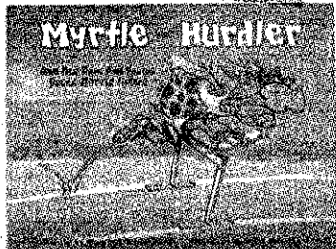


Turtle teaches children to eat well and exercise

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



MU scoreboard dedication



SPORTS, SECTION B

Exclusive designer denim event in the PINK List



PINK PAGE
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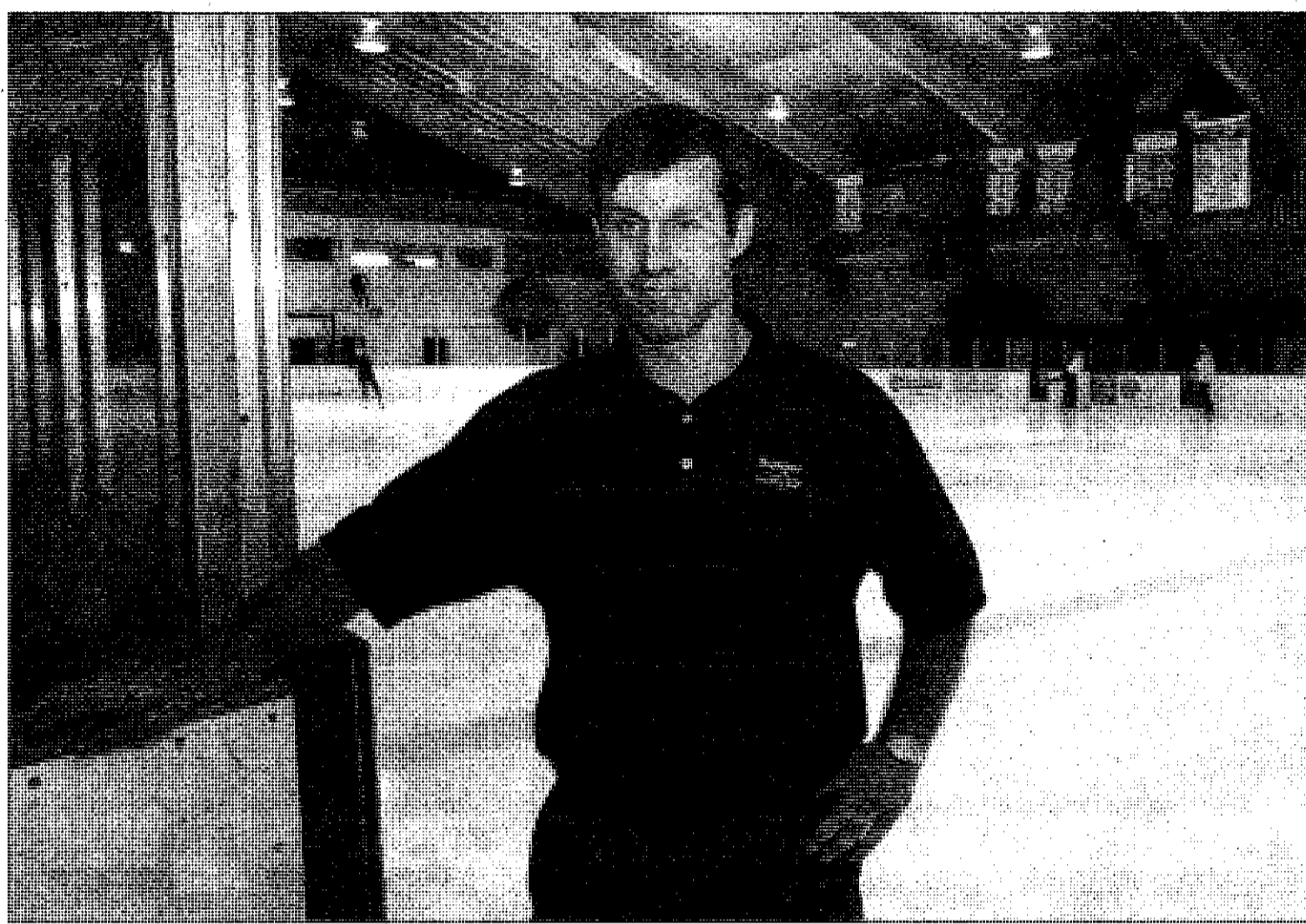
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October 2, 2005

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No stranger to ice since he was 4 years old, former minor league hockey player Joe Burton stands inside Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena, where he is the new manager.

The Ice Man cometh

Hockey's Joe Burton takes over city's Modano arena

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Joe Burton seems refreshingly humble and unassuming for a minor-league hockey retiree with serious bragging rights.

As the new manager of Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena, the 38-year-old Garden City father of two never seems boastful or pretentious considering he became the first American-born minor leaguer to score 600

goals. "He's a man of few words, but on the ice he led by example," his wife, Julie, said. "He does that at home, too, as a father and as a husband."

City officials hope that Burton will bring that same leadership to a money-losing ice arena that could use a facelift and a fresh start.

It will take time. "He's got some really good, innovative ideas that should get us making money in that arena again," said Robert Kosowski, Westland parks and recreation director.

Kosowski cited hockey camps, lacrosse on ice, a thriving figure-skating club and more sports tournaments as promising goals.

"We didn't hire him just because he was a professional hockey player, but it was a def-

inite plus," Kosowski said. "He may be able to bring in some other professional players for some camps and things like that."

IT STARTED WITH MOM

Burton may have his late mother, Moana, to thank for his new job, even though she died six years ago. She laced him up in skates when he was just 4 years old.

"My mother was the one who pushed me," Burton said, sitting in his second-floor office overlooking the ice arena. "I cried because I didn't like being on the ice."

Within a year he was playing on a team, also urged on by his father Joe, a Livonia plumber who coached sports during Burton's childhood.

Burton grew up in Garden City, and he's

PLEASE SEE BURTON, A2

Jury acquits ex-principal in sex case

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

A jury deliberated in Wayne County Circuit Court for a little less than four hours before returning Thursday morning with a not guilty verdict, acquitting a former Agape Christian Academy principal who had been accused of criminal sexual conduct with a former student.



Sexton

Clark Sexton, 30, of Westland was charged on Feb. 2, 2005, with three counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony which alleges penetration, and one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, a misdemeanor. Following a three-day trial, he was found not guilty on all charges.

At issue was the age of a female student with whom he admitted to having sex. But he said the sexual contact began after her 16th birthday in December 2000.

At the time, according to state law, the age of sexual consent was 16. However, according to Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden, in April 2003, the law was changed, making it illegal for a school administrator, teacher or substitute teacher to have sex with a student aged 16-18. Because the

PLEASE SEE EX-PRINCIPAL, A5

Court grants delay in robbery hearing

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An 80-year-old Westland woman came to court Thursday ready to testify that she was robbed Sept. 14 inside the garage of her condominium.

She'll have to wait. A preliminary hearing scheduled for two 18-year-old defendants, Ajuan Hogan of Wayne and Cortne Diaz of Westland, was delayed until Oct. 13.

A defense attorney asked that the hearing be delayed in Westland 18th District Court to give him more time to review the accusations and evidence against Hogan and Diaz.

Police already have obtained confessions in the case, police Sgt. Steve Borisch said.

The victim has told authorities that she was robbed about 9 p.m. Sept. 14 after she was followed into her garage at Colonial Estates condos, on Newburgh south of Joy.

The woman was threatened with a pellet gun and robbed of her purse, which police later found after they trailed a getaway van to a nearby apartment complex.

Police found the purse inside the van after two suspects abandoned the stolen van at Westwood Apartments and fled on foot, police Lt. James Ridener has said.

Investigators also found paperwork inside the van that led them to Hogan and Diaz, Ridener said.

The teenagers face charges of armed robbery and first-degree home invasion. If convicted, they could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Diaz also is charged with fleeing from police and driving with a suspended license.

He and Hogan would have to pay a total of \$110,000 in cash toward their bonds before they could be released from jail to await their trial.

Toarminas join crowd in protesting Iraq war

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Lou Toarmina and his wife, Gina, made a quick trip to Washington, D.C., last weekend. They saw a few monuments, even the Capitol Building, but they weren't there as tourists.

The Westland couple were in the nation's capital to protest the war in Iraq.

"We flew out Saturday and back on Sunday," Toarmina said. "There were people shoulder to shoulder as far as you could see."

He found a strong feeling of patriotism, although the protesters believe U.S. involvement in the Iraq war should end.

Toarmina, 42, saw some pro-Bush demonstrators, but feels the media coverage was biased, not reflecting the greater number

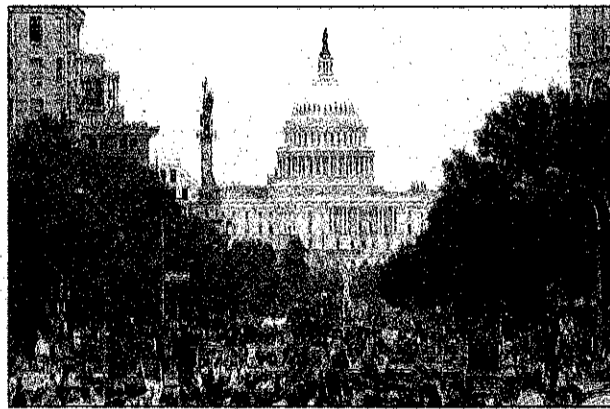
of antiwar protesters.

"We were in The Mall at noon and there was nobody there," Toarmina said of the "pro-troop" rally set for Sunday. He wonders about media coverage and how much people really are learning about their government.

He's against U.S. involvement because he believes the country's reasons for going to war have proven to be incorrect and that no more should die "for reasons we know never really existed."

He saw Cindy Sheehan, anti-war activist and mother of a slain soldier, one of the speakers. Sheehan was arrested for her involvement in the protest. Toarmina believes Americans should consider the soldiers in Iraq as their own sons and daughters.

Toarmina, owner of a local



The Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., provided the backdrop for antiwar protesters like Lou and Gina Toarmina of Westland.

pizza business, didn't worry about negative reaction from business associates.

"We were wearing shirts saying 'Peace Is Patriotic,'" he said.

"Everybody there was grateful to be American. They just wanted the war ended and people to

come home."

The Wayne Memorial High graduate is too young to have participated in Vietnam-era protests, but recognizes their significance.

"Those protests actually did make a social change," he said.

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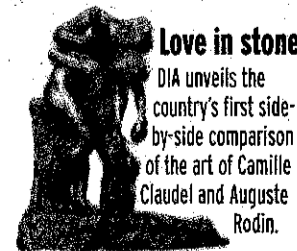
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INDEX	
APARTMENTS	E6
AUTOMOTIVE	F2
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	E7
COMMUNITY LIFE	C1
HEALTH	C6
JOBS	D1
OBITUARIES	C4
PERSPECTIVES	A7
PINK PAGE	C8
NEW HOMES	E4
SERVICE GUIDE	D5
SPORTS	B1

Coming Thursday in Filter



Love in stone
DIA unveils the country's first side-by-side comparison of the art of Camille Claudel and Auguste Rodin.

BURTON

FROM PAGE A1

proud that he, Julie and their two sons - Joey, 5, and Luke, 3 - live in the house where his parents raised him. He was the oldest of four children.

After graduating from Garden City High School in 1985, Burton sharpened his hockey skills while attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He then played 11 years for the Oklahoma City Blazers and one year in Denmark before he left the ice to work for a year - first for a mortgage company and then for a furniture business.

He returned to the ice for one year with the Motor City Mechanics, making history by earning his 600th goal in April. He chose to retire while on top.

"The travel got to be too much, and I wanted to be with my family," Burton said. "I thought about playing for another year, but this job opportunity came up and I didn't want to pass it up."

EXCITED ABOUT JOB

That may be an understatement.

"He was so excited about this job," his wife said. "This was exactly what he wanted to do. His whole life has been in this community and for hockey. This isn't just a job. It's a deep commitment for him."

Burton's soft-spoken, quiet personality belies an inner intensity.

"He's a very relaxed, calm person who enjoys going to the cabin up North and fishing with his kids, but he is so intense in his goals," Julie Burton said. "He is so goal-oriented, and he constantly has these lists of things that he wants to accomplish."

His new job will allow him to remain close to his hometown roots and the game that he loves.

"I just want to stay involved with hockey," Burton said. "I hope to grow the sport here. There has been a decline in enrollment. The economy has been kind of tough, and hockey



PHILL MATORA

The sign held up by young Motor City Mechanics fans and Joe Burton's smile during a postgame interview tell the story about the Garden City resident's milestone night.

is an expensive sport."

Still, he hopes to build membership, and he said the arena's \$160-an-hour rates for hockey and figure-skating clubs are among the area's lowest.

Some local ice-sports fans have suggested that the Mike Modano Arena - named after the Westland native, former Livonia Franklin High School student and Dallas Stars player - isn't big enough. They have suggested a second sheet of ice or an entirely new arena.

The problem: money. "Right now, we're struggling with one sheet," Burton conceded, although he said a second sheet of ice would allow the community to lure bigger tournaments and other events.

Even though the arena has a \$461,000 budget, operational costs have made it impossible to achieve such goals as buying a new ice-resurfacing Zamboni. Burton hopes to increase revenues by luring more members and by bringing more advertising into the facility, on Wildwood south of Hunter.

Those who know Burton believe that the ice arena will only improve under his leadership.

"He's really happy to be in his community working," his wife said. "I think he's looking forward to making some great changes."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Annual dance

The Women of the Immaculate Conception will have their annual Daddy-Daughter Dance 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 30759 Ford, Garden City.

The cost is \$10 per couple and includes hot dogs, chips, pop, dessert and music by The Goldtones. For tickets, call Bev at (734) 261-2603 and Noreen at (734) 722-8360.

Haunted house

The Westland Jaycees will be spooking up the neighborhood when they open their haunted house for the season on Friday, Oct. 7, in the east parking lot of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Ghouls, ghosts and screams await older children, teens and adults 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday and 7-10:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. It will close Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 10-13 and 17-20.

A special Friendly Haunted House event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 22. The haunted House will open one hour earlier to provide a friendly monster night for smaller children.

For more information, call (734) 637-8415.

Railroadiana

Buy and swap toys and trains at a fund-raiser sponsored by SS. Simon and Jude Ushers Club, noon-4 p.m. today (Oct. 2). Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and refreshments will be available.

The church hall is at 32500 Palmer Road, west of Merriman, in Westland. Parking is free. For more information, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

Flu shots

The Village of Westland will once again offer a limited number of flu shots to the seniors ages 65 and older 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14. Call (734) 762-8895 to schedule an appointment. The Village of Westland is located at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman.

Scrapbook class

Looking for help with your scrapbooking? The Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Adult and Community Education Program is offering a Scrapbook Page Layouts class 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4 and 11.

Participants will learn photo organization, page layout and journaling techniques. The cost is \$20 for the class and \$15 for the material. Call (734) 419-2426 to register. For more information about the class, call (734) 326-6111.

Car donation

People with a car to donate can give it to Veterans Haven. The organization is accepting cars, running or not running, that are given to veterans to provide them with transportation to work, school of medical needs.

To date, the agency has given away more than 250 vehicles and three fully furnished mobile homes to needy veterans. To donate, call Veterans Haven at (734) 728-0527 or go to vetshaveninfo.org on the internet.

Basketball clinics

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department and Hoops Stars Basketball will sponsor a six-week Hoops Stars Basketball Clinic 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 8-Dec. 6 at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

The clinic is for youngsters ages 7-13 and in grades 1-8. Participants will learn the fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. There also will be challenging games and drills and an opportunity to play in a 5-on-5 full court game.

Kids need to bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes.

The clinic costs \$42 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Register at the Bailey Center. For

more information, call Ron Levin at (248) 496-3268.

Drama and dance

The Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program and the Shoe String Theatre are offering a drama and movement program for children with special needs.

The class will be 5-6 p.m. Fridays Nov. 4-Dec. 16. Each week there will be a different theme based on a children's story. Drama, music, movement and dance will teach youngsters gross motor, listening and focusing skills while letting children use their imaginations.

The class will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Cost is \$30 for residents and \$31 for non-residents. Scholarships are available for Westland residents. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Church is having a Las Vegas Party 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 21, at the church, located on the southwest corner Anin Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

There will be blackjack, table games, hourly raffles and nonsmoking Blackjack rooms. Admission will be \$7 and includes food (hot dogs, potato salad), pop and potato chips. Beer available at \$1 per glass.

For more information, call (734) 427-5150. St. Bernardine Men's Club also is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24.

Participants don't need a partner to play. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

Craft show tables

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women's craft show Saturday, Oct. 22.

The show will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

Crafters are needed for the annual Holiday craft show at Hawthorne Valley on Nov. 27. For information, call Sue or Paul at (734) 844-3128.

Crafters are still needed for the 19th annual Delta Kappa Gamma juried show on Saturday, Oct. 15. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township. Call Jan at (734) 844-1707 or e-mail to theways@comcast.net for more information.

Edison Elementary will have its Holiday Bazaar 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the school, 34505 Hunter at Wildwood, Westland. There will be 25 vendors, door prizes and bake sale. Admission is \$2. Children will not be allowed in the show area, however, there will be baby-sitting and crafts for available. Proceeds will benefit the Edison PTO.

Nominees sought

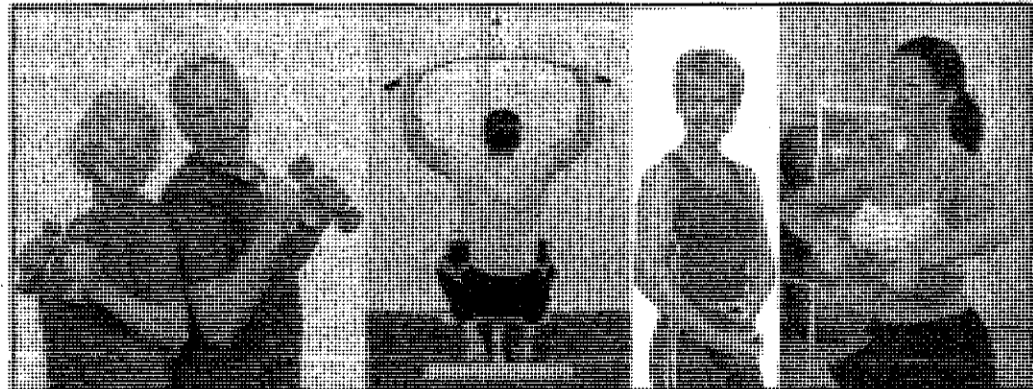
People can nominate someone for the YWCA of Western Wayne County's 2005 Women of Achievement Awards. The awards recognize outstanding women throughout western Wayne County in the categories of arts/communications, business/industry, government/law, professions, senior woman, volunteer service and young woman.

To nominate an outstanding woman you know, call the YWCA Women of Achievement Department at (313) 561-4110.

Nominees will be honored at the 14th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon Oct. 27 at the Dearborn Inn. The program begins at 11 a.m. with a silent auction, a new portion of the luncheon. The awards presentation begins at noon.

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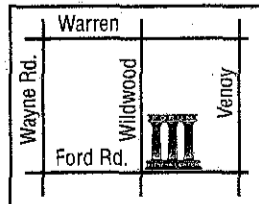
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Write a letter to the editor

Friday night fever

Hospital goes Disco! for annual fund-raiser

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER



Men, break out your wide lapels and Qiana knit shirts. Ladies, grab your boogie shoes and get ready to poof your hair.

Disco is back ... at least for one night when the Garden City Hospital Foundation and National City present Disco!, the 11th annual installment of the hospital's fall fund-raiser.

Friday night fever will invade Laurel Manor in Livonia, starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. There will be food stations and chocolate fountains for dessert, live entertainment by the band Chateau and a disc jockey, a silent auction and raffle of themed baskets prepared by hospital employees.

"It's a terrific event," foundation President Daniel Moore said. "It's the big fund-raiser for the foundation and can raise \$50,000-\$60,000."

Each year, proceeds are earmarked for hospital improvements, and this year the money will go to renovate the hospital's educational facility, making its auditorium and classrooms state of the art.

"A lot of people don't realize that Garden City Hospital is a teaching hospital," Moore said. "We have interns, residents and fellows. We have classes in the auditorium and classrooms everyday."

The party also will give the hospital a setting to honor John Santeiu Jr., his wife and family for their commitment to the community.

Santeiu is a member of the hospital's board of directors and has served on the development committee for many years. He also has been a member of the foundation board for two years.

"They are dedicated community leaders, stellar individuals who are passionate about their commitment to their community and loyalty to Garden City Hospital," Moore said.

National City has signed on as the title sponsor of the event, and organizers are hoping to attract other corporate involvement. Sponsorship opportunities range from the \$10,000 corporate sponsorship to \$5,000 event support underwriter.

There's also underwriting opportunities ranging from the decorations and publicity to the graphics and invitations

and award recognition.

Ads also are being sold for the program, including \$35 congratulatory ads saluting the Santeius. The deadline for placing ads is Friday, Oct. 7. Spots can be reserved by calling Anna Wambaugh at (734) 459-4331.

According to Moore, financial support for the event is needed by the hospital. The state's tough financial times have cut into donations and so has the devastation cause by hurricanes Katrina and Rita along the Gulf Coast.

"Sponsorship is very important in helping underwrite the cost of the event," Moore said. "Because of these rather challenging times, we didn't raise the admission price. We held it at \$75 a ticket, and over \$40 of it goes to the party."

The silent auction, conducted by Fundraising Services & Travel Inc., will feature jewelry, trips, sports memorabilia and other items donated by the community.

A popular feature is the themed baskets that raise up to \$25,000. The baskets are cre-

ated by employees in the hospital's different departments.

"The maintenance department's basket last year was a do-it-yourselfer's dream come true with every state-of-the-art tool you could think of," Moore said. "It was 'Two Men and a Truck' big."

Tickets cost \$10 each with \$100 ticket books available. Employees who can't attend the event will have a chance to preview the baskets and buy tickets prior to the event, Moore said.

Organizers are hoping to attract more than 600 party goers. Last year, the goal was 500 and the final count was 598, Moore said.

"It's been growing every year and we want it to continue to grow," he said. "This is a big event for the hospital. We're facing a challenge, but we're confident."

Tickets for the Garden City Hospital Foundation and National City Disco! cost \$75 each and are available by calling (734) 458-4331. The deadline for ordering is Oct. 18.

Westland man gets prison term for indecent exposure

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who repeatedly drove by teenage girls and exposed himself has started serving a two-year prison term.

Christopher Michael Hardy, 20, was recently sentenced in Wayne County Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty to three counts of indecent exposure in Westland.

Hardy has returned to jail after serving a 30-day sentence earlier this year for exposing himself during incidents in Westland and Garden City, authorities said.

The latest indecent exposure charges carry a one-year jail term, but state law allowed for a longer sentence for Hardy because he was charged as a sexual delinquent.

Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes said he supports a law that allows for enhanced sentencing provisions.

"I think the enhanced sentencing is good for people who are recidivists and who have displayed that they cannot be rehabilitated," Pfannes said. "These enhanced sentencing provisions give judges a mechanism to help protect the citizens of our community."

Before his case was resolved, Hardy was originally jailed in lieu of a \$1 million cash bond set by Westland 18th District Judge Gail McKnight.

Hardy's plea in circuit court stemmed from three incidents in February in which he exposed himself to teenage girls.

The crimes occurred near the Farmer Jack store at Merriman and Cherry Hill, outside of Michael's arts and crafts store near Warren and Wayne, and near Mervyns on Warren east of Central City Parkway.

Hardy was arrested near Mervyns after the girls notified a security officer who, in turn, called Westland police.

"He was still in the parking lot when the police officers arrived," police Sgt. Debra Mathews said at the time.

Hardy's two-year sentence was accompanied by a series of court orders:

- He must be treated for his problem.
- He will be a registered sex offender.
- When released, he has to stay away from bars that provide sexual entertainment.
- He can't leave Michigan.
- He can't use alcohol or have any drugs in his possession.
- When released, he will have to report monthly to probation officials and notify authorities of any address change.
- He will have to pay certain costs involved in prosecuting his case.

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

Beard named to 2 NACo committees

Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard, D-12th District, has been appointed to two steering committees of the National Association of Counties (NACo) following the organization's recent annual conference.

Beard received he appointments from incoming NACo President Bill Hansell, a county commissioner from Umatilla County in Oregon.

Beard was appointed to

NACo's Labor and Employment Steering Committee and to the Large Urban County Steering Committee. In addition, she will chair a labor sub-committee of the Labor and Employment Steering Committee.

She previously chaired the steering committee for three years, the maximum allowed under NACo's by-laws.

"I am very honored by these appointments, and believe they

will help me better serve the constituents of my district and the citizens of Wayne County," said Commissioner Beard, who represents the communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is a full-service organization that provides legislative, research, technical and public affairs assistance to county governments.

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Webster students learn inside, out

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Students at Livonia's Webster Elementary School can take in new learning opportunities outdoors. The school has recently been recognized by The National Wildlife Foundation for having an official schoolyard habitat. Such habitats are essentially described as living classrooms which offer learning experiences in a variety of subjects. According to Christine Fankell, who teaches a third and fourth grade split class at the school, staff and students have been working to create the habitat for about 4 years. "Our pursuit of this certification began when a child in my classroom brought pictures of her backyard to school to share," Fankell recalled. "She explained that her backyard

was a habitat certified by the NWF. I had been trying to decide on a direction to go with (for) the courtyard garden space. People were always approaching me with plant donations and I felt like we needed a vision. "The NWF's Schoolyard Habitat program became that vision." The NWF requires that such habitats provide shelter, water, food, and a place for native animals to raise young. At Webster, the interior courtyard was transformed into a habitat by a Webster parent. Jurgita Tamutyte, also a landscape architect, drew from student's ideas and drawings of their "dream garden." She used those as inspiration when she designed the habitat. "Each year we've raised some funds and added plants to our garden," said Fankell. "The

final implementation took place last spring." According to the NWF, the site "is a model of ecological stewardship and common sense conservation for the community. In addition, it functions as a living classroom that offers students and educators enhanced learning experiences across all subject areas." The space is used during weekly Garden Club meetings. It is meant to provide inspiration for art and writing activities. And it offers a peaceful spot for reading, Fankell said. Students have used the garden to study native plants, observe nature and even to take photos. "We have also tapped the maple tree and boiled down the sap to make syrup," said Fankell.

Do magazines have a place in your child's reading patterns? Do you think of them as little treasures for facts, activities, stories, and fun? The library has 27 children's periodicals. An inquisitive toddler or independent reader can find magazines to be a wonderful source of enjoyment and information. *Baby Bug* introduces your little one to simple stories and child-centered themes. Story sequences are smooth and logical, revealing a child's ever-expanding world in a warm, reassuring style. Poems are brief, yet inspire the wonder of observation for child and parent alike. *Ladybug* has pictures, puzzles, songs, activities, and coloring fun for children two to six years old. *Spider* is tailored to meet the needs of new independent readers. Creative ideas are explored through a wealth of poems and stories. *Crickets* magazine brings fiction, fantasy, folk and adventure tales to children 9-14 years old. Your advancing student will find recipes, crossword puzzles, crafts and contests. A reliable and fact-based magazine, *Cobblestone* offers detailed articles, timelines, primary sources, maps and historical photographs. Supportive of history and social studies curriculum, enriching articles encourage learning and deeper understanding. Who would not be impressed by the exceptional photography of *National Geographic Kids*? Children can learn about world cultures, current events, and developments in technology. *Ranger Rick* explores the wonders of the animal kingdom with all the rich endeavors of the National Wildlife Federation. Both boys and girls will love the animal photos reflecting the mysteries of nature. Although only a few of our periodicals are highlighted

here, there are many more inspiring choices. Well-researched and well-written articles support a student's need to know and learn, making them a worthwhile literary tool. Visually beautiful, with book reviews, critical thinking exercises, puzzles, games, stories and fun, magazines are truly a treasure. Your library is pleased to make them available to you. October is Children's Magazine Month. What better time to help open your children's eyes to the world around them by taking home some of these wonderful magazines? The William P. Faust Library is open seven days a week and can be reached by calling 734-326-6123. **Sleepytime Storytime:** 7 p.m. Oct. 3. **Fifth-Sixth-Grade Book Club:** 7 p.m. Oct. 4. The title of this month's book is *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. **Ghost Hunter:** 7 p.m. Oct. 11. Interested in hauntings and ghost sounds? Join Tom Lundy of the Ghost Hunters of Southern Michigan (GHOSM), who will talk about all things paranormal, including ghostly pictures and spirit voices, and answer your questions. This program is free. **Preschool Fair:** 7-8 p.m. Nov. 7. Do you have a child about to enter preschool? Learn more about area preschools at our Preschool Fair. Several area preschools will have their representatives available to relay information and answer your questions. No registration required. Call the Children's Services Department at (734) 326-6123 for more information. **The William P. Faust Public Library** is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. Open seven days a week, call the library at (734) 326-6123 for more information.

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Cash available for Daisy artifacts

The Daisy Air Rifle antique roadshow arrives in Plymouth Saturday, Oct. 15, at Daisy Square. People with Daisy artifacts and memorabilia can get a free appraisal from antique experts and be able to sell items of value that can then be added to the already extensive collection at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The invitation is extended by Joseph Freed Homes, developer of the Daisy Square community in downtown Plymouth. The Daisy Antique Roadshow will be from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at the sales office located at 101 Union at Hamilton, east of Main in Plymouth. Joseph Freed Homes has set aside funds to purchase hidden

historical jewels brought to the event and then donate those treasures to the museum. People choosing to donate to the museum an item they bring to the event will receive a tax receipt based on the expert's evaluation. "We unearthed several historical treasures while developing Daisy Square, which is the site of the former Daisy Air Rifle Factory in Plymouth," said Kristine Gosselin, director sales land marketing in Michigan. "Our appreciation for the history of Plymouth and the impact of the Daisy Air Rifle Company in the community led us to join with the Historical Museum for what will be a very fun and worthy event." Joseph Freed Homes preserved the original facade of the Windmill Building that dates back to the 1800's. The

10-acre plus site includes 56 loft condos and 109 townhomes within walking distance of downtown Plymouth. The relics donated by Daisy Square or by residents will be added to the "Timeline of Plymouth History" exhibit that officially will be unveiled at the Plymouth Historical Museum Saturday, Oct. 22 for a special fund-raising event. (Call (734) 455-8940 for information.) "The people at Joseph Freed Homes have been very helpful to the museum from the time they first came to town," said Beth Stewart, executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum. "Daisy Square donated to us the factory floor which is now part of our exhibit area and gave us the fireplace from the Daisy board room and the wood paneling from the board room which we used to reface the museum entrance."

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EX-PRINCIPAL

FROM PAGE A1

relationship between the student and Sexton occurred before the change, Sexton was not subject to the new law.

The former student, whose name is being withheld due to Observer policy of not naming victims involved in sexual abuse cases, was not present in the courtroom when the jury read its verdict.

"There is truly one issue," said Sexton's attorney, Paul Clark, before closing arguments Wednesday. "Did sexual contact take place before she was 16? Clearly that is factually impossible."

Clark had offered evidence that Sexton had not purchased the truck in which the student said her principal first kissed her until the summer before her 16th birthday. Then following a timeline of the young woman's testimony, Clark placed sexual contact between the two at least two months after she had reached the age of consent.

The woman had claimed that the sexual contact began when she was 15.

The jury believed Clark. Clark had further argued that not only was the relationship consensual, but the student hadn't exhibited any signs of abuse. She was a good student, her grades remained very high, and she hadn't acted out in any way while or after the alleged abuse was occurring.

The student hadn't told anyone - no friends, no family members - of the relationship.

"They had made a pact to keep it all quiet," Clark said in the nearly empty courtroom just after the jury was escorted into a room to begin deliberations Wednesday.

Weingarden, who tried the case, had argued that the woman had no motive to lie

about the relationship. In fact, she never intended to tell anyone about it, and didn't - until her parents confronted her about it in January this year. The woman's parents, as well as the church and school community, became aware of the relationship between Sexton and the student in July 2004, when a still-anonymous person found e-mails between Sexton and the former student. But it wasn't until the young woman's mother said she was going to the police in January that all the details emerged.

Weingarden said the student, who is now a 20-year-old Schoolcraft College student, was raised in a very religious home and educated at a private religious school, and therefore couldn't bring herself to tell anyone what happened.

"The consequences for her were huge," Weingarden said. Weingarden said the prosecution still believes the sexual relationship occurred before the student turned 16.

"Our position is that she was 15. We've maintained that all along. We thought we proved that in court," she said. "We respect the verdict of the jury, however, even though we don't agree with it. The system works. We have the best system of justice in the world."

Sexton, who is married to a former student he met during his first year of teaching at Agape, didn't deny that he'd had an inappropriate relationship with the young woman.

"These things just didn't happen when she said they happened," Clark said.

Clark had argued that it would have been much easier for the woman to say to her devout family, once the e-mails between Sexton and her were discovered, that she was a child who had been abused, rather than an adult who consented to a sexual relationship with a married man.

'We respect the verdict of the jury, however, even though we don't agree with it. The system works. We have the best system of justice in the world.'

Lora Weingarden assistant prosecutor

"But the truth is that good people have sex. Bad people have sex. The point is that she was 16," Clark said. "(She) has testified that she has absolutely no responsibility in any of this," Clark said. "Garbage. She was an adult."

According to the testimony of Agape pastor Mark Moore, Sexton's contract was not renewed at the end of the 2003-04 school year, due to "unrelated domestic issues." It was while Sexton's office was being cleaned out that the e-mails were found, he said. Sexton had passed a polygraph test about six weeks before the trial began, according to Clark. He added that Sexton is currently unemployed, and will not likely ever gain employment around children.

"My experience that once the allegations are made the damage is done. Even when there's an acquittal, people will say the accused got off on a technicality," Clark said. "In this case the technicality was that he was telling the truth."

Agape Christian Academy is on Geddes Road, east of Canton Center. It is a non-denominational Christian K-12 school with about 350 students.

cmrshall@oe.homecomm.net (734) 459-2700

Acquitted Sexton issues statement

Westland resident Clark Sexton, who was acquitted by a jury in Wayne County Circuit Court Wednesday on charges of criminal sexual conduct, issued the following statement to the Observer.

A great deal of things have been said about me in the last 14 months - some true and some not. When I was taken into custody every local media venue reported their version of the story, with some making claims that even the young woman did not. Now that I have been exonerated the media is silent. I have not been provided an opportunity to speak until now and I welcome it.

I have never claimed to be innocent, that would imply that I did not do anything wrong. However, I knew that I did not do the things of which I was being accused. I proved this by passing a polygraph and it was confirmed months later by the not guilty verdict of the jury. Upon hearing that I passed the polygraph, even the prosecutor was days away from dismissing the trial, but for reasons I now understand the Lord allowed it to continue.

I chose not to testify in my defense not because of fear or cowardice, but because I knew that the facts spoke for themselves. If I were asked the question how does it feel to win I would reply, not one person involved in this situation won - everybody lost: My Lord, my wife, my family, my wife's family, my church, my friends, my schools, my students, the young woman and her family. I disgraced the name of Christ. I devastated my wonderful wife who has graciously forgiven me and the Lord has restored our marriage. I crushed my family and my wife's family. I disappointed my church. I hurt my friend and confidante, Pastor Mark Moore and sent shock waves through his church and our school. The 10-year friendships that I had nurtured at the school/church are destroyed. I hurt the girl's

family and have left a scar on their hearts. My actions were not accepted, condoned, anticipated, or excused by Agape. In fact, my actions were diametrically opposed to everything to which the academy stands. ACA did not fail - I did.

The influence and message that reverberated in the halls while I was there, I have nullified. That is the hardest part and the point that is the most important to me to broadcast. The things that I told my kids are true. The word of God is true! Its principles work! Don't throw out the message because the messenger failed. I used to tell my kids the only difference between a failure and a victory is that the successful person gets up one more time after falling. I fell, failed, and blew it, but I chose to learn from my mistakes and purpose not to repeat them.

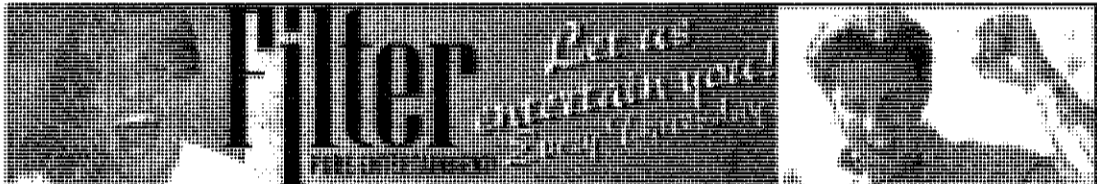
Now I have a fresh start. I begin a new life with my wife

and son. I have learned a great deal through this difficulty. I have learned to cherish my bride as the precious virtuous woman that she is. I have truly learned to trust the Lord for every provision and not just talk about it. I have learned to be more understanding of people and gracious to those needing a second chance. I want to thank my parents for their love, my sisters for standing beside me from day one, my in-laws for their support, all my brothers and sisters-in-law for their loyalty, my church for never leaving me, the friends that stand beside me, my lawyer for his care and hard work and my wife for her undying love.

What the road holds for me and where it turns, right now I know not. But I am sure of one thing - that I will NEVER be involved in such a situation ever again.



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St. Matthew's to send donated goods south

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Churches around Michigan are stepping up efforts to assist in hurricane relief.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia has been collecting donated items since early September. Last Tuesday and Wednesday, volunteers kept busy by loading those boxes onto a 53-foot

trailer headed for Louisiana.

The Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt spearheaded the donation drive soon after church members began discussing ways in which they could help. Eckhardt is the coordinator for disaster response for the United Methodist churches in the Detroit conference.

"I made phone calls to other churches and a plan developed to gather health kits," she said. "There is tremendous need for many kinds of supplies but health kits are less expensive - about \$10 in supplies - and more easily assembled. Health kits are given to evacuees at shelters."

The kits included a toothbrush, toothpaste, wash cloth, towel, bar soap, band aids and a comb. About 7,000 health kits will be transported to the Gulf area this week. In addition, there were boxes full of blankets, cleaning items, new undergarments, disposable

diapers, air mattresses and more.

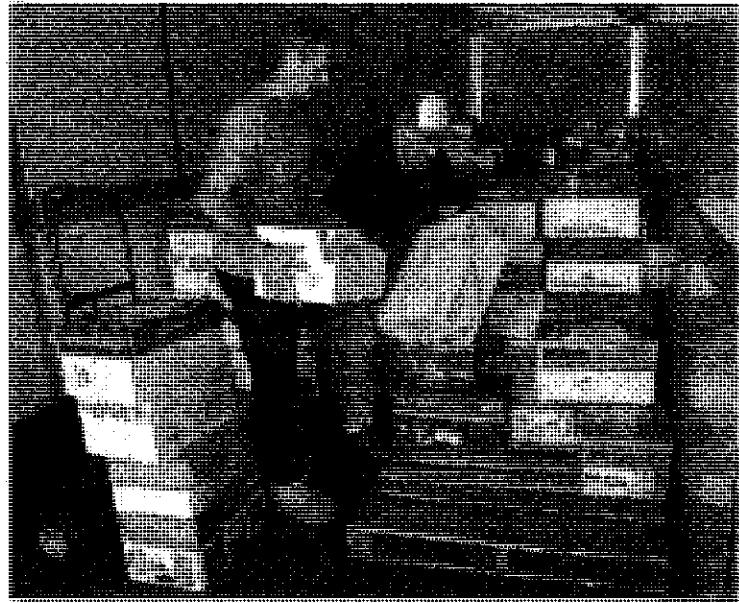
"I am grateful for the chance to work together as a community to help another community pick up the pieces after a tragedy and move on," said Eckhardt. "It helps to be able to do something concrete; and I am looking forward to going south next winter with a mission/work team to help with the rebuilding."

"I know that help will be needed for several years to come and I know that generosity and patience will be required."

Ike Adams said he heard about the donation effort at his church and decided to volunteer. "I'm just a member," he said. "I'm retired. I've got the time to do it."

And participation like that was common. Not only did individuals volunteer their time, but 200 United Methodist churches participated in the effort. Community groups like Boy Scout Troop 742 and the Livonia Rotary Club have assisted in putting together kits and in donating money.

"You can contribute money but this feels more personable," said Adams, a Kentucky native and Northville resident. "(This is) kind of hands-on."



Bill Marken and Bill Mars, both of Livonia, load the semi trailer with medical kits bound for the hurricane-ravaged south.

Westland resident and church member Dick Horie said St. Matthew's is known for its mission work and this is just another example. "The response has been really good," he said.

Bob Sly, a member of Dexter United Methodist Church, came out to Livonia Tuesday to hand over about 30 computer monitors which wouldn't fit on the truck his own church sent down south this week.

"These guys were nice enough to put them in their trailer," said Sly.

Margaret Northey, a Livonia resident, worked to produce

health kits Tuesday afternoon. She said the devastation in the areas affected by the recent hurricanes has been heart-rending. She's pleased to see people "rally around those in need."

"We've never gone through it here in Michigan," she said.

Churchill Transport donated the trailer, which is headed to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's distribution depot in Baldwin, L.A.

"We just knew there was a need," said Adams. "We try to help, do our little bit."

For more information, see www.UMCOR.org.



Dick Horie of Westland sorts and labels boxes filled with medical supplies. He's a volunteer and a member of Livonia's St. Matthew.

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Students show skills

Students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland had the opportunity to show Gov. Jennifer Granholm and state legislators their technological skills at the AT & T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase Sept. 28. Held at the at the State Capitol building in Lansing, the center was among 100 schools from throughout Michigan to participate.

Demonstrating how computers can be used in the classroom with robots were 12th-grade students Oriana Davis, Alex Scott, Benjamin Weier and Marissa Williams. They were chaperoned by Electronics instructor Zachary MacLean.

FOR THE RECORD

- 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.
- A**
Haf G. Aulie, M.D.
Aulie, 92, of Birmingham, died Sept. 28.
 - B**
Ajola J. Bell
Bell, 73, of Howell, died Sept. 23.
Rita M. Bosley
Bosley, 67, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 22.
Raymond G. Brockman
Brockman, 80, of Tecumseh, died Sept. 27.
 - C**
Marie L. Cripe
Cripe, 90, of Dexter, died Sept. 30.
Robert H. Currie
Currie, 82, of Farmington, died Sept. 25.
 - D**
Dennis M. Dahlke
Dahlke, 52, of Whitaker, died Sept. 13.
 - E**
Dennis Michael Ehrhart
Ehrhart, 59, of Garden City, died Sept. 24.
 - F**
Goldie M. Land Flynn
Flynn, 82, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 25.
Paul Fontana
Fontana, 81, of Livonia, died Sept. 27.
 - G**
Mary H. Golia
Golia, 91, of Madison Heights, died Sept. 19.
 - H**
Billie Colleen Harley
Harley, 78, died Sept. 29.
 - K**
Helen Keipp
Keipp, 86, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 25.
 - M**
Dorothea McBratney
McBratney, 86, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 26.
John R. Mullett
Mullett, 64, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 15.
 - N**
Marie Neyer
Neyer, 93, of Plymouth, died Sept. 25.
 - P**
Michael A. Pokriefka
Pokriefka, 79, of New Baltimore, died Sept. 25.
 - R**
John B. Randazzo
Randazzo, 82, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 15.
Priscilla S. Rasmussen
Rasmussen, 81, died Sept. 22.
 - S**
Jane D. Smeltzer
Smeltzer, 94, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 15.
 - T**
Brian T. Tingley
Tingley, 23, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 25.
Delores Mary Train
Train, 72, died Sept. 28.
 - U**
Stephan J. Turk
Turk, 87, of Northville, died Sept. 27.
 - V**
Irene E. Urkshus
Urkshus, 100, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 24.
 - W**
Lula A. Varga
Varga, 94, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 14.
 - Z**
Marjorie J. Werth
Werth, 82, of Rochester, died Sept. 22.
Alexander T. Zwick
Zwick, 83, of Rochester Hills, died Sept. 21.



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CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
Publish: September 4, 18, 25, October 2, 9, 23, 30, November 13 and 27, 2005

**City of Garden City
Close of Registration Notice
City General Election, Tuesday,
November 8, 2005**

Notice is hereby given that the last day of registration for the City General Election is Tuesday, **October 11, 2005**. Candidates for the following offices are to be voted upon:

Mayor
City Council

The office of the City Clerk, located in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, will be open for the registration of all qualified electors, not already registered, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk
Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan

Publish: October 2, 2005

We can't ignore concerns that keep us separated

Several weeks ago, I wrote a column about the controversy over the Wonderland Village development in Livonia.

Some people agreed with the column and called or e-mailed to say so. Others demanded that I retract what I wrote and accused me of stirring up the race issue in Livonia. Still others called with racial comments that confirmed that race is an issue for some people.

What bothers me most is that many readers are reacting to a column I didn't write.



Hugh Gallagher

I didn't write that Livonia was a "racist" community; I didn't write that race was the main issue in opposition to Wonderland Village; I didn't support the proposed development, only the need for commercial development in that area.

The Aug. 21 column followed a news story by reporter Dan West about comments made at public meetings held by developer Robert Schostak to present plans for the development at Plymouth Road and Middlebelt. The plan calls for three big box stores — a Wal-Mart, a Target and another store not yet signed — and several small retail stores in a "village setting" that would front on Plymouth Road. Most of the controversy has centered around the plan for a super Wal-Mart that would replace its store on Middlebelt and I-96.

West's story accurately reported comments made at the meetings and reaction to those comments by supporters and opponents of the project.

A letter writer objected to West's story and wondered why we would report these comments in the paper. The answer to that is simple — we're a newspaper, this was a public meeting, this is what happened.

The column acknowledged that for "many" race did seem to be an issue and that when that does become a focus for complaints it overshadows other, more legitimate concerns being made by opponents of the project. The column also noted that Livonia had been unfairly labeled "the whitest" city in America because of a statistical blip that had nothing to say about the character of the people in the city. It concluded with Mayor Jack Engebretson's passionate defense of his city and the people who live in the city.

I would also defend the character of this city and its residents. I have worked in Livonia for almost a quarter of a century. I have relatives who live in the city and others who have lived in the city. I know many people who live here. This is a well-run, attrac-

tive suburban community that offers its residents a high quality of life.

In a meeting between Wal-Mart opponents (as Wal-Mart is the central concern) and *Observer* editors, there was a real effort to distance their views with those made at the public meeting or the perception of some of those views. They had a detailed presentation of concerns about traffic, size of the building, proximity to the residential neighborhood and a water retention pond.

Jump ahead several weeks. A daily newspaper ran a story Sept. 20 that dragged up the comments made weeks prior to their story. That story drew a sharp comment from Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick (who is in a desperate re-election campaign) and a flood of talk radio comment; and it also drew out the television stations in their react mode to that night's planning commission meeting.

Meanwhile, the *Observer* covered the current story, which was the meeting of the planning commission Sept. 20 at which virtually no racial comments were made and comments all centered around concerns about the proposed project. We had previously run detailed stories on the Schostak plan and the concerns raised about the plan.

The original column concluded that making race an issue "inadvertently cast a sheen of nobility on Wal-Mart."

It is not enough to say a few "hotheads" made racial statements at a public meeting, because some people like to spout off whenever a microphone is available, as one daily columnist wrote recently, or that it's better to just ignore it.

The issues raised in these last few weeks are not unique to Livonia.

We need instead to understand what people are talking about when they say, "I'm not a racist, but ..." as many callers said to me over the last few weeks. They would then repeat a history I knew well from personal and family experience, and their despair and apprehension was palpable. Others spewed ugly racial epithets and advised me to "wise up."

The hearings over the future of the Wonderland Village proposal were not the time or place to delve into our complex racial problems.

But neither can we continue to ignore what is obviously a concern for many people — that the problems of the city, the problems some of them left behind, will follow them to the suburbs.

Pretending these concerns don't exist isn't an option.

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

Vicious cycle of prejudice can be broken with effort

Virtually anyone who is reading this column will readily admit they live in the greatest country in the world, at a time when natural and social forces have converged to provide a unique opportunity in time and circumstance for any one person to achieve the wildest dreams of mankind — or to plummet to the depths of human despair.

The events of the last century have witnessed both the highest triumphs of the human spirit, as well as the lowest depths of which man is possible.

Certainly, many factors have shaped the course of history, both good and bad. Politics, religion, tribalism, sexism, patriotism, economics and geography have all played a role in delivering us to where we sit today, in 21st century America. But who could argue that the one defining factor of where we've been and where we're headed — individually and collectively — is race. And just like thunder comes with lightning, just as heat is borne from fire, with the recognition of race comes prejudice.

Generations of people have wrestled with the inescapable reality of race. More than a few prominent scientists have determined that all modern humans were germinated in Africa and spread through evolution to populate the far corners of the Earth. Despite overwhelming evidence that we share far more in common than that which divides us, mankind continues to discriminate, oppress, offend, segregate and even kill over the color of a person's skin.

Not a month goes by — nay, a week — when the ugly specter of race and prejudice doesn't rear its disgusting double-headed presence. If it's not Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, it's nameless citizens in Livonia or Southfield who, unwittingly or not, keep the issue of black and white in front of us — like the sun, rising and setting with a regularity that breeds not only familiarity, but a certain *fait accompli*.

Race and prejudice is the elephant sitting in the corner that no one wants to acknowledge, let alone confront. But if I've learned nothing else in my limited time on this planet, it's that race is a fact of nature and prejudice is a behavior taught as surely as survival itself. Not a single person has any control over the color of their skin, yet every person spawned since Adam and Eve has had some instruction in the art of prejudice.

As painful as it is to admit, I've been schooled relentlessly in the latter. At the risk of sounding boastful, I've made it one of my life's goals to instill in my children the former.

Just like many of you, I am only a couple of generations "off the boat." I have grandparents who were born elsewhere, people who came to these shores in search of a better life. I do not, however, have in my lineage ancestors who were kidnapped, bought, sold or otherwise arrived here entirely of someone else's action.

Given a choice of how to begin describing oneself, who among us could resist the urge to use color as the No. 1 priority? There is a reason every personal ad starts with the acronym "SWF" or "DBM" or any other coded-signal that identifies us as "white" or "black." The government asks us to label ourselves every 10 years in the census; pop charts separate us into "R&B" or "rap" or "country" audiences. When recorded music was in its infancy, any record aimed at other than white consumers was labeled "race" music.

There was a time in this country — and not that long ago, either — when there were two separate sets of laws, one governing white people and another for blacks. Of course, most of those laws were designed to keep people of color in their place. Although I don't consider myself old (my children, undoubtedly, would beg to differ), in my lifetime it was virtually impossible for a person with dark skin to vote in large parts of the U.S.

But despite bigoted claims to the contrary, no one is born with an inbred prejudice. When we are infants just removed from the womb, our minds are a blank slate, an unpainted canvas, an empty vessel, waiting and eager to be filled with whatever knowledge we can accumulate from our experiences. All too often, those entrusted to nurture us and guide us instead fill our hearts and minds with false ideas and bogus concepts of prejudice.

I've been around the block enough times to know that this type of thinking is just plain wrong — and hurtful. It's awful tough to go through life with that much resentment bubbling under the surface, and I decided long ago to try to end the vicious cycle with my children. Two recent incidents indicated that it's not only possible, but that it's working.

At a recent soccer tournament, with hundreds of players milling about the various fields, my 10-year-old daughter suddenly turned to my wife and I and, pointing to a team gathered a few yards away, exclaimed, "That's what I was talking about! She's got the shoulder straps I want." Which girl, we asked. "The one in the red jersey." They're all wearing red jerseys. "The one with the black hair." Um, a whole bunch of them have black hair. "The girl wearing number 10," she said, exasperated. It never struck her that No. 10 was the only black girl in the group. Most anybody else I know would have said that right off the bat.

A few years back, my son came home from school and announced that a classmate had been sent to the principal's office. What was the reason, my wife and I asked. "He called K.J. (the only black kid in his room) a name." Uh, oh, I thought to myself. Here it comes. What name did the boy use? The answer: "I think he called him a 'nigger'."

It was then that I allowed myself a small smile on the inside. *He doesn't even know the word, I thought to myself. He's never heard anyone use it.*

And if I have my way, he never will.

Bill Emerick is a copy editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. You can contact him at bemerick@oe.homecomm.net.

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Experts gather to discuss cyber extortion

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

In the old days, extorting protection money from a business was performed by a large man threatening to start a suspicious fire in a stockroom. Today, it's likely to be perpetrated by someone in their basement threatening to turn a company's computer system into an expensive paperweight.

Cyber extortion and other computer security issues will be discussed at the Fourth Annual IT Security Summit Oct. 6 at the Sheraton Hotel, 2111 Haggerty Road, in Novi. The daylong event will feature discussions of financial security, cyberterrorism, homeland security and how best to protect against the various predators attempting to hitch rides on the Information Superhighway.

Event Host IT-Harvest General Manager Karen Ethier said the race to stay ahead of the game is never-ending.

"It changes daily," she said. "Once a company gets one problem licked the bad guys change tactics."

More than a trade show, the seminar will have panel discussions and Q and A sessions along with keynote speakers

Author speaks at WSU series

As part of the newly created Conversations with Authors series, the Wayne State University Library System will bring Charles Johnson, African-American novelist, short story writer, essayist and cartoonist, to the Community Room in the David Adamany Undergraduate Library on the campus of Wayne State University 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3.

Johnson will lead a panel of campus and community speakers to discuss other authors' as well as his own literary works. He will sign books at the end of the program.

"We are thrilled to host this world-renowned author. Charles Johnson will lead a riveting panel discussion affording a rare opportunity for the Wayne State and Detroit communities," said Sandra Yee, dean of the Wayne State University Library System.

Johnson first came to distinction in the 1960s as a political cartoonist, a time when he was also involved in radical politics. In 1970, he published a collection of cartoons, which led to a PBS television series about cartooning. Johnson's first novel, "Faith and the Good Thing" was published in 1974.

In 1990, he was awarded the National Book Award for "Middle Passage." Johnson is currently the Pollock Professor in Humanities at the University of Washington. He received the MacArthur Fellowship in 1998, and also a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2003, he published "Turning the Wheel," a collection of essays about his experiences as an African-American Buddhist.

The Wayne State University Library System consists of the universities' five libraries: The David Adamany Undergraduate Library, the Purdy/Kresge Library, the Shiffman Medical Library, the Arthur Neef Law Library and the Science and Engineering Library, the Library and Information Science Program and the Office for Teaching and Learning.

Wayne State University is a premier institution offering more than 350 academic programs through 11 schools and colleges to more than 34,000 students in metropolitan Detroit.

involved in real life information security.

Vice-President of Threat Research for Webroot Software Richard Stiennon said cyber crime is fairly new but the bad guys are making up for lost time. There's the better known offense of identity theft, less well-known is cyber extortion.

"Some criminals are watching financial transaction sites (like Ebay and Amazon) and they threaten to shut them

down unless they get paid," Stiennon said.

It's a version of the classic protection racket — pay up or something bad will happen to you. If the extortionists aren't paid, the company's servers are subjected to a massive attack, spyware bots installed on thousands of computers send packets of information and the computers shut down like a vacuum cleaner clogged with pet hair. The servers shut

down and no one can use the site.

He said consumers can protect themselves by using antivirus software, firewalls and spyware blockers. Companies have to spend more on technology.

"You've got to buy lots of bandwidth and multiple servers. If you're a big target you need to purchase specialized routers that can detect and deflect these attacks,"

Stiennon said. "This is expensive, often more than the extortion. But even if the extortionist stays bought, that's just one kid in Romania."

The costs are rising all the time. He said extortion via the Internet is a \$2.4 billion a year business for spyware writers and more than \$200 million a year in extortion payments get made. But the risks and damages aren't only in dollars.

"For a big company like

General Motors or a bank," he said, "if people can't use their sites there's more damage to their reputations than anything else."

The event will feature exhibitions by ArcSight, iPolicy, Webroot Software, Reflex Security, Teros, Fortinet, BigFix, Whale Communications, Websense and Greenborder. Registration for the event is \$55 in advance, \$75 at the door. There is a continental breakfast, lunch and wine and cheese afterward. For more information, call (248) 709-4774.



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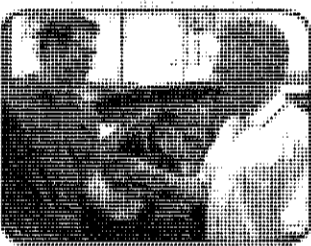
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