

Harry Potter casts spell on readers

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



Local runner completes 50 marathons - HEALTH, PAGE C8

See what fall shoes to start collecting



PINK PAGE C10

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Center gets its party for 40th started

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Rock concerts, culinary treats, retail bargains and prize drawings will punctuate a July celebration marking Westland Shopping Center's 40th anniversary.

"And we will be adding more to the list of events," said Denise Mills, the mall's marketing manager.

The still-thriving shopping center - one of the nation's first enclosed malls - will reach a milestone when it celebrates 40 years in business on July 29.

The celebration includes a summer sidewalk sale that began Wednesday and ends today.

Here's a look at other events:

■ Lakeshore Grill - the restaurant inside Marshall Field's - will offer free food samples 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 15-16, in the mall's east court.

■ Similarly, the new LongHorn Steakhouse - built on Warren Road on the mall's south perimeter - will serve up free culinary treats noon to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 22-23, also in the east court.

■ Some mall stores will offer anniversary discounts up to 40 percent off merchandise July 28-31.

■ Local and state dignitaries will help with an anniversary celebration at 4 p.m. Friday, July 29, in the east court next to Marshall Field's.

Also, an enter-to-win contest will culminate with a drawing, and the winner will receive a one-year vehicle lease from Gordon Chevrolet, said Mills.

To take a chance, visit the mall online at www.westland-center.com or stop by the customer service area inside the mall.

■ Another celebration will start at 5 p.m. July 29 with an invitation-only dinner inside Lakeshore Grill.

To celebrate the mall's opening in July 1965, anyone born during that month is welcome to the event.

To register, stop by the customer service desk.

■ Mall officials will turn up the volume on their month-long celebration by featuring local rock band Benny & the Jets for two east-court performances, 6-8 p.m. Monday, July 25, and 6-8 p.m. Friday, July 29.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'I've got it!'

Ten-year-old Tony Kehoe leaps to catch the throwing disc lobbed in his direction by his father, Greg Kehoe. The twosome found plenty of room to throw the monster disc in Westland's Central City Park.

Westland gets state PLUS office

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A longtime Secretary of State Office in Westland will be expanded and made more user-friendly for thousands of drivers who use it each year.

The office, in a strip mall anchored by Murray's Discount Auto Store on Wayne Road north of Ford, will become more of a regional center with the closing of a Secretary of State office in neighboring Wayne, officials said.

"I'm glad that they've decided to keep the Westland office," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Friday. "I know that it's frequented not only by Westland residents, but also by residents in other communities like Garden City."

The Westland office, 6090 N. Wayne Road, will close for remodeling July 15-29. It will reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 1.

The last day of business for the Wayne office will be Tuesday, July 26.

The consolidation effort will result in the Westland

PLEASE SEE OFFICE, A5

Cuppa good news Starbucks is coming to Restaurant Row

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Perk up, coffee lovers.

Starbucks Coffee will be coming to a key intersection on Westland's restaurant row - a cluster of eateries stretching east along Warren from Newburgh past Wayne Road.

"We're really glad because we've been working three years to get a Starbucks," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said.

Starbucks has had a small coffee shop inside the Meijer store, but city officials have long hoped that the java giant would unveil plans for a full-service business in Westland.

Starbucks will occupy the former Oakwood health care facility on the southwest corner of Warren and Central City Parkway.

The move will place the coffee retailer amid a popular row of restaurants that has made Warren Road a destination for people dining out.

Starbucks and five to seven other businesses will

PLEASE SEE STARBUCKS, A5



Pentz

Suspect faces robbery charges in 5 towns

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A suspected serial robber, facing criminal charges in five communities, was arraigned Thursday in Westland amid allegations he brandished a handgun and robbed two local businesses.

Jonathan David Pentz, 28, was ordered jailed without

bond after Westland District Judge Gail McKnight arraigned him on two counts of armed robbery, two counts of felony firearms, and two counts of being a felon with a gun.

Pentz faces similar charges in Canton, Wayne, Northville and Van Buren Township, authorities confirmed.

Pentz, who had lived at Willow Creek Apartments,

could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he's convicted as charged.

Pentz faces charges for as many as nine robberies, Westland police Sgt. James Dexter said Friday. He had been paroled in August 2002 after serving about two years in prison for a third-degree criminal sexual conduct charge out of Oakland County.

In Westland, the suspect is accused of going into the Radio Shack on Ford Road, west of Wayne, and robbing the business of \$200 and a DVD player. That incident happened about 5 p.m. Sunday, June 19 - Father's Day.

An employee was threatened with what was described as a

PLEASE SEE CHARGES, A5

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Art frenzy
A half-million visitors will descend on the Ann Arbor Art Fairs. Check out our guide to taking it all in.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Darren Blair, manager of The Restoration Station in Plymouth, works on assembling a bookcase amid the backdrop of an assortment of old Plymouth signs.

Carving a life out of wood Business brings furniture back to life

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When Patrick Gallagher was in school, he'd scrape the glue off of desks. He got his first saw for Christmas when he was in third grade. After high school, he became a carpenter and has spent 20 years working in wood.

Now, Gallagher celebrates 10 years in business with his furniture resurrection shop Restoration Station, located on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township. After starting out in his garage, Gallagher couldn't be happier to be in his bigger building, into which he moved the business five years ago.

"I love this location," said Gallagher, who said he spent a year refurbishing the building before he could move into it. "It's in a neighborhood. You get to know the kids and their dogs names. It's more personable."

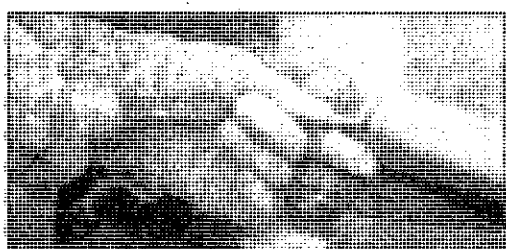
That's been the style of the people at Restoration Station from the beginning. Gallagher was born and raised in Plymouth, growing up one street over from where the store is located. After being graduated from Canton High School, Gallagher went into carpentry.

He opened his business in his own garage 10 years ago, and it has slowly grown out of its surroundings. After moving once, and continuing to grow, Gallagher found the former Tommy's Hardware building. When he found it, it wasn't quite ready for occupation.

"We owned it a year before we moved in," Gallagher said. "We'd come in at night and work on it to get it ready. I like having a place to hang my own hat. It's like having a home away from home."

Restoration Station specializes in stripping, repairing and refinishing furniture. They work on new, old or antique — "Anything that's wood," Gallagher said — and do all the work by hand. Gallagher said he does a "lot of veneer work," and can also make custom parts, such as chair legs.

They've worked on projects as diverse as



The sawdust flies as a replacement leg for a chair is turned on the lathe at The Restoration Station.

church doors and the Plymouth Kiwanis Club's popcorn cart. Sometimes, they get people bringing in furniture they don't realize might actually be valuable — like the time owners brought in a pair of Gustav Stickley pieces.

"Once in awhile, you find a museum-quality piece and you have to be honest with them," Gallagher said. "They wanted us to strip and sand and put a quick stain on it. 'We were like, 'No, no, no!'"

Any doubt about the hometown feeling at Restoration Station are put aside by the interior decor, which features a number of old signs from Plymouth businesses of the past. Those signs contribute to the small-town feel for which the store strives.

"A lot of people see the signs on the wall, and they bring back memories," said manager Darren Blair. "They feel comfortable."

Comfortable enough to come in to visit, even when there's no work to be done, or to bring a tray of homemade cookies, which is one of Gallagher's favorite parts of being in a neighborhood.

"We've had people come in and cry when they see Grandma's dresser restored," Gallagher said. "That's kind of cool. The best part about the business is the people. They come in just to say hello. They're customers who have turned into family."

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Livonia board approves new sex ed books and curriculum

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools will spend more than \$10,000 on books and materials for sex education curriculum in the 2005-2006 school year.

Sex education is taught in grades 5, 6, 7 and 10 throughout the district.

In July 2004, the Michigan Legislature adopted a new law altering requirements that must be met in public school sex education curriculum.

Among those requirements are 11 areas of study, the formation of an advisory committee, and instructional materials that are approved by the committee and the board of education.

Districts are required to hold two public hearings prior to the formal adoption of these materials. The second of those hearings was Tuesday at the board office, though no one attended. The board approved the curriculum unanimously at a regular meeting that followed.

Also according to the law, parents may be allowed to review the materials prior to instruction and have the option of opting their child out of the instruction.

The district's sex education advisory committee was made up of teachers, parents, health professionals, clergy and

administrators.

"The goal was to have representatives from elementary, middle and high schools in all geographic areas," said Marlene Bihlmeyer, who has now retired as executive director of instruction.

Bihlmeyer said the curriculum is "abstinence-based." Students are taught abstinence is the only 100-percent sure method of avoiding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. We're also teaching other means of contraception (at the high school level)."

She said the curriculum is developed to prepare students to make responsible decisions regarding sexual behavior.

"There is a greater emphasis on refusal strategies and healthy dating relationships," said Bihlmeyer.

At the fifth grade level, boys and girls are taught the curriculum separately and it focuses on male and female puberty and the reproductive system. By sixth grade the students are taught in a co-ed environment and learn more about the birthing process, as well as the myths and facts associated with HIV and AIDS.

By seventh grade, students spend 12 days in their health class learning about reproduction, the birthing process and sexually transmitted diseases.

The peer pressure component and a focus on healthy relationships enters the curriculum at this level, as does recognition of sexual harassment and sexual messages from the media. In high school, sophomores learn to build on those topics and talk about contraception and abstinence.

Parents are notified in writing before this instruction begins. At the elementary level parents must sign an "opt-in" form in order for their students to participate. Whereas by middle and high school, they may sign an "opt-out" form if they prefer their children not participate in that part of the course.

"We've used this process for many years," said Bihlmeyer. "It's worked very successfully. The district has been very thorough and very open about our curriculum."

Trustee Tom Bailey mentioned he previously taught sex education at the fifth- and sixth-grade levels and he found this new curriculum to be "very comprehensive."

"This is a tough topic to touch base on," Bailey said.

The total cost of books and videos for these courses is \$10,765 and it will be allocated from the district's textbook fund.

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Businesses offer maternity clothing, imported furniture

OPTIONS IN MATERNITY

Moms-to-be will soon have a new option when it comes to purchasing maternity wear. Marshalls, Inc., in Farmington Hills, will open a new maternity department today, July 7. Fashionable maternity clothes will be sold for a savings of up to 60 percent.

Styles range from day to evening and from career to casual. Jeans, capri pants, sweaters and more will be available in sizes small, medium and large to accommodate all stages of pregnancy.

"As a new mom, I know how hard it is to find stylish, great looking maternity wear at an unbelievable price," said Jenn DeBarge-Goonan, Marshalls style expert. "Even though you



are pregnant, you want to keep your personal fashion flair, but at the same time be comfortable. The addition of maternity fashions at Marshalls will give moms-to-be the opportunity to easily find hip, current styles that will have you looking great during those nine months.

Marshalls is in the Hunters Square Plaza, 31145 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. For more information and store hours, check the Web at www.MarshallsOnline.com.

IMPORT A NEW LOOK

JRX Furniture North America opened last month in Plymouth but serves area furniture dealers and designers interested in importing office furniture from China. Owner April Ji knows the business well. Her family manufactures furniture in China.

Discovering quite a market for imported styles, Ji decided to open her own business and serve as a connection with local furniture dealers. A Canton resident, she has opened a showroom and hopes to attract wholesale and retail businesses to the furniture she has to offer.

"I have a showroom with sample products," she said. "People can come and take a look."

She also has catalogues featuring the many different styles of merchandise. Her primary target is furniture for offices or professional waiting areas.

Ji held a grand opening in June and ever since, she said, business has been great.

"I'm always looking for more partnerships," she said. Ji hopes to team with a company which has an established customer base and is seeking an importer because the cost of making this furniture is often much higher than the cost of importing it.

JRX Furniture North America is located at 14701 Keel Street, in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 416-8800.

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Westland funeral director marks 50 years of service

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

In 1954, Larry Griffin and his wife, Gerry, decided to open a funeral home on Plymouth Road and Southfield in Detroit.

Because theirs was a first-generation funeral home, it took some time for the funeral home to become known in the community. So Larry worked another job, while Gerry took care of the funeral home.

"There was never a question of why we did it, but would we be able to pay the bills," said Griffin. "There's was no question why. We both found it was enough of a reward to help the families who came to us."

Fifty years later, there are now two Griffin Funeral Homes on Middlebelt in Westland and Ford Road in Canton. Larry retired in 1996 for health reasons, selling his shares to his two sons, Larry and David. But Gerry remains active, doing all of the book work and still meeting families.

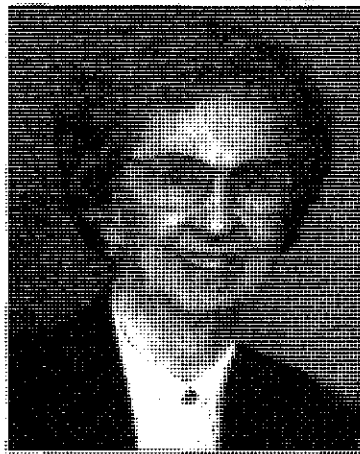
And it's that longevity, her 50 years of service as a licensed funeral director that earned her honors at the Michigan Funeral Directors Association convention in June.

Griffin fully expected to be in business - she graduated from the University of Detroit in 1951 with a bachelor of administration degree. But she returned to school after they opened the funeral home not out of desire but out of necessity.

At the time, state law required that if the director of a funeral home died and neither his spouse or children were licensed, they would have to hire someone who was to run the home.

As an undergrad, Griffin paid \$180 a semester for 18 credit hours. She signed up for the classes she needed for her business degree and filled the leftover hours with electives.

She made those smart choices with those electives. When she returned to school, she had



Gerry Griffin

all but the chemistry and biology classes needed to enroll in mortuary science.

She did a year of night school, picking up the classes she needed, then enrolled in Wayne State University's College of Mortuary Science. She attended school full time - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - four days a week while Larry's parents took care of their oldest daughter, Susan.

After a year at WSU, she had all of her prerequisites. One of three women in the class of 48 students, she graduated second, served an apprenticeship and passed her state boards, becoming a licensed funeral director.

Working together, they built a reputation of providing quality service to the families who trusted them in their time of need. And many of the families who turned to them early on are still turning to them for help today, Griffin said.

"The families from the Plymouth Road home still get in contact with us, they still have enough faith in us to call back and have us take care of their loved ones," said Griffin. "Death is a shock and if you can get them through that, answer the questions they haven't even thought of... We do that to the best of our ability."

With the shift in population from the City of Detroit to suburbs, the Griffins made the decision to "start all over

Fifty years later, there are now two Griffin Funeral Homes on Middlebelt in Westland and Ford Road in Canton. Larry retired in 1996 for health reasons, selling his shares to his two sons, Larry and David.

again" and opened the Westland home in 1972, selling the Plymouth Road funeral home in 1978.

By that time there were four Griffin children - Susan, who is now a nurse in Sparks, Nev., Mary Beth, a college office manager in Redding, Calif., and Larry and David who joined the family business in 1994.

"We have no regrets," Gerry said of the move to Westland, adding that "when the boys showed an interest, we went out to Canton."

As a family, the Griffins have always lived about their funeral home. The children knew automatically what they could and couldn't do, although Gerry admits that "it's surprising what you find out as time goes by."

"I didn't find it challenging, it was the way it was supposed to be," she said. "We lived a normal life."

After 50 years, Gerry has no plans of leaving the business although she is slowly backing off. She'll continue to do "whatever the Lord allows."

"I keep saying I'll keep going until they carry me out feet first," she said with a chuckle. "Even if I'm not full involved in every phase of the business, I'm keeping my fingers in it."

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PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Play ball!

Four-year-old Alex Nealy of Canton plays a little infield catch at the FanFest. He came with his mother, Susan, and brother Chase, 5. The John Hancock FanFest at the Cobo Conference Center in Detroit is part of the festivities leading up to Tuesday's Major League All-Star game at Comerica Park.



Fans wait in line to get signed autographs during the opening day.



Melissa Roe, 12, of Livonia catches a pop-up. She came with her father, Mark, and sister and brother.

PLACES AND FACES

Autos for Autism

A family fun classic car show, with raffles, door prizes and refreshments, will be held from 6-9 p.m. Monday, July 11, at Garden City High School as a benefit for Burger School for Students with Autism. The school services 34 school districts in Wayne County, with 335 students ranging in age from 3 to 26.

New bingo session

The Metro Wayne Democratic Club will offer a second bingo session at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, beginning Friday, Aug. 5. Door will open at 9 a.m. with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be available for \$3. For more information, call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

Cropping for a cause

Join Scrapping Around Town and Scrapbook Goodies for a scrapbook fund-raiser 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14, at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland. The cost is \$25 per person and includes seven hours of cropping time - one cropper per 6-foot table - light breakfast, lunch, snacks, goodie bags, make-n-takes and door prizes.

Senior Dinner Dance

The Wayne Ford Civic League is offering a dinner for seniors noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 10, at the league hall, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Price is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers.

Under the Big Top

There will be a buffet dinner with beer, wine, pop, and dancing to live entertainment. The dinner dance is for people age 55 and older. Call (734) 728-5010 for information.

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.

Senior Dinner Dance

The Wayne Ford Civic League at 1645 N. Wayne Road will host the Royal Hanneford Circus Wednesday-Sunday, July 26-31.

Ringside seating will be \$18 for all ages, adult general admission will be \$12 and general admission for children 12 years and under will be \$8. Showtimes will be 11 a.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.wayneford.org, at the league hall or by credit or debit card by calling (734) 728-5010 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There will be elephant and pony rides, kiddy carnival rides and bouncers available on site. Daily dinner specials also will be served.

There are a limited number of seats available for each show so get your tickets as soon as possible. Senior, police and firefighter discounts are available by calling the hall at (734) 728-5010.

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DEATHS

B
Virginia W. Bake, 89, of Plymouth, died July 1.
Bernice Balsley, 100, of Milford, died July 1.
Mary Alice Bill, of Northville, died July 2.
Wilfred D. Blackney, of Detroit, died June 29.

C
Robert W. Corey, of Livonia, died July 3.
Francis E. Covert, of Westland, died June 30.

D
George Daraban, 80, of Northville, died July 5.
John Adam Doege, 88, of Canton, formerly of Wayne, died June 30.

E
John Wesley English, of Walled Lake, died July 3.

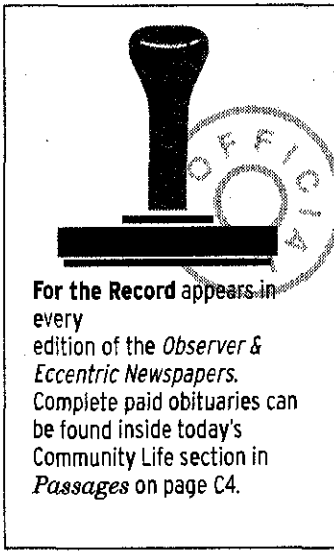
H
Emma Marie Hively, 101, of Wayne, died July 4.
Arlene E. Holdeman, 83, of Livonia, died July 5.

L
Jeane J. Loewel, 86, of Farmington, died July 3.

M
Robert William Mackey, 74, of Plymouth, formerly of Wayne, died July 6.
Eunice Mandlik, of Clarkston, died July 7.
Juanita E. McIntyre, of Westland, died July 4.
Ronald A. Morgan, of Westland, died June 30.

S
Alfredo S. Santilli, of Livonia, died June 30.
Paul G. Saunders, 42, of Clarkston, died July 6.
Robert Lee Schacht, 79, of Livonia, died June 27.
John Thomas Martin Schiffman, 51, of Farmington Hills, died July 6.
Margaret Sims, of Garden City, died June 29.
Kenneth Wesley Straub, 78, of Westland, died July 6.
Anne S. Szalanga, 82, of Lakeview, Ark., July 4.

W
Jack P. Wilson, 94, of Brighton, formerly of Redford and Lakeland, Fla. died July 7.



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life section in Passages on page C4.

Kathryn E. Villarruel of Westland recently attended the weeklong Michigan Freedom Academy at Phelps Collins Air National Guard Base near Alpena.

Villarruel is the daughter of Paul and Lori Villarruel of Westland. She will be entering Stevenson High School as a junior this fall.

Michigan Freedom Academy is sponsored by the Michigan Freedom Foundation, a group of business and military leaders interested in exposing high school-age students to a greater awareness of their obligations and responsibilities inherent to a free and democratic society.

The academy has four primary objectives: Promote a sense of patriotism, further the desire to lead, enhance appreciation for freedom, and provide a better understanding of civic responsibility.

Named to the honor roll for the final marking period of the 2004-2005 school year at the Tinkham Alternative High School were Nicholas Campau, Tabitha Clemons, Whitney Flum, Edward Harvey, Joanna Klein, Robert Lambert, Derek Lawson, Kenneth Letellier, Duane Lewis, Robert Moore, Kristen Persh, Vistoria Rodriguez, Lauren Sands, Damaris Taylor and Gina Warnecke.

Named to the Dean's List for

the winter semester from Schoolcraft College were Westland residents David Francis Addison, Tracy Lynn Allen, Dion Jason Angelosanto, Tami Leu Arble, Karen Elaine Baker, Tanya Renee Barcome, Jennifer Leigh Barson, Julian Beqiri, John Phillip Bigger, Jill Annette Blakley, Todd Gregory Boardman, Wendy Susan Bodin, Sarah Ann Bolish, Linda Marie Broadus, Janice Lynn Bruhnsen.

Brian Lynn Bulles, Sheila Ann Burke, Robyn Nicole Bushway, Karen Esther Butkowski, Crystal Lynn Campbell, Jolene E. Carlington, James Casteel, Nicole Leigh Cavender, Shelley Karole Claeys, Jeremy Leon Cleary, Billy Ann Coleman, Laura Mae Cooley, Kimberly Anne Corney, Alin Valeriu Cosma, Kathryn Marie Cox, Sarah J. Coy.

Geraldeen Ginger Crider, Maria Elena Cruzalegui, Dawn Marie Dalton, Kim Lynn Davis, Richard J. Dearing, Mohamed Lamine Diallo, Jason Wayne Dickens, Matthew Paul Dimitrievski, Samuel Vincent Dismuke, Lindsay Mary Dixon, Jonathan Kenneth Dohring, Wei Du, Jennifer Marie Duering, Leandra Yvonne Edwards, Lisa Ann Eggleston.

Leah Marie Enright, Rachel Marie Estrada, Melanie L. Farris, Kathleen M. Fitzgerald, Nicholas George Fotiu, Alicia Fragos-Rodriguez, Rola F. Francis, Michael Lexie Furgerson, Joshua John Fyfe, Mallory Lauren Garrett, Lynn Gazdag, Jonathan

ACHIEVERS

David Gietzen, Amanda Noel Gilbo.

Joseph Arthur Goldwater, Lynette Lyn Grzebyk, Daniel Robert Hanley, Guenevere Marie Hayton, Theresa M. Hendershott, Lauren Ashley Hewitt, Michael William Hochstein, Heather Lynn Hopkins, Vanessa Dawn Hotoph, Tami Lynn Hoyt, Gail Ianni, Tammie A. Isenbart, Cynthia Marie Ives, Shannon Marie Jablonski, Darko Jancecki.

Amy Lynn Januszkowski, Stephanie Lynn Jerore, Briana Michelle Jones, Leah Marie Keasal, David Gerald King, Tami Kirn, Patricia E. Klein, Virginia R. Knox, Lisa Christine Konetchy, Sydney Christina Korth, Darcie Kay Krause, Kevin Louis Kreutzkamp, Duane David Laprairie, Kristin Leigh Larabee, Teresa Lynn Lavigne.

Brandon Ryan Laycock, Rebecca Lynn Luckas, Aini Maryam Mahfooz, Mohammad H. Mahfooz, Angela Marie Malek, Jason E. Mankowski, JoAnne Manthey, Renee Annette Marhofer, Christopher Robert Marx, Thomas Anthony Maynard, Kimberly Raquel Mazuro, Kevin Anthony McKee, Wanita McMurrain, Steven Anthony Meek.

Cheryl A. Mikolajczyk, Jeanine Beth Miscavage, Gayle Elise Moore, Pamela M. Morin, Andy/Anas Najjar, Triveni N. Narayana, Michelle Renae Nelson, Russell Lewis Nelson, Timothy Donald Niemiec, Ellen Louise Nixon, Gerald Ernest

Nyland, Jane E. O'Dell, Erica Lynn Oberholtzer, Lynne Margaret Olderman, Derek Michael Opett, Mary Teresa Paradowski.

Philip Clifford Perry, Bisham Phagoo, Antoine Franklin Pierce, Lisa Ann Pisaneschi, Albert Piloci, Holly Marie Prokopchak, Mary Angela Provot, Stephanie Ann Puhman, David L. Randall, Ali Razi, Christopher James Richard, Shannon Rachel Riddle, Alicia Nicole Ring, Summar Dennielle Ronning, Penny Marie Rutledge, Jessica Frances Saban, Jennifer Suzanne Sabo-Turrin, Kerri Michelle Sarb, Christina Lynne Sawula, Robert Leo Schultz, Nadia Selameh, Amy Marie Settles, Lori Ann Shaney, Amy Beth Sholler, Christine Ann Shura-Kuhn, Sarah Marie Sikora, Sandra Michelle Simmons, Craig Robert Skonieski, Matthew Allen Svoboda, Dawn Michelle Tappen, Alice Marion Taylor.

Elizabeth Marie Taylor, Brittany Janelle Thompson, Matthew Brian Tykoski, Deanna Joy Tyler, Shannon Lee Vaughan, Jamie Louise Vernier, Diane Elizabeth Waun, William Joseph Whitlow, Melissa Dawn Wilson, Ian James Wong, Michelle Lee Wong and Nicole May Ziegler.

Coleen Dziurlikowski of Westland was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Olivet College. To make the Dean's List, Dziurlikowski had to be a full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY JULY 19, 2005 - BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to correct mutual mistakes of fact or clerical errors. PA74 of 1995 authorizes the July Board of Review to hear appeals for poverty exemptions, but not for poverty exemptions denied by the March Board of Review. This applies to current year only. ALLYSON BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk. Publish: July 10, 14 and 17, 2005.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE A public auction is to be held to satisfy a landlord's lien under Act 148 of 1985 State of Michigan Code law. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. This sale shall take place on July 29, 2005 at 1:00 pm. Located at Store-It Self Storage, 29180 Van Born, Westland, MI 48185. Unit #224 Samantha Poskitt includes bakers rack, bedroom furniture, x-mas decorations, chair, desk, misc boxes & bags - contents unknown, computer & printer. Unit #171 Jonelle P. Stephens includes washer, dryer, stereo, kid's toys, file cabinet, x-mas tree, misc household items. Unit #104 Latherisa Vaughn includes dishes, misc boxes, bags - contents unknown. Unit #A92 Carol Banks includes washer, shelves, bags - contents unknown. Unit #82 Mark Glasper includes freezer, dresser, nightstand, t.v., stove, washer, dryer, toys, crib, weight bench, misc boxes & bags - contents unknown. Unit #64 Patricia Dechon includes entertainment center, table & chairs, end tables, VCR, DVD, couch, love seat, window air conditioners. Unit #4 Charlene Singles includes refrigerator, mini refrigerator, stove, mailbox post. Unit #86 Abandoned items include entertainment center, dresser, bed, armoire, vanity, toys. Unit #47 Sheldon Benson includes wood, cement, tools. Unit #43 Darryl Lewis includes lawnmower, bar-b-que, bunk bed, couch, love seat, bike, weed whacker, refrigerator, tables, exercise equipment, misc household items. Publish: July 7 & 10, 2005.

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CHARGES

FROM PAGE A1
chrome-plated, 9mm handgun. The worker told police that the robber remarked, "No disrespect, and sorry about Father's Day."
Pentz also is accused of a holdup that occurred six days earlier, about 7:40 p.m. on June 13, at the Game Crazy store at Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road, on the city's southeast side.
An employee told police that the suspect asked for two Xbox games from a shelf and then revealed a handgun before warning, "There's been a change in the transaction."

the worker, robbed him of some cash and Xbox merchandise, and then fled the store.
Pentz has been ordered by McKnight to return to court on July 14 for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial on the Westland charges.
A not-guilty plea has been placed in his court file.
Pentz faces a hearing one day later in Canton, where he is suspected of robbing two gas stations and a Radio Shack.
In each of the Canton cases, a handgun was used to get cash, games or electronic devices, according to township authorities.

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STARBUCKS

FROM PAGE A1
occupy the former Oakwood facility, but developer Matthew Jonna of the Orchard Lake-based MJM Group said the other tenants aren't yet confirmed.
Jonna, company president, received approval Tuesday from the Westland City Council to renovate the former Oakwood facility.
The new Starbucks will have a drive-through window. But, Jonna said his company will be trying to lure other tenants to complement Starbucks and to make the site a place for neighbors to gather and socialize.
"We're trying to create a gath-

ering area," Jonna said. "It's a place to see your neighbors, see your friends."
The project could include more restaurants, possibly with outdoor dining areas, he said.
"Interest has been really strong in the project," Jonna said.
Despite fears by some residents of a glut of restaurants along Warren Road, Councilman Richard LeBlanc said many of the dining places continue to have overflow crowds at dinner time.
Cicirelli and City Attorney Angelo Plakas are known fans of Starbucks, prompting a light moment Tuesday when the mayor advised Plakas: "No, Angelo, we can't hold staff meetings at Starbucks."

OFFICE

FROM PAGE A1
site emerging as the new Secretary of State Central Wayne County PLUS Office.
That will mean better service, branch manager Debra Crissman said. Consider why:
■ Patrons will be able to pay with a Discover credit card at the counter. The office currently doesn't accept credit cards.
■ A self-service station will allow customers to use pre-printed forms and a credit card to get their license plate tab printed out.
"You won't even have to talk to a clerk," Crissman said.
■ Hours will be extended on Wednesdays - from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. - to make the office more accessible.
■ Patrons will be able to receive vehicle titles on the spot, rather than waiting for them in the mail.
■ Customers will be able to buy copies of driving records at the office.
"You can't do that right

now," Crissman said.
The Westland office will grow from 3,000 square feet to 4,882 square feet by expanding into another area of the Westview Plaza, Crissman said.
"We're staying in the exact same place, we're just expanding," she said.
Currently, the closest Secretary of State PLUS site is in Canton Township, at Ford and Sheldon roads.
Cicirelli welcomed news of the office expansion in Westland, saying it will better serve the city and surrounding communities.
"It's a nice, central location," she said.
While the Westland office is closed for remodeling, state officials said customers may use the Wayne site through July 26, the Canton site or an Inkster office at 27165 Cherry Hill Road.
For more information about Secretary of State offices, locations and services, go online at www.michigan.gov/sos.

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ADAMS HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll at Adams Middle School for the final marking period of the 2004-2005 school year were:
Keith Adams, Alexandra Akers, Erika Akubeno, Marlyssan Alkson, Selina Aldred, Angela Altimus, Paul Austin, Caitlin Badrak, Shirelle Bailey, Matthew Baker, Ryan Bartz, Samantha Bawcum, Shauna Bellenir, Crystal-Car Beneteau, Jimmel Bennett, Paul Berishaj, Brandie Bishop-Stacker, Jacob Black, Colleen Blake, Treston Blakely, Alexander Bledsoe.
Christopher Blevins, Paul Bobin, Robert Bono, Maryann Boogern, Danielle Boston, Deanna Boston, James Boyce, Erika Boyington, Alex Brasil, Rakeem Braswell, David Brooks, Antwain Calloway, Arlene Carter, Ian Cavalletto, Bradley Chandler, Kimberly Chau, Kristine Chau, Melissa Chestnut, Lindsay Chmiel, Nathaniel Clendennin, Taylor Coleman
Amanda Cook, Amber Cooke, Pedro Cortes, Krystie Crandall, Kayleigh Crummey, Daisy Cruz, Mariah Cryderman, William Cunningham, Kya Cathrel Cupino, Cecelia Cyples, Christine Davis, Brandon Dombrowski, Shilo Donner, Alyssa Draper, Brianna Duka, Sadie Earnest, Joshua Farmer, John Foote, Brandon Foss, Matthew Foss, Alan Freeman, Ashley Frost
Jessica Fulton, Michael Gabriel, Ryan Gabriel, Derek Galvan, Jacob Gates, Stephen Gearhart, Zachary Girouard, Scott Goodchild, Morgan Grieg, Brittney Grubbs, Lauren Hainley, Amber Harding, Rebecca Harding, Zachary Hawkins, Chelsea Hildebrandt, Daniel Hill, Joshua Hubbard, Janessa Hudson, Sonia Huertas, Kara Huff, Joshua Hull, Brooklyn Isbell
Jessica Jasinski, Jennifer Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Brandie Jones, Jimmy Kassis, Donald Keiper, Brandon Keller, Tawni Kenyon, Samantha Kilburn, Thomas Killen, Jory King, Kiona King, Lauren Kommer, Shane

Kommer, Brianna Kozlowski, Taylor Krohn, Charles Kuder, C.J. Kulas, Shauni Laturneau, Samantha Leblanc, Katelynn Lefler
Scott Lemke, Ian Letellier, Joshua Letellier, Morgan Lewis, Kassandra Lodge, Xavier Long, Briana Lucas, Brittney Malloy, Lynn Mathew, LéChrisa Mathews, Kevin McCartney, Alyssa McGeorge, Stephen McNamara, Taylor Meadows, Sarah Metropoulos, Victoria Metropoulos, Kyle Michael, Chelsea Miller, Matthew Mills, Nicholas Mills, Chelsea Morneau
Andrew Neino, Chantell Nolden, Curtis Nolen, Tara O'Neil, Amber O'Rourke, Melissa Ortiz, Utonia Overstreet, Hannah Palmer, Joshua Palmer, Daniel Parent, Shannon Parker, Shawn Parker, Anthony Patania, Mark Patterson, Kristen Peck, Brenda Perales, Sammy Perales, Elizabeth Perusse, Marcus Petri, Samuel Phillips, Brandi Pietruszka, Sade Pitts
Hannah Plumley, Matthew Polchlopek, Shanice Pope, Angela Potter, Shauna Pringle, Ryan Przybyla, Chloe Pyne, Megan Quinn, Sean Rane, Cody Reed, Miranda Reichow, Shalin Roberts, Demetrius Robinson, Brittany Roden, Enrique Romulo, Emily Rudy, Luther Rush, Leah Savage, James Serman, Jaclyn Serna, Justin Shepard, Mark Shiemke, Billy Shillingburg
Curtis Simpson, Laskia Singleton, Zoie Smallwood, Jacob Smith, Jessica Smith, Tyler Smith, Kayla Sparks, Khiry Sparks, Kristina Sparks, Melissa Spence, Gabrielle Swetlik, Chelsey Tabot, Sheila Tanner, Tiana Tatum, Danyelle Terry, Amanda Thieleman, Jason Trahey, Zachary Tykoski, Autumn Uren-Price, Margaret VanDyke, Rita Veloz, Michael Walker, Carla Werimert
Edward West, Jamie Williams, Michelle Williams, Raheem Williams, Shane Wilson, Kara Windsor, Brianna Winn, Cassondra Woods, Robert Woodson, Natalie Yambriich and Shawn Zander.

SUMMER CAMPS

Dance Camp
Join Ms. Helen's Westland Dance Summer Day Camp, learning tap, jazz, hip hop, pom-pom and ballet. Youngsters will participate in three dance classes each day, swimming every day and do a craft each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided each day, but participants should bring a sack lunch. On the last day, there will be a pizza party. The program is for ages 7-12 years. Session 1 is 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, July 12-15, and Session 2 will be 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Aug. 9-12, pre-register by July 29. Cost is \$180 per student. Enrollment is limited, and each student will receive a camp shirt. For more information, call (734) 261-3744.
Lacrosse Camp
An all pro and college Division I, II and III coach and player staff will teach introductory lacrosse sessions 9 a.m.-noon July 25-July 28 at Central City Park soccer area behind Bailey Recreation Center. The camp is for kids in grades 1-4, it is non-contact with loaner sticks available. For sessions for grades 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, all players must be fully equipped. Grades 11-12, call (248) 788-7020 for private lessons.
The cost is \$225 per student, which includes a camp jersey.
Basketball Camp
Kids will spend the week learning fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. There will be a variety of fun and challenging games and drills, at least two full-court games, three-on-three tournaments, free throw contests and beat the counselor events.
The camp is for kids ages 7-15. It will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18-22 and Aug. 1-5. The cost is \$125 for one week or \$210 for both weeks. Bring a bag lunch or money to purchase pizza and chips, a water bottle, and gym shoes. Each camper will receive a T-shirt. For more information, call (248) 496-3268.
Euro Soccer Camp
Learn different soccer styles from around the world in this camp which employs coaches from about 20 countries like the U.S.A., Romania, Hungary, Serbia, Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, England. They will teach youngsters of all ages all the various soccer styles and techniques used across the world. The will be two sessions - 9:30 a.m.-noon soccer and noon-1:00 p.m. swimming July 11-15 and 5:30-8 p.m. July 25-29. The cost is \$125 per camper per session. Call (248) 280-9434.

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Infamous 'Black Sox' pitcher found refuge in Livonia

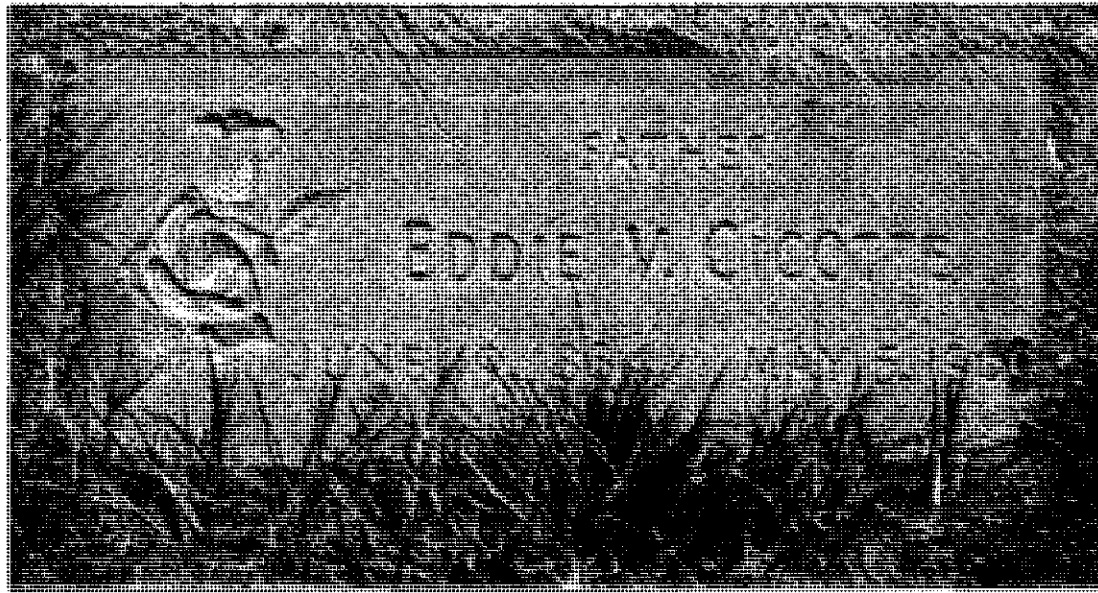
BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

One of the key figures involved in the greatest scandal in American professional sports history — a pitcher who had an All-Star-like career — rests in a Livonia cemetery.

Eddie Cicotte lived and worked in Livonia after his permanent ban from professional baseball in 1920. Cicotte was one of eight members of the Chicago White Sox who were paid money by gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

Cicotte worked at Ford Motor Co. as head of security and had an 11-acre strawberry farm in the Seven Mile-Merriman area. Some have suggested that Cicotte used the \$10,000 he received from the gamblers to purchase the farm. He sold that property a few years before his death in 1969 at the age of 84. His body lies at Parkview Cemetery on Farmington near Five Mile.

Cicotte, a Michigan native, had a 14-year major league career as a pitcher with the Tigers, Boston and Chicago. He compiled a career record of 108-149, with 35 shutouts and an earned-run average of 2.38. He developed knuckleball and spitball pitches late in his



The gravestone of Livonian Eddie Cicotte, professional baseball player banned from professional baseball for his role in the Black Sox scandal of 1919. He's buried at Parkview Cemetery on Farmington Road.

career which enabled him to have his best seasons. He won 28 games in 1917, 29 in 1919 and 21 in his final season in 1920.

Baseball historians wrote that Cicotte would have received a \$10,000 bonus in 1919 had he won 30 games that season. His base salary that season was \$5,500.

This was a source of controversy between Cicotte and the

White Sox notoriously stingy owner Charles Comiskey, who was known for refusing to pay to launder his players' uniforms, having the lowest payroll in baseball and renegeing on promises for bonuses.

Cicotte, then 35, was looking for income to buy the farm in Michigan when he was done playing baseball.

Cicotte's family contends Comiskey benched the pitcher

for his last two regular season starts that season to avoid paying the 30-win bonus, but one baseball historian wrote the White Sox lost two games in which Cicotte started on the mound after winning his 29th game.

Regardless, without any baseball bonuses in 1919 and the need for money to buy the farm, the offer for \$10,000 from gamblers to fix the World Series became enticing for Cicotte. The other seven players involved also were angry with Comiskey's treatment. In the best-of-nine series, the White Sox were heavy

favorites over the Reds.

Cicotte was the losing pitcher in Game 1, giving up five runs in the fourth inning which sparked Cincinnati to a 9-1 victory. Historians wrote that Cicotte hit Reds leadoff batter Morrie Rath in the back with the first pitch of the game as a signal to the gamblers that the players accepted the fix.

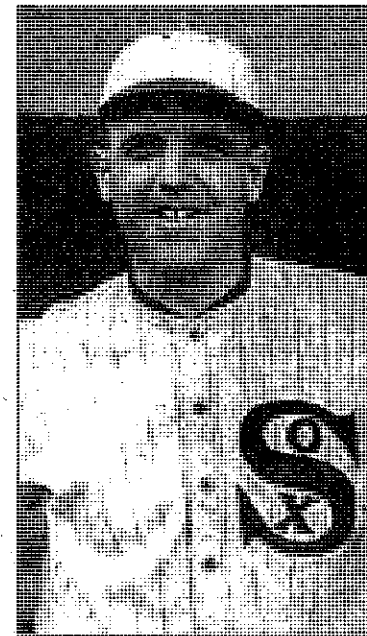
In Game 4, Cicotte committed two errors in the fifth inning, leading to two Cincinnati runs as the Reds won 2-0.

The Reds had a four-games-to-one lead when the White Sox won two consecutive games, including Game 7 when Cicotte was on the mound for Chicago's 4-1 win.

The gamblers became worried and threatened the family of Claude "Lefty" Williams, who was to pitch for Chicago in Game 8. Williams gave up four runs in the first inning as the Reds won the game, 10-5, and the World Series championship.

In 1920, as the White Sox were in contention for another American League pennant, newspaper reports surfaced that the 1919 World Series was fixed. Cicotte was the first player to admit their involvement in the deal.

According to a trial summary by law school professor Douglas Linder, Cicotte told a grand jury: "I don't know why I did it. I must have been crazy ... I needed the money. I had the wife and the kids. The wife



COURTESY OF CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cicotte

and the kids don't know about this. I don't know what they'll think.

"I've lived a thousand years in the last 12 months. I would have not done that thing for a million dollars. Now I've lost everything, job, reputation, everything. My friends all bet on the Sox. I knew, but I couldn't tell them."

One year later, all eight players were acquitted of several criminal charges; however, baseball Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis banned all the players from the game for life.

Cicotte and his family moved to Livonia, where he lived for five decades.

Data from the Chicago Historical Society; *The Black Sox Trial: An Account* by Douglas Linder, a professor at the University of Missouri at Kansas City Law School; and *Observer* files.

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LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION 2005-2006

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District shall be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Education offices, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 734-744-2500, on the first and third Mondays of each month with the following exceptions:

- I. A regular meeting will not be held on July 4 or 18, 2005
- II. A regular meeting will not be held on September 5, 2005
- III. A regular meeting will not be held on January 2 or 16, 2006
- IV. A regular meeting will not be held on February 6 or 20, 2006
- V. A regular meeting will not be held on April 17, 2006

Therefore, regular Board meetings will be held on the following dates:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| July 5 | August 1, 15 | September 19 | October 3, 17 |
| November 7, 21 | December 5, 19 | January 16, 30 | February 13 |
| March 6, 20 | April 3 | May 1, 15 | June 5, 19 |

In general, the second and fourth Mondays of each month shall be reserved for Board committee meetings or special and/or study meetings as needed.

Special meetings of the Board of Education may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, location and purpose of such meetings. Service of the notices shall be made in accordance with Board Policy BCAC and with the provisions of P.A. 267 and the General School Laws of the State of Michigan, and may be made by a member of the Board or any employee of the Board.

The Secretary of the Board shall cause public notice to be given of all meetings of the Board of Education in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Proposed minutes of Board meetings will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Board of Education offices, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, not more than eight business days after the date of each meeting, and approved minutes of each meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same location not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved.

The President and/or Secretary of the Board shall be authorized to sign all contracts and legal documents on behalf of the Board of Education following approval by resolution of the Board unless the Board specifically designates other members of the Board or administration in its resolution to approve the contract or legal document.

Published: July 10, 2005

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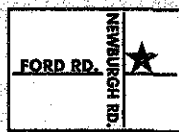
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Mud Day Tuesday invites children to get dirty

Wayne County's annual Mud Day is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the Nankin Mills Picnic Area, on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Children 12 and under are invited to participate in one of the county's most popular events. The county mixes more than 200 tons of topsoil and over 20,000 gallons of water to ensure that the mud is just right. Children will be separated into categories based on age, to participate in "mud limbo" and wheelbarrow races. At the conclusion of the event, Mr. and Miss Mud

will be crowned.

To ensure that parents and children are prepared for the dirt, the county suggests that children wear old clothes and old shoes. Children also need to bring a clean change of clothes. An on-site clean-up area will be provided. Parents are also advised to bring a supply of towels, as there are no showers on site. Plastic bags will be supplied to carry dirty clothes home.

To register groups of more than 15 children, call Kim at (313) 261-9087.

For more information, call (734) 261-1990.

Holocaust survivor tells his triumphant story

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Weighing no more than 75 pounds, Sam Offen, a Jewish young man from Poland, knew he wouldn't survive the horrors of the concentration camps for many more days.

Skin and bones, hungry, weak and brutally treated, Offen somehow endured the atrocities at the Gusen and Mauthausen death camps in Austria, which was then part of Germany.

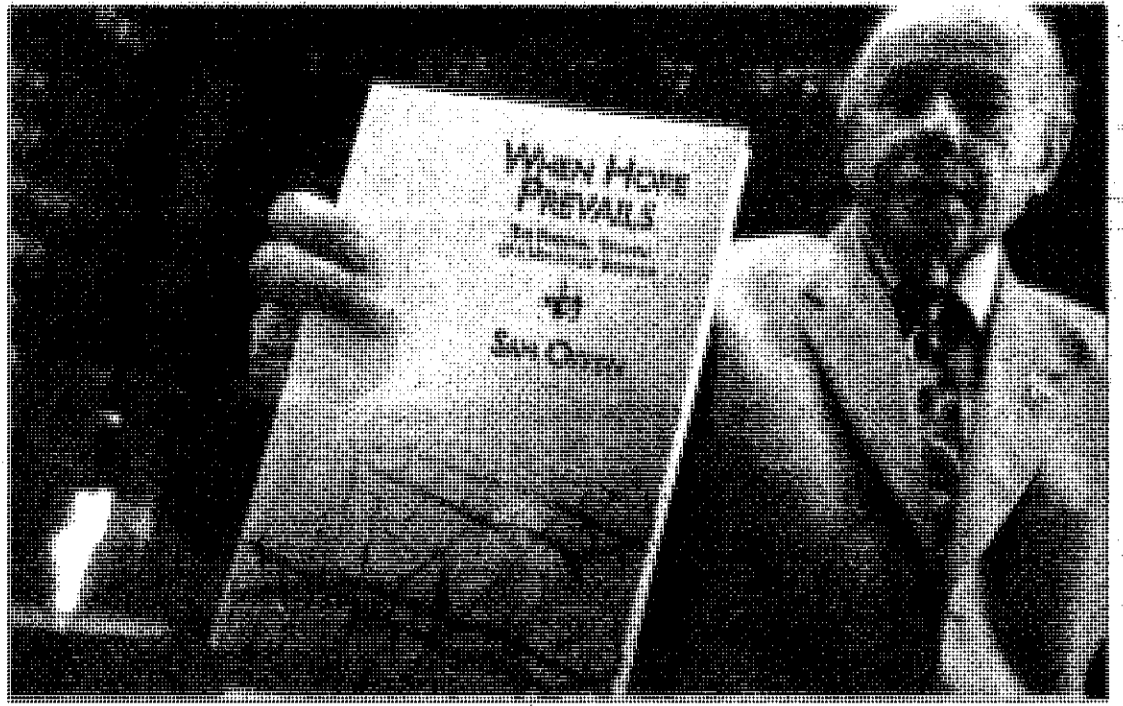
The camp was one of several at which he and his brothers, Nathan and Bernard, were held captive during the Nazi invasion. They were forced to work day and night, hauling large boulders up the steep hills in the "killing quarry" at the Gusen camp. Their nutrition was a meager serving of warm, black liquid in the morning, a bowl of soup in the afternoon and a slice of bread in the evening.

"It was just so brutal," recalls the West Bloomfield resident, who is now 83 years old. "I was just a living skeleton. They did not waste bullets to kill (the prisoners), they just pushed us down to the quarry floor."

Offen was one of six or seven original "prisoners" to survive at Mauthausen.

On May 5, 1945, American Army troops found the camp, not knowing it was a Nazi concentration camp.

Beyond the barbed wire



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holocaust survivor Sam Offen of West Bloomfield sits near the eternal flame at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills with a copy of his book, 'When Hope Prevails - The Personal Triumph of a Holocaust Survivor.'

"They liberated us," Offen said. "They were so wonderful to us; so unbelievably wonderful."

Two or three days later, the war officially ended. But not without deep pain and suffering that changed the world.

For Offen, the Holocaust began when he was 18 years old. He was born in a suburb of Krakow, Poland, and was the oldest of four children. On Sept. 6, 1939, the Nazis invaded Krakow and required all citizens to "register." This was done so the Nazis could identify all of the Jews.

"From that day on, life changed completely," Offen said. "Everything stopped suddenly. We never expected the Holocaust to happen."

He first witnessed the cold-blooded murders when Nazi soldiers rounded up the Orthodox Jews in his town and attempted to cut their side locks of hair. One young man was scared and tried to run, but was shot dead by a soldier, Offen said.

"That was my first encounter with the killing and executions," he said.

While held captive, Offen was shipped around from camp to camp, working in salt mines, stone quarries and steel mills. His experience in Jewish "ghettos" — where thousands of Jews were ordered to live in confinement and under curfew in crowded conditions — and

in the concentration camps lasted five years.

Now he has the memories, the occasional nightmare and a tattoo of the letters "K L," which stood for "concentration camp" in German, on his wrist to remind him of the tragedy.

His parents, Jacob Offen and Rochme Gitel Offen, and his sister Miriam Offen, who was just 16 years old, were killed in gas chambers. He lost more than 50 other relatives during the Holocaust. He said it's unusual to be one of three siblings, however, to survive from the same family. His brothers now live in New York and California.

He's not sure how he survived, but it surely had to do with his spirit, his faith and a little luck of "being in the right place at the right time."

"I always was, and still am, a perpetual optimist," Offen said softly, with a faraway look in his eyes. "I always hoped I would survive."

It was that hope that led him to a better life.

Because he and his brothers were liberated by the American Army, they had the desire to rebuild their lives in the United States. Offen came to the U.S. after living in London for five years, awaiting passage to come to America. He arrived on a ship on a Saturday in 1951. Passengers disembarked the

following Monday in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.

"We just sensed that freedom of America when we saw the Statue of Liberty," he said, smiling.

He moved directly to Michigan, where distant relatives lived. He met his wife Hyla — of 53 years now — and started working as a furrier. He continues to own his own fur business, Furs by Ceresine & Offen, in downtown Birmingham.

"I've realized the American dream," he said.

Wanting to thank the U.S. soldiers who freed him back in 1945, Offen researched records and, amazingly, found an American GI named Donald Montgomery, who was one of the soldiers who set the prisoners at Mauthausen free. Even more incredible, Montgomery was found living in nearby Auburn Hills. The two reunited in October 1993 and remain friends.

Persuasion from friends and family led Offen to write a book about his life and his journey toward freedom. The 2-year project is a book titled *When Hope Prevails - The Personal Triumph of a Holocaust Survivor*.

He speaks to groups and educates students about the Holocaust and will offer a book signing and presentation at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

Offen sums up his life in a simple phrase, which has become sort of his own slogan.

"I was born free, I lived in hell and now I live in paradise," he said, with a smile.

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'WHEN HOPE PREVAILS'

Sam Offen chronicled his experiences in a book titled, *When Hope Prevails - The Personal Triumph of a Holocaust Survivor*, which was published by First Page Publications in Livonia on May 5, 2005, exactly 60 years after his liberation from the Mauthausen concentration camp. Offen will sign copies of his book and present a talk on his experiences at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. A reception will follow Offen's presentation. Copies of the book will be on sale (\$12.95 soft cover or \$18.95 hard cover). All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to the Holocaust Memorial Center.

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DARTA decision shouldn't end efforts for better mass transit

Empty buses.

In a radio interview shortly after a Michigan Court of Appeals decision disbanded the Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority, state Rep. Leon Drolet (R-Clinton Township) was jubilant, saying that it was time to stop wasting taxpayers' money on mass transit systems that nobody wants, spending money on "empty buses" that could be spent on more roads!

In Livonia, voters this fall will vote on a tax issue that will decide whether the city remains in the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation. And yet, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson says it wasn't lack of political will or support for mass transit that killed DARTA.

He's right there. A suit was brought by the union representing employees of the Detroit Department of Transportation, fearful that anything resembling a merger of DDOT and SMART would lead to job reductions. The court's decision was that the parties that formed DARTA — Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Patterson and Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chair Nancy White, with the support of Gov. Jennifer Granholm — had no legal authority to do so without the support of the three county boards.

It wasn't a decision against mass transit, but in favor of open government and proper legal procedures. Patterson says an honest effort was made to create DARTA, which would have provided badly needed coordination between the suburban and city systems and a conduit for state and federal transportation dollars.

Patterson, Ficano and Granholm are all pushing the state Legislature to act. Still, those who look at mass transit and see only empty buses are feeling gleeful that the end of DARTA will further weaken the region's already anemic mass transit system. Drolet and others argue that people would rather jam along on the freeways in their private cars than ride in a train or on a bus.

The only people who need buses are the old, the disabled and the working poor. Do they vote? It's highly unlikely that they contribute to political campaigns.

The horrific events Thursday in London and last year in Madrid might add to concerns about both the safety and the viability of mass transit in Detroit or any large metropolitan area. But incidents like those, no matter how terrible, are fortunately rare.

In London, Paris, New York, Boston, Washington, San Francisco, Toronto and other cities, the buses and trains are not empty. They are

We are a metro area of 4 million people in search of a city. We are BIG CITY people who have lost a large measure of what urban life at its best is meant to be.

full of daily commuters, tourists, students, shoppers and, yes, the old, the disabled and the working poor (who are only able to work because a bus gets them to their jobs). Mass transit is truly the arterial system for the most vibrant cities, essential to healthy downtowns and to broader economic and social opportunities.

It will take a lot of vision to turn things around in metro Detroit. As Granholm said following the court decision, "A viable, effective public transit system is essential to both the near and long-term social and economic well-being of southeast Michigan."

We know the story too well. We are a racially and economically divided community. Despite honorable attempts to infuse life back into downtown Detroit, it remains a pale image of a big city. There is no central place around which to build a mass transit system. Commuters move in too many different directions. Shopping has been sectionalized into big box stores, strip malls and increasingly dreary traditional closed malls.

We have suburban communities that gloat about their master plans that call for large lots and less density, which only exacerbates the sprawl problem, pushing people farther from the central city, eating up more land, requiring more freeways. They mistake big private yards for open space. Instead, the plans should promote greater density, but more public park land, farm preservation and mass transit.

We are a metro area of 4 million people in search of a city. We are BIG CITY people who have lost a large measure of what urban life at its best is meant to be.

This is a regional problem, a state problem as serious and as essential to our future as the budget crunch and school financing. Now is the time for Brooks Patterson, Bob Ficano, Jennifer Granholm and Kwame Kilpatrick to redouble their efforts to work together and force the Legislature to act.

Now is the time for visionaries to see beyond the empty buses, the deserted city streets, the racial discord and imagine a future city for tomorrow.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149, by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.



Hugh Gallagher

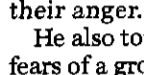
Convention draws Rotarians together for greater good

Getting around Chicago was a bit of a challenge during the June 18-22 Rotary International convention, but it was worth the effort.

A highlight of the event, which celebrated the centennial of Rotary's founding in Chicago by lawyer Paul Harris in 1905, was a Ted Turner speech. The media mogul talked about going to club meetings in Cincinnati as a boy.

"My dad was a Rotarian for many years and he loved Rotary," Turner told an audience of thousands. "I know the Four-Way Test by heart," he added of Rotary's test of things we think, do or say.

Turner described his support of Rotary's ongoing polio eradication efforts, and the larger need to treat people with dignity and respect. His work as a philanthropist has convinced him that giving those who are angry a chance to be heard helps to defuse



Julie Brown

their anger.

He also touched on the Cold War era and fears of a growing nuclear arsenal, praising the United Nations for its help during the Cold War. The environment is also a concern of Turner's.

He urged Rotarians to consider their next goal, now that polio eradication is near, citing poverty and lack of access to education and quality health care as concerns. One in four adults isn't literate, he noted, and government spending in such areas as education is a drop in the bucket compared to military spending — or the deficit.

Turner wasn't the only speaker during the five-day convention, with outgoing RI President Glenn Estess also taking the podium. He described the convention as "the biggest family reunion in the world" and urged those present to "work together to make Rotary's future even brighter than its past."

Estess outlined a number of projects, such as a small clinic in India which has grown into a modern hospital. He noted how Rotarians worldwide responded immediately following the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami.

This was my first RI convention and I'm glad my husband and I took the time to attend. The workshops and plenary sessions were rewarding, but even more so was the opportunity to meet people from all around the world.

Whether it was chatting with a gentleman from Pakistan on the "el" about an eye care project under way there, or visiting with a couple from Australia during a dinner at the Field Museum, it was wonderful to have such an international flair.

I admired the women from African nations and from India in their colorful clothing, and

This was my first RI convention and I'm glad my husband and I took the time to attend. The workshops and plenary sessions were rewarding, but even more so was the opportunity to meet people from all around the world.

wondered how they managed to pack such attire. I marveled at the visitors who traveled such a distance to meet fellow Rotarians.

Social activities made the convention fun, too, including a trek out to Rockford, Ill., to the home of Dick and Grace Leighton. We were joined by Ed and Alice Hegel of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and the evening together passed all too quickly.

A number of the Saskatoon Rotarians and family members had made the journey to be in Chicago, as had people from all corners of the world. We even ran into Bill Cameron from the Livonia club and his wife, Olga, despite the vastness of McCormick Place and the thousands registered for the convention.

It was inspiring to see the flags of Rotary nations, pretty much all the world, presented during the opening session. Greetings from Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and world political leaders added to the day.

I learned that women now make up 12 percent of Rotary's members worldwide, some 140,000 out of 1.2 million. That's a definite improvement considering the organization was all-male not too many years ago.

The Tuesday of the convention found us at the Chicago Athletic Association, home to the original Rotary club, which meets there for lunch each Tuesday. Speaker Cliff Dochterman, who served as RI president in 1992-93, gave a moving address, both funny and thoughtful. Members of that club went all out to make us feel welcome.

Next year's international convention is in Denmark and Sweden, so it's unlikely we'll make that trip. Even so, I'm glad I went this year and will keep the memories and all I've learned from newfound friends close to my heart.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and secretary for the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.



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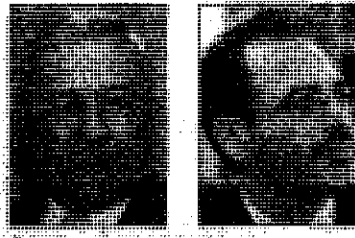
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DARTA could be back on track, with help

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER



The agreement creating the Detroit Area Regional Transit Authority may have been struck down by the Michigan Court of Appeals, but regional authorities are optimistic the plan could be back up and running with the right help from Lansing.

The court struck down the agreement creating DARTA earlier this week, saying it cannot be enforced because of a lawsuit filed by maintenance unions at the Detroit Department of Transportation.

While DARTA is dead for the time being, operations at DDOT and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation will go on as they have with no changes in operation or service.

Whatever went on in the courts, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson wanted it made clear that no one could say the bus plan died from lack of interest. Aside from Patterson, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Macomb County

Board of Governors Chairwoman Nancy White put together the arrangement after a similar effort was killed by former Gov. John Engler.

"The suburbs are not against regional transportation," Patterson said. "That case went to court because a union sued DARTA. I will not accept any blame for the system not coming together."

Neither can the blame go anywhere else around the region. He said politicians in all three Metro Detroit counties and the mayor worked together to put a regional transportation system into place for all the right reasons. That said, the effort is not over.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said the plan is vital to the region's economic health.

"Every major urban area has a mass transit plan," he

said. "This can be done legislatively. We're asking that the legislature remedy the technicalities and allow the plan to proceed. It could happen this session."

Ficano said DARTA was weeks away from hiring an executive director and federal money has already been secured to get the system off the ground.

"We have to show the rest of the country we're serious about this," he said. "Everyone is on the same page here, rarely do you get the regional leadership together like this."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm called on state lawmakers to put partisan and geographical differences aside to pass legislation to enable local leaders to establish a regional transportation system in southeast Michigan.

"A viable, effective public transit system is essential to both the near and long term social and economic well-being of southeast Michigan," Granholm said.

"The overall economic vitality of the region is at stake. We are an interconnected community, and we must be able to connect to one another with ease."

Patterson said the decision was "a blow."

"It is not the end," he said. "We're going to get together and reintroduce something."

He said there would be meetings between the original players before going to Lansing to drum up legislative support. While there is still interest in a public transportation authority, that does not mean results are coming soon.

Patterson said it would take at least six months even if things moved ahead as fast as they possibly could. What he doesn't want is an arrangement that doesn't work for the county.

"I fear (the next proposal) will be watered down when it goes back to the legislature, something with wage concessions for the unions," Patterson said. "Why would we want an interdependent system if there isn't some savings? We're not going to subsidize DDOT for \$85 million."

The irony, he said, would be plain for everyone to see if the introduction of union-friendly language were to cause Oakland County to pull out of an agreement it forwarded to Lansing.

London transit attacks draw condemnation

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter, R-Livonia, who is a member of the International Relations subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, Thursday issued a statement condemning the terrorist attacks in London:

"Our hearts and prayers are


with the people of England, and the most important thing we, as Americans, can do is to stand ready to assist them in any capacity they request. Like the fuhrer before him, Bin Laden is terrorizing and testing the indomitable spirit of the

British people, and like his pernicious precursor before him, this tyrant too will fail and fall into an ignoble grave. On our own part we need to steel our resolve to win the war on terror. We must always remember the conundrum of these tragic

times - the more successful we are defending our homeland from terrorists, the more susceptible we can become to believing the terrorist threat has passed. We must always be vigilant and in so doing we will be victorious."


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