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City receives national quality of life award

Westland has been selected by the U.S. Conference of Mayors to receive a prestigious quality-of-life award for cities with a population of less than 100,000.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli was planning to accept the 2005 Outstanding Achievement City Livability Award on Saturday during the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Chicago.

The award was received for the city's efforts to start a fire-safe neigh-

borhood program in which Westland firefighters go door-to-door to provide free inspections of residences.

The program was initiated last year by Cicirelli and Fire Chief Michael Reddy. The award honors mayors for developing programs that improve a city's livability.

An independent panel of judges chooses the award winners.

"I am very proud that our city has been selected for this prestigious

award," Cicirelli said. "It is especially rewarding to be recognized by an organization as highly regarded as the U.S. Conference of Mayors."

"Our fire safety program demonstrates that in Westland, we are dedicated to going the extra mile for our residents."

Cicirelli commended Reddy and firefighters for their role in the program.

Under the fire-safe neighborhood

program, firefighters offer to provide and install such safety improvements as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and "grab" bars for the disabled.

A fire-safe neighborhood book of safety information also is given to residents, along with a "file of life" that compiles medical information into one place to help emergency personnel. Firefighters not only instruct residents on the equipment they install; they also provide educational classes

on CPR, first aid, baby-sitting, swimming safety and bicycle safety.

Firefighters prepare plans for fighting fires in neighborhoods, conducting on-site exercises that simulate emergencies.

Westland is one of five cities with populations of under 100,000 to receive this year's livability awards. The others are Dearborn, Trenton, N.J., Littleton, Colo., and North Richland Hills, Texas.



PHOTO BY BRIAN LOOPER

A sea of Blue

Members of the Class of 2005 created a sea of blue on the floor of the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center for the Wayne Memorial High School graduation ceremony. The serious looks came as the soon-to-be graduates waited for their names to be called to receive their diplomas. For more on the ceremony, see Page A3.

District, parents make plans to be at education rally

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

A few interested people gathering on the lawn of the State Capitol June 21 sounds great to Rebecca Karpiuk.

She likes it so much that Wednesday evening she sat in the lobby of the Wayne-Westland administrative offices doing a call-in to see how many parents from Edison Elementary School would like to join her.

"I think it's a good idea," said Karpiuk about the statewide K-16 rally being organized by the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future. "It's a good idea to show them that the people are willing to take time out of the day to support education."

Karpiuk was among Wayne-Westland parents and school administrators who turned out for a meeting of the district's "Our Kids Can't Wait - Fair Funding for Schools" campaign.

Her goal Wednesday evening was to line up parents to ride on one of two 47-passenger buses chartered for the rally. One bus already is filled with school staff, and 37 seats remain on the second bus that's reserved for parents.

PLEASE SEE SCHOOLS, A6

Innovation is Westlander's middle name

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Ask Bill Gronowicz what he does for a living and he will tell you he's a supervisor at Yazaki North America. But look at the company's Wall of Innovation, and you'll know he's an inventor by trade.

Gronowicz, of Westland, has more plaques - nine of the 130 total - on Yazaki's Wall of Innovation than any other inventor with the company.

The wall was unveiled last fall, and is near the front of the big glass building on Haggerty Road to remind employees that the company values its innovation, but also to remind clients that the company is a leader in the wire harness and wiring systems industry, said Lori Killingbeck, director of marketing.

"We're serious about what we do, and we're industry leaders for a reason," she said.

Gronowicz, who has worked for Yazaki for 17 years, said innovation doesn't always come easy.

"Innovations can sometimes be unimaginable," he said at a speech when the wall was first unveiled. "Not too long ago, a concept like the Internet was inconceivable. But globalization, technology and information have converged to form an entirely new way of life for every individual and organization."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill Gronowicz, of Westland, stands in front of Yazaki's Wall of Innovation. Each plaque represents an employee's invention. Gronowicz has the most with a total of nine.

In his long tenure at Yazaki, Gronowicz said he's been exposed to plenty of innovation and forward thinking, but like other inventors he has to find his own source of inspiration.

"For myself, inspiration came from the Forward Model Development's Patent Day. This event consisted of engineers breaking into groups of four to brainstorm on wiring and electrical related topics. Concepts ranged from motorcycle turn canceling switches to brake pad wear sensors," he said. "As a result of this event, many improvements to current products as well as new concepts were patented."

Yazaki will recognize at a dinner later this month its inventors - 24 in all - who have added their patents to the wall this year. Not everyone who gets an idea patented is an inventor like Gronowicz.

The patents also cover intellectual property such as marketing tools and processes, Killingbeck said.

"So you don't have to be an engineer to get a patent," she said.

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So, what can you get for \$20?

Chamber's restaurant rally expands to meet demand

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A restaurant tour that allows patrons to spend just \$20 and sample food from eight local eateries will return to Westland in July.

Billed as a restaurant rally, the event will have a price tag that averages just \$2.50 for each restaurant.

Restaurants lined up for this year's event include Applebee's, Beaver Creek, Knockout's Bar & Grill, Farwell & Friends, LongHorn Steakhouse, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Johnny Carino's and Malarky's Pub.

Organized by the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the rally will occur 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 26. Patrons will be assigned a restaurant where they will start their tour, and 15-passenger vans will shuttle them among the eateries.

"They can use their own cars, too," chamber President Lori Brist said. "Some people are getting limos."

The second restaurant rally is expected to draw twice the

PLEASE SEE RESTAURANTS, A5

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Generators, spring cleaning top business opportunities

GENERATING INTEREST

Cool Run Environmental Systems, which relocated to Canton last year, is now offering the latest development in whole house generators.

"This is a new product we're very excited about," said Robert Bowers, owner of Cool Run and Canton resident. "It runs on natural gas and holds up to 10 circuits. It will automatically come on 30 seconds after you lose power and shut off within 30 seconds of the power coming back."

The Carrier generator may

even be powerful enough to run a household's energy needs along with central air conditioning, depending upon the size of the home and the size of the generator. Cool Run sells 12- to 15-kilowatt Carrier generators.

"They look like central air," said Bowers of the structure itself. "It's well insulated and sits out in your back yard like an air conditioner. They're virtually care-free."

Bowers said the generator may be most important for individuals with specific medical needs, those who rely on oxygenated air or home dialysis

machines to run - despite a power outage.

"We're selling more and more generators," said Bowers. "We're on a power grid that hasn't been upgraded for 40 years. So there are a lot more blackouts."

The generators retail at between \$5,995 and \$8,000, including installation and depending on size. Cool Run will sell the product starting at \$4,995. The family-owned business has been in existence since 1994, according to Bowers, who also teaches air conditioning and refrigeration.

Cool Run Environmental Systems is located at 8223 Ronda in Canton. For more information, call (734) 414-8837.

REVAMP YOUR GARAGE

Who has the ugliest garage? That's what the experts at Garage Concepts of Livonia hope to find out in its Father's Day Ugly Garage Contest.

"The garage is no longer simply a place to park cars," says Dave Les, Garage Concepts chief marketing officer. "Some of our customers are driven by function and the need for useable space, or they want to create a place to work on their hobbies. Others look at their garage and they see a showcase for their cars."

Les will be one of three judges for the competition, including Murray Gula, host of WJR 760-AM Home

Improvement with Murray Gula, and Paul Wooley, a car buff and Wayne State University professor. The grand prize, worth \$4,500, includes an extreme garage makeover with custom-installed cabinets, workbench and epoxy-coated flooring. First-prize winners will receive a custom-installed workbench valued at \$1,200, while the runner up will receive a set of custom-installed garage cabinets valued at \$695.

Contest entrants must be at least 18 and their garages must be part of a single family home located in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb counties. Garages should be no more than 20 years old, structurally sound and have finished walls.

To get the official entry form and full contest rules, visit www.M1storage.com. E-mailed entry forms must include a digital color photo of the garage along with an essay of 200 words or less. The deadline for entries is June 30.

Garage Concepts, which recently opened a 24,000-square-foot showroom and production facility in Livonia, designs and installs a variety of storage units, cabinetry and floor treatments. Contact Garage Concepts of Livonia at (734) 525-0500. Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Send tips to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.



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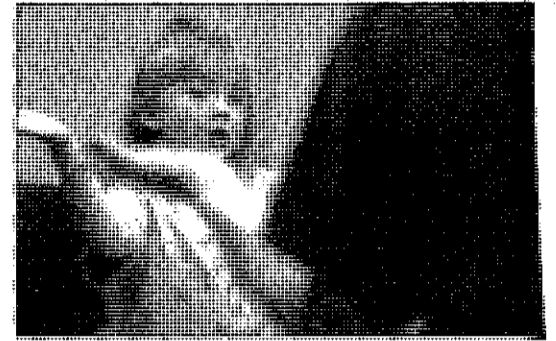
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Young authors celebrate at the library

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nankin Mills Elementary student Courtney Dice follows along in the song during a music session at the Young Authors Conference.

Elementary students filled nearly every corner of Livonia's Civic Center Library as they celebrated reading and writing with a range of activities.

The top student writers at Adams, Cleveland, Cooper, Hayes, Hoover, Hull, Kennedy, Nankin Mills, Randolph and Roosevelt elementary schools were invited to a Young Author's Conference this week. Lower elementary students participated during the morning, and their upper elementary counterparts came along after lunch.

According to Principal Linda Minsterman at Hayes, the children had been writing their own books since the start or middle of the school year. The students who created the best work among those books published were invited to spend half of the day, along with their parents, at the library. The morning kicked off with the sights and sounds of The Magic Carpet, a dramatic and musical group of a few women who acted out stories.

Then, the students divided into groups of 12 and were assigned two destinations within the library. Activities ranged from clowning to collage art and sign language to singing and playing instruments.

In one corner of the library, students and teachers from Johnson Elementary School's Clown Club read their favorite books to the student authors, and made balloon animals.

"It's a nice reward for the kids to have a fun day," said Susan Boggs, a second grade teacher at Johnson. "They did such a nice job."

Nora Post, a fifth grade teacher at the school, said the students were using clowning in creative ways, creating balloon animals from the stories they read. The young writers also have a chance to meet other students who have been writing all year.

Valerie Evans-Ebling, a second-grade teacher at Nankin Mills said the conference is "always exceptionally done."

"There is such a variety of things they get to do," she said, overseeing a group learning sign language. Evans-Ebling said these students will return to school and talk about their experience, and it tends to inspire more children to participate in writing their own book next year.

"It's enjoyable," she added. "As an adult, I learn a lot as well."

In a quieter corner of the library, Sally Diskin-Gyokeres taught students how to use scraps of painted paper to create illustrations for a story, much like author and illustrator Eric Carle does. Second-grader Alyssa Mazur started making a colorful butterfly.

Leigh Guzowski attended the conference and had a chance to read her son Tyler's book for the first time. "He was nervous this morning, but really excited," she said. "I think it's wonderful they do this for the kids. They worked hard to do their books."

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Members of Wayne's Class of 2005 receive their diplomas

Family and friends gathered at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center June 4 to watch as Wayne Memorial High School's Class of 2005 graduate.

Graduating at the commencement ceremonies were:

Amber Marie Adam, Amanda Rae Adams, Jennifer M. Adkins, Jamie Marie Altman, Jeffrey Alves, Samantha Antoinette Anderle, Jennifer R. Anderson, Melanie Anderson, Michael Anderson, Rachel Ann Atkins, Cassandra D. Baker, Rachel Marie Baker, LaTanya Ball, Joshua Biarnesen Barnes, Jacob Bauder, Jamie Marie Bauer, Denise E. Bell, Dorcas Theresa Bell, Angela Berthet, Ashley Evette Bickers, Joi Monaye Black, Kaitlin Patricia Blanchard, Kimberly Marie Blessing, Rebecca S. Bolish, Candice Marie Bond, Rikki Boone, Betty Booterbaugh, Sean Bowling, Ashley Ann Bowman, Jennifer Bowser, Adrielle Ryan Bradford, Victoria Marie Bradley, Brittany Brady, Christina Marie Brenner, Nicole Bronson, Taylor Steven Brooks.

Jonathan Contreras, Timothy M. Cornett, Andrew B. Crawford, Krystle Lynnette Crawford, Jason Brian Crothers, Arthur John Cruse, Dale Dahlberg, Ashley Marie Davenport, Robert F. Davenport, Kayla Davidson, Stephanie Davidson, Dean Davis, Heather Day, Nicholas James Dayton, Katie-Lyn Dennis, Ryan David Desiniewicz, Kevin Dombrowski.

Trisha Marie Donaldson, Andrew Doss, Amy Bridgette Dunham, Amanda Dye, Janika Nicole Eakins, Tynikka Edwards, Regina P. Ellis, Danielle Elswick, Christopher D. Ewing, Cody Shane Ferguson, Tanya Marie Fielhauer, Misty Ann Fogg, Terrill Dayquinn Ford, Tera Jean Foster, Latosh Ann Franklin, Christopher Franks, Stephen Frost, Amanda Ann Fulton.

Nai Shervonne Fuqua, Roneisha Lyneice Gale, Jeremy M. Gallentine, Heather Galvan, Cory P. Gamsjager, Rishi Gandhi, Alyssa Garland, Kelley Janell Gary, Felicia L. George, Alexander J. Geyer, Sarah Emily Gibbons, Jaikar S. Gill, Nilton Gjeci, Andre Godbott, Jennifer Rhiannon Gonzalez, Patrick Scott Gorrington, Katrina Gory, Molly Grace, Thomas Grandowicz.

James Grassmyer, Danielle Ashley Grimes, Kiera Grimes, Brandon Thomas Guenther, Joel Abdul Rodriguez Guevara, Kyle Haendel, Jennifer Halaberda, Christina Haley, Heather Haley, Brandon Lee Hall, Heather Lynn Harper, Kevin Michael Harrington, Kelly Harris, Ramond Harris II, Jay Harvey, Karl Heinrich, Jessica Ann Hendershott, Ryan Herbst.

Brooke Hester, Eugene Bernard Hister, Sara Hogston, Jessica Holloway, Bridget Irene Horton, Jamilah Houston, Ashley Howell, Charles Hudson, Tahnae Hughes, James A. Hunter, Brianna Irwin, Dennis Jacobs, Antonio James, Crystal Mary Catherine James, Tiffany LeAnn James, Jeremy Alan Jammick, Angelina Johnson, Bruce Johnson II.

Michael Johnston, Samantha Jo Johnston, Kyle Jones, Takita Donisha Jones, Jason Kantner, Anthony Karasinski, Manal Kassis, Varinder Kaur, Justin Keatts, Tiffany Lauren Kelemen, Tabatha Kelsey, Quiana Kennedy, Andrew Kirchoff, Matthew Kleitch, Brian T. Kohler, Kayla Konopski, Jennifer Kopacz, Alexander Kukkonen.

Melissa Kay LaBean, Chelsea LaBrie, Shannon Lafferty, Rachel LaSalle, Katelyn Ann Lasley, Robert Lauder, Ashley Elizabeth Laws, Kyle Lehman, Paul Lehman, Holly Marie Lentz, Amber Rose Letellier, Destiny Lewis, Alex Lickliter, Laura Liendo, Kristofer Light, Jeffrey Little, Nicole Little, John Fredrick Lloyd Jr., Michael Lochrie, Courtney Ann Love.

Domonique D. Love, Ricardo Lozano, T'Nae Shaneil Lucas, Jessica Lynn Maas, David A Mabe, Joshua Mabe, Dominique Maddox, Raghu Mahotra, Latoya Mallory, Epiphany Imee Malloy, Shannon Manakis, Travis Owen Manning, Daniel Marsh, Angela Marshall, Jessica Martin, Ryan Martin, David Brentton Mason, Monica Ann Marie Mason, Daniel Masserang, Lamika Massey, William Matson,

Sarah Maynard, Carolyn Grace McCaffery, Erin McCoy, Jason R. McFalls, Melanie Lynn McFarland, Dinnes McGill, Steven Joseph McGough, Marquetta R. McLilly, Amanda Lynn McMillin, Steven McMullen, Darrian Maurice Miller, Lawrence D. Miller Jr., Josephine A. Mitchell, Frank Molner, Samantha Jo Monforton.

Jillian Moore, Julie Moore, Nicholas J. Moore, Jacqueline Moosekian, Christina Marie Morgan, Robert Morgan, Shawn Mullen, Danielle Muncie, Najla Yasminah Muta, Jeremy Navarre, Kara Nelson, Maurice Eugene Nelson II, Pamela Lee New, Ryan Nielson, Sarah Renae Niles, Gene Nix, TeJay O'Connell, Robert O'Neal, Jennifer O'Rourke, Crystal Palac.

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William M. Starr, Victoria Lee Stephens, Kathleen Sweeney, Tiffany Tamm, Angeliqne Mignon Thornton, Melanie Rose Tibai, Daniel Robin Torok, Rebekah E. Troy, William Michael Trudeau, Jena Fay Trudell, Jacob L. Ulch, Daniel Wayne Ursem, April Vaerten, Trudy M. Vaerten, Mark Anthony Valentin, Ashley VanDorn, Kara

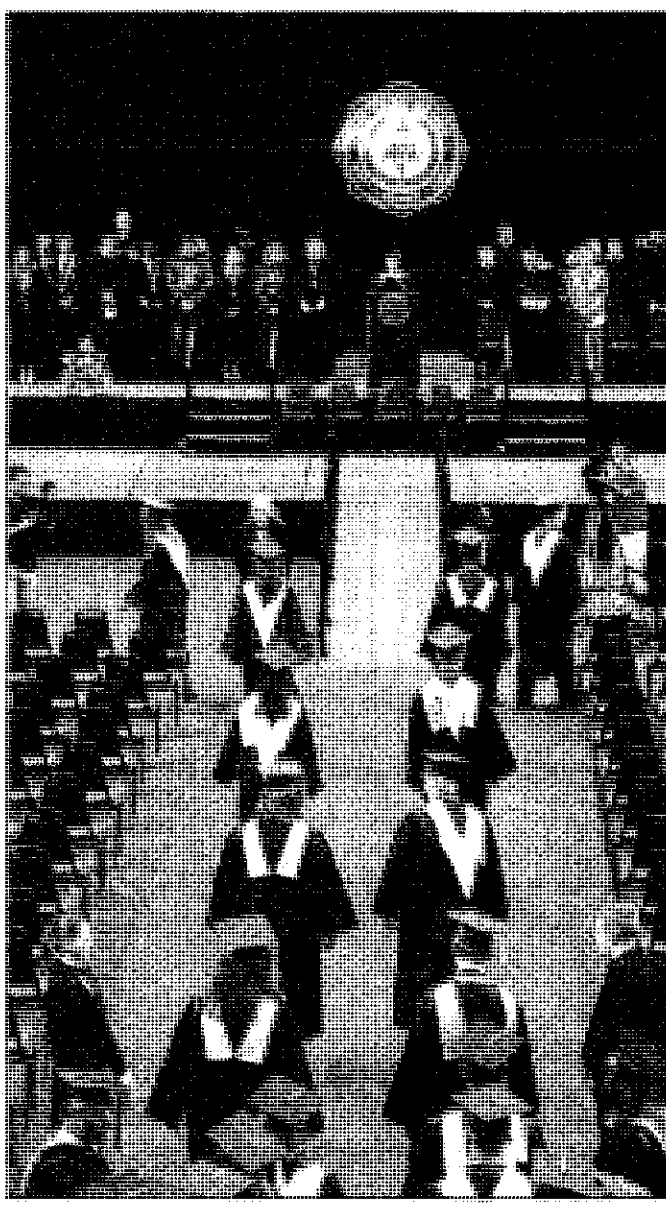


PHOTO BY BRIAN LOOPER

The Wayne Memorial High School faculty, school and district officials and distinguished guests watch the Class of 2005's processional.

Lynne Verkennis, Katherine L. Wallace.

Daniel Walsh, David William Watson, Mark Allen Waynick Jr., Julie West, Dawnielle Mae White, Tierra White, George Andre Williams Jr., Hughlan Williams,

David Lee Wilson, Jesse Windsor, Amanda Marie Wohlfel, Amber Lynn Wohlfel, Samantha Woodby, Jamie Woolford, Dontrale K Wright, Brian Ziika, Jacob Zimmer, Michael Zimmerman and Maritza Zuniga-Jasso.

9 grads honored as valedictorians

Nine students were tapped as valedictorians of Wayne Memorial's Class of 2005. Recognized for their academic achievement were:

■ Amanda Dye, the daughter of William and Pamela Dye. She had a career grade point average of 4.146. She will attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and major in biomedical engineering.

■ Nilton Gjeci, the son of Ilir and Mimoza Gjeci. He had a career grade major in mechanical engineering.

■ Patrick Gorrington, the son of Timothy and Jean Gorrington. He had a career grade point of 4.208. He will attend Cornell University and major in pre-med.

■ Kelly Harris, the daughter of Joseph and Kathy Harris. She had a career grade point of 4.104. She will attend Schoolcraft College and major in forensic science.

■ Ryan Herbst, the son of James and Beverly Herbst. He had a career grade point of 4.000. He will attend Eastern Michigan University and major in education.

■ Angelina Johnson, the daughter of Catherine Johnson. She had a career grade point of 4.021. She will attend Eastern Michigan University and major in English, writing and drama.

■ Anthony Karasinski, the son of Mark and Theresa Karasinski. He had a career grade point of 4.146. He will attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and major in electrical engineering.

■ Sarah Maynard, the daughter of James and Susanna Maynard. She had a career grade point of 4.063. She will attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and major in liberal arts.

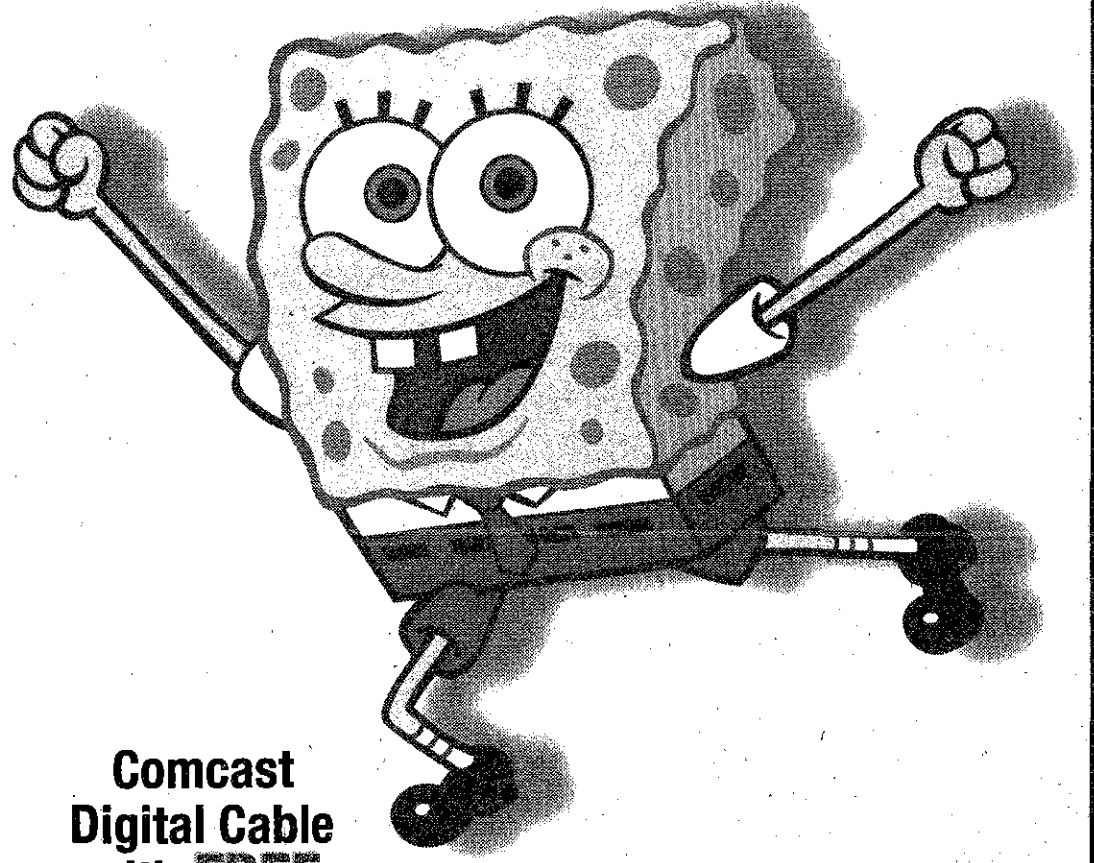
■ Justin Schofield, the son of David and Cindy Schofield. He had a career grade point of 4.188. He will attend Abilene Christian University and major in journalism.

The class salutatorian was Jason Kantner, the son of John and Laura Kantner. He had a career grade point of 3.958. He will attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn and major in mechanical engineering.

FIBROMYALGIA?

REDFORD - A new, free report has recently been released that reveals the "untold story" behind fibromyalgia pain. Fibromyalgia misdiagnosis and mistreatment is rampant and leads to countless years of unnecessary suffering. This free report reveals a natural procedure that is giving fibromyalgia sufferers their "lives back" - with "miraculous" results for many. If you suffer from fibromyalgia you need this no B.S., no "gimmicks" free report that is giving hope to fibromyalgia sufferers everywhere. For your free copy, call toll-free 1-866-722-8271 24 hr. recorded message.

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JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Charles Thompson can hardly contain his excitement during his graduation ceremony.

Franklin graduation covers new ground

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Imagine the sight of 366 red and blue tassel-topped caps flying high into the air.

That was the display Sunday afternoon as Franklin High School celebrated its 2005 commencement ceremony, graduating seniors a little over a week before their counterparts at nearby Churchill and Stevenson high schools.

"It's a little different," said Principal Dan Willenborg. "We've talked about doing it for years."

Franklin seniors piloted early

graduation proceedings this year, after a union vote and parent and student surveys showed support for the idea in February.

"We put it into effect Feb. 17," said Willenborg. "Yesterday we realized that effort with a Sunday graduation. I feel graduation is a special, lifelong memory. It deserves the benefit of a special day, like Sunday."

He said it made a difference for seniors, who didn't have to celebrate commencements after a day of final exams, as they had in the past.

The event marked another first at Franklin — the first

graduation held on the new artificial turf athletic field. "It was very nice to be outside," said Willenborg. "Fortunately there was a little breeze."

Temperatures soared around 90 degrees Sunday, making cap and gown attire rather warm. The ceremony began traditionally, with a faculty processional, followed by the graduates, sporting blue and red, entering to the sounds of *Pomp and Circumstance*. Senior Amanda Tatro sang the national anthem.

Guest speaker and 2004 U.S. Olympic athlete Paul Terek Jr. addressed the graduates, shar-

ing a message centered on the value of education. He graduated from Franklin in 1997. Students Alissa Gatewood, class president, and Jennifer Katinsky, student congress president, also shared their reflections with fellow graduates.

The crowd was upbeat and excited, according to Willenborg. With the exception of a few audio problems, the program ran smoothly and was followed by the annual Senior All Night Party.

"I think we sent a pretty good batch of kids out into the real world," said Willenborg.

And the Franklin High graduates are ...

Brian Michael Aneed, Sandra N. Ansara, Patrick Bruce Arnold, Daniel Bruce Avis, Ashley Lauren Axford, Jessica JoAnn Ayres, Michael Joseph Baaso, Jeremy Edward Badger, Theresa Joyce Bailey, Lindsay Noel Barczak, Kalen Ross Barnhart, Shanne Erik Bartow, Terrif Ihsan Baydoun, Steve S. Bayouk, Stephen John Beahon, Amanda Renee Bell, Renee Nicole Bell, Cory David Bellanger, Kimberly Ann Bertges, Justin Joseph Bettcher, Nina Bhullar, Brett R. Biegas, Katie Renee Blackburn, Taylor Shane Bobowski, Christopher Allen Boertje, Ashley Lynn Bonsall, Hilda Nabil Bouri, Meghan Leigh Bourlier, Sara Nicole Bowers, Timothy Branton, Sara Therese Brogowski, and Christine Marie Brooks.

Katherine Marie Brunais, Mathew Henry Bruton, Brandy Lyn Burda, James Leonard Burke, Audrey Jean Burskey, Matthew John Byle, Brianna Marguerite Byrne, Jessica Lee Cadwell, Brittany Danielle Campagna, Cody J. Campbell, Travis Canyock, Kendall Joy Casey, Lindsay Marie Caswell, Sara Cecere, Kristie Nicole Celmer, Erika Amber Chansler, Daniel Raymond Charnawskas, Pawel

Chilinski, Terri Lee Cicchetti, Danielle Clerebout and Joel Dee Coiner III.

Brianna Lee Coleman, Danielle Elaine Collins, Timothy Hugh Charles Comben, Amanda Josephine Comini, Mathew David Coston, Robert James Cox, Shannon Renee Craver, Derek Adam Crawford, Brandon Guy Czarnowski, Tania Marie D'Agostino, Shannon Louise Daly, Kaman Kumar Davidson, Katrina Deady, Alexandra Lynne Decker, Daniel Demus and Amanda Lynne Diamond.

James Calub Dickerson, Peter Robert DiGennaro, Cassy Marie Docusen, Joel Robert Domke, Kyle James Douglas, Michael Patrick DuPuis, Brittany Elise Durand, Nicole Elizabeth Durkin, Brian Thomas Dziurlikowski, Victoria Ann Earley, Alecia Faye Eisemann, Jenna Linnelle Ellis, Amber Lynn Engel, Jacqueline Marie Eskildsen, Jonathan D. Evans and Renee Elizabeth Farrell.

Alexandra Danielle Felton, Diego Fernandez, Marlas Faith Fidge, Stephanie Lynn Fitzsimmons, Catherine Lorraine Fowler, Ryan Gregory Fox, Patricia Ann Franges, Stephen Tyler Franklin, Trevor Scott Fraske, Jessika Lynn

Friend, Nathan John Furstenberg, Caitlyn Michelle Gaden, Michael Alan Galvan, Lisa Marie Garbutt, Meaghan Frances Garbutt, Gabriel Ray Garcia and Jesse Michael Gardocki.

Kushal Ramesh Gargesh, Alissa Lynn Gatewood, Lauren Victoria Giacobozzi, Ashley Marie Gibbons, Justin Nathaniel Girgen, Kyle Thomas Giummo, Ian Kevin James Givens, Nichole Gizowski, Brian William Gnacke, Samantha Marie Goddard-Witherspoon, Jason C. Golles, Tonya Cecily Gonzalez, David Hiram Good, Brian Keith Graham, Matthew James Graham and Donald Justin Grenier.

Brandon Grieve, Eric Andrew Grims, Jr., Steven William Groff, Andrew Stephen Gron, Mark A. Gunn, Philip D. Haapala, Kimberly Marie Haas, Courtney Nicole Hale, Brittany Clare Haley, Stephanie Victoria Hall, Julia Elizabeth Handiliah, Amanda Marie Hanni, Sara Louise Harmon, Shannon E. Harrison, Jeff Hash, Aaron John Havel, Ronda Ann Herzog, Michael David Hetu and Joshua Jacob Highfield.

Thomas Morris Hocking, Christopher Lee Hoobler, Kacie Horn, Elizabeth Ann Howie, Kyle Ryan Jablonski, Jennifer L. Jaggi, Ryan Walter Jakubowski, Sarah Helen James, Andy Abel Johnson, Neil David Johnson III, Nicholas Ryan-Ray Kaldobsky, Elizabeth Ashley Karfis, Breann R. Kasputis, Jennifer M. Katinsky, Randy Scott Keatis, Lindsay Kelley, Amber Nicole Kelly, James Edward Kelly III, Andrew Khleif, Ryan Chadwell Kingsbury and Amy Christine Kirby.

Rick James Kirby, Steven Jack Kirtley, Amber Kleiner, Megan Nicole Kmet, Matthew Dale Knopsnider, Kimberly

Constance Koontz, Angel Victoria Kroll, Karen Marie Krzemecki, Jessica Angelina Kubin, Nicole Lynn Kuehn, Brent Matthew LaBranche, Aliona Anna Lako, Silvana Lako, Bradley Wayne Lambdin, Suzanne Elizabeth Lambert, Aimee Faye Lance, Lauren Michele Lang and Matthew Michael Larson.

Colleen Rose Lawson, Henry Lehue, Jonathan David Leins, Mitchell Parker Leschinski, Brian Christopher Linn, Amy Christine Lipan, John Anthony Loden, Jessica Perez-Rubi-Longatte, Erin Rose-Wardach Lovell, Zachary W. Lovely, Lindsay Ann Lyle, Kevin Lamar MacInnis, Daniel Henry Madgwick, Ashley Nicole Malinowski, Angela Rayanna Martin, Bethany Mary Martin and Michael Douglas Martin.

Hector Eleazar Martinez, Jr., Paul Matthew Maselli, Melissa Nicole Masters, Eric Michael Matthews, Carmen Cheresse Mattox, Kevin P. Maus, Julianne Elizabeth Maxwell, Chelsey Beth Meier, Michael Joseph Miazgowski, Paul M. Mili, Miles Anthony Miller, Robert Thomas Miller, Kristina Louise Mills, Curtis Paul Missale, Jeffrey Matthew Moore, Teresa Rose Morris, Heather Renee Morrison, Ashley Alexandria Morse and Carly Ann Muncy.

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Mukesh Parekh, Lindsey Lou Parrent, Stephanie Patricia Parrish, Rachel Elicia Parsons, Jamie Lee Pascas, Brennan George Pearson, Daniel James Pellegrini and Jason Robert Petta.

Jamie Jeffrey Phillips, Ryan T. Pokryfky, Christina Dawn-Marie Polsgrove, Charles Arthur Porter, Jr., Joseph E. Puranen, Nicholas Stephen Puranen, John Daniel Quint III, Garrett James Radford, Brooke Danielle Raven, Monique Elizabeth Raymond, Jessica Kathryn Regner, Thomas M. Reilly-King, Elaine René Reimers, Michael A. Rellinger, Deanna Marie Renner, Jacob Alan Renner, Melissa Ruth Richards, Nicole Marie Richardson, Jennifer Nicole Rickard, Alexandra Marie Robinson and Gerard Lyndell Robinson.

Brian Alexander Rockwood, Kurt Douglas Rogalla, Christopher W. Rouse, Ashley Michelle Rowe, Peggy Lynn Ruby, Amy Lynn Rumrill, Zachary Jerome-Ira Santo, Donald Keith Schemanske, Jr., Daryl Anders Schou, Jayson Michael Schulte, Tracy Marie Schultz, Paul Abram Seguin, Lauren Catherine Seppanen, Matthew John Sgriccia, Laura L. Shaffer, Rachael Ann Shane, Nicholas Dean Sharbowski, Megan Elizabeth Shomo, Vanita Upendra Shukla, Charles Scott Silva, Phillip James Simmer, Daniel Andrew Simpson, Devin Mary Sioma, Nicholas Skoglund, Brittany Rae Skotak, Jamie Lynn Slayton, Gabriel S. Slom, Albert D. Smith and Christopher P. Smith.

Courtney Therese Smith, Michael James Smith, Matthew Brandon Soucy, Ryan David Stailey, Kathryn Ellen Stiem, Aaron Stokes, Sara Elizabeth Stollings, Cari Lynn Sulich, Christine Elizabeth Swan, Kathleen Anne

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Nicholas A. Turco, John Daniel Turner, Joseph Irving Turner, Natalie Ann Tye, Brian Adam Tyrrell, Denny VanDam, Matthew Charles Vandal, Bryan Thomas Vezina, Matthew Paul Vicini, Nicholas Coral Vowell, Bryan Nicholas Vowles, Sara Elizabeth Wagaman, Catherine Lee Wagner, Davis Jordan Wagner, Jeff Allen Walker, Katharine Mary Walsh, Jason Michael Walters, David James Watkins, Crystal Watson, Christina Renee Weathers and Jamie Lynn Webber.

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LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED 2005-06 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 20, 2005 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District will hold a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2005-06 budgets.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2005-06 budgets until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2005-06 budgets including the proposed property tax millage rates is available for public inspections during normal business hours at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan.

The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budgets will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order to the Board of Education.

LYNDA L. SCHEEL, Secretary

Publish: June 12, 2005

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to State Law, a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI June 25 at 1:00 p.m.

#169 Arthur Applegate, #209 Cedrick Vanhook, #331 John Alewias, #923 Nathan Miller, #438 Ronald Mehe, #683 Larry Thurman, #142 Jerelyne Olivek, #903 Charles Heardon, #318 Jackie Jolly, #507 Gregory Wohlers, #528 Christopher Woodward, #353 Christopher Ledford, #345 John Stevens.

Units contain: Misc household items.
Publish: June 12 and 16, 2005

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
Publish: May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 12, 19, July 8, 17, 24, 31, August 7, and 21, 2005

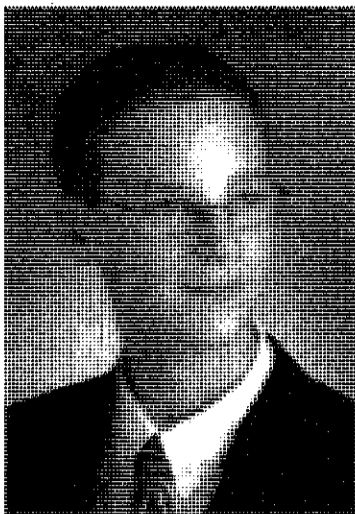
Honors recognize grad's achievements

For Robert Joseph Haarer, graduation day meant being one of 17 valedictorians of John Glenn High School's Class of 2005.

The son of Michael and Gloria Haarer of Westland, he had a 4.024 career grade point average.

His academic recognition's have included being an Academic Letter recipient grades 9-12, certificate of recognition from the Detroit Association Phi Beta Kappa, member of the National Honor Society and President's Award for Educational Excellence.

He also has received the State of Michigan Merit Award, State of Michigan Competitive Scholarship Program Honorary Certificate of Recognition, Lions Club Local Scholarship, Calvin College Presidential Scholarship and Eastern



Robert Haarer

Michigan Regent's Scholarship.

He plans to attend Calvin College where he will study biology.

RESTAURANTS

FROM PAGE A1

crowd of last year's event.

"We're going to sell 500 tickets," Brist said. "We already have 350 tickets reserved. It's going to be a lot bigger."

Participants will pick up special T-shirts from chamber offices - attire that will allow them to sample food at the eight restaurants.

Even more restaurants still may join the rally Brist said.

"We're waiting to hear from a few more," she said.

The event will be sponsored

by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Standard Federal Bank and American House Retirement Community.

The event is intended to provide a mouth-watering night out for participants and to help local restaurants gain potential new customers.

"The intent is to provide exposure for our restaurants in the community for people who might not normally go to those places," Brist said. "It's a great opportunity for restaurants to draw people in."

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Rally for a Cure

The New Hawthorne Valley Golf Course is taking part in Rally for a Cure, a breast awareness campaign. This year marks the second time the club has pledged its support and tee off against breast cancer for the campaign, presented by *Golf for Women* Magazine. The organizer of the event is the Hawthorne Par Seekers.

A field of 24 players is expected for the Rally at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5. Rally for a Cure activities include a closest to the pin contest, a one-year subscription to *Golf for Women* Magazine plus many more gifts. Golfers interested in joining the outing can call Janet Sebok at (734) 422-9195.

Pitch your trash

The Cleveland Elementary School PTA is looking for you to donate your business or home recycling items, while helping the school save the planet and earn funds for its program.

Businesses are asked to deliver empty inkjet, laser, copier and fax cartridges, used cell phones, PDAs and laptop computers. The school will even pick up office recyclables to ensure they're disposed of properly. Call the Cleveland PTA at (734) 744-2700 or call Sandy, program coordinator at (734) 536-2087 or visit www.cartridgesforkids.com.

In addition, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office paper and junk mail will be accepted at the school's on-site recycling bin on the west side of Cleveland School, which is

at 28030 Cathedral in the southeast corner of Livonia. Access is from Harrison Street, north of Joy Road. The program will not accept phone books, plastics, metals or glass.

A fun cause

Parents can get child identification kits for their children by attending a free event 2-4 p.m. Monday at Bobby's Bouncers, 38620 Michigan Avenue, in Wayne.

The kits allow parents to store information, such as fingerprints, that can help authorities find children in the event that they are lost or abducted.

Participants will be given free pizza and pop, and a play area of Bobby's Bouncers will be open for children to play.

The event also is being sponsored by the Westland Police Officers Association, the Westland and Wayne D.A.R.E. programs, and the mayors of the two cities. For more information, call (734) 728-3139.

Building fund-raiser

The Westland Chamber of Commerce, which hopes to move its offices to the historic Rowe House on Wayne Road south of Marquette, is trying to raise money to restore the house.

The chamber and Westland Bowl have teamed up to raise money at 7 p.m. Friday, June 17, during a kickoff bowling event at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne.

Cost is \$20 per person and includes bowling, pizza and pop. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

PLACES AND FACES

Summer reading

Westland public library employees have announced the summer reading program for children through the fifth-grade level.

Titled "Dragons, Dream & Daring Deeds," the program will run now through July 23. The program is for recreational purposes and is not intended as tutoring.

Children pace themselves, and they may read books from the library or from home. They will report their progress at the check-in table. Participants will read books to earn prizes. The program is free. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Blood drive

The Bova VFW Post 9885 will hold an American Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, June 27, at the post hall, 6440 N. Hix, Westland. To make a blood donation appointment, call the post at (734) 728-3231, the post surgeon Terry Dana at (517) 521-5646 or blood drive chairman Larry Tebor at (734) 377-8329 or (734) 261-2807 and leave your name, telephone number and desired time of appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

All donors will enter in a drawing for three free games of bowling at Vision Lanes in Westland.

Skating party

Walking with Faith Inc., a team of more than 100 walkers and volunteers who walk in the

annual Multiple Sclerosis Walks, will hold a "Kids FUN - RAISE for Multiple Sclerosis" skating party 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Skate Land West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland.

The cost will be \$10 per person with rentals of \$1.50 for roller skates and \$5 for inline skates. There will be 50/50 raffles, and a PSP raffle. Tickets cost \$1 each or 3 for \$5.

Call Alecia Harris at (313) 999-5259.

Summer program

Westland Bowl in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department will offer free bowling for kids now through Aug. 20.

Kids up to 18 years of age will be able to bowl one free game per day during summer hours with a participation card, available at the bowling center, 5940 N. Wayne Road.

The center also is offering a free family bonus package on Saturdays. For more information, call Westland Bowl at (734) 722-7570.

Buffet and comedy

Royal Oak Township native, Crystal Parker will perform her feisty stand-up comedy act at Marvaso's Italian Grille in Westland, Michigan on Saturday, June 18.

Showtime is 9:30 p.m. Also appearing with Crystal P. will be Cool Aide of Detroit. Marvaso's Italian Grille is at 6569 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Reservations can be made by calling (734) 405-5222 for more information.

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE A1

The bus ride is free and so are box lunches passengers will be served. The cost of chartering the buses is being covered by the Wayne-Westland Education Association, while donations from district administrators are paying for the lunches.

"We wanted to do a joint effort with this because this affects everybody," said WWEA president Nancy Strachan about providing the buses. "We need the community to know we're in this together. The state wants to move us from manufacturing to technology based economy, but we have to have the money to do that."

The buses will leave the east parking lot of John Glenn

High School at 10 a.m. July 21. Barring construction delays, the plan is to be in Lansing around noon in time to register at the Lansing Center and participate in pre-rally activities before marching to the State Capitol at 2 p.m.

The rally is to show support for two bills, SB 246 and HB 4582, that call for a minimum yearly funding increase in state school aid for K-12 schools, community colleges and universities.

The bills also call for inflationary increases in the foundation allowance; at-risk funding, special education and the intermediate school district foundation allowance; and for community colleges and universities, among other things.

They differ greatly from SB 279 which recently cleared the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on K-12 School Aid. That bill would cut funding for at-risk programs and developmental kindergarten and eliminate an extra \$50 per pupil school aid payment for high schoolers proposed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Superintendent Greg Baracy told supporters at the meeting Wednesday that the proposal as well as a second one that would shift \$18 million to community colleges were "absolutely shocking."

"The picture is even bleaker than we thought," he said. "Both sides of the legislative aisle are doing nothing. That's why we have to have the people, we have to have the bodies up there on June 21."

Baracy added that having 5,000 people at the rally would be a "powerful message," prompting one parent to ask: "Do they know we're coming?"

Her question drew a chuckle from those in attendance and an assurance that lawmakers are well aware of the upcoming rally.

"Frankly, if they come out (to the rally), they better have some answers," Baracy said. "If they do come out, it's going to be pretty uncomfortable for them."

Parents can call the superintendent's office at (734) 419-2010 to reserve a spot on the bus. Those parents who prefer to drive themselves are being asked to register online at the coalition's Web site, www.michigan16.org. smason@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

CVS aims to raise \$8,000 for ALSA

The CVS/Pharmacy at Cherry Hill and Merriman in Westland is putting fun into fund-raising with a two-day event June 17-19 to support Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association.

Throughout Michigan CVS pharmacies are working to promote ALSA's fight against the disease, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The CVS/Pharmacy in Westland brought in more than \$5,000 last year and made Westland one of the leading cities in donations to the ALSA fund-raiser.

This year, store manager Brett Kiley expects to increase donations to more \$8,000.

"The city of Westland is very supportive of all charities, and we are fortunate to be located in this city," said Kiley. "Our goal is to make each year's fund-raiser better."

This year's event will feature a fire truck for the kids to see on Saturday and the police D.A.R.E. unit coming on Sunday.

Local artist Lauren Sullivan will draw caricatures along with other artists who will offer face painting.

"We have people providing homemade foods to sell for donations and customers may also win a sporting goods cer-

FUND-RAISER

tificate at our putting green challenge," said Kiley.

Throughout the fund-raiser, customers will be able to enjoy contests, Snocones, baked goods, and much more. One-hundred percent of all donations go to fund the ALSA research.

Events will be held 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the fire truck, events on Saturday include the ring toss, Snocones, caricature drawings, face painting and a bake sale.

Sunday, to celebrate Father's Day, CVS will have its putting green contest and many activities for children.

According to Kiley, CVS wants to help people live longer, healthier, and happier lives.

The primary focus of CVS programs is health and education.

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Pet photos sought for MHS 2006 calendar

Do you love to show off photos of your companion animals to friends as well as strangers? Do you finish every roll of film with adorable shots of your dog, cat, ferret, horse, hamster or other pet pal?

You can make your pet a pin-up in Michigan Humane Society's 2006 wall calendar along with hundreds of other animals from metro Detroit and beyond.

The entry fee of \$20 per photo guarantees placement in the calendar. Thirteen top entries will receive special placement as "Pets of the Month." All other photos will be featured throughout the colorful calendar in a variety of formats.

Entry guidelines:

■ Photos must be in color, no larger than

4 inches by 4 inches and contain only animals; gloss finish preferred.

■ For quality reasons, color prints made at home will not be considered for special placement. No Polaroid photos will be accepted.

■ Photos taken by a commercial studio must include a signed copyright release.

■ Clearly mark your name, phone number and pet's name on the back of the photo using a permanent felt-tip marker (not a ball-point pen which may damage the photo).

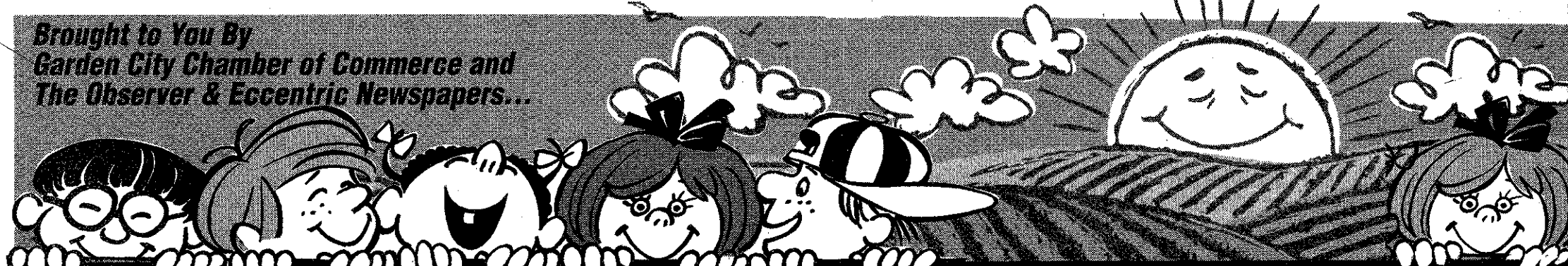
■ Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, June 15.

■ All photos become the property of MHS and cannot be returned.

Mail your photo (one photo per entry fee)

I with a \$20 check or money order to Michigan Humane Society 2006 Calendar, 26711 Northwestern, Suite 175, Southfield, MI 48034 To obtain an official entry form, visit the MHS Web site at www.michiganhumane.org or call (866) MHUMANE (866-648-6263), Ext. 137, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Calendars will be sold separately for \$15 plus tax beginning this fall. Proceeds from entry fees and calendar sales will benefit the more than 100,000 animals rescued and served by the Michigan Humane Society each year. The Michigan Humane Society is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the animals since 1877.



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Web site boon to Michigan gardeners

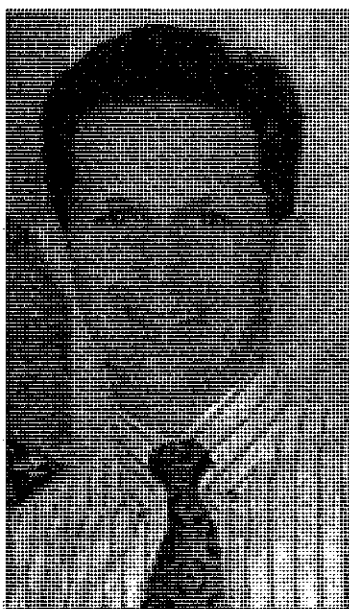
BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Pat O'Neill's new venture combines two strong interests of his, gardening and the Internet. O'Neill, of Farmington Hills, is creator of MichiganGardenClub.com, a Web site designed specifically to help Michigan gardeners.

"I've been working on it pretty much all through the winter," said O'Neill, 37, who works in computer programming. He wanted to create a site to discuss with others the state's climate, soil conditions and native species.

"It's more of a community service type of thing," said O'Neill, who's married to Julia and dad to Eric, 8, and Anna, 6. He worked especially hard on the site in March to get it ready in time for the spring gardening season.

The MichiganGardenClub.com



Pat O'Neill

Web site's main draw is its discussion boards, also called forums. These allow anyone to start discussions in which others can reply. As more log in and join the discussions, a

community builds where people who enjoy gardening share ideas, give advice, ask questions, plan seed swaps and organize activities.

"It's a great way to get to know others who share the same passion for gardening as you," O'Neill said.

Go to www.MichiganGardenClub.com and you will receive a sign-on name. The site currently has about 40 registered users from throughout Michigan, including Charlevoix, Grand Rapids and the Detroit area.

"Gardening is so much a regional type of thing. We saw a need to have something that's really a Michigan focus," he said. Many Web sites on gardening aren't specific to Michigan, he found. "We're trying to get the word out. I hate to see it die on the vine, so to speak."

He'd been on community forum sites for other hobbies

and patterned this after those. It's designed to encourage interaction, with a designated area for garden clubs whose members can contribute information.

O'Neill's pleased with the response to the site, which is free and carries no advertising: "Better than I expected this soon into the venture." He tried to make it easy to navigate, and first-time users can e-mail him through the site if they need help.

Users can also post photos of flowers and plants, helpful in diagnosing problems. There's a calendar section of gardening events to which users can add listings.

O'Neill hopes to form a community of gardeners, and doesn't think his involvement in gardening is all that unusual.

"There's quite a few men involved in gardening," said O'Neill, who likes to garden with his wife.

DEATHS

B
Sarah J. Belasco, of Garden City, died June 4.

Scott Brown, 86, of Rochester, formerly of Birmingham, died June 4.

C
Marvin B. Cline, of Beverly Hills, died June 2.

G
Kathryn Myers Gossett, of Bloomfield Hills, died June 4.

K
Stephen J. Kadar, 83, of Bloomfield Hills, died June 7.

Lester A. King, of Redford Township, died June 4.

L
Audrey Jean Lester, 78, of Manistee, died June 2.

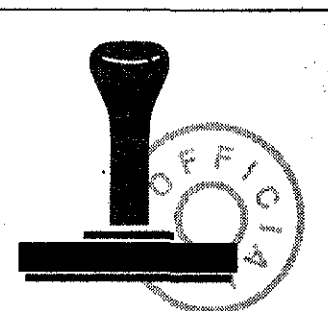
M
Frances E. McNabb, of Canton Township, died June 5.

R
Henry C. Reimer, 75, of Bloomfield Hills, died June 9.

Marilyn T. Robertson, 75, of Farmington, died June 7.

Edward Horace Rofe, 92, of Bloomfield Hills, died May 23.

S
Maddalena Serafini, of Garden



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.

City, died June 8.
Frieda A. Spafford, 76, of Farmington, died June 2.

T
Elizabeth (Betty) Todd, 92, of Milford, N.H., died June 4.

V
Awbrey Joseph Vance, 37, formerly of Troy, died June 8.

W
Randolph Logan White, 58, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., formerly of Birmingham, died April 23.

Visitors enliven Rotary meeting

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Some have a longer distance than others at weekly Westland Rotary meetings, but chances are a group from Scotland traveled the greatest distance Thursday.

Tony Godden and wife Kelly, also a Rotarian, and Denis Welstead and wife Anne attended the meeting at Joy Manor, describing their club and district projects shortly after arriving in metro Detroit. They're here as part of a friendship exchange, and will host local Rotarians next year.

"We hope that they're enjoying themselves," said Bill Cameron, District 6400 chair for friendship exchange and a Livonia Rotary member. All four visitors have traveled to the U.S. a number of times previously.

The Goddens have been to Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and Texas; the

Welsteads have visited Louisiana, New Mexico and Wyoming. Both couples will attend the Rotary International centennial June 18-22 in Chicago.

Denis Welstead is membership services chairman for the Rotary Club of South Queensferry. Tony Godden is with the Bathgate Rotary, and Kelly Godden's vice president of Livingston Rotary.

"It's a very, very friendly club and not too dissimilar to other clubs I've visited," Denis said of Westland Rotary.

His club's projects include work with seniors, raising money for the Rotary Foundation and creating a float for the Edinburgh Festival. Their district supports Mercy Ships which provide medical care to needy people.

"It's to take floating hospitals to the Third World," Tony Godden said.

The four were looking forward to visiting Windsor, part

of District 6400, and then traveling to Chicago. They appreciate the hospitality shown during their stay, and are eager to host local Rotarians next year.

That journey will include other parts of Europe and Russia, Cameron added, with the local group seeing the Edinburgh Festival.

Tony Godden recalled a visit to Texas in which their hosts expected them to arrive in kilts despite the heat.

"They were so disappointed," he said with a smile. "They were still waiting for people wearing kilts."

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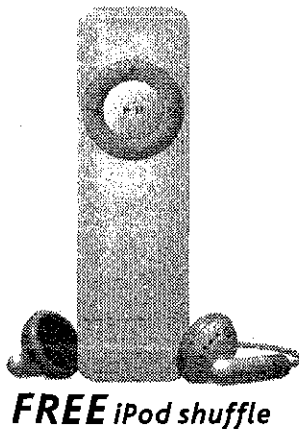
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GREAT FUTURES START RIGHT HERE

Boating safety makes for summertime fun

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Boating accidents are preventable with some common sense tips.

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans knows that passengers should limit alcohol consumption on the water and that boat operators shouldn't drink.

"It's not to take people's

enjoyment away," he said of the moderation. It's illegal to operate a boat under the influence and people could be hurt or killed.

There's a lot of trouble with excessive drinking among boaters on Wayne County waters, he said. Drinking too much can lead to excessive boat speed and sharp turns.

"Both of those can be obviously problematic," said Evans,

who worked as a marine officer in his department for several years. Those towing skiers can unintentionally injure them if inebriated.

"We see them all of the time and they are some of the causes of boating accidents," he said of too much alcohol and other safety problems. A blood alcohol level of 0.08 is considered impaired and 0.10 intoxicated.

Having a personal flotation device for each boater is vital, too. Devices should be the appropriate size, Evans said, noting deputies often find adults who rely on child-size devices.

"That's not going to cut it with respect to the law," he said. "We see that a lot."

It's best to wear your life preserver; if trouble develops, you don't want to waste precious time with it.

Devices should be removed from their packaging as well, he said.

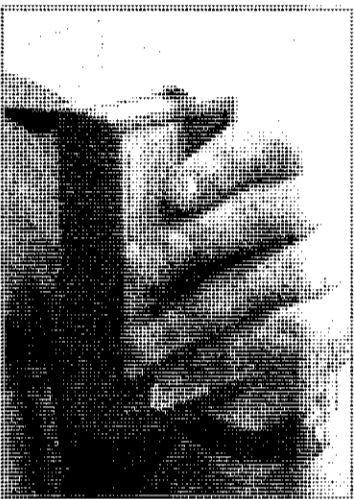
Gas-powered boats need to be equipped with a fire extinguisher. "Make sure each successive year that they still work. The foam fire extinguishers are critical," Evans said, adding water won't put out such a fire.

"Make sure you've got an approved fire extinguisher on board," the sheriff said.



PHOTOS BY LARRY CRIDER

Deputy Wael Harp and his colleagues know that having a fire extinguisher on board is key to boating safety. Deputies can check with a PBT (right) to see if boat operators have been drinking alcohol.



Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy Wael Harp demonstrates use of a youth life jacket.

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Trip to Palestinian territory shows people still struggle

I recently returned from a goodwill trip to the Palestinian territories and had the opportunity to experience the daily struggles of the Palestinian people. When I was not escorted by my official delegation, I traveled in public buses and taxicabs with local Palestinians who were permitted access from town to town with Israeli permits.

Without the official delegation, a 15-mile trip from Ramallah to Jerusalem took three hours. On one of the trips, we were detained at the Kalandia checkpoint for an hour and a half and stopped twice, by a police patrol and an army patrol. During the search by the army, several men with proper papers were taken off the bus and forbidden from continuing their travel. I discovered that the three-hour journey is normal.

En route, I looked in despair at the ugly gigantic wall built in the middle of main streets dividing traffic, separating families and enclosing towns, leaving the inhabitants in virtual prisons. The wall reminded me of prison walls in Jackson and Ionia. This wall serves

no purpose except to confiscate more land from the Palestinians.

For proof, one need but look to the West Bank to observe the hundreds of settlements that are being developed with newly built roads open only to Israelis. Between the wall and the checkpoints, millions of Palestinians are confined to their own towns, deprived from visiting their own families.

Of the Palestinian population, only 10 percent is allowed to travel and they must endure the daily humiliation of begging a 19-year-old soldier to let them through the checkpoints so they can earn a living. A woman I spoke with told me that although she lives a mile and a half from her job in a nearby town, she must take three buses and go 20 miles away from her destination to reach her minimum-wage job at the school.

On a good day, she leaves her 6-year-old son at 4 a.m. to reach the first checkpoint, which opens at 6 a.m., so she can reach her job on time at 8 a.m. She told me that she is one of the lucky ones because she has a job. In her town, 80 percent of the people don't have a job and live under the poverty level. Everyone I talked to described a similar story of horror and despair. On another of my trips, my seatmate excused herself because she was tired. She told me that she did not sleep the night before because Israeli soldiers were going from house to house in her village rounding up all men over the age of 12.

This is occurring while the U.S. celebrates the truce between the Palestinians and

For proof, one need but look to the West Bank to observe the hundreds of settlements that are being developed.

Israelis. Since the U.S. policy forbids American officials from traveling into Palestinian towns and taking the same routes as the Palestinians, we can play ignorant to the fact that Israel's policies are now more brutal than the past.

Lately, the president is trying to make amends in the broken relations with Arab and Muslim regimes and is spouting words of support to the Palestinian people.

Today, President Bush hinted that the U.S. will provide President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority with millions of dollars as a gesture of goodwill and commitment to the Palestinian people. This is a welcoming development. However, the Palestinians' immediate needs are to get rid of the occupation. Israel needs to give sovereignty to the indigenous population that is struggling to survive and it needs the U.S. to exert pressure on Israel to comply with the peace process terms that we supported.

Since his election as president, Mr. Abbas has worked diligently to provide his people hope for a better life. During my visit, I sat in a meeting, where Mr. Abbas told his people to be patient and work with him for a just solution. He is committed to a peaceful co-existence with the Israelis and campaigned on these premises. Since his election, Mr. Abbas had also labored to work with the Israeli government; however, Ariel Sharon has rebuffed and ignored him.

The Sharon government believes that disengagement from Gaza and other small towns will be sufficient for a lasting peace in the area. This solution will only intensify the conflict and bring about power to the extremists on both sides. A solution that brings dire consequences not only to the region, but to the whole world.

President Bush must remember his own words when dealing with the Palestinian people: "The most powerful force in the world is not a weapon or a nation, but a truth ... that we are spiritual beings and that freedom is the soul's right to breathe." President Abbas' request is not unreasonable. He wants what any free loving democratic leader wants — the ability to govern people in a stable, free and just environment.

Terry Ahwal-Morris is on the Executive Committee of the Ramallah Federation. She lives in Canton.



Terry Ahwal-Morris

History shows 5 attempts to create Palestinian state

In baseball, a batter is out after three strikes. His team gives up its turn at bat after three outs. A football team is given four chances to make a first down and 60 minutes to win a game. In any case, the game doesn't continue forever.

But in the Middle East, it does. In Hugh Gallagher's May 29 column about "what is truth" in the Middle East, he and others neglect to go back into the 20th century to consider other factors — which are clear, obvious and easy to document.

In any case, the Palestinians (described as Arabs until 1964) have gone zero for five in trying to create their own independent state next to

Israel, which has been recognized by nearly all of the international community (including one of its enemies) as a legitimate state since 1948 despite five attempts to reverse history.

In the past five decades, numerous books and countless editorials, columns and analyses have been written about the Israel-Palestinian conflict. The University of Michigan-Dearborn even has a political science class — always filled to capacity shortly after the opening of registration — on the subject, complete with a thick textbook and hundreds of pages of accompanying material in the professor's coursepack.

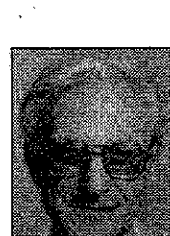
I am writing mainly to cite five major attempts to create an independent state since 1922 and have been largely overlooked by the mainstream media and Israeli critics.

The first was when Great Britain, which controlled the Palestinian territory since the end of World War I, split the area and gave nearly 80 percent to an Arab family and called the new state Transjordan, which had its name shortened to Jordan shortly after World War II.

The next attempt, also by Great Britain, was the Peel Commission recommendation in 1937 that urged creation of separate, adjacent Jewish and Arab states. The Arab leaders in the region rejected it.

In November 1947, the United Nations also recommended a two-state plan, accepted enthusiastically by the Zionists but opposed — again — by Arab leaders even though the plan gave them more land than what they have now under the administration of a Palestinian Authority.

Despite a continuing period of military conflict interrupted by a few short periods of relative peace, Arabs have refused to accept the reality of a Jewish state in the Middle East. There two major attempts by the U.S. to broke a Middle East peace through negotiations — again foiled by the Palestinians' rejection of an independent state. It wasn't because that the plan didn't provide more real estate than previous



Leonard Poger

Palestinian leaders gained the upper hand in the war of words in the 1980s when they initiated a major and so far public relations battle in the international media with key buzz words based on a complete misreading of recent history.

recommendations, it was because there was an adjacent Jewish state.

Palestinian leaders gained the upper hand in the war of words in the 1980s when they initiated a major and so far public relations battle in the international media with key-buzz words based on a complete misreading of recent history.

One phrase is that Israel is policing "occupied territories." Actually, the land disputed is part of the ongoing debate over boundaries conflicts, starting from the 1949 truce and the 1967 six-day war.

History's maps also show that the Gaza strip was part of Egypt because that nation surrendered it. The same goes for the so-called "West Bank" which was part of Jordan for 19 years and subsequently relinquished.

A major aspect of the public's source of information is a convenient memory lapse of major media sources. It appears that those sources only have a memory that goes back two weeks with reporters and editors neglecting to check their maps on where various boundaries in the Middle East were located.

The world's media likes to back any underdog. When the state of Israel was created in 1948, many western nations supported the new state. But when Israel created a modern economy and strong military presence, it lost the underdog label that was then bestowed on the Palestinians.

It has been 57 years since Israel was declared a state by the international community. The neighboring Arab states have tried to reverse their 57-year string of military and diplomatic defeats.

In conclusion, let me offer a simple solution to the Middle East problem and declare that the game is over. Change the name of Jordan back to its original name — Palestine.

Leonard Poger is a Westland resident and former editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. He also is a senior graduate student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

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Raccoon rescued by Willow Run Airport workers

A raccoon decided to make Ameristar Jet Charters at Willow Run Airport his new home last month. After several sightings of the raccoon peeking through the cargo carrier's ceiling tiles, employees came in to work one morning to find that he had maneuvered his way into a parts cage full of sensitive equipment.

"Fortunately, he didn't sabotage the equipment," said Airport Operations Supervisor Rick Taig. "And though we didn't deem him a terrorist threat, we realized that we needed to help him find a more fitting residence."

Airport Operations set up a live trap in the Ameristar hangar and used peanut butter crackers to entice the raccoon into the cage. After just two days, the trap was successful and the masked mammal was on his way to a virtual raccoon paradise at Crosswinds Marsh, a 1,000-acre wetland preserve constructed and maintained by the Wayne County Airport Authority.

"Ameristar employees were extremely helpful throughout this entire process," said Taig. "They even fed the raccoon while he was caged to

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Rick Taig
airport operations supervisor

make sure that he was healthy for his journey." The day after he was captured, Airport Operations transported the raccoon to Crosswinds Marsh and set him free. "I tried to snap a picture while he was exiting the cage, but he quickly ran off and disappeared into the wilderness," said Taig.

Humane Society can help with pet behavior

The Michigan Humane Society Pet Education Center (PEC) was developed specifically to help pet owners just like you better understand their pets. Humane society staffers and volunteers can help you resolve existing behavior problems and train new, appropriate behaviors. They can also show you how to prevent behavior problems from occurring in the first place.

Take just a moment to check out their comprehensive training and behavior services. Whether you've got a dog, a cat or

even something else - they can help. The PEC programs feature only humane training techniques and are designed by a staff of qualified Behavior Consultants.

If you are interested in attending one of the popular group dog obedience classes take note: All dogs adopted from the Michigan Humane Society or other rescue group or animal control agency receive a 20 percent discount on class fees. For information or to register, call the Pet Education Center at (248) 650-1059.

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