life with her son, Chase, 8, and her longtime boyfriend, Don Okopski. Her mom, Beverly Clark, is staying back to care for Chase.

"I'm proud we are this close-knit loving family, and I feel William Clark will be very proud in the way we've honored him," said Clark.

For more information about Lisa Clark's part in the ceremonial Navy ship christening, go to her Web site at www.reoagent.com/lclark.

SHOOTING

FROM PAGE A1

parked outside of their home on Conway, near Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail.

Green, who lived with his parents on nearby Randy, fired several rounds with a handgun on Jan. 21, 23 and 25.

"One of the rounds missed the cars and went through the fence," Benson said.

Before arresting Green, authorities also had become concerned that the shooting incidents happened near the Livonia school district's Western Wayne Skill Center - twice during the morning hours. Green pleaded guilty to a felony firearms charge, which carries a mandatory two-year prison term, after prosecutors agreed to dismiss two other charges against him.

Authorities remain baffled

why Green randomly chose to shoot at the Conway property, although police found evidence of a potentially troubled man when they searched the house where he lived.

Authorities found that Green had two rifles with scopes, a shotgun, two handguns, more than 400 rounds of ammunition and a survival knife.

"All of the firearms were loaded," Benson said.

Green had initially denied opening fire on Conway, but he ultimately pleaded guilty. He denied knowing the victims, and they told authorities they didn't know him.

Green had a prior charge against him for carrying a concealed weapon, Benson said. Otherwise, he didn't have a known firearms-related history.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zaid Ammari of Stevenson Middle School places his glider onto the rocket outside the Ford Career Technical Center. Ammari and partner Jamie McMaster won the rocket launch competition.

Up ... up ... and away

Rocket launch tests students design skills

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

By flipping an electronic switch, 13-year-old Shauna Pringle ignited a small rocket engine that propelled a model glider she designed with classmate Lonnie Gonzalez, 14.

Whoosh.
The eighth-grade girls from Adams Middle School watched as their aircraft climbed skyward - higher still - before it succumbed to gravity and plummeted to the ground.

"It went higher than we thought it would," Gonzalez said, smiling.

The girls were one of eight finalist teams from Adams and Stevenson middle schools to compete in the 2005 Aviation Challenge, outside of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center on Marquette.

Using balsa wood, Styrofoam, clay and glue, the teams made gliders and attached them to model rockets designed by high school students from the Ford center's Engineering Ambassadors program.

"I spent my whole spring vacation working on the rockets," said David Espinoza, an ambassador and John Glenn High School senior.

As winds gusted to 18 mph - higher than students had hoped - the middle school teams, high school ambassadors and Wayne-Westland educators gathered last Thursday to watch the rocket launches.

The goal was to see which team's rocket-propelled glider could stay airborne the longest. Placing first with a flight time of just over 7 seconds was the Stevenson team of Zaid Ammari and Jamie McMaster.

Long before the competition, high school ambassadors met with the middle school transportation technology students to help them prepare.

"We taught them how to use actual engineering programs on the computer," Espinoza said.

After middle school teams made their gliders, the high school students again coached them on mistakes they made - and how to improve their small aircraft.

Pringle and Gonzalez - the all-girl team from Adams - had to hastily make a new glider on the morning of the competition, after someone sat on their original.

"We built it in less than 15 minutes," Gonzalez said.

In all, 91 middle school students competed to advance to the 2005 Aviation Challenge, but only eight, two-member teams made the cut.

The project was supported by the Convergence Education Foundation, which has shelled out \$50,000 over three years for various Engineering Ambassadors programs. The foundation is a coalition of automotive and electronics industrialists and educators.

The Society of Automotive Engineers donated the activity kits.

GINNY KOWALSKI, the Ford center's principal, said the 2005 Aviation Challenge allowed many of her students to get involved:



William D. Ford Career Technical Center Auto Instructor Jim Schirmer helps out and watches as Adams Middle School students Shauna Pringle and Lonnie Gonzalez position their rocket and glider for launch.

■ Graphic design students made special T-shirts, which sported the Ford center's logo on rockets.

■ Welding students made the rocket launchers.

■ Electronics pupils worked on the rocket igniting devices.

■ Heating and air-conditioning classes built a wind tunnel that allowed middle school students to test their gliders.

■ Desktop publishing students designed brochures for the event.

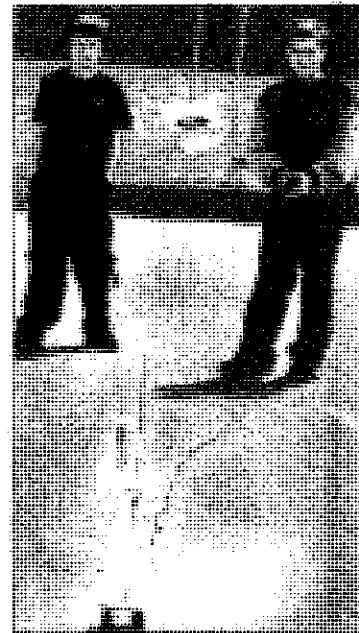
■ Chef Tony Paquette's culinary arts class served up hot dogs after the competition had ended.

With Ammari and McMaster placing first - the only team to have a flight of more than 7 seconds - other winners were announced by Sue Wilk, a Ford Center social worker and Engineering Ambassadors coach.

■ Kyle Park and Josh Bradford from Stevenson placed second.

■ Blake Willet and Andrew Karona from Adams ranked third.

■ Brandon Ralph of Adams and Jeff Oliverson of Stevenson earned awards for



Stevenson Middle School students Josh Bradford (left) and Kyle Park blast their glider skyward with the rocket at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center rocket launch.

best design.
■ McMaster of Stevenson won again in the category of sportsmanship, as did Sarah Smith of Adams.

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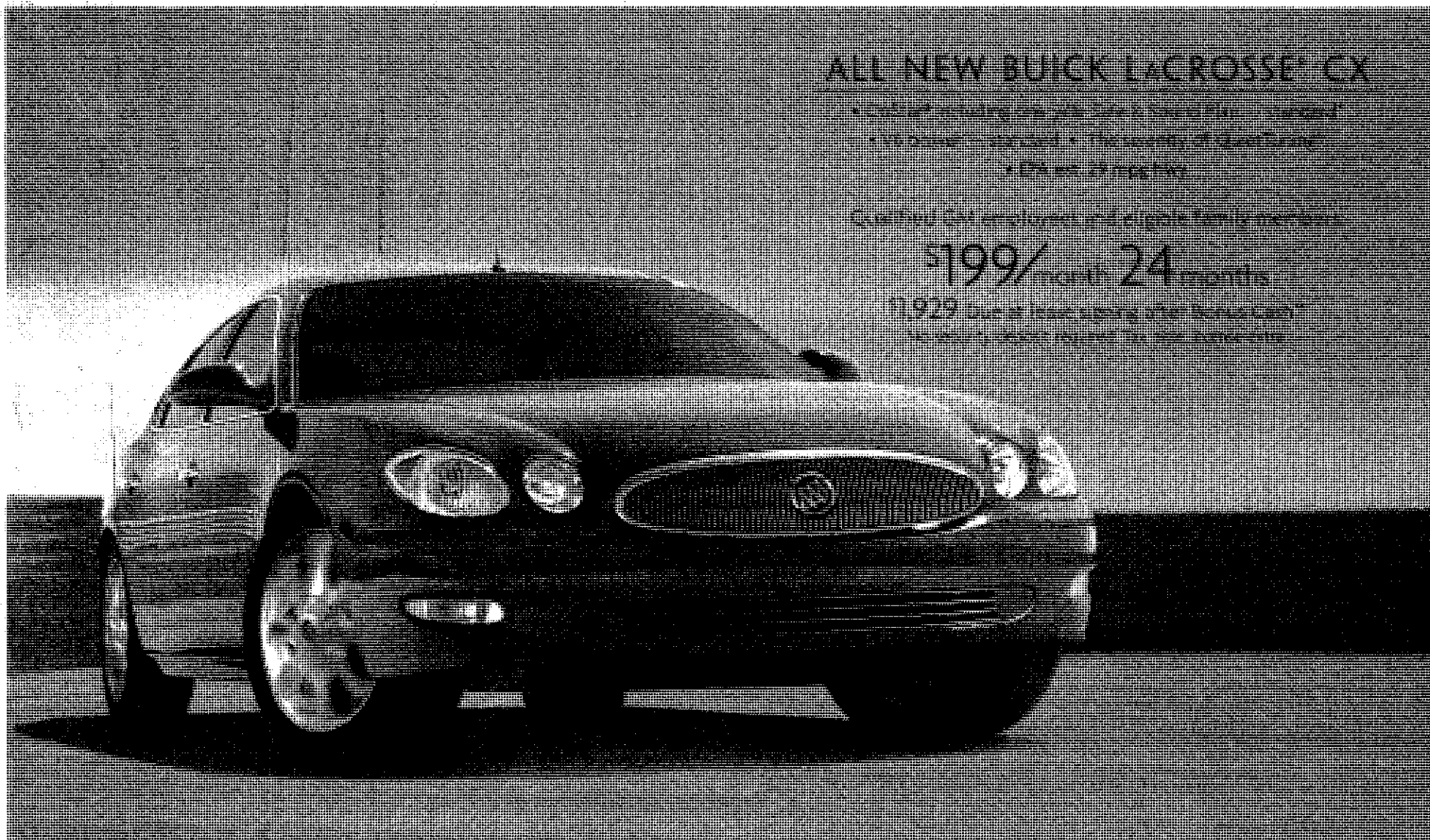
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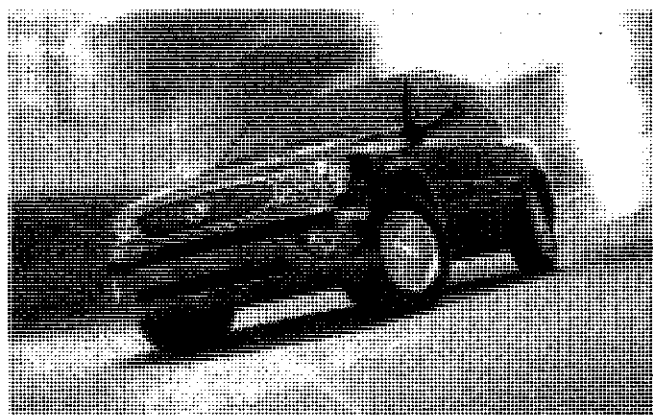
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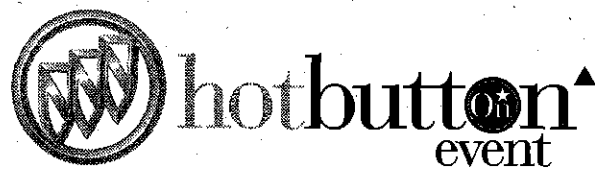
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▲Hot Button ends 5/31/05. For details, segm.com/hotbutton.

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OE08327248

ROUGE

FROM PAGE A1

that." Other students measured the river's velocity - or how swiftly it flows - by placing oranges in the water and timing how long it took the fruit to travel between certain points.

The nonprofit Friends of the Rouge has coordinated the Rouge Education Project since 1987, using data collected by students to see measure any changes in the river's health.

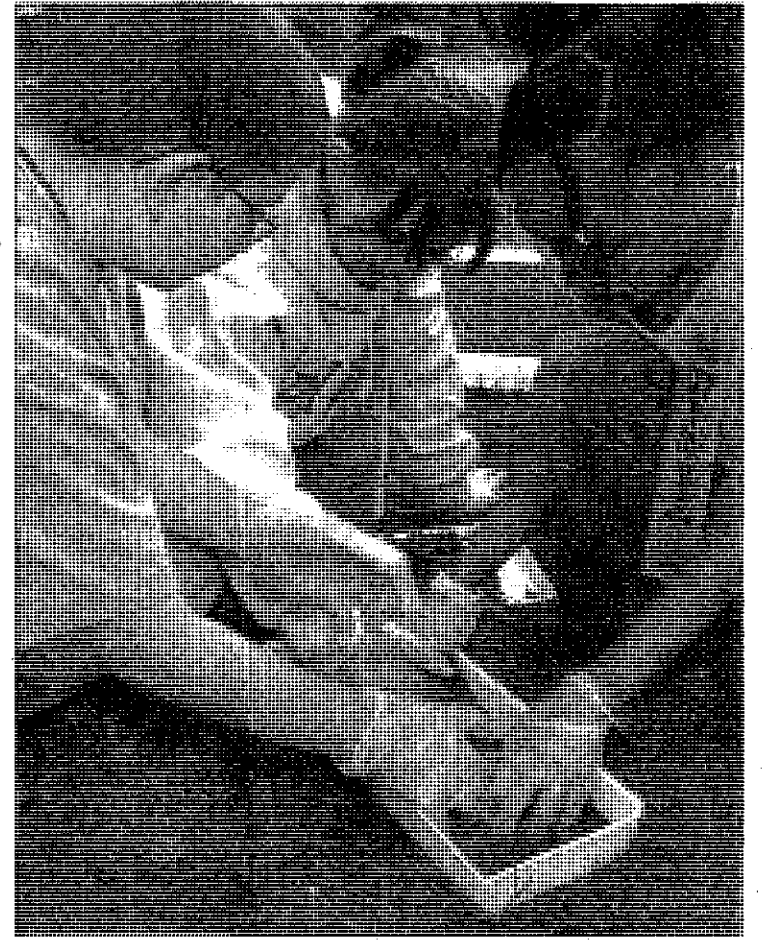
"The program is an incredible opportunity for students to gain experience in real-world science and provide a service to their communities by gathering information about the Rouge River," project coordinator Courtney Shosh said. "As students learn about their local environment and what affects it, they develop a greater sense of ownership and responsibility to protect it."

Mary Ernat, a Schweitzer fourth-grade teacher, said such projects can promote civic responsibility and environmental awareness.

Ultimately, Ernat said, "I hope the students take away from here an appreciation of our natural world."



Schweitzer fourth-grader Ashley Wallace scoops out river bottom from the Rouge River as part of the wildlife test. She was helped by student teacher Aaron Padgen from the University of Michigan.



Schweitzer fourth-graders Kenny LePere (from left), Kaitlyn Craske and Kayla Jones look through the dirt from the Rouge River searching for living organisms.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

Did you know that the library has a book discussion club that is open to anyone? The only requirement is that you read the book first.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland offers a monthly book discussion club on the third Tuesday of every month except December. The meeting time is 7 p.m.

It is a fun way to socialize, discuss books and get great reading recommendations. The choices are voted on by the people who attend the meetings from a list of books recommended by a staff librarian. We read fiction and occasionally non-fiction. We try to choose a good variety of books that reflect different cultures, themes, locations and characters.

Some of our recent selections have been *Confederates in the Attic* by Tony Horwitz, a non-fiction book about racism in the South; *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger, a creative work of fiction; and *Niagara Falls All Over Again* by Elizabeth McCracken, a really moving, realistic novel that spans a comedian's life.

The meetings are full of lively discussion where everyone is welcome to speak their mind. The librarian provides a list of possible discussion questions to get things started and keep things moving.

Please consider joining us for these meetings June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15.

To get started, stop in the library for a copy of the latest book. We pre-order multiple copies so you just need to check one out. The books are kept in the new books area of the library.

If you attend a meeting, the librarian will have the next month's book there for you to take too. Then just read the book and attend the next meeting.

If you have any questions, call the library or ask any reference librarian. Hope to see you there.

Michigan Fairs - A Great Tradition: 2 p.m. Saturday, May 21. No registration.

The food, the fun, the animals ... these are what we think of when we think of county fairs. Their origins, however, are quite different. They were designed to educate farmers and their families in new techniques of agriculture. Come learn the history of this fascinating evolution in a unique slide presentation by Julie Avery of the History Division of the Michigan State University Museum.

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

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Excitement builds as IKEA tears down old Kmart building

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Monstrous backhoes churned and groaned loudly as the crowd of some 100 people watched the demolition of the former Super Kmart. People schmoozed and rubbed elbows, and all the while, Susan Mendenhall and Kirsten Ussery never looked up from their IKEA catalogs, except to exclaim periodically, "Oh yes! I want something like this!"

The demolition crew began tearing down the old Super Kmart building on Ford Road late Tuesday morning to make way for shoppers like Mendenhall and Ussery.

Mendenhall just moved into a new house in Westland, and Ussery recently moved into a new flat in Detroit, and they both have empty walls and cupboards that need to be filled. They want to fill them with goods from Swedish furniture retailer when the store opens in 2006.

"I can't wait," Mendenhall said. "I wish it was open now. I don't want to take a road trip to Chicago."

The Canton IKEA store has been in the works for a little more than a year. The 300,000 square foot store will be at the site of the former Super Kmart, which was about half the size of the new IKEA store.

A little more than a year ago, IKEA began working with Canton Township, in order to build its first Michigan store. The Canton store will be IKEA's 28th location in the United States. IKEA currently has 210 stores in 33 countries.

The impact on the community and on the state will be tremendous, according to Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack.

After it is built, the store will generate an estimated \$1 million in annual property taxes, as well as \$5 million in state sales taxes, and will employ some 350 local workers.

"It's not just Canton that will benefit," Yack said. "The sales tax revenue generated from this building, revenue that would be somewhere besides Michigan, will be going into the state coffers. This will have a tremendous impact on the state."

Township officials are working with the



Susan Mendenhall (left) of Westland and Kirsten Ussery of Detroit are ready and eager for Ikea to come to this area.

Canton Chamber of Commerce to develop plans to encourage shoppers to stay in the area when they visit IKEA, he said.

"We don't want them to come for two or three hours for furniture and meatballs," he said, adding he hopes they will stay in local hotels and visit other stores, restaurants, and theaters.

Officials aren't the only ones excited about the new store.

Thad Bartley is the director of sales for the Comfort Inn in Plymouth Township.

"This is the biggest opportunity we've seen," he said. "We're excited."

Bartley is hoping that the IKEA retail development team will choose his hotel when they make their frequent visits to Canton during the next year. But after the opening of the new store, he's hoping shoppers will find their way to stay overnight.

"Certainly we're hoping to attract IKEA visitors, but we're also looking at all the residual business that will come after," he said. "The economic boom will be exciting."

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Inspired performance

Yes, it's "All for the Best" as the cast of Inspired Theatre presents three performances of *Godspell* at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 20-21, and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at the Grace Moravian Church, 31133 Hivley, Westland. Tickets cost \$8 for students and children ages 5-18 and \$10 for adults.

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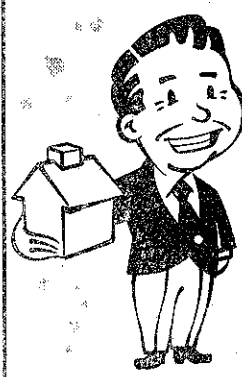
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OUR VIEWS

Board should try to limit fee plan

So far, the Livonia Public Schools officials' efforts to slash some \$3 million from the expected budget shortfall have taken a reasonable look at expenses and revenues — all with the proper perspective of limiting the direct impact of teachers to students in the class.

If adopted as proposed, the areas targeted for cuts will be felt across the district. Preliminary plans are to keep most of the cutbacks in the district's central office area, operations staff, forgoing spending on capital outlay and supplies, and in the clerical areas.

Those changes may, for instance, reduce teacher supplies, limit replacing equipment for upkeep of facilities or fields, or reduce the promptness with which telephones get answered or visitors get attention some elementary schools. But those are mainly outside-the-classroom issues.

For parents, though, one of the biggest concerns may be the pay-to-participate proposal. It now appears that high school athletes can expect to pay a maximum of \$100 and middle schoolers a maximum of \$50, with a cap of a maximum of \$400 per family.

For families in financial hardship, scholarships would be available for their student athletes. The money would come from individual school funds with the money generated from gate receipts.

The fact that many neighboring school districts have already added fee requirements makes the plan more palatable, which may explain survey results that showed residents agreeing that some kind of fee was better than boosting class sizes or cutting transportation. In addition, many parents — those used to paying for sports leagues, art or music classes, etc. — won't see this new fee as a big deal.

Since there appears to be no way to avoid a pay-to-participate fee, we encourage the school board to look at this as another one-year trial plan.

The district's experience with a pay-to-participate fee and a fall-off in participation in 1994 should be a warning signal. There will be students who won't participate and financially struggling families who won't apply for funds, meaning not all students will get the same opportunities.

Don't take clean water for granted

If there is a state whose people take water for granted, it is Michigan.

And why not? In addition to being surrounded by the Great Lakes, there are within our borders more than 11,000 lakes and thousands upon thousands of miles of streams and rivers. In fact, the only state with more coastline than Michigan is Alaska. Our state truly is a water wonderland.

But there is a long list of threats currently facing our lakes and rivers, and these threats come in many forms. Some are exotic invaders that hitch rides in the ballast of large freighters from far away seas. It is estimated there have been more than 140 invasive species that have taken up residence in the Great Lakes since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Some of these invaders, including the sea lamprey and zebra mussel, have made a dramatic impact on the lakes, and have probably altered their ecosystems forever.

However, the greater threats to our lakes hit a little closer to home.

On Tuesday, the Environmental Integrity Project, a national organization dedicated to stronger enforcement of existing federal and state anti-pollution laws, released a report that found a significant number of cities in the six Great Lakes states, including Michigan, are still not in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act. The EIP reports that many cities are still allowing sewage overflows into our creeks and streams.

Another major problem is how we handle our stormwater, which today is probably the major source of water pollution. Every time it rains, stormwater rushes off our streets, parking lots and buildings, and is flushed into our rivers and lakes. Not only does this runoff cause major erosion, it also brings with it vehicle oils, fertilizers, pet waste and other pollutants, which kill fish and other aquatic organisms. Those of us living in the Rouge River watershed can see firsthand what this stormwater can do to a river system.

When the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972, the Great Lakes were a virtual dumping ground for all kinds of pollutants. There is no doubt much progress has been made since then. But laws are only words unless they are enforced. It is up to us to ensure our waters remain clean. It isn't something we should take for granted.



LETTERS

Who's in charge?

What does the self-appointed so-called president of the Wayne Ford Civic League have to hide. It must be something big for why else would he work so hard to keep certain people out of there?

Why has he seen fit to oust all life-time members? He doesn't seem to know what life time means. I never knew it meant until Vic Bara takes over.

After reading the so-called finance statements passed out at the April 10 meeting, you don't have to even have had a single course in basic accounting to know the records are inaccurate at best.

If you took a good look at the reasons for rejecting members and who was rejected, it's like a who's who in the city politics list. Some of the member applications were OK and others were not, based on the fact they had no sponsor.

Yet the same persons or persons turned in the applications. Is this discrimination? I think so. If this man thinks that rejecting certain people will clear his path to who knows what he is mistaken. It ain't over until it's over.

What I would like to know, if anyone can give me an answer, is why do we have bylaws and laws, if no one can tell me who can enforce them. I called the Attorney General's Office and even filed a complaint. I was told they did not handle it because even though the league is non-profit and licensed through them it is not a charity non-profit and they didn't handle it.

So who does? And if nobody does, why is licensing required? Tax purposes only? Maybe that's who should be contacted next since, if this league has changed from a non-profit community organization to a private club, they should be made aware of it.

If anyone has any answer, feel free to contract me.

Judy McKinney
Westland

Protect bargained rights

As an employee of Livonia Public School District, I am very concerned about efforts to take away my right to collectively bargain for health insurance.

Public school support staff — bus drivers, secretaries, custodians, maintenance workers, classroom aides, paraprofessionals and others — do not typically earn high salaries. Health care benefits can be an important incentive.

The state does not belong in the insurance business.

Please join me in urging our lawmakers and Gov. Jennifer Granholm to stand up for the collective bargaining rights of school employees. Stop the Legislature's takeover of school employee health care benefits and defeat S.B.s 55 and 56.

This bill will drive talented, dedicated employees away from our public schools. Everyone knows school employees could make more money in the private sector. Good health care benefits help to attract and keep good teachers and support staff in Michigan classrooms.

Kristine Lynn Hangstefer
Plymouth

Tell the truth

The White House press corps asked the right questions at the recent press conference, but they did not get a candid response from the president. This is because the administration prefers to keep its motives hidden — what the president and his representatives say in public often belies their real intentions.

During the first term, for example, "Clear Skies" was their euphemistic name for legislation that would decrease environmental regulation. "Healthy Forests" was the name of a program designed to hasten the destruction of healthy forests ... and so on.

As we find ourselves bogged down in the deadly and costly war in Iraq, we now know that there were no weapons of mass destruction, but already unsubstantiated claims about a growing threat posed by weapons in Iran, or Syria or Cuba are starting to be heard. You have to wonder what the hidden agenda is.

The president says he wants to strengthen Social Security, but actually the hard-liners in the Republican Party have long desired to dismantle this hugely successful program.

And when Bush's religious backer claim that the filibuster on judicial nominations is "against people of faith," they are ingenuous. What they are really trying to do is to marshal the Christian troops.

The filibuster is not about religion. It would be against seven judges who have already been voted down for possessing opinions far out of the mainstream.

Their names have been resubmitted by Bush in an in-your-face challenge to the Democrats who dared to oppose him on the nominations.

The press can ask the right questions but they won't get a frank reply unless they demand to be told the how, what, when, where and why. It is past time that we had some accountability from this administration. It is time that they told us the truth.

Katie Jacob
Birmingham

More money won't fix schools

Throwing more money at our malfunctioning middle and high school system will not cure them. Parents and the newspapers show great concern about diminishment of sports and club programs, but there is hardly any mention of scholastic achievements — geography, history, math and science.

From being the world leader in technology, we are now in 14th place internationally after some underdeveloped countries.

Parents use the schools as a baby-sitting facility. The teachers union is engineering a lawsuit to obtain money from the government to cover the costs of the mandated No Child Left Behind program. Had the schools and teachers performed their jobs competently, there would be no need for this legislation.

Unless we drastically reform our school system, the U.S. will lose more jobs and have more unemployment, more outsourcing and lots of misery.

Henry Glesner
Oxford

Resist U.N. control

Back in March 2002, the United Nations met in Mexico to develop a plan for a global tax. American taxpayers are expected to donate \$400 billion.

H.B. 204 sponsored by Congressman Ron Paul needs your support to keep the U.N. out of your pocketbooks so please notify your representative in Washington by letter or phone call.

Those in Washington who want the U.N. to take control with more money and power over the lives of Americans need to be replaced!

Elaine Pantak
Lake Orion

Health insurance solution

I agree with David Spivey's column "Lack of health insurance takes toll" (May 1), but only to a point. Mr. Spivey does not come out and say it, but his statement, "In a just society, no one should be left behind," sounds like a pitch for a national health insurance plan better known as socialized medicine.

The problem of the uninsured can be solved without resorting to drastic measures such as socialized medicine, which would make matters even worse.

The uninsured are those who are too wealthy to qualify for Medicaid and too young to qualify for Medicare. They do not receive health coverage through their employer and do not purchase health insurance on their own.

A recent Michigan study of people without health insurance found that many live in households with incomes of more than \$75,000, even more with incomes above \$50,000. Many uninsured are young adults between ages of 19 and 25, who feel they do not need insurance because they are young and healthy.

Solution? Make health insurance policies affordable by offering a variety of policies from basic to deluxe and design special, inexpensive policies for healthy, young adults who are not covered by their parents. And to make sure no one is left behind, make having health coverage mandatory, just like auto insurance.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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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.

QUOTABLE

"I try to make it as meaningful as possible. I try to train them to think of this as a job site and tell them, 'You call me like I'm the job boss.'"

— Teacher Mark Valachine, about the students in his second-year construction trades classes at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center

Congress needs to act now to prevent pension disaster

When it comes to the autumn of our lives, few things are as important as a decent and comfortable retirement. Yet increasingly, a forest of dense and often bewildering terms are standing in the way:

Defined benefit pension plan. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC). Distressed termination. Frozen plan. Underfunded. Deficit reduction contribution requirements. Legacy costs.

Unlovely words — but important ones, because for thousands and thousands of Michigan workers and pensioners, each term represents a potential threat to their retirement future.

Here's the key to understanding all this: Some companies have promised their employees a "defined benefit" pension upon retirement (i.e. plans that provide workers with a set amount each month, depending on their wages and number of years worked), but yet have not contributed enough to their pension funds to pay for the benefits they promised.

Such plans are "underfunded" and, by law, the companies are obliged to make up the difference — a "deficit reduction contribution requirement" — within three years. A huge problem for some financially weak companies is that making these catch-up payments could push them into bankruptcy.

If that happens, their pension obligations can be turned over to the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. But the PBGC is already saddled with a \$23 billion deficit, the result of various companies having gone into bankruptcy over the past few rocky years.

Which means that pensioners covered by the PBGC often discover their benefits are much less than what they assumed they'd get in retirement.

All this can cause big trouble for many people. Just last week, in the largest corporate pension default in U.S. history, United Airlines obtained permission from a bankruptcy judge for a "distressed termination" of its pension plan, which was underfunded by \$9.8 billion.

That ruling clears the way for United's pension plan to be turned over to the PBGC, which scares the dickens out of the airline's retirees and employees already nervous about their pensions. A spokeswoman for the Association of Flight Attendants said that her pension, for example, could be cut from \$1,700 a month to \$800 — less than half what she had counted on.

And there is a potential local angle that could have far more importance for our area. Northwest Airlines, the dominant carrier at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, employs nearly 9,000 people in Michigan and has something like 1,000 retirees. They have been nervous for some time, and what happened with United last week made them a whole lot more so.

The nation's airlines are in trouble, having col-

lectively lost nearly \$33 billion since 2000. Northwest is no exception, having lost \$458 million in the first quarter of this year alone. By the end of last year, Northwest's pension plan was underfunded by \$3.829 billion. For months, the airline has been fighting to stay out of bankruptcy, which, if declared, would lead to serious job loss and risk reductions in pension benefits.

If bankruptcy were to happen, everybody loses, according to Andrea Newman, Northwest's vice president for government relations.

"Under current law, once a pension plan is underfunded the difference has to be made up within three years. If that happens, the risks become very great," she said. "Making these big cash payments could push the company into bankruptcy. The employees could find their pension benefits cut substantially. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation would be saddled with another big debt obligation, and the taxpayers would have to pay for it. Nobody wins."

As what happened to United shows, Newman is describing a looming crisis that demands a prompt solution.

She and others in the airline industry think they have one. They would prefer to amend the federal law to allow the airlines to freeze their pension benefits at current levels and stretch out overdue payments to their pension funds for 25 years instead of three, as the law now requires.

Representatives of the airlines and their unions met in March with 10 senators to press for the change. To my mind, this proposal only makes good sense. Employees would continue to get their full pension benefits rather than see them slashed when the pensions are taken over by the PBGC.

By stretching out their underfunded payments, airlines would get time to return to economic health. And both the government and the taxpayers benefit by avoiding a wholesale shift of pension liabilities.

What are the chances for legislative success? Reasonable, Newman says: "The senators have assured Northwest that their forthcoming pension bill will include a provision that deals with this issue. The House has told us they are interested in working with us. I'd guess something will be done, sooner or later. But the Pension Funding Equity Act expires at the end of 2005, so 2006 will be the year of the big crunch."

Far from being a government handout, the solution proposed by Northwest and other airlines makes sense. It costs no money. It improves the business prospects for Northwest, Michigan's dominant air carrier and one of the big factors in any economic development strategy for the state. And it protects workers from seeing their pension benefits slashed.

It's a win-win-win deal that, for the benefit of all concerned, the U.S. Congress should pass and the president should sign, right away.

Phil Power, the former chairman of HomeTown Communications Network and regent of the University of Michigan, is a longtime observer of politics, economics, and education issues in Michigan.



Phil Power

These youngsters find their heroes in history, everyday life

Worried about young people today? Think they're all like that selfish, smart-aleck teenager in the cell phone commercial? You've seen her, the girl who's asked by her father about contacting her friend, so she sticks out her thumb and pinky finger and starts pretending to talk with her friend on a fake cell phone.

Maybe some are that self-centered and obnoxious. But there are a lot of young people out there who can give you every reason to stop worrying.

On Saturday afternoon, the Michigan District Optimists hosted 10 talented boys and girls at the Livonia Holiday Inn for the state oratorical contest. I was invited to serve

as one of the judges in the contest, which offered the winner from each gender a \$1,500 scholarship. Each had to present an original speech between four and five minutes long under a number of very specific rules.

It was a nerve-racking time watching the youngsters before and between speeches. But during each speech, it seems, each of these young people used their poise, talents and skills to inspire, teach, entertain and even move the audience near tears.

The theme for the contest was "My Hero is ..." and it was fascinating to hear who these youngsters, age 16 or younger, had chosen as their heroes.

A few chose from among the rich and famous. One boy chose multi-media star Oprah Winfrey and one girl chose world champion skater Michelle Kwan. They were selected based on overcoming challenges and persistence. The girl made a memorable comment on Kwan, saying she learned that "failure is only the momentum to succeed in your dreams." Pretty heavy stuff.

One boy identified the so-called "Greatest Generation" as his hero, offering a moving talk focused on the "everlasting imprint" that group of Americans had on our society.

Several of the youngsters chose someone they knew personally as a hero. One boy, born in China, shared a humorous tale of a "heroic" school friend who had helped him learn some English words — though not always the right ones — when he first visited a school in this country.

A diminutive girl chose Martin Luther King Jr. to spotlight, and she ended her speech by bravely singing an old anti-slavery spiritual, a cappella.

Another girl shared an emotional speech — well, it was emotional especially to those parents in the audience — about how she only had to look across the kitchen table to find her hero. Her father is a Scoutmaster and

Service clubs like the Optimists are plentiful all around our metro area. Many of these groups are seeing falling memberships, as younger people adults aren't finding or making time to give back to the community.

community volunteer, someone whose "exemplary values" influenced the world one person at a time.

One boy chose Jesus as his hero, not only focusing on his spiritual heroics but how he used his intellect to outwit the brilliant minds of his day and then how he nobly gave up his life for others. His choice of words — entreated, for instance — was stellar and he presented his speech with just enough gestures and sincerity to win the boys' competition.

Meanwhile, the girls' scholarship was won by a young woman who shared how her own life was affected by a brave man who had himself presented a speech to a church group she'd heard. The man had lived a violent life of addictions, including once killing a man. He was later saved by accepting God in his life and shared with anyone who would listen how it was all possible with divine intervention. Her speech was not only impeccable, she overcame a microphone that was working, then stopped, then started again, all without batting an eye. The judges were impressed.

All in all, these talented youngsters made a big impression on members of the audience, some of whom weren't expecting to be so moved. The standing ovation for them showed our appreciation.

Service clubs like the Optimists are plentiful all around our metro area. Many of these groups are seeing falling memberships, as younger people adults aren't finding or making time to give back to the community.

However, a visit to one of these types of contests certainly shows some of the good work they can inspire. It's a big effort to put together such a statewide contest. In this case, I also had a chance to learn that the 114,000 or so Optimists in the world raise and give back some \$78 million a year in their communities. On a national basis, they've set a goal of tackling childhood cancer, by raising money to support children and families dealing with treatment and to support research. Talk about some heroics.

Dave Varga is editor of the Livonia Observer and Redford Observer. He can be reached at (734) 953-2119 or dvarga@oe.homecomm.net.



Dave Varga



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Standing, Left to right: Bryan Hinch, MD; Anil Sil, MD; Walid Harb, MD; Bobby Lee, MD; Vijaya Arunachalam, MD.
Seated, Left to right: Cynthia Piko, MD; Jonathan Zimmerman, MD; Catherine Foster, MD.

Battle over interstate wine sales far from over

BY JOE BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Wine writers Ray and Eleanor Heald may have won their legal war Monday against the state of Michigan when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a ban on interstate, direct-to-consumer wine shipments, but the battle over the issue is far from over.

The Healds, wine columnists for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and Troy residents, sued the state in March 2000 claiming Michigan's law was preventing them from securing wine samples from out-of-state wineries needed for their work.

The case focused on whether Michigan's law violated the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution since it treated in-state wineries differently from their out-of-state competitors. Michigan wineries are free to ship their product directly to customers, while out-of-state wineries have to use the state's established three-tier distribution system.

The case eventually was joined with a similar suit from New York state before landing on the Supreme Court docket.

"We knew a case would eventually make it to the Supreme Court since appellate courts were handing down conflicting rulings, but we didn't imagine it would be our case," Ray Heald said. "The state would be foolish and irresponsible to act in a way that would put any state industry at a disadvantage."

Heald's comment was in response to published reports that the head of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission will ask the state Legislature to change the law so even in-state wineries would be prohibited from shipping wine to Michigan residents.

Such a move would essentially put Michigan's growing wine industry out of business, said plaintiff's attorney Alex Tanford, who served as co-counsel on behalf of the Healds through the law firm Epstein, Cohen, Donahoe & Mendez.

"This case is not about just shipping wines to consumers," said Tanford, who also is a professor of litigation at Indiana University. "What the courts rightly ruled is that the state has to treat all wineries the same in terms of doing business, regardless of whether they are located in the state or not."

If the state continues to ban

out-of-state wineries from dealing directly with customers, then Michigan wineries would lose all the competitive advantages they have enjoyed over the years with the state's blessing.

"If Michigan wineries can only sell through the current three-tiered system of distribution burdening out-of-state wineries, then that means they can no longer sell to customers who visit the winery or an off-site tasting room," he said. "And it would also snuff out any new wine ventures in the state since there is no way they could afford to be represented by a wholesaler or compete for shelf space at the retail level."

Tanford said the state of Michigan will be responsible for paying all legal fees accumulated over the five-year fight, which will be set by U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman, who first heard the case. He said the total cost of the case, including staff time of the state's in-house counsel, could reach \$1 million.

For their part, the Healds said they hope the state will do the right thing and swing open the doors to all wineries wanting to sell to Michigan residents, which also for the first time would allow Michigan wineries to begin shipping their products to out-of-

state customers.

"Wine lovers in Michigan and the other 22 'constrained' states will now be able to join winery clubs in other states and receive special wines and educational materials to expand their knowledge of wines," Eleanor Heald said.

Tanford said it should take about 90 days before the high court's ruling is officially entered and takes effect. Until then, he said "just about anything" can happen.

"The Liquor Control Commission could seek an administrative action outlining

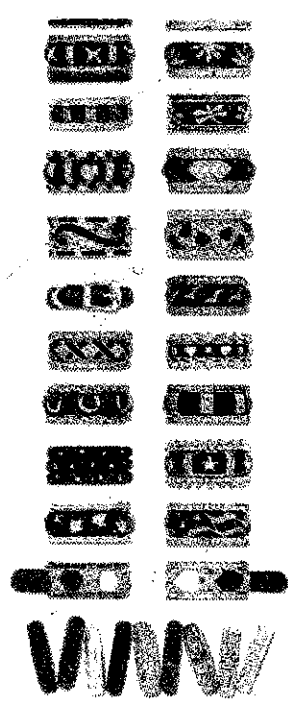
new rules, or the Legislature could pass a new law establishing whatever guidelines they feel are proper and necessary," he said. "But I can't imagine the state would be interested in investing a whole lot more time and money in trying to protect bad legislation."

Liquor Control Commission Chairwoman Nida Samona could not be reached at press time.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R- Novi) said the state will need to level the playing field without devastating Michigan's wine industry.

"The court ruled the commerce clause trumps a state's right to regulate alcohol sales, so we need to be sensitive to that while keeping focused on the impact to an important state industry," she said. "This is a complex and complicated issue that will take some time to work through."

Any new law must be focused on keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors, said state Sen. Laura Toy (R-Livonia), a major argument in the state's case that was largely discounted in the court opinion.



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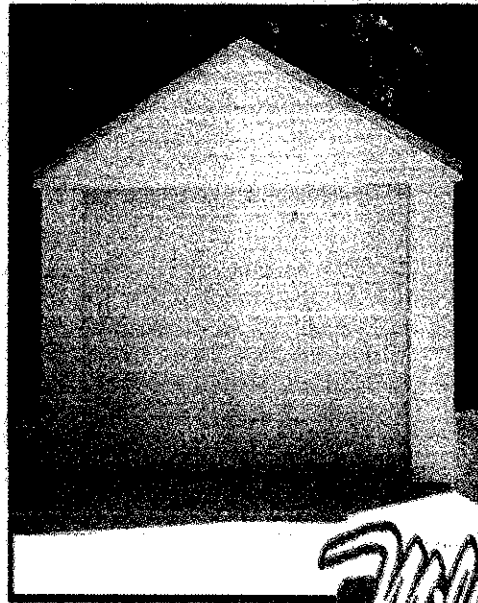
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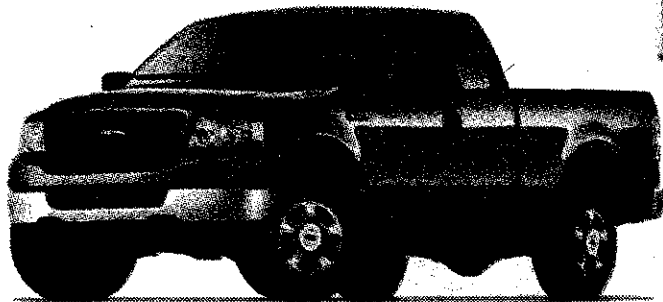
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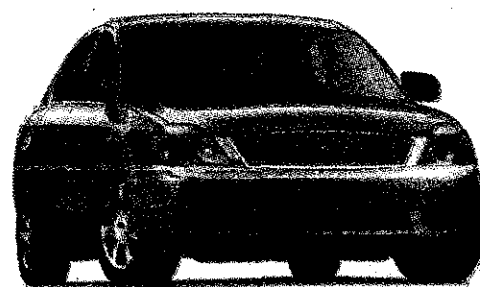
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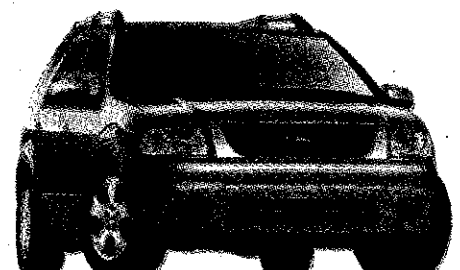


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