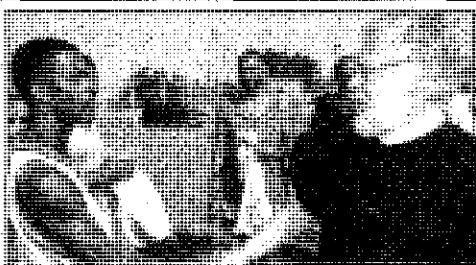


**PBJ Outreach**

Program offers food, hugs and a beacon for those in need

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



**Avoid the risks of skin cancer** - HEALTH, PAGE C8



Designer Douglas Hannant dishes about design

**PINK PAGE** C10

# WESTLAND Observer

**SUNDAY**  
June 26, 2005

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Thelma Ivey, the Westland Civitans Citizen of the Year, serves soup to the homeless at the Lighthouse Mission in the Full Gospel Temple.

## Asbestos abatement begins at Cooper site

BY DARRELL CLEM AND STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITERS

Over the next few weeks Westland residents will see an empty field where the former Cooper School now stands.

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education has approved the demolition of that building, and work on the project has already begun with the removal of asbestos from the building.

"People should be seeing activity for the next month or so," said David Watson, director of operations.

The school, located on Ann Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt, was closed in 1991 when the site was found to be contaminated. Demolition will cost \$273,380. That price will be covered by state of Michigan grant funds. The school board accepted the

PLEASE SEE COOPER, A7

## Commitment and compassion

Honoree makes helping homeless her mission

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

As Marlene Dean Doran sees it, Thelma Ivey is an unsung hero in the community.

For two years, Ivey, a member of the Warren Road Light and Life Free Methodist Church, has led a cadre of 84 volunteers in providing a hot meal and overnight accommodations for three months during the winter for the homeless at the Lighthouse Warming Center in Westland.

"I've seen her dedication and commitment to the community and the

vision we share of working with the homeless or those in dire straits," Doran said. "She's the epitome of that compassion. She's so caring of others."

That commitment and compassion led to Ivey's selection as the Westland Civitans' Citizen of the Year for 2005.

"The warming center is a blessing, it started in the heart," Ivey said. "Before my husband died he said, 'The Lord has something special out there for you.' Now, I help myself by reaching out and helping other people."

Ivey got involved with the homeless when she was invited to go down to the Cass Corridor after her husband

died suddenly 20 years ago. She made 1,300 sandwiches a month during her 13 years of working with the homeless in Detroit.

Doran, who nominated Ivey for the award, refers to those sandwiches as Thelma Ivey's "world renowned" bologna sandwiches and is among volunteers who help make them for the warming center.

"It's a staple sandwich that can be frozen," she said. "If there's no food donations, we have the sandwiches."

Ivey saw a flyer about opening a

PLEASE SEE MISSION, A7

## Home delivery wins council OK for pharmacy

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A new pharmacy that will deliver prescription drugs to shut-in residents could open as early as August in Westland.

Owner Tarick Iqal plans to open his Value Sav-Mor drugstore northeast of Merriman and Palmer, in a neighborhood that will serve the city's Norwayne subdivision.

Despite concerns about a drugstore glut, Westland City Council members have approved a special land use proposal that gave Iqal the go-ahead for his business.

"I personally feel that we've reached our saturation point with these pharmacies," Councilman William Wild said.

However, he and others favored the latest plan after learning that Iqal's pharmacy will deliver prescriptions to residents who can't leave their homes because they are disabled or sickly.

Iqal also pledged to participate, as many other pharmacies have done, in a discount-prescription program spurred by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's administration.

During an earlier Westland Planning Commission meeting, some employees of Good Neighbor Pharmacy, 1856 Venoy Road, voiced concerns about another local pharmacy. They fear possibly losing business in a highly competitive market.

Some planning officials, however, said Good Neighbor Pharmacy would likely retain its loyal customer base.

Moreover, planning officials indicated that Iqal shouldn't be denied the same opportunity as other drugstore owners.

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## Grad savors time as West Point cadet

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

On the surface, Brandon Fulton sounds like a typical college student who just finished four years of undergraduate studies.

"It was quite a relief to have it over," he said.

Truth is, Fulton is anything but typical after earning his bachelor of science degree in economics from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, considered one of the world's top leadership institutions.

He might not be quite ready to use his economics degree to take on Alan Greenspan's job as Federal Reserve Board chairman, but Fulton's future appears promising, whatever career path he chooses.

A 2001 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School, Fulton became an Eagle Scout en route to becoming a West Point cadet. Home for the summer, his next stop will be Fort Knox, Ky., where he will enter a 17-week training course in July to become an armor officer.

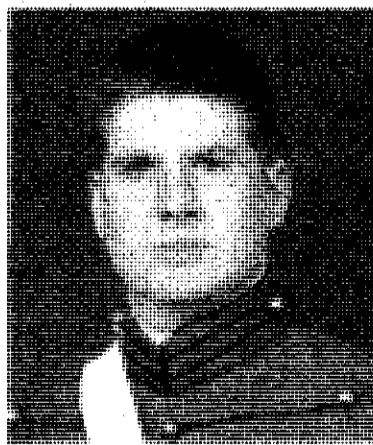
From there, he will start a five-

year military commitment in December at Fort Drum, N.Y., where he will become a cavalry scout platoon leader.

Although Fulton has followed a well-charted path — he even made the Dean's List in his senior year at West Point — he still has a bit of the indecision befitting a young man his age, 21.

"I might stay in the military for 20 years, or I might get out and use my degree in economics," he said during an interview. "I may go for a higher degree, or some-

PLEASE SEE CADET, A6  
Brandon Fulton

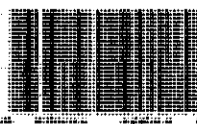


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**Coming Thursday in Filter**

The John Hancock All-Star FanFest captures the excitement of Major League Baseball with more than 40 interactive exhibits and attractions, clinics and seminars and free autograph sessions. See Thursday's Filter section for the story.





TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Holmes, senior program director at the Livonia Family YMCA, sits among a 6-14-year-old swimming lesson class.

# YMCA staffer makes difference

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

It's not all that surprising that Andrea Holmes is a sports fan.

"Hockey, if we had hockey," the Westland resident said of her favorites. Holmes follows both the Red Wings and Tigers when she's not working as senior program director at the Livonia Family YMCA.

Holmes, 28, lived in New Mexico as a child and then moved to Redford, graduating from Thurston High School in 1995. She earned a bachelor's degree in math with a minor in statistics and psychology from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

She'd planned to teach high school math, but started working for the YMCA and loved it.

"I could still make a difference in kids' lives," she said.

Her YMCA work includes overseeing coordinators in program areas such as aquatics and other sports.

"We have a huge gymnastics program," she said.

Soccer and the recreational basketball league are also popular, as is the summer day camp which started this week.

Holmes also serves as a watchdog for the YMCA's budget, making sure spending stays in line.

She's worked eight years for the YMCA, said Greg Wolcott, district vice president at the Livonia Y. Holmes worked at the Wayne-Westland YMCA when it was open and came to Livonia a couple years back when the facility in Westland closed.

"Within five months, she

attained the new position," Wolcott said. "She works hard at program development, staff development and in making a difference in people's lives."

Holmes enjoys swimming in her free time and is an avid reader.

The Westland Rotary member is mom to Laynie Wood, 3 1/2, and spends time with her daughter whenever possible.

"When I'm not working, that's pretty much what I do is spend time with her," she added.

Holmes is glad she chose the YMCA for her career, citing such things as the Strong Kids campaign which makes camp possible for kids who otherwise couldn't afford it.

"It's just a nice family atmosphere," she said. "A lot of places you don't get that same feeling."

# 9 young women vie for festival pageant crown

Nine contestants will compete for a crown and scholarship money Wednesday during the Miss Westland Summer Festival pageant, event organizer Lisa Tesner said.

The contest is expected to start about 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, on the main festival stage in the Central City Park area, near Carlson and Ford.

Contestants had to be between the ages of 16 and 22 and unmarried.

They had to write an explanation of their short- and long-term goals and write an essay about how to make Westland a better community, Tesner said.

They also will be judged on poise and community service, and the winner will preside over certain festival activities and city events during the coming year.

The festival starts Wednesday and continues through July 4.

The winner will receive a \$1,200 scholarship.

The first runner-up will get \$800; the third-place finisher, \$500.

The contestants are:

■ Jennifer Guthrie, 17, who will be a senior at Wayne Memorial High School.

■ Kimberly Hagelthorn, 18, who just graduated from John Glenn High School.

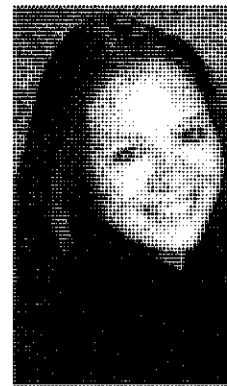
■ Alexa Larimore, 16, who will be a junior at Glenn.

■ Kristin Lewis, 18, who just graduated from Glenn.

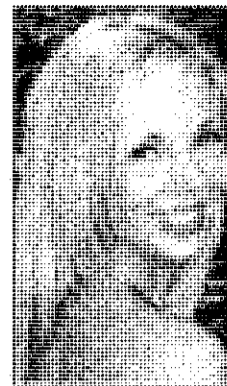
■ Nicole Miller, 18, who will be a sophomore at Western Michigan University.

■ Najla Muta, 17, who just graduated from Wayne Memorial.

■ Stephanie Orvis, 19, who



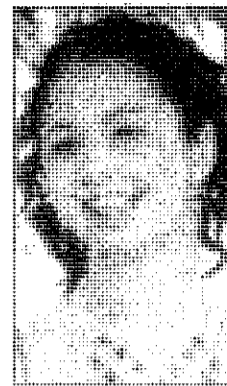
Smith



Hagelthorn



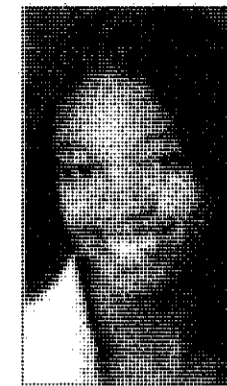
Potvin



Larimore



Guthrie



Muta



Lewis



Orvis



Miller

will be a junior at Central Michigan University.

■ Leah Potvin, 19, who will be a sophomore at the

University of Michigan.

■ Sara Smith, 17, who just graduated from Wayne Memorial High School.

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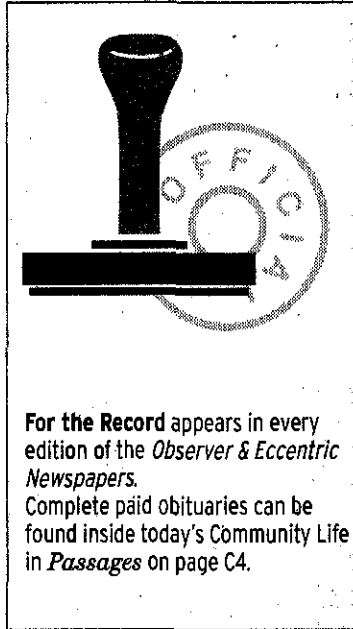
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DEATHS

A
Ester Ann Brown McKinney Atkins, 83, of Dearborn, formerly of Franklin Village, died June 19.
B
Evelyn I. Baker, 87, of Holly, died June 10.
Gary W. Barnes, 55, of Oakland Township, died June 7.
Grace A. Biggs, 88, of Auburn Hills, died June 10.
D
Susan L. Daniels, of Canton, died June 14.
Antonio F. DeSanto, of Westland, died June 13.
F
Jack Fouracre, 85, of Boyne City, died June 15.
G
James A. Gibson, 84, of Rochester Hills, died June 7.
Geneva Guenther, 92, of Plymouth, died June 24.
H
Elmer W. Hartwig, of Peoria, Ariz., formerly of Canton, died June 10.
Arthur C. Hinz, 91, of Rochester Hills, died June 9.



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 C4.

Phyllis Eileen Humphries, 63, of Wayne, died June 15.
Mary M. Hurlock, of Canton Township, died June 19.
K
Nevanka Karoleff, of Plymouth, died June 19.

M
Dana R. Marcum, of Livonia, died June 19.
Huston L. McCormick, 85, died June 22.
Verna Louise McDonald, of Livonia, died June 9.
Isabell Mae Mercer, 90, formerly of Waldron, died June 22.
P
Leona E. Propst, 73, of Livonia, died June 19.
R
Virginia "Gini" Stecker DeBenham Rodgers, 77, of Franklin, died June 16.
Mary Jane Rotan, 62, of Rochester Hills, died June 12.
S
Arthur Frederick Schmidt, 89, of Westland, died June 16.
Bernard G. Serkel, of Livonia, died June 21.
Ray E. Springer Jr., 79, of Shelby Township, died June 9.
Ernest Stiehl, of Westland, died June 13.
Y
Ellery "Bud" York, of Livonia, died June 7.

PLACES AND FACES

Democratic Club

The general meeting of the Democratic Club will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, at the Dorsey Center, on Dorsey near Venoy. Officers will meet at 7 p.m. There will be no meeting in July. Meetings will resume on Tuesday, August 30. Members who know of candidates in the November general election interested in speaking to the club at the Aug. 30 meeting can call Patricia A. Mitchell at (734) 729-2953.

Travel guides

The 2005 Michigan Travel Guide, featuring information on Michigan's bountiful vacation opportunities, is now available, according to state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia. "This is a great resource for anyone interested in checking out all the wonderful recreational opportunities Michigan has to offer," Toy said. "From world-class golf and beautiful beaches to shopping, museums and festivals, Michiganians can have a first-rate vacation experience without leaving the state." Copies of the 2005 Michigan Travel Guide are available at a variety of locations throughout the 6th Senate District or by calling Toy's office at (517) 373-1707.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Senate rejects bus inspection cuts

School children and Michigan's School Bus Safety Inspection program moved one step closer to being protected from the governor's budget ax with the passage of a revised version of the Michigan State Police budget by the State Senate last week. The Senate rejected Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposal to eliminate the program and to repeal the state law requiring school bus inspections, according to state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia. "Parents and students have the right to expect that the buses carrying our children to school are in tip-top shape," Toy said. "Losing just one child in an accident that could have been prevented with an inspection is too high a cost to justify the savings the state will realize by cutting this program." The governor's 2005-06 budget proposal called for the elimination of the State Police

School Bus Inspection program, resulting in a projected savings of \$1.2 million. The proposal also called for repealing the state law that requires that school buses be inspected on a regular basis. "During these tough budget times, we have an obligation to bring spending in line with revenues, but it is critical we do this in a responsible manner that protects critical services," Toy said. "I have heard from schools in my district who have been deeply concerned about the prospect of this cut and what it would do to their ability to transport students safely to and from school." The program ensures that every Michigan school bus, more than 17,000 last year alone, is inspected annually by the State Police's expert maintenance crew. According to a State Police report, approximately 4 percent, or more than 740 of the

buses inspected last year, were "yellow tagged" after being found to have a defect that required repair within 60 days. Last year, nearly 13 percent, or more than 2,100 buses, were "red tagged" for defects so severe they were deemed unsafe to transport students and required immediate repair. Without the statewide program, schools that want to have their buses inspected would have to perform the inspections on their own or find the funds to pay the state to do so. Or, if the governor's proposal to eliminate the state law mandating the inspections were approved, the schools could choose to not conduct the inspections at all. "This is not acceptable," Toy said. "I will work hard to ensure those funds are there for the school children and their families, as well as for the bus drivers that drive our precious children on a daily basis."

INFORMATION CENTRAL

When Emily Post's first etiquette book was published in 1922 only 35 percent of American households had telephones. Today more than 61 percent of the households in the United States have one or more wireless telephones, meaning there are more than 137 million cell phones in use. This July marks the first National Cell Phone Courtesy Month, the brainchild of Jacqueline Whitmore, an etiquette expert. She thought of the idea while consulting for Sprint PCS and realized how many rude cell phone users there are. Many public places, including libraries, theaters, museums and churches, have rules about the usage of cell phones. More than 40 countries and three states have laws that prohibit the usage of handheld cell phones while driving and more than two-thirds of the United States have looked at legislation this year regarding restrictions on the usage of cell phones while driving. There are many groups that have set up protocols regarding cell phone use. Web sites, such as cellmanners.com, etiquette experts,

and even the cell phone manufacturers themselves have agreed to some simple courtesies that should be followed. These include: 1. Do not interrupt a face-to-face conversation to take a cell phone call. 2. Turn your cell phone off during public performances or while in public spaces. 3. Speak softly. 4. Keep private matters private. 5. Respect the personal space of others by taking calls in a more private place. 6. Change the ring tone to match the environment you're in or use text messaging if possible. Much of the etiquette that should be involved in using cell phones can be used with other everyday and special occasions. The Public Library of Westland carries many items that deal with etiquette in various situations. Want to teach the next generation how to be polite members of society? Check out the selection of materials that deal with table manners and the proper behavior to be used in various social situations.

If you're planning a wedding, the library has many books that deal with the intricacies of a proper wedding from the seating to the wedding invitations. Dealing with business customers overseas? You might want to look at the business etiquette and the multicultural customs books. There are books by experts like Emily Post, her great-granddaughter-in-law Peggy Post and Miss Manners among others. The Public Library of Westland is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and closed Sundays during the summer months. Stories in the Garden - 10 a.m. July 6. Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in the children's garden. All ages. Princess for a Day - 2 p.m. July 7. Listen to a princess story, play games fit only for a princess, and make a princess craft. Ages 4 and up. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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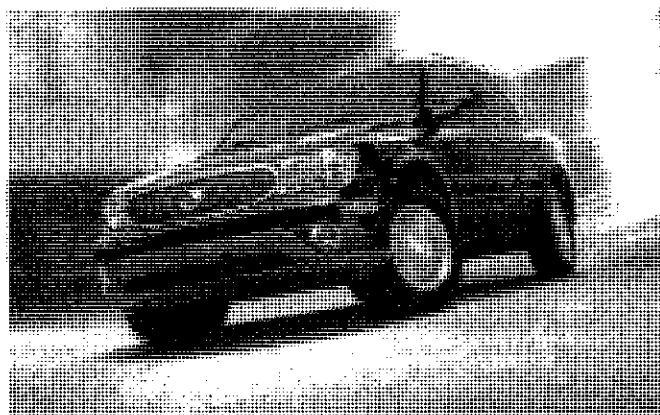
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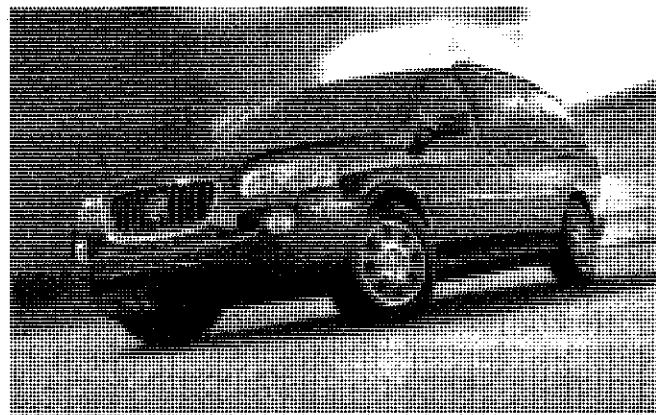
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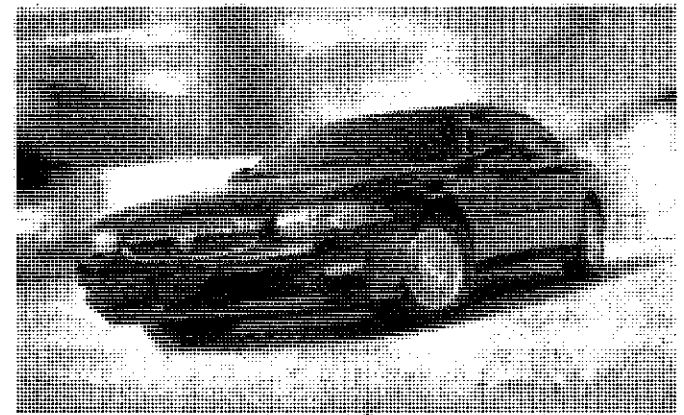


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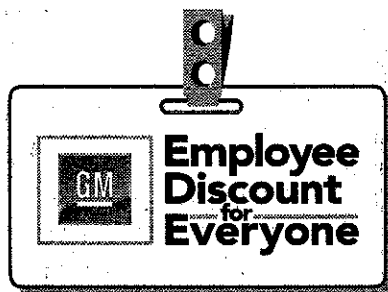
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# Embracing the metaphysical

## Local author pens book about his psychic gift

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

Just like developing his psychic gift took practice, so did the art of fiction writing. Ray Fraser, who just completed his sixth book, will host an evening to visit with readers, fans and those just curious about the metaphysical world.

Fraser, a Canton resident, has, for 12 years, worked as a professional psychic by night (though he makes time for his day job in advertising). His latest book, a memoir titled "I am the Father's Son," explains how a former devout Christian wound up diving into the metaphysical spiritual world.

"As a child I was very Christian. And after 30 years of living as a Christian, I realized that God doesn't belong to a religion. God is universal," he said.

When Fraser was a child, he recognized his psychic gift, which he sees as the universe communicating with him, as it does with everyone.

His latest book only took about 10 months to write, in sharp contrast from the years it took to complete his first book.

"I think writing is like anything else; the more you do it, the easier it gets," he said.

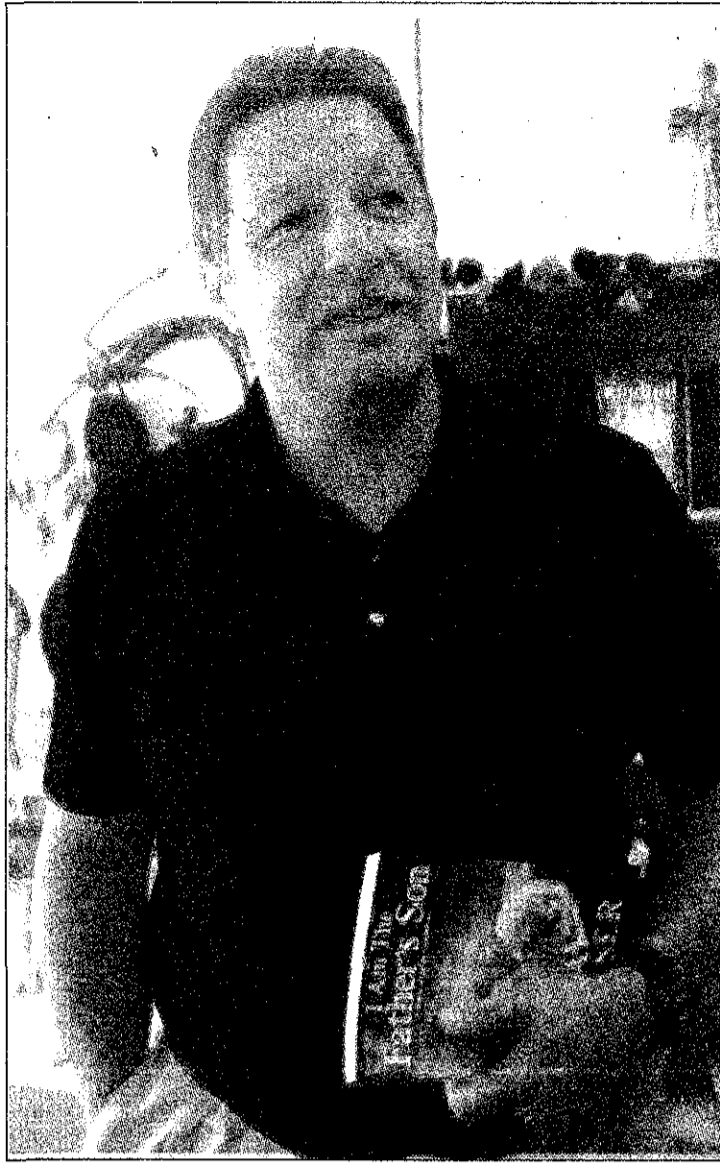
The book is a departure from the previous five, which he describes as suspense novels. But it has some elements in common.

"The biggest difference between writing fiction and writing my memoir is that I know what happens next in the memoir," Fraser said.

Another thing the books have in common is the lack of profanity and strong sexual content, even if the themes are suited to adult readers.

"I never use the f-bomb in any of the books and nothing is grinding, throbbing or pulsing," Fraser said with a broad smile and a laugh.

His first book, "A Change Called Death," had plenty of swearing and grinding, but when his mother asked to read it, he did the world's fastest editing job to remove what



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton author and psychic Ray Fraser will host a "Meet the Author" night Tuesday at his shop in Westland.

wound up being 12 pages of bluish-worthy pages.

He learned his lesson, he said, and now writes without the R-rated material.

Fraser's business, Mytiques West, is a sort of public workshop for those seeking to grow spiritually, he said. Located in Westland for the last six years (and in Plymouth for six before that), his business is home to six psychic readers, a weekly seance, and regular workshops. Soon, the store will also be the home of a food pantry, Family of Angels Food Bank.

This Tuesday, the store will

host an evening during which Fraser will discuss his latest book, as well as treat visitors to a short psychic reading.

Admission for the event, which will be 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., is \$20 and will include the choice of any of Fraser's books, discounts on his other books, discussion and the reading.

For more information, call Mytiques West at (734) 729-8019, or stop by the shop at 36356 Ford Road in Westland.

cmrmarshall@oe.hometownlife.com  
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### ACHIEVERS

Several employees of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools were honored at Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency's annual Celebration of Excellence in Education.

The program, in its 17th year, recognizes employees teachers and support staff for their work either directly with children in the classroom or supporting the learning environment in the building or through special service.

Frank Walker, a teacher at Franklin Middle School, was a finalist for the Middle School Teacher of the Year. Elizabeth Bartling, music teacher at Madison Elementary was honored as a Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Linda Hammond of Patchin Elementary received a Wayne RESA Leadership Award in bilingual/ESL education.

Also honored were Mary Kanopka, a paraprofessional at Elliott Elementary, psychologist Renee Lizzamore and social worker Judy Sulaver.

Situnywe Chirunga of John Glenn High School placed first in the Michigan Society for Medical Research's annual essay contest. Fellow Glenn student Karrie McCollum received an honorable mention.

More than 300 students entered the contest which is designed to help students understand the importance of biomedical research and the impact it has on the quality of life.

This the second consecutive year that a student in Cathy German's Human Anatomy and Physiology class was awarded first place in the essay contest.

Named to the Dean's List in recognition of superior academic achievement during the past term at Madonna University in Livonia were Westland residents:

Amanda Aalderink, Lisa Abela-Tesner, Jennifer Anderson, Mitchell Andries, Amanda Andrysiak, Courtney Arnold, Heather Arnold, Whitney Balas, Scott Balko, Carrie Boven, Erin Brockert, Patrick Carpen, Lindsay Cecil, Jennifer Chapman, Susan Chaput, Amylee Chiasson, Sun Kyung Cho, Jee-Yill Choi, Sarah Cole, Melissa Coscia, Christopher Cosselmon, Kathleen Crouch.

Susan Cumming, Mark Darket, Darcy Dauphin, Leanne Domzalski, Meghan Edmonds, Margaret Fernandez, Sean Fox, Steven Funston, Adrienne Gazdag, Kelli Gibbs, Jennifer Glennon,

Sarah Graff, Jennifer Grantham, Michele Greer, Lawrence Grezak, Douglas Hagedon, Kimberly Hamann, Gail Harris, Kristine Ho, Bryan Holloway, Ashley Honkanen.

Matthew Humenay, Angela Llievski, Myung-Hun Jin, Seung-Wook Kang, Joseph Keen, Jessica Kelly, Michael Kennedy, Mary Kern, Angela Kimling, Kimberly Kitzmiller, Jessica Koch, Melody Kwasick, Lindsey Litwinczuk, Cecile MacDonnell, Lillian Maina, Wendy Marquette, Megan Martin, Elizabeth Mathe, Mark Minnaugh, Matthew Moenaert, Shobana Mohanan.

Tera Morrill, April Pankow, Ji-Hoon Park, Christopher Peplinski, Joyce Perkins, Regina Piscunere, Diana Pool, Bradley Poremba, Barry Rafferty, Barbara Rambold, Joel Rivera, Meg Rudolph, Shannon Rushlow, Marlene Sabbagh, Wreh Sampson, Diane Schmitt, Rebecca Sharoian, Susan Shenkosky, Jacquelyn Sikora, Kristen Slade, Kari Speck, Kelly Tyler.

James Walla, Tammy Watkins, Angela Winkler-Leleniewski, Kara Wisniewski, Nancy Woodington, Jennene Wright, Elona Xhemali, Tiffany Zarembo and Lori Zielinski.

### CADET

FROM PAGE A1

day I might work for some branch of government, like the FBI."

Not bad options — any of them — for this son of Mike and Sue Fulton of Westland. His father works as a property manager; his mother, a criminal clerk for Garden City District Court.

Fulton has had strong family support in his endeavors. When he received his degree in late May at West Point, his graduation was attended by his parents, grandparents, 19-year-old sister Courtney and other relatives.

"We realize that it's quite an accomplishment, and we're very proud of him," his mother said. "We're excited for the

opportunities that West Point has given him over the last four years."

Fulton's graduation capped a rigorous West Point program that develops cadets in four areas: intellectual, physical, military and moral-ethical.

Fulton, a former Westland Observer carrier, was accepted at the academy based on a wide range of credentials, including academic. He also had to receive a nomination from a prominent official — in his case, then-U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers (D-Michigan).

One of Fulton's most memorable experiences was participating in shotgun competitions in the academy's skeet and trap club.

"I was with the same guys for four years," Fulton said. "I made some good friends."

Fulton personally earned a second-place national award in

one competition in San Antonio.

During his years at West Point, Fulton had little free time. He had to report for breakfast at 5:55 a.m. and, after a day of intense activities had been completed, he studied late, almost until lights had to be turned off at midnight.

On rare occasions, he and his friends managed a one-day getaway to New York City, about 50 miles south of West Point.

Fulton's life has been less demanding during the summer weeks that he has spent in his hometown of Westland. And even though he's glad to have made it through the challenges of West Point, he wouldn't trade the experience.

"I'd do it again a thousand times," he said.

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MISSION

FROM PAGE A1

warming center in Westland and connected with the Rev. B.C. Beneteau, director of the Lighthouse Home Missions.

The two women with the "shared vision" opened the Lighthouse Warming Center on Jan. 5, 2004, at the Full Gospel Temple on Palmer.

Until it opened, people needing shelter were referred to centers in Taylor and Southgate. A warm place Open 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. January through March, the center uses donations of leftover soup from Leon's Restaurant and the American Diner and Ivey's sandwiches to feed homeless men and women.

It provides cots and has two volunteers who help clients with employment, low-income housing and filing for disability of veterans benefits. They also act as a go-between to unite clients with their family members.

The first year, seven area churches picked a night of the week and provided watchmen for the center. The Full Gospel Temple provided the space.

When the doors opened this January, the number of churches had grown to eight. The eighth church was the Full Gospel, which "brought forth more volunteers," according to Ivey.

Doran described the center's second year as extremely busy and recalls going there to work and finding no food. One night, volunteers bought pizza to serve clients, another night it was simply bologna sandwiches.

"Usually, they have a choice, so I continued doing that," Doran said. "I told them, 'This is a really special night because we have bologna sandwiches or we have bologna sandwiches where you can take the bread off.'"

"One man told me I can make bologna sandwiches sound like steak."

On average, the center has provided for 28 men and women a night this year and took in up to 42 on the coldest nights. But that has created a problem for the center — what to do with the clients who are sent away from the warming center at 7 a.m.

With no place to go, the clients hang around businesses and in the neighborhoods until the

soup kitchen opens at 11 a.m., which created complaints this year and caused the center to close a week early.

Giving shelter And another problem is the church's zoning. Sometime during the winter, the warming center unknowingly slipped into being a shelter.

Representatives of the eight churches met earlier this month to discuss what can be done. Possibilities include creating a community center or even a halfway house where clients could stay for 60 days.

Ivey has spied an abandoned house in Inkster that could serve as a halfway house. She said she has turned to the Lord, who guided her after her husband's death, praying for focus on where clients can go during the day.

"Rather than giving them sweats to keep warm, maybe we need someone to give them a shave and a haircut and better clothes to dress themselves for work," she said. "When you spend time one-on-one with the homeless and work with them, you get to know their needs."

But while she prays, she's also preparing for the 2006 warming season, collecting donations. In addition to monetary donations, the center is in need of:

n New and gently used adult clothing, including gloves, scarves, sweats and thermals. Especially needed are socks, shoes, boots and warm coats.

n New large microwave oven. n Everyday necessities like toilet paper, dinner napkins, Styrofoam bowls, plates and cups, plastic silverware, cans of coffee, non-dairy creamer and sugar.

n Polaroid 600 instant film for client photographs.

n Four-drawer locking cabinet with keys. Businesses and individuals who would like to get involved can call Warren Road Light and Life Free Methodist Church at (734) 458-7301 or visit the church at 33445 Warren east of Wayne Road.

Ivey remains confident the center's needs will be answered.

"I know the Lord is going to provide there," she said.

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At 10, Shared Time brings art, extras to non-public pupils

BY STEPHAMIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools' Shared Time program celebrates its 10th year in the district with a re-location of its headquarters.

The program is one of several district ventures housed at Dickinson Center on Newburgh Road. Due to a new lease arrangement, the program will move this month to Johnson Elementary School in Westland.

When the program was started, it was meant as a revenue enhancement and service to parochial schools in and around Livonia. Jay Young, director of community relations, had heard of a similar program in neighboring Redford Township. Realizing students from Livonia private schools were attending non-core classes in another public school district, he intended to bring those students back to LPS.

"We started with five schools, 400 students and five teachers," recalled Mary Combs, program supervisor. "Now, we have 13 schools, 3,200 kids and 20 teachers."

When it began, students attending school at St. Edith, St. Damian, St. Genevieve, Peace Lutheran or St. Paul Lutheran schools were able to take advantage of courses their schools did not offer. From physical education to

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

computers to art and music, the Shared Time program supplemented their academic curriculum.

Since the start, Combs said, the program has just continued to grow.

With that growth comes an expansion of class offerings. Combs said these classes are "more important than ever."

"The world is changing so fast," she said. "You need art and technology to (be) a well-rounded (person). It's not a luxury anymore."

Newer courses include Speech, Drama, Journalism, foreign languages, Problem-Solving and more. Class sizes range from 10 to 35 students and vary by class and school. These days Combs is often answering questions from other school districts interested in starting their own Shared Time programs.

The program is not without its challenges, according to Combs.

"Scheduling is always an issue," she said. It was a challenge in the beginning, when students were bused to the classes, and it continues to be now, as LPS teachers, instead, go to the various schools to teach. "It is a better use of the students' time," said Combs. "They're not spending time traveling."

Now it is the teachers who

must adjust to the different cultures of each school in which they teach.

For Combs, the position provides plenty of contact in the community. "I'm very much a people person," she said.

She also considers the Shared Time teaching staff to be quite talented. Programs follow the district's own curriculum and are updated in the same manner.

The program brings funds into the district, and in a way pays for itself. Livonia Public Schools earns a portion of its per-pupil foundation allowance for each student who takes one or more classes.

While there are more than 3,000 students participating in programs, last year's "full time equivalent" totals equaled 187.

That means the total participants in Shared Time classes allowed the district to earn the same amount of state funding it would for 187 full-time students.

Last year, it brought in between \$800,000 and \$900,000, most of which goes back into the program.

"We pay our own way," said Combs. "Whatever is left goes back into the general fund."

For more information on the program, call the district at (734) 744-2500.

scasola@oe.homecomm.net (734) 953-2054

COOPER

FROM PAGE A1

low bid of Adamo Demolition. "The demolition of Cooper was a long time coming," said Watson. "I believe it will be well worth it. One of the nice parts is the funding. It is (covered by) a state grant, so it does not affect the school district's budget."

Watson said the asbestos abatement will take two to three weeks. Then the building will be razed and graded. This portion of the project will be complete by mid-August.

"The next step is obviously what's going to do there," said Dan Lessard, trustee.

Southfield-based Jonna Cos. has indicated it wants to develop the site with a 144-unit senior citizen apartment complex, a medical building, an outpatient surgical center and a golf driving range on the 37-acre property.

The developer will have to submit a formal proposal to the Westland City Council, whose members have voiced hope that the fenced-off land will finally be developed. City officials and neighbors have long complained the site was an eyesore.

The project will begin only after a state-approved remediation plan has been approved by

the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

During a Westland City Council meeting last week, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli voiced optimism that plans for redeveloping the Cooper site are, for now, progressing on schedule.

"We are extremely pleased," she said.

Cicirelli had held out hope as early as January that the school would be demolished by July.

Cicirelli and other officials have said that air and water quality in the surrounding neighborhood will not be affected by the cleanup, which comes 14 years after the school was shut down and students were moved to another facility.

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PURE ENTERTAINMENT! Sweet Thursday!

# Former playmaker's career is flying high

BY LARRY RUEHLEN  
STAFF WRITER

Joe Bok left Orchard Lake St. Mary's in 1980 with thoughts of playing pro football — but he ended up building airplanes for moviemaker Martin Scorsese.

"They called me because I had a reasonably large collection of model airplanes," said Bok, owner of Aero Telemetry, a California company that builds everything from unmanned military drone planes to a fully operational smaller version of the Spruce Goose for the movie *The Aviator*, which was directed by Scorsese.

The original Spruce Goose was owned by tycoon/test pilot Howard Hughes. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio played Hughes in the film and, yes, Bok met him while working on the project. Most of his time, however, wasn't spent with actors and directors because he was too busy building and testing 10 model planes for the



Joe Bok (center) and his crew ready the H-1 racer model that was built for the movie *The Aviator*. The actual H-1 set a world speed record in 1935.

movie. One was a 30-foot-wide version of Hughes' XF-11 spy plane, and the model of the Spruce Goose that weighed

375 pounds. But the large scale of the models was necessary to make them look realistic on film. "Hollywood has a terrible

track record with planes," Bok said. "Most of the time the planes are too small and they don't look right. Everyone has seen a plane fly. People can

recognize computer-generated planes because the flight looks scripted."

In the old days of movie making, Bok said, Hollywood had access to real planes for movies like *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and *Midway*. But improving technology led moviemakers to switch to computers for most of the flight scenes in the movie *Pearl Harbor*.

"It was heavily criticized," Bok said. "It didn't look real."

Perhaps that's why Scorsese turned to Bok for *The Aviator*. After his days at St. Mary's, Bok went to the University of Southern California, where he also played football and hit the books.

He earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering in 1985 and went back for a master's in engineering management in the late 1990s.

By that time, he had already started his own company that specialized in designing and building unmanned planes for the United States military. He also raced World War II planes

as a pilot. The combination of experience and expertise made him a natural for *The Aviator* project.

"They gave us complete control," Bok said. "They told us what they needed and trusted us to do the job. It all worked out. We got some great footage."

In one scene, Bok's model Spruce Goose had to take off, fly and land in the same Long Beach Harbor that the original plane flew over 56 years ago.

Bok was at the controls as the plane made its voyage.

"The effects people did a great job," he said. "They used footage from the model and edited in computer graphics at the perfect time."

Bok lives in California, but was back in town Thursday for his 25th high school reunion.

"I still have friends from those days," he said. "And I'll get to hang out with Byron Metcalf and Dave Kachinowsky again, so it will be a good time. I couldn't miss it."

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## Hospice of Michigan closes 'sacred place'

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Over eight years, the staff at a Farmington Hills facility has offered care, dignity and hopefully peace to 1,500 terminally ill people.

It was a place where families could place loved ones in the care of professionals — and also get help in dealing with end-of-life issues.

But that will soon end as Hospice of Michigan will be closing its one and only home facility in the state.

Hospice of Michigan leaders decided the on-going financial loss of operating the 40-bed building located at Eleven Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills has become too large a burden to continue, said Greg Grabowski, senior vice presi-

dent of marketing. The home will not take new patients after July 15, he said.

For Richard Polk, the nurses and staff at the Hospice of Michigan home became a family while they took care of his ailing mother from May 2001 until her death in November 2002.

He even visited the staff after his mother's death.

When told the facility was closing, Polk said he was very sad to hear it.

"It was a very unique facility," he said. "The end of life care there was extraordinary."

"I think it performed a valuable service to the community," Polk continued. "It will leave a void for those who could take advantage of those services."

The building's manager, Cheryl Nicklay, said she and her staff of nurses are in mourning over the closing.

"I always call it a sacred place," she said. "It really is. It never ceases to amaze me how much trust (the patients) put in you."

While the majority of Hospice of Michigan serves clients at their own homes (about 7,000 people a year), the nonprofit group's only home facility was developed to cater to patients who needed 24-hour care.

"People don't realize what is entailed in taking care of someone who is dying," said Nicklay. "It's difficult for everyone. These families were able to come here and be families not just the caretaker."

Nicklay said the staff will eventually find other jobs, but they're sad to lose each other after working so well together.

The patients were housed in rooms decorated more like a home than a sterile hospital. It had day-beds so family members could spend the night.

Grabowski said the home struggled financially after changes in Medicaid and Medicare laws reduced reimbursements for care.

To qualify as a nursing home, the building would have had to undergo massive remodeling and purchase expensive equipment. In the last few years, the home lost from \$800,000 to \$1 million a year, according to Grabowski.

"As our margins got tighter as everyone else's has been, we couldn't keep it open," he said.

The building will be maintained while Hospice of Michigan decides what to do with the facility.

"We're looking at all the options," Grabowski said. "We won't do anything without communicating with the community and the Farmington Hills government."

Grabowski said people who have donated to the building, from bricks in the courtyard to major donors, will be contacted about what they would like to see done with their gifts.

Nurse Kim McKenzie said she is upset more couldn't have been done to keep the home open.

"We all know the good we have done for the 1,500 people who died here," she said.



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## Former O&E editor's family book offers lessons in how to do it

In 45 years of community newspapering, I've bumped into a lot of local and family histories, and most are dull. They amount to what the Japanese call "Shinto" — ancestor worship.

A happy exception just arrived from an old colleague, Tom Riordan, who was executive editor of the *Observer & Eccentric* in 1978-80 and now is retired in Ocala, Fla.

Riordan produced a 55-page book about his grandfather called *Merchant Prince of the Black Hills*. I say literally "produced" because he wrote most of the text, edited other contributions, collected the photos and designed the pages for a printer there. The cost per copy is so high that it's not commercially for sale.

So why write a column about it? Riordan was a good teacher of basic journalism, and *Merchant Prince* provides excellent lessons if you have a yen to write family or local history.

His chief subject is his grandfather, Albert T. VanDervoort (1860-1923), who "went West, young man" to Deadwood in the Dakota Territory and set up hardware stores beginning in 1880. After marrying and starting his family, VanDervoort moved to Iowa where he "read for the law" (you often didn't go to law school in those days) and finally settled in Lansing, where he was prominent as a merchant and civic leader.

Some of Riordan's lessons:

■ Interview your older relatives while they're still alive. His mother was a great story-teller and passed those genes on to Tom.

■ Write short, crisp sentences in the active voice. Use lots of quotes because dialog holds readers better than gray, prosaic paragraphs.

■ Find illuminating detail. Grandpa Van sold "hammers, pickaxes, saws, wrenches, overalls, boots, heavy wool shirts, jeans, long johns, cooking pots, tin plates and eating utensils." He would rent a two-story building and live upstairs.

In Lansing, Van was known as "the tool man" who sold tools to shops that made parts for the R.E.O. automobile company. Eventually the hardware business was expanded into Christmas toys, spring plants and sporting equipment.

One of Van's sons, Ed, guided the company into sporting goods and sold uniforms and equipment to the two big universities and scores of high schools. H.O. "Fritz" Crisler ordered U-M football uniforms, specifying that one jersey had to be flimsy so that it would tear when a tackler grabbed it.

Crisler ordered a gross of tearaway jerseys. All with No. 98. For Tom Harmon.

That's not Shinto ancestor worship. It's how one merchant played a role in social history and a major industry.



Tim Richard

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■ Use a variety of sources. The *Lansing State Journal* wrote of the VanDevoorts' wedding, their obituaries (hence the title *Merchant Prince of the Black Hills*) and other incidents. An aunt whose will was probated was a news story and a guide to why Grandpa Van resettled in Lansing.

A Chicago sports writer interviewed one of Van's sons about how he got started in the hardware business. After Riordan's mother died in 1992, a Michigan State University faculty member wrote about how, as a home economics teacher, she had persuaded her boss, Saginaw Supt. Arthur Hill, to let her students start a hot lunch program for some of the poorer kids — a prelude to today's hot lunch programs. Uncle Ed coached in California for a few years and sent game-by-game telegrams to the woman who would become his wife. She saved them — a treasurer's trove, Riordan says. A cousin whose first job was in the family hardware store described her work. Riordan recognized that how people earn their livings is not only a major topic of social conversation, but instructive to young readers.

Dow Chemical's own history told how the Midland company sponsored athletic teams during World War II, when gasoline was scarce and entertainment rare. They bought VanDervoort goods.

■ Find good photos, and play them big. Riordan taught young journalists that lesson here. A National Guard armory had a photo of one uncle in a World War I Army uniform. A Lansing commercial photographer had impressive photos of crowds around the hardware store during major promotions, such as visiting lumberjacks and moose.

Riordan's book isn't commercially available. But I talked him into offering a version to *Michigan History* magazine, which often looks for colorful pieces that cast light on the rich fabric of this state. A business school could use it as a Harvard-style "case study."

Tim Richard is retired from this company and lives in Bear Lake. His e-mail is Trichard@bearlake-net.com.

## Renewed Renaissance Center a lesson on the value of quality

When was the last time you were in the Renaissance Center?

It's been about 15 years for me, and I live literally 10 minutes away from the place.

But last Wednesday I had to make a trip there with a friend, who happens to conduct tours of the building. She took me around the massive structure. I was astonished at what I saw. This is not the Renaissance Center that I remember.

I knew a cavernous fortress of cold granite and glass, cut off from the surrounding city by huge berms that in winter used to steam like volcanoes. Inside, it was simply confusing.

I remember standing at one level, looking down and across the building trying to figure out how I could get to where I wanted to go through the maze of escalators and corridors.

But since General Motors took over the building as its world headquarters, it has a new and much friendlier look and feel. The berms are gone, replaced by an inviting glass atrium at the front door. Immediately inside is a gigantic glass sculpture that resembles a huge flowing green wave.

The hotel swimming pool has been replaced by the Wintergarden, an open court that faces the Detroit River. It's decorated with giant freeze-dried palm trees (yes, freeze-dried) that are quite a sight. The dreadful parking lot that used to separate the building from the river is now a large courtyard that steps down to the riverfront.

There's a fountain made of jets of water shooting up out of the ground. We saw a young woman talking on her cell phone as she stood among the cool jets of water.

A riverfront path is being extended toward Belle Isle and provides an inviting view along the shore.

Back inside, much of the confusion has been eliminated with an extra "ring" walkway that circles the central tower, although it can still be a challenge to get to the Starbucks, poised between levels.

There are new stores and restaurants and even a movie theater. What used to be the Summit restaurant at the top of the main tower has been replaced by a new restaurant, which doesn't revolve as the Summit used to. But the view from 73 stories up is still awesome. We could clearly see the Silverdome in Pontiac.

The Renaissance Center has been almost



Greg Kowalski

The Renaissance Center has been almost completely transformed into a user-friendly building, which is a remarkable achievement, although it took GM something like \$500 million to make the transformation. GM should take heart that if it has been able to accomplish that, it should be able to work its way out of its current financial mess.

completely transformed into a user-friendly building, which is a remarkable achievement, although it took GM something like \$500 million to make the transformation. GM should take heart that if it has been able to accomplish that, it should be able to work its way out of its current financial mess.

As we walked through the building, I remarked to my friend that I was glad that GM had bought the building because no matter what, when GM does a project like that, it does it right. It does it with class.

Let's take this tale 15 miles north into the heart of Birmingham.

Like GM, Birmingham as a whole usually does things with class, so the redevelopment of the Renaissance Center really doesn't offer a lesson to be learned. Rather, it reinforces what the city is doing. New buildings are brick and stone, not that phony brick facing that peels off in a few years. Built right, buildings can last for centuries.

By extension, the philosophy of do it right the first time can apply to anything, whether it be a city program or the operation of a major car company.

GM seems to have forgotten that in its core business. We should never forget it with anything.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowsalski@oe.homecomm.net.

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(L to R): Paula LaNeve of Novi, Paula Tutman from WDIV, and Paula Tillotson of Livonia unveil the Red Dress Statue at the American Heart Association's Metro Detroit Heart Ball.

## Red Dress statue visits Heart Ball

The American Heart Association's Go Red For Women movement is making the red dress more than just a fashion statement. This larger-than-life-size beauty made a grand entrance at the American Heart Association's Metro Detroit's Heart Ball on May 21.

The statue has been touring the area since February with stops at various schools, places of worship and civic events that highlight the relationship of heart disease and women's health. Designed to travel, "she" will make various appearances in the metro region.

The Detroit dress is just one of 40 red dress statues that are being displayed in diverse public, commercial and residential areas across the United States. Other statues will be touring New York, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Seattle, Denver, Phoenix and Portland. The dress stands

about 5-feet, 8-inches tall and is a swirl of red fiberglass. The American Heart Association hopes that by placing the Red Dress in public places, women will take notice and take action to live a longer, healthier life. Heart disease affects 1 of 5 women in America and is the No. 1 killer of all Americans.

At the Heart Ball, the statue was unveiled by event chair, Paula LaNeve from General Motors, emcee Paula Tutman from WDIV and Paula Tillotson, a teenager who volunteered at the event. With an estimated 650 guests attending, the ball, sponsored by General Motors, has become one of Detroit's most prominent social events for business and medical professionals in the community.

Chairs Paula and Mark LaNeve led the ball by honoring George Ritter, M.D., of Providence Hospital (Ret.) and Hani N. Sabbah, Ph.D., of

Henry Ford Health System for their professional achievements.

In addition to presenting sponsor General Motors, Platinum sponsors included Magna International, St. John Health and Toyota. Gold sponsors included Beaumont Hospitals, Digitas Inc., GMAC and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Silver sponsors include Chemistri, CMS Energy, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Planworks, Henry Ford Health System, Motorola, Oakwood Healthcare, Penske Corporation/United Auto, Sun Microsystems, UAW American Axle, and UAW - GM Center for Human Resources. *HOUR* Detroit magazine is the media sponsor.

For more information about the Heart Ball or the Go Red For Women project, please call the American Heart Association at 248-827-4214 or visit local.americanheart.org.

## Officials consider changes in current weapons permit law

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Some changes are already being eyed for the 2001 law allowing for people to apply for concealed weapons permits - and Wayne County officials say other changes are also needed to keep the process streamlined.

Michigan Gun Owners, a southeast Michigan gun club, recently hailed Wayne County's efforts in streamlining the permit process, which includes electronic fingerprinting.

"The process has been an ongoing thing," said Mike Thiede, president of Michigan Gun Owners. "The (Wayne County) gun board has been willing to listen to us."

The 2001 law states that county gun boards oversee the concealed handgun permit process. Wayne County has processed an average of 4,500 applications annually, including renewals. Last year, the county faced a backlog of more

than 3,000 permits, most of which were renewals from 2001.

Lt. Larry Crider of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department said when the 2001 law passed, a large group of people came in at around the same time to apply for their weapons permit. That same group all had to apply for their renewals three years later, which created a backlog of about 3,000 permits. This meant some people waited as long as a year to get their permits.

"We allocated some extra staff to get caught up," Crider said of the backlog. Another thing Wayne County is working on is getting electronic fingerprinting, which also will speed up the process significantly.

"We're getting ready to go online," Crider said. "We have the equipment in place to do it."

A change Crider said he'd like to see is a staggered expiration process, like having per-

mits expire on people's birthdays, as is done with driver's licenses and vehicle registrations.

A possible change to the 2001 law is to hand over the handgun permit process to the secretary of state. Senate Bill 375, sponsored by state Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, has been referred to committee.

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, is listed as one of the bill's co-sponsors. She could not be reached for comment.

Tom Hendrickson, executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, speaking on the association's behalf, said he opposed the proposed legislation, though he favored a streamlined permit process.

"I'm not sure the concentration of the (concealed handgun permit process) in a state agency is going to be as effective as it is at a local level," Hendrickson said.

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