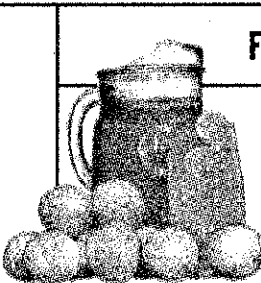


TASTE & TUNES

New York Dolls, Los Lobos highlight the Comerica Tastefest

FILTER, INSERTED SECTION



Furniture for outdoors looks like it is in - AT HOME, SECTION B

When life gives you lemons ...

Fruit syrups blend summer flavors

TASTE, PAGE B7

WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
June 23, 2005

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Pistons score with donation to Veterans Haven

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Like Chauncey Billups sinking a crucial 3-pointer or Tayshaun Prince blocking an opponent's game-winning shot, the Detroit Pistons have emerged as true victors this NBA season for a local veterans group.

The Pistons and their home, The Palace of Auburn Hills, donated \$33,300 to Veterans Haven Inc. during the half-time of Sunday's game against the San Antonio Spurs.

The money, given by The Pistons-

Palace Foundation, came from the \$5 admission that fans pay to get inside The Palace for an opportunity to watch out-of-town games on "Palace Vision," said Dennis Sampier, the foundation's director of community relations.

"It's a way to give back to the community," he said.

Specifically, the money donated to Veterans Haven came from Pistons fans who paid money to watch the seventh game against the Miami Heat and the first game against the Spurs.

"This is just fantastic," Veterans Haven President Vince Berna said.

Sam Jenkins, Veterans Haven counselor and housing manager, accepted the check on Sunday.

The Pistons-Palace Foundation chose the veterans group as part of a program this NBA season to recognize Michigan heroes, Sampier said.

"As part of that, we wanted to recognize (Veterans Haven) as being the true heroes that they are," he said.

Veterans Haven has an outreach center in Wayne and a transitional housing facility in Westland for veterans who are down on their luck.

Since it was formed in 1994, the organization has helped veterans by

donating more than 250 vehicles, more than 1 million pounds of food, three mobile homes, clothing, medical equipment, household appliances and financial assistance for housing, Berna said.

Veterans Haven uses at least 94 cents for every dollar it raises to directly help veterans.

Its next goal is to build an \$1 million affordable housing complex to serve western Wayne County veterans from such communities as Westland, Garden City, Redford, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and Wayne, among others.

The \$33,300 received from The Pistons-Palace Foundation will be put aside for that project, Berna said.

Veterans Haven has received accolades for helping hard-luck veterans - some of them homeless - find jobs and work their way toward independent living.

The Pistons-Palace Foundation also has helped other charities, including the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan and Boys Hope Girls Hope of Detroit, Sampier said.

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ALAN WARD/DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

Organizers estimate that more than 12,000 people marched Tuesday afternoon from the Lansing Center to the State Capitol building in support of the passage of education bills before state lawmakers.

Rally urges more school funding

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Karen Ensor said she's felt the effects of the lack of state funding for education, both personally and professionally.

As a media specialist at Smith Elementary in Plymouth the past dozen years, Ensor has seen how the lack of state foundation grant increases is affecting her professional life in the Plymouth-Canton school district.

"I can't buy books, I can't buy software, I can't give the staff the time and support they deserve," Ensor said. "I now have to share the media center with the before and after school programs, so that makes it off-limits to students who want to use the library as a library."

As a parent, the Plymouth mother of two has noticed a difference in the quality of education her son and daughter have received while being educated in Plymouth-Canton schools.

"There are 10 years between my children, and my son is not getting the same level of resources available to him that my daughter did when she went through," she said.

Ensor decided enough was enough and traveled Tuesday to Lansing to join more than 10,000 parents, educators and school officials in one of the largest rallies in recent memory on the lawn of the state Capitol, sponsored by the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future. The 400,000-member group is supporting two bills that would increase state funding for public education.

"We envision a quality education for every child in the state of Michigan, and failure is not an option," Donna Oser, director of the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association, told the crowd. "We've had enough, and we've come here to say we won't stand for less than enough to provide a future for our children."

The K-16 Coalition is pressing the state Legislature to pass House Bill 4582 and Senate Bill 246, which call for a minimum yearly funding increase in state budgets for K-12 schools, community colleges and universities. The minimum funding increase would be based on the rate of inflation, or 5 percent, whichever is less.

PLEASE SEE RALLY, A7

Attending rally was learning experience

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Dave Lawrence went to Lansing Tuesday for the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future rally to show support for two Senate and House bills and for his district, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The president of the P.D. Graham Elementary PTA, he came away believing that the call for action from the estimated 12,000 participants didn't impress lawmakers.

"I just don't see it opening the representatives' eyes," said Lawrence. "It was great to see the teachers and administrators standing together, but

I believe our message fell on deaf ears."

Lawrence was among some 140 Wayne-Westland residents, teachers and employees that took part in the rally held to show support for bills in the House and Senate designed to

PLEASE SEE EXPERIENCE, A4

Cops on prowl for possible serial robber

BY DARRELL CLEM AND CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITERS

Canton police are looking for a serial robber and his female accomplice who may have held up as many as six businesses in Canton, Westland and Northville.

The most recent of the robberies was at a Citgo gas station at Michigan Avenue and Lotz on Saturday, June 18.

According to police, the robber came into the store at about 10:40 p.m. He's described as a white man, about 20 years old, and was wearing blue jeans, a blue T-shirt, and a ball cap.

Police said he pulled out a silver handgun and tried to rob the business. The clerk refused to give the suspect any money and he left, taking only a magazine and a couple packs of cigarettes.

Just a few days earlier and a few miles away, a Westland store clerk reported a similar hold-up on June

13. A man held up a Westland business at Michigan Avenue and Merriman, Westland police Lt. James Ridener said.

A man entered the store about 7:40 p.m., asked a male employee to get two Xbox games from a shelf and then revealed what was described as a nickel-plated, semi-automatic handgun, according to police reports.

"There's been a change in the transaction," the employee quoted the robber as saying.

The bandit pointed the gun at the employee, demanded money from the cash register and then fled with the money and some Xbox merchandise, police said. No shots were fired.

The worker described the gunman as a white male, about 5-foot-11, unshaven with a thin build. He wore a baggy, navy blue Polo-style shirt and a baseball cap. He also

PLEASE SEE ROBBER, A4

Relay raises \$100,000

Money raised from this year's cancer-battling Relay for Life event in Westland has reached the \$105,000 mark, officials confirmed Tuesday.

The amount has far surpassed the goal of \$92,262, said Westland City Councilman Michael Kehrer, a Relay for Life committee member.

"It just shows that Westland is the kind of place where people really care," he said.

In all, 26 teams of people participated in the 24-hour Relay for Life event on June 11-12 in Thomas H. Brown Central City Park.

A little rain didn't dampen their spirits, and Kehrer said the event was made even better by around-the-clock entertainment.

This year marked the fourth time that Westland has sponsored a Relay for Life event.

It was the first time that the amount raised has topped the \$100,000 mark.

"I think that is absolutely phenomenal," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Monday, during a city council meeting.

The money will go to the American Cancer Society.

By Darrell Clem

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Volume 41
Number 8

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Coming Sunday on the PINK page

Designer Douglas Hannant dishes about design

Crafts, classes available at new Michael's store

GET CRAFTY

Livonia residents are just a short drive from the newest Michael's Arts & Crafts location at 13110 Middlebelt Road.

More than a store, it includes a new design center with a full floral booth. Floral designers will be making custom arrangements and teaching classes there.

"I think one of the things that sets Michael's apart from other craft stores is the variety of crafts they have," said Jean Mancuso, a lead salesperson.

That includes everything from beads, scrapbook items and fabric paints to soap and candle making crafts, yarn, wedding and cake decorating and more.

"We have custom floral and custom framing," Mancuso added. "The framers are certified."

The store also hosts children's birthday parties, and will offer a summer camp craft program July 11-15 and July 18-22. The hours are 9:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 5-8, and 1:30-3:30 p.m. for ages 9-12. The cost is \$7.50 per session or \$30 per week.

In addition to children's activities, Michaels will have an array of teen and adult classes, including beading, knitting, scrapbooking, Wilton cake decorating and painting. The classes start in July and on average cost \$15.

"I'm very excited about working here, it seems like it's going to be a lot of fun," said Mancuso.

A family event complete with craft projects is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 26, and a grand opening celebration also will be held this weekend at the store. But doors are open today.

Michael's Arts & Crafts' regular store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 525-9409 for more information.

GET YOUR MEDS

Familymeds Inc. has finally



made its move and plans to hold grand opening events in a new Redford location this weekend.

The store recently moved across the street and remodeled 9,000 square feet of space within the former IGA at Five Mile and Norborne. It offers prescription and over-the-counter medications, home medical equipment, health aids and more.

Familymeds Inc., a Farmington, Conn.-based company, operates 80 locations in 13 states. Just three are located in Michigan.

Summer sales, dollar items and even a complimentary cup of Seattle's Best coffee are available June 25 through July 2 at the new Redford location.

Grand opening festivities begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 25, with prizes, refreshments and help from the radio station CKWW. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 26, visitors select a secret envelope including prizes like a DVD player, television or gift certificate.

State Sen. Laura Toy visits for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. Monday, June 27. And from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, WOMC radio will be on hand to play old favorites, along with prizes and refreshments.

Familymeds is located at 25905 Five Mile in Redford. Pharmacy hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call (313) 535-8480.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.

Contest crowns junior prince and princess

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship Program is looking for Westland youngsters who would like to be royalty.

The organization is once again sponsoring the Westland Junior Prince and Princess Contest during the city's annual Summer Festival June 29-July 4.

The winners are selected by festival goers who use money to vote for their favorite boy and girl. The children with the most votes will be crowned the city's junior prince and princess.

The contest is open to youngsters ages 3-5 by Dec. 31, 2005, who are residents of Westland. Proof of age and residency is required.

Contestants must provide a framed 8-by-10-inch or smaller photograph with the name and telephone number on the back as well as a decorated coffee can to serve as a ballot box. Decorations can include photographs, but not the child's name and telephone number. A square opening should be cut in the plastic lid to receive votes.

The winners will be announced at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 3. All participants will receive a prize, while the top vote getters will be crowned prince and princess and receive a grand prize. The winners also will make an appearance during the Junior Miss Scholarship Program in November.

Photographs and canister can be picked up following the announcement of the winner.

The contest is a fund-raiser for the Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship Program which has awarded some \$128,000 in scholarships to 128 senior girls since 1995.

The organization also sponsors junior prince and princess contest in Wayne during the city's Wheelifest.



Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Lauren Perry poses with Wayne Junior Prince Zachary Mitchell and Allyson Solazar.

Registration forms are available at Wayne Lawn and Garden at 2103 S. Wayne Road and the Bailey Recreation Center. Completed forms and decorated cans can be dropped off at Wayne Lawn

and Garden up until 6 p.m. June 29 and at the prince and princess booth on festival grounds starting at 5 p.m. June 30. For more information, call Patricia Hermatz at (734) 721-5220.

Grange's cutest pet contest to benefit charity

There's still time to dress up your favorite pet and enter it in the Westland Summer Festival's cutest pet contest, sponsored by the Grange 389.

Hug a bandana on the pooch, put a tutu on that kitty. Get your best 4-by-6-inch photograph that will grace canisters that will be set out in the Grange tent on the festival grounds July 1-2. Any and all types of pets can be entered in the contest.

People who stop by will be encouraged to "vote" with their pocket change for the cutest pet. They can even stuff the

ballot boxes, since rolled coins are welcome. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded. Finalists will be notified the evening of July 2.

Entries are available at the Bailey Recreation Center. Completed forms and photographs must be dropped off there by no later than 6 p.m. June 25.

Proceeds will benefit different charities. Last year's proceeds went to Greyhound Rescue.

The Grange also is sponsoring the children's art in the park at its festival booth Saturday, July 2.

Art by children ages 18 and younger will be shown at the

Grange booth 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paintings, coloring, cut and paste work, photographs, drawings and computer art will be accepted for the contest.

Entries can be dropped off at the booth 5-8 p.m. Friday, July 1 or 8-9 a.m. Saturday, July 2. First-, second- and third-place awards will be presented on the festival stage on Sunday, July 3. Contestants can pick up their entries between 5 and 7 p.m. July 2.

For more information about both contests, call (734) 722-4857.

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Radio Shack loses DVD player, cash in Father's Day robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A lone gunman robbed a Radio Shack on Sunday near one of Westland's busiest intersections, police said.

The bandit fired no shots and escaped with \$200 and a DVD player during the incident, which happened about 5 p.m. at the Radio Shack on Ford Road west of Wayne.

The gunman entered the store, looked at a radio near the front entrance and then walked over to the counter where the manager was standing, according to police reports.

When the bandit was offered help by the manager, he drew

what was described as a chrome-plated, 9mm pistol from his left pants pocket and pointed it at the employee, authorities said.

The robber told the manager to put the money into a plastic bag, and then he demanded that he be given a DVD player, according to police reports.

The bandit made reference to the holdup occurring on Father's Day.

The manager quoted the robber as saying, "No disrespect, and sorry about Father's Day."

Another employee was talking on a telephone in the back of the store and didn't see the incident.

Police Officer Grant Allen

brought his police dog, Drago, to the store. The dog led officers to the parking lot of a nearby bar and then lost the scent.

The suspect was described as a clean-shaven white male, 6 feet tall and 190 pounds. He wore a gray T-shirt that had the words "Jones Soda" on it, a dark baseball cap and baggy, faded blue jeans.

The robbery came six days after an armed bandit robbed another business, Game Crazy, near Michigan Avenue and Merriman.

Early this week, police said the two incidents appeared unrelated.

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Stottlemeyer praised for work

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 1940s-style dance organized by Westland area officials has netted \$46,854 to help war veterans.

Dubbed "Back to the '40s," the June 5 charity dance at Livonia's Burton Manor was deemed a huge success.

The money will be split between the national Wounded Warriors project, which provides assistance to wounded troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and the local Veteran Haven Inc., which helps needy veterans with services ranging from housing to clothing to vehicles.

Event organizer Robert Stottlemeyer, a Westland City Council member, announced Monday that the event raised \$23,427 for each of the two organizations.

Some 1,500 people attended the event, which included such '40s-style performers as the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

"A lot of people gave (money) just to give, because it was going to the wounded," Stottlemeyer said during a council meeting.

Burton Manor President Bill Johnson, who helped arrange for the facility to be donated for the night, lauded Stottlemeyer's efforts during Monday's council session.

"He was unbelievable in promoting this, and he did all the legwork," Johnson said.

Westland community volunteer Georgia Becker also was commended for heading up a silent auction that raised money for the event.

Veterans Haven Inc. President Vince Berna said his group will use the money to help wounded vets.

He credited Stottlemeyer for helping to make the 1940s dance "a great success."

Veterans Haven serves western Wayne County communities including Westland, Garden City, Wayne, Livonia, Redford, Canton and Plymouth, among others.

PLACES AND FACES

Blood drives

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.

American Legion Post 396 of Garden City and the AMVETS Auxiliary Post 171 of Westland are hosting an American Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 28 at the AMVETS Hall on Merriman between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

Skate alert

The seasonal grand opening of Westland's skate park, Concrete Jungle, is scheduled for 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday, June 25. The event will include live bands, a best-trick contest and prizes. Cost is \$3.

Medical talk

Michele White, manager of American House, Westland I, and Deborah Warren, a registered nurse from The Senior Alliance, will be speaking at Westland Convalescent Center 3-4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21, about Medicaid waiver topics.

The session will include information about what the waiver program is and how people can apply. It also will include information about what services are covered by the program and what options are available when nursing home care is no longer needed.

Westland Convalescent Center is located at 36137 W. Warren Road, between Wayne and Central City Parkway. All are invited to attend the free seminar. Please contact Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for this very special event.

Dive into bargains

The Churchill High School Girl's Swim Team is hosting a family garage sale now through Saturday, June 25, at 8395 Hix in Westland.

All purchases will support the swimmers. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 for the campaign against breast cancer - 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. Golfers interested in joining the outing can call Janet Sebok at (734) 422-9195.

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. Call (734) 326-6123.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Great catch

Scot Higgins, 10, and his grandfather John Walker show off a nice little bass they caught while fishing in Central City Park's Friendship Lake. But this little fish was only for show. The lake is catch and release, so they tossed him back in the water to grow up a little more. No fishing license is required, and fishing equipment is available at the front desk at the Bailey Recreation Center between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call the parks and recreation department at (734) 722-7620.

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<p>Aunt Mid's California Baby Spinace 2/\$3.00 10 oz. package <i>Great Nutty Flavor</i></p>	<p>Alouette Brie Cheese \$6.99 each 13 oz. package <i>Light & Easy Drinking</i></p>	<p>California Mesclun Spring Mix \$3.99 lb. <i>Vitamin Fortified</i></p>
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ROBBER

FROM PAGE A1

wore blue jean shorts or pants. One witness told police she saw a man run to a vehicle parked behind the location and throw merchandise into the trunk. A white woman was in the car, and got out to open the trunk for the robber, according to police. She drove away, but the man left on foot.

Authorities brought a police dog in from the Wayne Police Department, but the suspect couldn't be found. Part of the unusual nature of the suspect's robberies is that the robber doesn't make off with much merchandise or cash, according to police, who believe he may have robbed two gas stations, two Radio Shack stores, and two video game stores.

cmarsall@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A Red, White and Blue Day

It was the last day of school for students at Lincoln Elementary in Westland, but before the final bell rang they gathered in front of the school for a Flag Day ceremony that featured the replacement of their tattered Stars and Stripes with a new flag. Above, Doing the honors of retiring the old flag were Bob Lamoureux of Canton (from left), Vaughn Hull of Westland and Dale Luebke of Canton, members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 of Plymouth. At right, Veteran Phillip McCallum (left) of Westland watches with the students as their new flag is being raised to half staff.

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

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

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

Frank Cibor
Retail Sales Manager
(734) 953-2177
fcibor@oe.homecomm.net

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

Newsroom(734) 953-2104 Fax(734) 591-7279
Sports Nightline(734) 953-2104
Circulation/Customer Service ...1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
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The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

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EXPERIENCE

FROM PAGE A1

address the crisis in educational funding.

Even though his children are no longer in school, he has remained involved in the district because of his grandchildren.

"I'm glad I went; I learned a few things," he said. "I met some people and listened to people from other districts and heard about their problems."

But, he said, it was informa-

tion he gathered along the march from the Lansing Center to the steps of the State Capitol that he found enlightening and puzzling.

He learned that nationally, the state of Michigan ranks 48th among the 50 states in the amount of money it spends on education. Michigan spends 57.4 cents of every \$1 on education, well below the national average of 61.5 cents.

He also learned that Michigan, with a population of 9 million has 148 lawmakers, far more than the 135 in

California which has a population of 33 million, and that the state could save \$50 million the first year and \$1 billion over 10 years, if it did away with the state Senate.

He found it puzzling when he heard that welfare and Medicaid would be the losers, if the schools get more money, and was disappointed in what he heard from Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

"For the most part, she really wasn't focused on what the problems are," he said. "She didn't come up with any sug-

gestions, just write and e-mail our lawmakers."

Lawrence agrees with the governor that the state needs an educated workforce. Without it, business will leave the state, but how do you educate kids, when districts are facing cuts in funding, he said.

"If we don't get the kids educated, we're not going to keep the jobs in this state," he said. "If you can't read or write, how are you going to run a computer?"

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Senator fights to restore money in K-12 budget bill

State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) helped win approval of several legislative measures designed to increase funding for southeastern Michigan school districts.

The K-12 budget bill passed by the state Senate last week restored full funding for 201 school districts and at-risk programs and included Gov. Jennifer Granholm's recommended \$175 increase in the per pupil foundation allowance.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that every child succeeds in the classroom," said Basham. "For Michigan to compete in a 21st Century economy, we need to provide each child with the skills to succeed in a modern workforce."

Basham was one of state lawmakers Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy wrote, protesting a bill approved by a Senate subcommittee that while keeping the \$175 increase, cut at-risk funds and 201 funds given to districts which statutorily prohibited from receiving the full equal foundation allowance.

A portion of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools is in Basham's Senate district.

"I'm pleased that my Senate colleagues ultimately agreed to the governor's per pupil allowance recommendation," said Basham. "Keeping Michigan an ideal state in which to live, work, or start a business requires a serious commitment to our public education system."

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

Nur Abulawi, Terry Ackman, Amanda Adams, Anthony Adams, Jennifer Adkins, Wendy Adkins, Ammer Ahmad, Zohaib Ahmad, Jamie Altman, Jessica Amburgey, Samantha Anderle, Melanie Anderson, Allison Areeda, Mark Arnold, Kimberly Artuso, Autumn Askew, Rachel Atkins, Ashley Atterberry, Gideon Ault, Amanda Bailey, Anthony Bailey, April Bailey.

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Steven Burrell, Corisa Butler, Eric Butler, Rena Butler, Nathaniel Byberg, Brooke Cabe, Casey Cahill, Chelsea Cahill, Corey Campbell, Elizabeth Campbell, James Capraro, Danielle Carrillo, Steven Cates, Jennifer Cecil, Benjamin Chalupka, Christopher Chatterton, Wilder Christoffersen, Lorina Clardy, Robin Clarke, Jessica Clos, Doyle Colaianne.

Michael Cole, Sareesa Coleman, Justin Collop, Jedediah Compau, James Congdon, Jonathan Contreras, Karen Contreras, Charles Cooney, Timothy Cornett, Sarah Craven, Matthew Cretens, Daniel Crummey, Ruth Cuevas, Linette Cuevas-Zuniga, Stefanie Curcuru, Christina Curtis, Terry Curtis, David Czerwinski, Laura D'Arcy, Dale Dahlberg, Heather Daniels.

LaTosha Davenport, Brittney Davis, Dean Davis, Mark Davis, Michael Davis, Oriana Davis, Richard Davis, Tirrell Davis, Jennifer Dawson, Amber Day, Amber Decker, Brittany Demaray, Sarah Demske, Katie-Lyn Dennis, Christopher Dewaelsche, Briana Dewyer, Kyrá Dewyer, Desart Dinkollari, Erina Dinkollari, Erica Dishon, Bryan Dixon, Kelly Doerr, Kevin Dombrowski.

Trisha Donaldson, Andrew Doss, Jordan Dottor, Jesse Dreon, David Draper, Amy Dunham, Amanda Dye, Jessica Eastin, Kevin Erdmann, Kyle Erdmann, Kenneth Ester Jr., Kherre Fairbanks, William Follow, Marian Farmer, Jessica Fellows, Jeremy Ferack, Amanda Fill, Garrett Fischer, Kevin Fischer, John Fisher, Jeremy Flatt, Baily Floyd, Joshua Ford.

Tera Foster, Dustin Franklin, Nicole Franklin, Danny Frantjeskos, Leslie Freedle, Mary Freeman, Daniel Frey, Stephen Frost, Lindsay Funk, J'nai Fuqua, Daniel Fyfe, Jacob Fyfe, Shane Fyfe, Roneisha Gale, Heather Galvan, Allison Gardiner, Melia Garris, Kelley Gary, Alvin Geddis, Heather Gendron, Daniel Gill, Melissa Gill, Justin Girouard, Niiton Gjeçi.

Angel Glaspie, Natassia Goines, Julie Good, Adam Goring, Patrick Goring, Katrina Gory, Molly Grace, Thomas Grandowicz, Timothy Grandowicz, Claudia Grant, James Grassmyer, Michelle Grassmyer, Angl Graybill, Mason Green, Michael Green, Gary Greene, Jennifer Greenshields, Meredith Griggs, Ellen Grutta, Brandon Guenther, Justin Guenther.

Nichole Gulliver, Thomas Gunther, Jennifer Guthrie, Kristine Haggard, Michael Hadjuk, Jennifer Halaberda, Tracey Halaberda, Christina Haley, Brandon Hall, Bethany Hamlet, Hollie Hanna, Kathryn Hansen, Cory Harden, Elizabeth Hardy, Roberta Hardy, Kevin Harrington, James Harris, Kelly Harris, Ramond Harris II, Austin Hassen, Yousef Hegazi, Jessica Hendershott.

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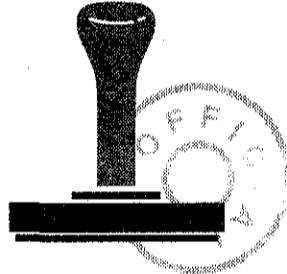
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FOR THE RECORD



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's At Home in Passages on page B5.

DEATHS

A

Ester Ann Brown McKinney Atkin, 83, of Dearborn, died June 19.

B

Elizabeth Ann Bowman, of Beverly Hills, died June 9.

C

Natalie Cherundolo, 86, died June 18.

D

Thomas F. Daly Jr., 93, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died June 15.
Ronald J. "Ron" DuCharme, 77, of Clarkston, died June 14.

F

H. Howard Flint II, 66, died June 14.

G

Hazel Dittrich Geiger, 87, formerly of Beverly Hills and Rochester Hills, died June 2.

H

Norbert "Joe" Halliday, 77, of Westland, died June 20.
Pamela T. Hamilton, 51, of Morriston, Fla., formerly of Auburn Hills, died June 19.
John Neil Hays, 87, died June 12.

J

Kenneth A. Jahne, of Clarkston, died June 10.

K

William S. (Bill) Kenyon Jr., 83, formerly of Birmingham, died June 16.

P

Arnold C. "Whitey" Peterson, 83, of Green Oak Township, died June 16.
Deborah Polkowsky, 52, died June 20.

S

Arthur Frederick Schmidt, 89, of Westland, died June 16.
Otis Andrew Smith, 83, of Bloomfield Hills, died June 19.

W

Robert John Wilson, 80, of Hillman, died June 15.

Y

Laudray R. Yoerg, 76, of Farmington Hills, died June 16.



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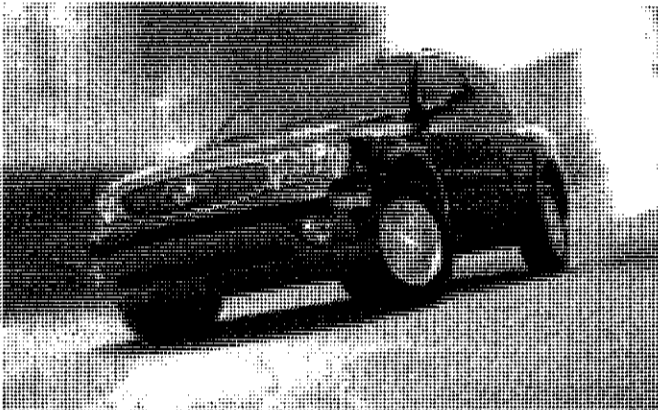
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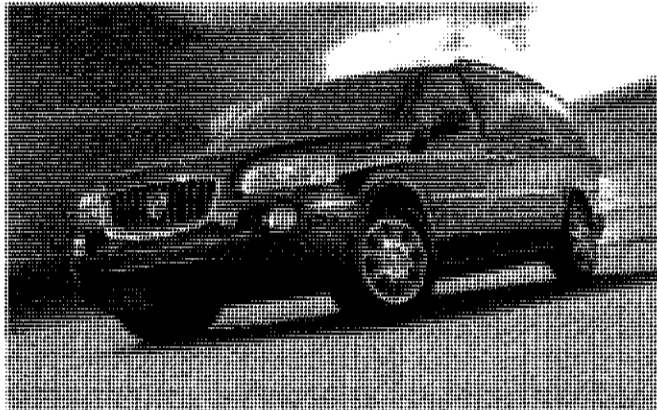
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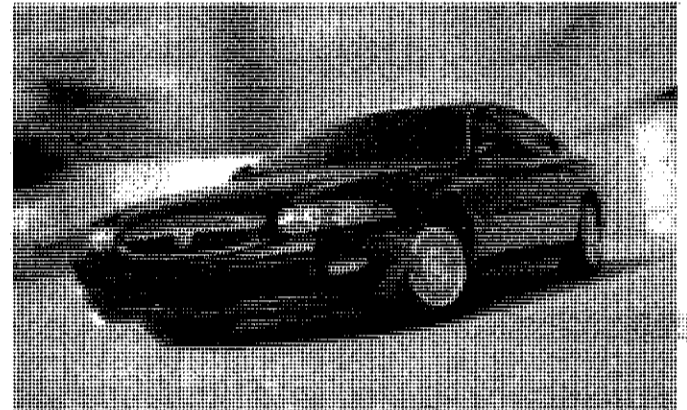


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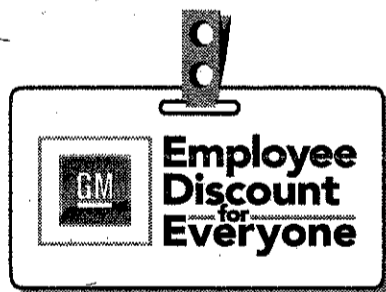
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RALLY

FROM PAGE A1

"We're willing to sacrifice everything and anything to make sure that message is heard," said Terrance McClain, a member of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education. McClain said the \$175 increase in the per-pupil foundation grant allowance proposed by legislators is a sleight-of-hand.

"They're taking it from other areas in order to bring it back to the foundation allowance," McClain said. "But they're cutting back some of the grants for reading recovery and other categorical. It looks to the public like they're in favor of public education, when they are really moving money from one place to the other."

Judy Morante, retired for two years after a 34-year teaching career at Thurston High School in the South Redford district, made the trek to lend her support.

"My whole career I saw funding problems," Morante said. "When I taught, the district was able to provide field trips and could use school buses. Now students have to pay to go on field trips, and materials have been cut dramatically."



Thousands rallied in Lansing to show support for increased funding of public education.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, whose long-term goal is to increase the number of college graduates in the state, received a rousing welcome, especially when the Democratic governor criticized Republican lawmakers.

"We have to make the Republican-controlled Legislature do the right thing for children," Granholm said. "We have to ask them to choose between investing in our kids, and pouring money into tax giveaways for special interests."

Carolyn Norris-Deyell, presi-

dent of the 1,200-member Livonia teachers union, said Proposal A is failing school districts.

"It's based on an economy that's booming, and our economy in Michigan isn't booming," Norris-Deyell said. "The priority has to be to turn this state around, and change it from an industrial into a technology base. And the best way to do that is to educate our children. That's where the priority has to be."

In 1997, Mark Slavens of Canton Township started the Michigan Citizens for Fairness in Public School Funding. After three major summits which attracted school districts and legislators from across the state, the funding issue appeared to be dormant, until Tuesday's rally.

"Education funding is getting worse and worse, and my prediction is coming true: the state Legislature and the governor were not adequately funding schools," Slavens — now president of the Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education — said before the rally. "I think they (legislators) will listen, but whether they have the courage to stand up and do something for children, I'm not so sure."

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Retiring Schoolcraft VP Tomey has seen college grow, change

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER



Tomey

Life for a Schoolcraft College student has changed quite a bit during the 31-year tenure of John Tomey, who is retiring as executive vice president on June 30.

For starters, Schoolcraft students see a greater number of other students milling around the campus than they did in the past. When Tomey joined Schoolcraft in 1974, enrollment hovered around 10,000. Today, enrollment is about 30,000.

Another big change is that the big lines students traditionally waited in to enroll for classes and buy books can be circumvented via the Internet. Now, students may register for classes on-line, as well as purchase books and perform a number of other functions, including checking grades and applying for financial aid, electronically.

"We try to make things convenient while trying to maintain a personal touch," Tomey said. "We have found that students need to connect with

people on campus."

At the heart of all this is customer service. And in this case, the "customer" is the Schoolcraft student.

"We really do believe in customer service and delivering customer service in everything we do."

Tomey, 64, lives in Novi with his wife, Carolyn. He has two sons, Phillip, who lives in Seattle, and Michael, who lives in Milford.

One of Schoolcraft's changes may happen after Tomey's retirement. That is to allow for students to get baccalaureate (four-year) degrees. Only two-year degrees are offered at Schoolcraft under its current structure.

"I think that's something a lot of community colleges need to look at," Tomey said of offering four-year programs. "We'd still be a community college, but we would still be allowed to offer certain baccalaureate programs.

It's an exciting possibility."

Offering nursing as a four-year program is just one option Schoolcraft would have, if the state legislature approved the change.

"There is a drastic nursing shortage," Tomey said.

When he first arrived at Schoolcraft, Tomey's job was director of financial aid. In 1974, an estimated \$500,000 was distributed to students through financial aid.

"This year, we'll probably exceed \$10 million," he said.

Financial aid remains an essential lifeline for students.

"Without those funds, there's probably be a lot of student who couldn't afford to go to college. The need for financial aid has increased substantially over the years."

Tomey's second job at Schoolcraft began in 1980, when he became director of admissions in addition to financial aid. In 1995, he became dean of student services, became vice president for enrollment services in 2000 and executive vice president in 2004.

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OUR VIEWS

City should look at trash contract

As long as Westland has been a city, the former Painter & Ruthenberg has been the city's trash hauler.

Now known as Midwest Sanitation, the company's longstanding relationship with the city appears in doubt in the face of mounting complaints about the quality of its service.

Complaints about late trash pickup have prompted Mayor Sandra Cicirelli to take the extraordinary step of inviting several other companies to make presentations on how they would handle the city's trash.

And Midwest's contract, which expires at the end of the month, will be extended indefinitely as the a committee established by the mayor looks at the proposals.

Owner Paul Ruthenberg has blamed the problem on equipment breakdowns because the trash must be taken to a landfill rather than the defunct Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority incinerator in Dearborn Heights.

Ruthenberg believes that his company "can do an absolutely excellent job" for Westland residents and that they care more about a family-owned business than a national company.

We disagree. It wouldn't be a saying if it wasn't true. Residents want to know that when they put their trash at the curb, it will go away within a reasonable amount of time. They don't care who does it, only that it goes away.

Actions speak louder than words, and Ruthenberg should know that. He has already lost the Dearborn Heights contract, has been heavily fined by Garden City for late or missed pickups, and is now in the hot seat in Westland.

The city shouldn't have to use its resources to do the work it pays someone else to do and that's what happened when city workers collected the compost that Midwest Sanitation didn't pick up.

We believe the mayor is correct in looking at other proposals for trash hauling. Midwest Sanitation has been hauling the city's trash for almost 40 years, but longevity doesn't necessarily mean the company is the best one for the job.

The committee Cicirelli organized may discover there's a better way to get the city's trash from point A to Point B and maybe, just maybe, breathe new life into a curbside recycling program that residents will support.

Let schools decide their election dates

What the public schools do not need from Lansing now is any more meddling in their affairs.

It's bad enough the state Legislature treats funding as a fiscal yo-yo, stringing the districts along with their per pupil allotments. Now the Legislature wants all the school districts to hold their annual elections in November.

Sounds reasonable, but it isn't that simple even though it would bring everyone onto one unified date, which would result in a savings by combining the school elections with general elections.

Last year the Legislature gave the state the option of holding their elections on one of four dates throughout the year. Most districts, including 27 of 28 in Oakland County, opted for a date in May. That was closest to the traditional June election date.

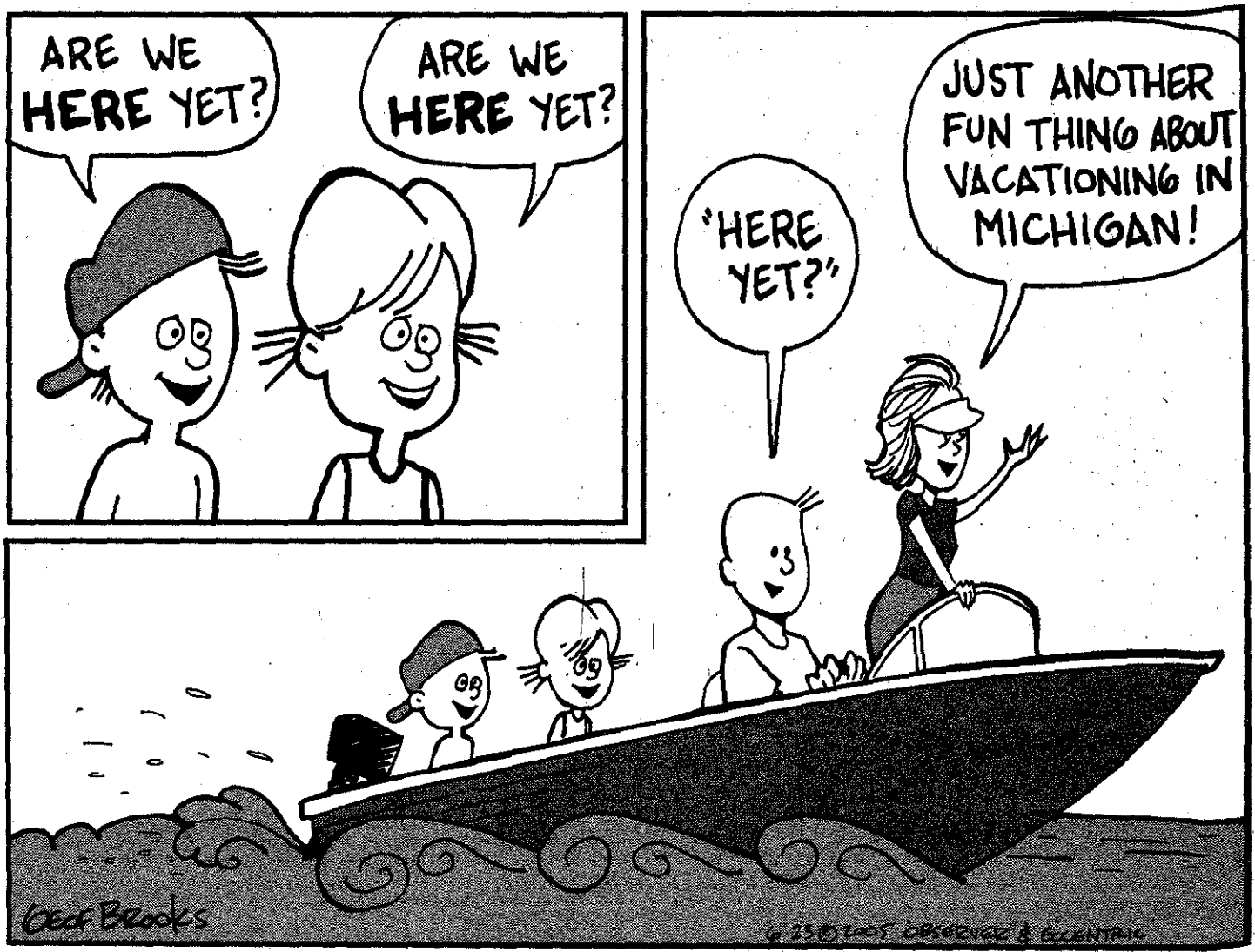
For the most part, the schools chose not to go with the November election date because they want their issues to stand alone and not get buried in potentially massive ballots littered with local, state and national issues and candidates.

True, this amounted to some additional costs for the districts and complicated the election procedure because the jurisdiction was switched to local election clerks, usually in multiple municipalities.

But some things are worth the costs. The schools should have the right to choose the election date that best suits their interests, which translates into doing what is best for the community.

If the state Legislature wants a single election date, it should have proposed that to begin with. To come back after the fact with still another change only demonstrates the legislators' inability to think issues through before enacting legislation.

There's no excuse for that. And if the state really wants to help the schools, the legislators should come up with a consistent, realistic funding system that will stop the bleeding wound opened by Proposal A.



Game of denial

It's a shame that Leonard Poger wishes to regurgitate the old argument that Jordan is Palestine in his June 12 Op-Ed. I don't really feel like going into history lessons, but I would advise people with Poger's mindset to look at a map pre-May of 1948. Or is he suggesting that maps for the past 2,000 years have all been wrong and that the world has been involved in an elaborate centuries-old conspiracy?

And for those who negate Palestinian existence by brushing them off as generic Arabs who can melt into other Arab countries, think about it like this — what do you think the reaction would be if we told Argentina's Spurs star Manu Ginobili to move to Mexico when the NBA series is over? After all, Mexicans and Argentines both speak Spanish and most are Roman Catholic. People in the Arab world may speak Arabic and most are Muslim, but they have their own unique history, dialects, monuments, and tradition. Similar concepts.

Psst, I recommend that we not excite Manu any more than we need to, and that others stop playing this game of denial.

Sherri Muzher
Mason, Mich.

Poger not reasonable

Leonard Poger (guest column, June 12) claims the Palestinian state should be created east of the Jordan River in what is now Jordan. Never mind that Israel has signed a peace treaty with this nation. Peace is not on his agenda.

He claims the occupied territories of the West Bank are not really occupied, rather disputed. Tell that to children who have to pass by Israeli armor on their way to school or to a mother who lost her child to one of Israel's "accidental" killings.

The *Observer & Eccentric* should reserve space for people who are informed and reasonable. Mr Poger is neither.

Ibrahim Kandah
Canton

Column unbalanced

As a Jew, a 30-year-Farmington Hills resident, a planning commissioner, an active community participant and a concerned citizen, I was extremely disappointed with the tone and inaccuracies of Hugh Gallagher's column of June 2. For a diverse community such as ours and on a hot-button topic such as the Middle East, I believe the piece was unbalanced and unnecessarily provocative. The issue of balance in reporting, and the role of the media in Middle Eastern affairs, may deserve discussion — although no more than any reporting of any ongoing debate in the world — but to report, without criticism, fact checking or challenge, the claims and tirades of a pro-Palestinian lobbying group or two is, in my opinion, irresponsible.

Among the "facts" stated in the article, are canards that have been recited by anti-Semites and anti-Israel commentators for years and are thoroughly dis-

LETTERS

credited, such as, media bias against Palestinians, underreporting of Palestinian deaths (in military defensive actions) vs. the "exaggeration" of Israeli deaths (by suicide murderers), news organization erasure of negative reports on Israel, the lack of context in reporting and "debatable" death counts from suicide bombers in Israel (the only place in the region where a free press exists).

More alarming, however, is your acceptance as "more persuasive and interesting" the "strong case" made by Ali Abunimeh, a Chicago apologist for Palestinian intransigence, terrorism and obfuscation. For you to acknowledge that he made a "strong case" that the national media "tend to favor the Israeli view," or that the "long-established Jewish presence in this country and their economic power is the reason for the imbalance" or that the "United States favors Israel diplomatically" is so outrageous that it is obvious you just recorded the speeches, never checked the allegations or challenged the speakers. The true facts, supported by substantial evidence, can be obtained by merely typing in the words "Israel facts" on Google and following up on the thousands of reliable sources listed there or by simply calling the Jewish Community Council or your former editor, Robert Sklar, at the *Jewish News* in our own community.

Finally, to equate the manner in which deaths are occurring on both sides, to attribute the steps numerous democratically elected administrations in Israel have taken to protect the country from murderers like Yasser Arafat and his ilk with the "arrogance, resentment, and intransigence of the Palestinians, is neither "accurate, full" or truthful.

The Jews in your readership and the community as a whole deserve an apology and a truthful piece explaining your errors and reciting truthful and accurate facts.

David L. Haron
Farmington Hills

Middle East at a crossroads

Thank you very much Mr. Hugh Gallagher for writing such an analytical article regarding such an important local event. I covered this event for a local paper and am pleased that you did the same.

The Palestinian side of the story is usually not covered in the mainstream U.S. media and when it is there is a downplay on its significance. Once again I would like to thank you for taking the time and effort to write such an article when the American people and the world are at a crossroads that will make or break the future for our children.

Bilal Dabaja
Arab Student Union president
Legislative Affairs chairman
Student Government

Good advice

In (Hugh Gallagher's) recent piece on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, he referenced the story of six blind men asked to describe an elephant, and stated that "As journalists, we work to 'see' the complete elephant and understand it. We seek out

different sources, we track down different points of view, but we also try to nail down facts."

(He should) follow his own good advice and present a balanced view regarding this conflict that includes fact checking and the Israeli perspective. Journalistic ethics demand it.

With a prayer for peace,
Karen Rosenstirn
TROY

Present Israeli view

Now that you presented the pro-Palestinian viewpoint in (Hugh Gallagher's column), virtually without challenge, it would be nice to see the same treatment from the Israeli perspective. Thanks.

Ira W. Schlusser

Need fair judges

Results of recent polls show the popularity of President Bush at an all-time low. Yet, the push for his policies and nominations are escalating. Doesn't his disapproval rating tell our representatives in Washington anything? Apparently mainstream America believes the courts should do what they were designed to do, i.e.: Terri Shiavo. Bush and Congress should stay in their own yards.

This is exactly why judges appointed to the bench for life need to be nonpartisan, fair, open-minded, middle of the road, people of character. Appointments to the bench should not be party favors or favorites; they should be approved by a true majority in Congress, so as to represent the common good. The rich and powerful have enough influence they don't need control of our courts as well.

Over 95 percent of the judges President Bush nominated were approved, demonstrating how untrue accusations by the ultra-conservatives are, that the liberals aren't playing fair, because they will not approve 5 percent of the judges originally nominated. Even if Bush really did have a mandate, does this mean he should get 100 percent of all his appointments and policies? This sounds more like dictatorship than democracy.

Carolyn Maxwell
Plymouth

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

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PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY
GANNETT

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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

"Of course I'm going to fight to keep my contract. Even though we have had some difficulties over the last few months, I believe the citizens do care about a family business (as opposed to a national company)."
— Midwest Sanitation President Paul Ruthenberg, about efforts to hang on to Westland's trash hauling contract

May 5 might be symbolic start of crisis, but certainly not end

Historians take note: May 5, 2005, is going to turn out to have been a red-letter date in Michigan's history.

And I'm not thinking about Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican national holiday which commemorates the Mexican army's stunning defeat of the imperialist forces of France and the Austrian Emperor Maximilian at Puebla in 1862, a major milestone on the way to Mexican independence.

No, ours is a much more gloomy May 5. We are talking about the date when Standard & Poor's downgraded the bond ratings of both General Motors and Ford Motor Co. to what the headlines call "junk." Put in the fancy language the bond rating agencies use, that means "investors should not invest in bonds of either of these companies for the long term."

When historians look back on our times, I suspect they'll seize on May 5 as the symbolic date at which it became painfully clear to all that Michigan was in a major economic crisis of a new kind.

The symptoms have been clear for years. Manufacturing employment, the traditional core of our economy, is hemorrhaging. Our largest employers — GM, Ford, Chrysler and much of the automotive supply chain — are losing market share and their investment grade credit rating.

Soon, some may be facing bankruptcy. We're tops in the nation for unemployment — and dead last when it comes to forming new companies. The state budget is structured to produce a chronic billion-dollar plus deficit every year, while the political system seems paralyzed and the politicians unable to do anything about it.

We're in serious trouble. We've had tough times in the past, yes. But today's crisis is quite unlike what we've faced before. It is the result of complex and widespread changes in the worldwide economy — think of outsourcing and offshoring jobs to China and India as just the start.

The causes are far deeper than the usual cyclical changes in the economy; as a result, this crisis will not be resolved merely by an upturn in the domestic business cycle and a few more domestic auto sales someday.

These facts are finally beginning to penetrate even the thick walls of denial put up by Lansing's political class. Take Gov. Jennifer Granholm, without a doubt the most gifted political communicator Michigan has seen in many years.

My sense is that her re-election strategy (she's up next year) has been to run as Ms. Congeniality. This means she intended to try to slide through the recurrent budget problems, cut deals with the GOP-controlled Legislature where possible and generally argue that while things may be tough

just now, she's doing the best she can.

But the crisis has caught up with her careful, cautious planning. As anybody who heard the governor's speech at the Mackinac Island policy gathering (I wasn't there, but I read the text and have talked to plenty of people who were in the room), she didn't fudge this time around.

The governor made it clear that the biggest issue in Michigan is responding to the crisis, right now, and she talked about how vital it was to invest in Michigan's economic future via the \$2 billion bond proposal she wants to put on a statewide ballot later this year.

So what are the Republicans in the Legislature doing? Slow walking, that's what, doing just barely enough to avoid being labeled as obstructionists, but making sure nothing significant gets done before 2006.

That's to set up Richard De Vos, Amway heir and near-certain Republican nominee for governor, to proclaim that Granholm has done nothing to resolve Michigan's economic crisis, that he's an experienced businessman, that he has a plan ... you get the picture.

Even if that were true, Michigan can't wait. Personally, I think the governor should be telling the Republicans to follow, lead or get the hell out of the way. I think she should be talking about \$5 billion for her bond program, not a measly \$2 billion.

And I think she needs to be much, much more hard-edged, bold and comprehensive in proposing a strategy to tackle Michigan's crisis than she has been. We're in major trouble, and we can't afford to fool around.

Incidentally, I think that positioning a "bond" as the remedy for our crisis is making a basic linguistic mistake. Nobody associates the word "bond" with "crisis." The solution to this crisis is a serious restructuring plan, and the word emergency probably needs to be used. Often.

Mark my words. From now until the next statewide election in November 2006, Michigan politics and policy are bound to center around our present economic crisis. Like it or not, both parties will be obliged to address it — and they better do so realistically.

My friend, Mark Murray, now president of Grand Valley State University, offers another interesting historic parallel. He notes that May 5, 1959, was the date when Michigan suffered another symbolic financial and political crisis: payless paydays for state government employees, thanks to another financial crisis during which the politicians couldn't agree.

History always repeats itself, but seldom quite as neatly as this.

Phil Power is chairman of HCN, Inc. and a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

Raising fees on imported Canadian trash would affect all taxpayers

For several years there has been a lot of political demagoging on the issue of imported Canadian trash. It seems we are in for yet another round.

No one likes the idea of Canadian trash ending up in Michigan's landfills. The problem becomes what can we do or what are we going to do to stop it?

The honest truth is there is not much we can do at the state level. Last session we passed several bills that attempted to cut down on the influx by adding things like pop cans and tires to a list of materials not allowed in Michigan landfills. Not enough

time has passed since those laws were enacted to see if they have had an impact. The Flint Journal quoted Gov. Granholm as saying "the state has done all it can to stop the influx of Canadian trash and now needs new leadership in Washington to solve the problem." (9/10/2004)

But yet the political grandstanding on this issue has begun again. Democrats recently announced a

3,400-percent tax increase on trash from \$0.21 to \$7.50 per ton. This will cost Michigan taxpayers approximately \$200 million a year.

Michigan taxpayers — not Canadian.

If enacted, the Democratic plan to raise taxes on Canadian trash will actually raise taxes on all of us and do nothing to curb the influx of imported trash.

I would like nothing more than to raise taxes on imported trash if that would solve the problem. If this tax increase would only be paid on the trash entering Michigan from either Canada or other states, I would completely support it.

But it is against the United States Constitution for the state of Michigan to only tax products, including trash, imported from another country or for that matter another state.

Only our senators and representatives in Washington, D.C., can actually stop the importing of Canadian trash. We need their help to solve this problem.

Plus, all of the Canadian trash haulers are engaged in long-term contracts that will not be impacted by the rate increase. So that means the tax that is supposed to decrease imported trash will actually do nothing to stop Canadian trash and will actually raise your taxes instead.

We must beware that our actions as a state might prove to cause us more trouble than we anticipate. Michigan does not only import Canadian trash — we export it as well.

As we work on this problem we must realize that 95 percent of Michigan's hazardous waste is exported, with the majority of it going to Ontario.

If we keep bashing the Canadians, what is to stop their government from banning our hazardous waste? If they ban our waste what Michigan community will step up first to accept it?

State Rep. John Pastor (R-Livonia) represents the 19th District.



John Pastor

LETTERS

Keep insurance bargaining

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to SB 55 and 56. It's difficult for me to understand the motivation behind the elimination of collective bargaining for health insurance.

This is a basic right of all workers from all occupations. The rationale that it would be helpful in balancing the state budget is not logical — especially if one considers past experience in government taking over such issues as health insurance coverage — i.e. Medicaid.

The problem is in the structure of the tax system in the state, along with the cost of health coverage across the country.

It scares me to think that such an important item could become the target of political games now and in the future. MESSA and Blue Cross offer two very good, financially stable choices in

our state for health care coverage.

Please do not make it another football for political game playing.

Lois Saxton
Farmington Hills

Speed's dangerous too

Click it or Ticket? I say stick-it. We don't need government to tell us about seat belts. All those people driving have passed their drivers test and supposedly are responsible enough to make intelligent decisions. So if the driver and passengers of automobiles decide not to wear a seat belt it is up to them. That is freedom of choice, something that is lacking in today's government.

Danisa Saffarelli
Livonia

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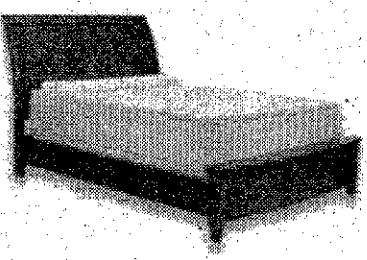
Robert R. Florka and Lawrence A. Peters are noted speakers on living trusts and estate planning. Both are licensed attorneys and members of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys. Their seminars on living trusts are said to be "entertaining and easy-to-understand."

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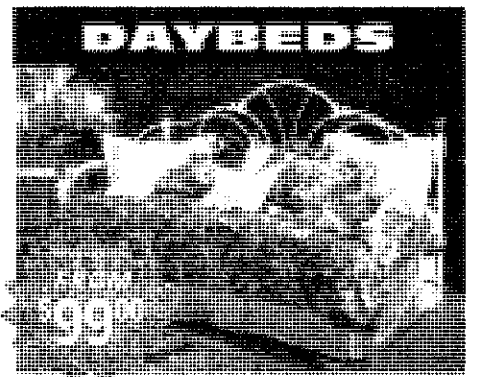
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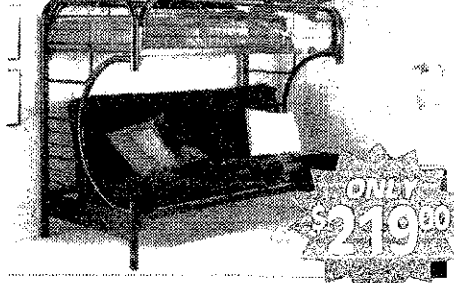
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