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TASTE, PAGE B7

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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
November 3, 2005

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Candy bandit takes kids' treats at gunpoint

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Four Westland boys had a hair-raising Halloween scare when a teenager drove up, racked a handgun and robbed two of them of their candy.

The cruel trick had a sweet ending, though, when a local market and Westland police treated the boys to candy, potato chips and gift certificates to Toys 'R Us.

"I thought that was really nice and went beyond the call of duty to help these kids like that," said the father of an 11-year-old victim. "We're very grateful for the way they treated these boys."

Parents asked that identities be protected due to concern for the safety of the boys.

The incident happened shortly after 7 p.m. Monday near Hiveley and Shotka, in a residential neighborhood near

Merriman and Palmer roads, police Sgt. James Dexter said.

A candy bandit drove up, got out of his car with a handgun and seized candy from the 11-year-old boy and a 13-year-old friend - students at Marshall Middle School.

"He racked the firearm and told them he wanted their candy," Dexter said.

The boys described the driver as a black male, about 5-foot-9 and 18 years old with

braided hair. They said he drove a blue car that had neon lights along the running boards.

No shots were fired and no injuries reported, although the 11-year-old's father said his son was unusually quiet Halloween night and had a restless sleep.

"He's usually outgoing, but he was very quiet," the father said. "He had a rough time sleeping."

Dexter contacted Regal

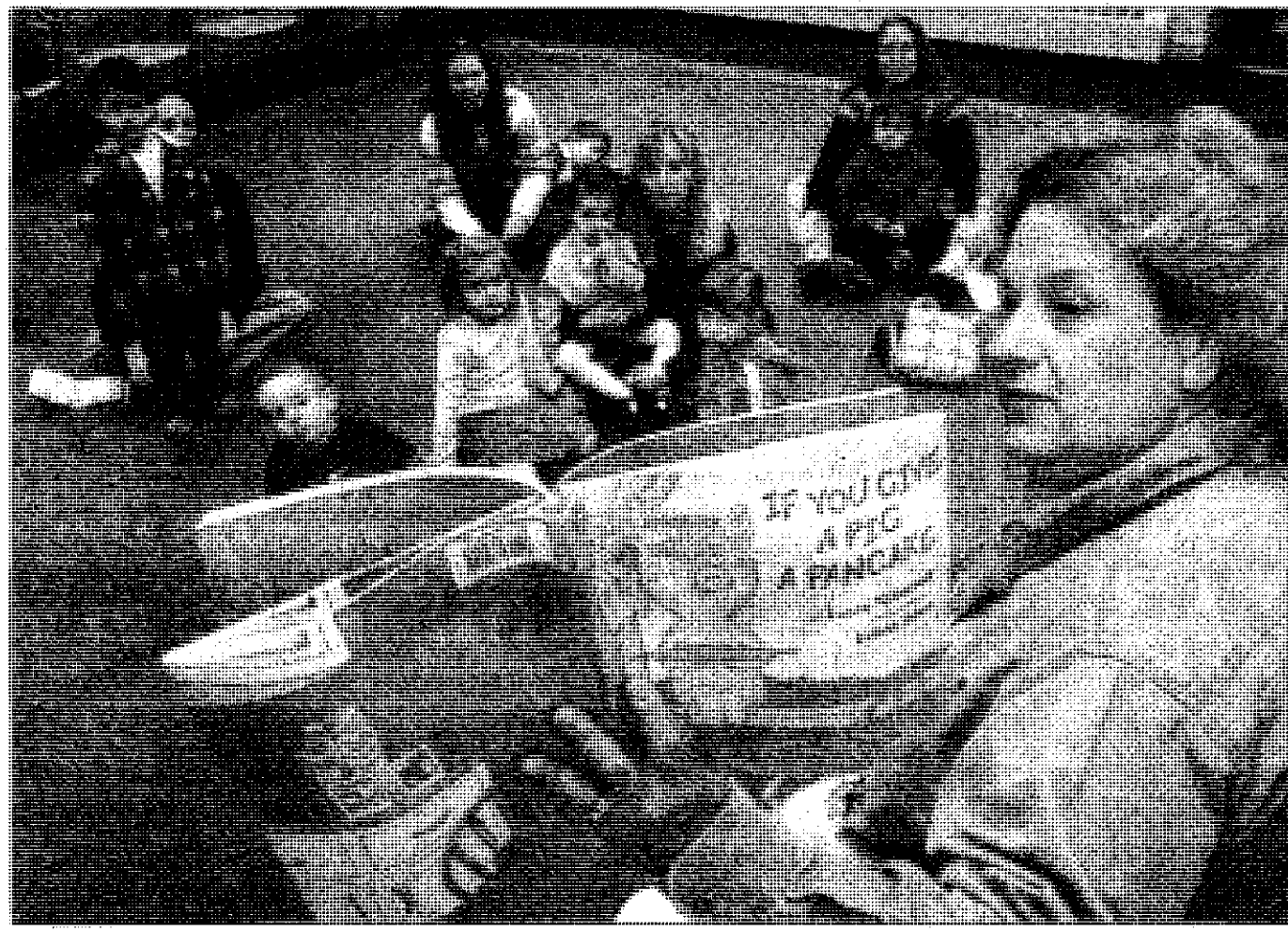
Market on Merriman Road north of Palmer, and owner Salwan Asmar donated bags of candy and potato chips to the boys.

"It was Halloween, and that guy shouldn't have done that to those boys," Asmar said. "I didn't want them to be at home without any Halloween candy. I felt sad for them. I love kids."

The boys each received a \$50 gift certificate to Toys 'R

Us, courtesy of the Westland Police Officers Association and the Westland Lieutenants and Sergeants Association. Asmar kicked in an additional \$10 certificate for each for the boys. Meanwhile, police are urging anyone with information about the incident to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

dclem@oe.hometownlife.com (734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland library children's associate Cheryl Chuck reads 'If You Give a Pig a Pancake' to the toddlers during the Wednesday morning storytime.

Storytime brings books to young kids

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Becky Alcalá of Garden City brought her son to the Westland library Tuesday morning for some reading activities. The session got an enthusiastic response from Dominic, age 2½.

"I wanted to get him involved in reading since it's important," said Alcalá, who also has an 8-month-old son. "He loved it."

She reads to Dominic daily.

Getting families into the reading habit early is the goal of Toddler Tales and Preschool Storytime at the William P. Faust Public Library. Sessions meet 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays

PLEASE SEE STORYTIME, A4



Brooke Derwich, 19 months, has a smile for her mother, Katie, during the storytime.

TIPS ON READING TO CHILDREN

Here are a few reading tips offered by the American Library Association:

- Begin when your child is born and spend time reading every day.
- Choose books with colorful pictures and simple words - or no words at all.
- Read with expression - or just tell the story in your own words.
- Hold the book so your child can see the pictures clearly.
- Encourage your toddler to point out objects, repeat words, and talk about the story.
- Reread your child's favorite books over and over again.
- Read or tell stories in the language you are most comfortable with. It doesn't have to be English.
- Help your child develop phonemic awareness - the understanding that words are made up of smaller sounds - by playing games with the sounds of words and repeating rhymes.
- Tell stories about your family and your culture.
- Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters.

Informant helps police nab suspect in old murder case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

For 11 years, Westland police wondered who murdered known drug dealer Billy Ford and dumped his body on county-owned property near Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road.

Now, they believe they've found his killer.

Ford, a 33-year-old Inkster man, died from a shotgun blast to his left chest. His body was found late Dec. 14, 1994, by a group of people walking on the old Eloise property, which once housed psychiatric patients and the poor.

Finally, an informant who says he knows what happened that long-ago winter day has led police to murder suspect Boyisie Walker, 46, of Battle Creek and formerly of Inkster. Walker faces a hearing today in Westland District Court that will determine whether he

should stand trial for first-degree murder and felony firearms charges. If convicted, he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Walker's arrest came Oct. 25 after a 25-year-old informant, facing a six-year prison sentence on drug charges, wrote a letter to Westland police that implicated the suspect.

The informant, age 14 when Ford was killed, told police that he remained silent for nearly 11 years because Walker threatened to kill him if he talked.

"Our informant told us that he's no longer afraid of Boyisie Walker," Westland police Sgt. James Dexter said Tuesday.

What follows is the informant's account of what happened on the day Ford was shot to death, according to Dexter and police Lt. James Ridener.

PLEASE SEE MURDER A5

Kindness of strangers buoys family's spirits

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

As 29-year-old Duane Suess of Westland battles a form of cancer rare for his age, he and his family are heartened by the kindness of strangers.

Duane and his wife, Stacy, have received more than \$3,000 by mail and more than 100 encouraging cards and letters since an Oct. 16 article in the *Observer* detailed their troubles.

"We want to say 'thank you' from the bottom of our hearts," Stacy, 25, said Monday. "When I'm sad, I look at all the cards and letters from people we don't even know. I just keep reading them over and over. Some of

these letters really touched me."

Duane has battled head and neck cancer for two years. A self-employed carpet installer, he had to quit work in August because he became too sick, too tired.

The situation for the young couple and their children - Kyler, 3, and Kayla, 8 - has declined as their income dropped while bills continued piling up.

PLEASE SEE KINDNESS, A5

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Volume 41
Number 46



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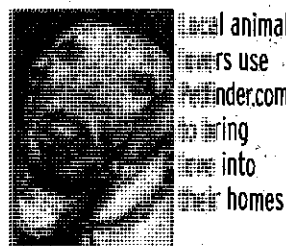
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Coming Sunday in *Observer Life*



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Elementary Teacher of Year: Educating is 'monumental job'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Victoria Kurkowski heard the news on Field Day, last spring. Expecting a staff meeting, a casual jeans-clad second-grade teacher instead earned praise as the district's next Elementary Teacher of the Year.

"I didn't believe it," she said. "I turned around and there was my husband."

Kurkowski said she was "totally shocked" to hear the news. A Livonia resident, she has taught primarily at Washington Elementary School during the course of her career with Livonia Public Schools. Kurkowski considers teaching to be "a monumental job, if you want to stay on top of things."

She works long hours and often brings work home. Of



Kurkowski

teaching, she said: "You live it. You breathe it. You eat it."

Kurkowski began teaching in a small town near her Maine home. When her grandmother in Michigan

became ill, she moved to the state to help care for her.

The year was 1979 and it soon became evident to Kurkowski it was the first time since she was 5 years old that she didn't return to school in the fall. It wouldn't take long for her to return to a classroom.

Kurkowski taught briefly at a Catholic school in Detroit, then began helping out at her son's school, Buchanan Elementary. She volunteered with the Readiness Program and later became a paraprofes-

sional in one of the school's center programs.

From there she took on a part-time teaching position at Washington Elementary - the school she's come to call home.

"I wanted to see why kids in third, fourth, fifth, sixth grade could read words but the comprehension was not there," Kurkowski said.

BIG CLASSROOM CHANGES

After nearly 10 years of teaching upper elementary classes, Kurkowski returned to the second grade to find the curriculum had changed completely. Not even handwriting was taught in the same way, she recalled.

In 1999 she obtained her master's degree in literacy from Western Michigan University.

Kurkowski took that interest and incorporated it into more

than just teaching. She has been heavily involved in the district's Literacy Initiative. As a "literacy leader" she is working to incorporate an updated district curriculum, the Reading and Writing Workshop.

Charlotte Worthen, former Washington principal, said Kurkowski is a teacher who's always willing to go the "extra mile."

"Mrs. Kurkowski spends numerous hours to ensure her students receive a quality education," said Worthen, director of instruction for LPS. "She is dedicated to her professional growth as well as supports the professional development of other teachers in the district."

"She embraced the district's literacy initiative as a literacy leader at Washington School and in the district."

SHARING STRATEGIES

Kurkowski opened her classroom to teachers who wanted to see the new teaching strategies in action. She visited other classrooms to answer questions and provide assistance. And her dedication to education only continues.

"My goal is to learn more about the upper elementary model of Readers and Writers Workshop," Kurkowski said.

She said she's seen improvement in students since the literacy program was put in place. Upper elementary students are gaining reading strategies they need.

"I think it's making a huge difference," she said. "I hope they see it at the middle school and high school level."

Kurkowski said her philosophy in teaching includes reaching students at the level where they are and "taking them as

far as they can go."

For this reason, and more, Worthen calls her "an exceptional teacher, true professional and certainly deserving of this honor."

Kurkowski said she enjoys teaching especially because it is different each day. She encounters different students each year, who have different needs.

"I don't keep lesson plans from the year before," she said. "I know it's going to be a whole new group of kids. It's a new year."

The rewards of her work include everything from daily hugs to visits by former students years later.

"You know you've made a difference in a child's life," Kurkowski said. "And you see how they've made a difference in yours."

scasola@oa.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2054

District's big lease falling short

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

When Livonia Public School officials leased out Dickinson Center to a broadcast arts school last summer, the programs and staff housed there were packed up and relocated in a hurry.

Now, the district is taking a second look at the lease, and bringing a few programs back to the building on Newburgh Road north of Six Mile.

"Anybody who has been by Dickinson Center knows the lessee has not had the opportunity to start up the educational program they outlined," said Randy Liepa, superintendent. "We have taken a look at the existing lease. We're still hopeful we'll have a good, long-term relationship with the lessee."

The lessee in question is the Academy of Broadcast Arts, a post-graduate program currently based in Detroit. Owners have been occupying one small area, Liepa said, and have paid for that space - though the total amounts to less than \$1,000 so far.

Last June, the Livonia Board of Education approved a five-

year building lease and granted the majority of space, 102,000 square feet, to owners of the school, who intended to offer classes beginning in September.

Because the school has not opened, the district is re-working its lease and taking back a few of the rooms. The original financial terms, expected to bring in \$1 million of revenue each year, will not change.

Liepa said two rooms have already been recouped for the English as a Second Language program and the Regional Educational Media Center, programs which were not well-received by a group of parents whose children attend Johnson Elementary School.

"Because (the lessees) were not able to start up the program right away, it gave us an opportunity to address ongoing concerns we heard from parents at the school," Liepa said.

He said the district will continue to charge the lessee for the amount of space that is being used, through the end of November. A new lease is being drawn, and Liepa said, some additional space may also be made available for lease to St. Mary Mercy Hospital, which

uses a portion of the building for administrative offices. The new lease would take effect Dec. 1.

"We think this will work out for everybody," Liepa said.

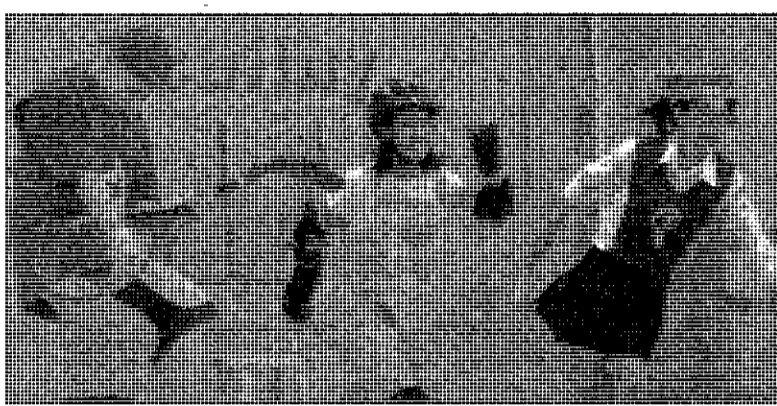
On Monday, he told the school board he was "disappointed" the district will miss out on a few months rent, but he hopes the lessee will come through in the long run.

Lisa Levesque, director of finance, is handling the changes. She said the REMC and ESL programs will not return to their original rooms within Dickinson, but will be located near an entrance in the building. She said it will be less disruptive to the other programs. And the new location provides easier access from the parking lot, Levesque said.

The ESL program has already moved. The REMC room is scheduled to move on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Liepa said Signature Associates, a reputable, professional realty firm, initially brought the lessee to the district. "Hopefully things will work out," he said.

This issue will come formally before the board next month.



The cast of "Healthy Me!" - Patrick Wears as Cal, Theresa Wegner as Bizabelle, and Sara Felarca as The Thinkster - rock out with their message to Hayes Elementary students.

Students get active, learn healthy habits

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

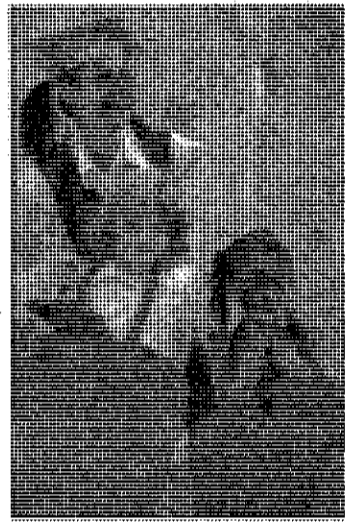
Forming healthy habits was a hot topic last week in two Livonia Public Schools.

On Friday, Oct. 21, Johnson and Hayes elementary schools in Westland hosted a program titled *Healthy Me!* to promote healthy eating and exercise habits among children.

Healthy ME! introduced local children to three colorful characters: Bizabelle Fidget (Theresa Wegner), The Thinkster (Sara Felarca) and Cal S. Thennix (Patrick Wears). They were aided in their song-and-dance routines by Max McMicrophone, who handled the music.

"I think it's wonderful," said Shayna Gruenewald, a teacher at Hayes Elementary School in Westland. "I knew they were coming (to our school), but I didn't know how interactive it would be."

Each school was treated to two shows - one meant for children in kindergarten through second grade, and another for students in grades 3-6. Audience members were encouraged to sing, shout, wiggle and dance throughout the 30-minute



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Thinkster, Sara Felarca, teaches first-grader Kacie Ziolkowski, and kindergartner Anija Hall learn about healthy food choices.

performance.

Kara Dawkins, a Hayes first grader, said she learned about "being healthy." She couldn't pinpoint her favorite part of the performance, but instead said she liked "the whole thing."

Healthy ME! was created by Imagination Theatre Etc. and is funded through a Blue Care Network grant. The program was presented free

to the local schools. Hayes Principal Linda Minsterman said the two Westland schools were chosen because of their proximity to one another.

"It's a nice way for kids to end the MEAP," she added, referring to the state standardized tests which wrapped up last week.

One of the main goals of the show is to help combat childhood obesity by promoting a balanced diet, exercise, play time and study time. Minsterman said programs like this one provide a push for kids to be active and healthy.

"Childhood obesity is at epidemic proportions," said Douglas Woll, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer for Blue Care Network of Michigan. "This is a major public health problem. Today's obese children will likely develop serious future health problems such as diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease and stroke."

"Small lifestyle changes now can make a big difference later."

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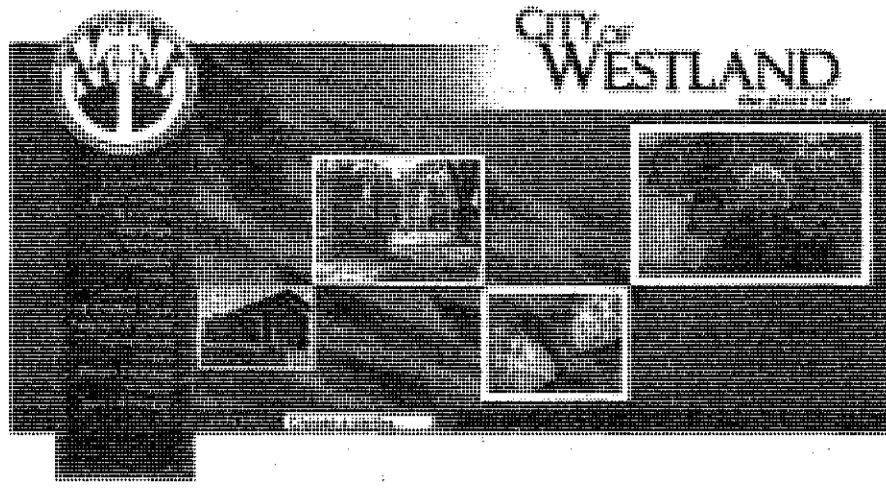
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Westland 'refreshes' municipal Web site

Residents who visit the City of Westland Web site will notice something different - a new contemporary look.

The city recently relaunched the site with a new layout and color scheme that reflects Westland's motto of "pride, progress and promise."

"Our web site offers a fresh, new look that is more accessible, and it continues to offer the same great services," said Westland Mayor Sandra A. Cicirelli. "That is our priority."

In addition to its new look, the Web site continues

to offer the dependable features that residents have grown to rely on including the Online Assessing Database that enables residents to view tax and permit information, the Recent Commercial and Residential Developments page which highlights the new homes, condos and businesses coming to Westland, and an online phone directory that lists the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of city departments.

One of the most popular features of the Web site is the Community Calendar of Events that highlights a

variety of upcoming events throughout the community.

The Web site also hosts the "A Word from the Mayor" page that continues to inform residents of recent events, such as community happenings, important mayoral updates and Town Hall meetings.

Residents may also access each city department's individual Web page via the "quick find" menu and WLND-TV's weekly viewing schedule all from the homepage.

To view the Web site, go to www.ci.westland.mi.us.

Police investigate back-to-back holdups

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Two bandits robbed Westland banks in separate incidents this week, and police don't believe they are connected.

A lone gunman robbed the Comerica branch on Wayne Road, south of Cherry Hill, shortly after 1:30 p.m. Monday, escaping with an undisclosed amount of cash, authorities confirmed.

About two miles away, another bandit robbed the Comerica branch on Wayne Road, south of Warren, at 2:18 p.m. Tuesday, also escaping with an undisclosed amount of money.

In the first robbery, a female bank teller told police that the bandit came in wearing a black winter hat and sunglasses, which she considered suspicious.

The robber waited his turn in line and then approached the teller. He opened a check book cover and revealed a note

stating that he was robbing the bank, according to a police report.

When the teller hesitated, the bandit lifted the bottom of his jacket and revealed a handgun that he had hidden in his waistband, the report said.

The employee told police she then complied with the man's orders, turning over cash and watching as the bandit fled the bank.

Witnesses told police that the robber ran northwest through the Comerica parking lot before they lost sight of him. One witness indicated that a green, newer-model pickup truck was seen leaving the bank in haste, but it wasn't clear whether it was linked to the robbery.

A police report described the perpetrator as a black male about 25 to 35 years old. He wore what was described as a "scruffy" green jacket, blue jeans, white gym shoes, a black winter hat and sunglasses.

The second robbery occurred when a lone bandit went into

the Comerica on Wayne Road, south of Warren, and passed a note to a teller indicating a holdup, police Sgt. Chris Benson said.

The note warned the teller to turn over money "and no one will get hurt," Benson said, although no gun was ever revealed.

The teller complied with his demands, and the robber then fled the bank.

This bandit was described as a medium-built white male, about 6 feet tall and in his early 20s. He had brown hair and a slight beard growth. He wore a dark baseball cap, a dark blue T-shirt and blue jeans.

"We believe that he fled over a fence and through some yards and that he made it to an unknown vehicle," Benson said.

Anyone who has information about either robbery is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

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Delve into ancestry at library event

Next month, the Livonia Civic Center Library and Western Wayne Genealogical Society will join forces to host *Finding Great Grandpa in Cyberspace*, a day-long genealogy event.

Professional genealogist and speaker Rhonda R. McClure

will cover an array of topics based on using the Internet for genealogical research.

Attendees will learn how to use query boards, newsgroups, mailing lists and lookup exchanges online. McClure will discuss the best ways to combine Internet techniques with

traditional forms of research. The event is set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road in Livonia.

Walk-in registration, if space permits, will be \$35 per person. Call Sue Cromwell at (248) 477-5846.

Committee to consider feedback

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Livonia Public Schools' demographics committee say they will meet again next week to review parts of their sweeping Legacy Initiative plan based on community feedback and pleas.

Reaction has been strong to the initial plan, which deals with falling revenues and enrollment by closing seven elementary buildings, merging most elementary school populations and adding separate schools for grades five-six.

Some 550 written responses were received by the committee during the first week or so.

On Tuesday night, several hundred more comments and questions were accepted - on little yellow cards - during a 3 1/2-hour question-and-answer session that packed about 375 parents into Frost Middle School's cafeteria. Presentations were also made that day at Franklin and Stevenson high schools.

Committee members Andrea Ohquist, Jack Bauman and Lisa Levesque, all school district administrators, led the Frost session. They said the group will re-examine boundary changes, shifting programs, length of bus trips, adding schools of choice preference and more before the proposal is made to the school board Nov. 14.

Some audience members, though, ignored the written question format and yelled out comments. "They called the Wal-Mart building a proposal," a man shouted.

"We brought to you," Ohquist replied, "the best thinking of the committee over the past year." The clear opportunities for feedback were set up to ensure the committee could look at revisions, she said.

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

'YOU'RE RUSHING US'

Several submitted questions asked why the board couldn't just close a few schools and sell property now. Others asked about delaying the whole process. "You're rushing us," one questioner commented.

Bauman replied that delaying or changing the plan would be the school board's decision. "We wanted to make a plan that would last for the foreseeable future," Bauman said, as a way to "not make the community go through this again."

Another questioner urged moving the Math/Science/Computer gifted program and special education program from Churchill to Franklin to help balance enrollments, rather than shifting boundaries. That will be considered, Levesque answered.

One question asked about how many board members were on the demographics committee. Levesque answered that there were three. A man quickly stood to show a document showing five of the seven school board members were on the committee. Levesque said she had misstated it; one attended no meetings and only three were there regularly.

Questioners had also focused on opening another upper elementary building to reduce the sizes of the schools. The issue will be reviewed by the committee, though the projected facility and staffing cost of \$860,000 - not including facility upgrades - would drastically cut into the yearly savings of \$1.5-\$2 million planned from the proposal.

COMMUNITY PLEAS

Grandfathering students is

allowed at the high schools, but one questioner, Carrie Bulbuk, wanted to know why children in her neighborhood - being switched from Grant to Garfield - couldn't have the same courtesy.

"We're being sacrificed for another school at our school," she said. If all those Grant students remain, Ohquist said, they wouldn't all fit, though she added, "We're certainly listening."

"Please do, please do," Bulbuk said.

Issues about LPS district schools in Westland - which police department serves them, which hospital serves them, how much taxes do they pay, etc. - were raised. One questioner asked why students are being "shipped" to another city's schools? Many in the room applauded.

"They're not another city's schools," Bauman replied, noting that parts of Westland have been part of Livonia schools for more than 30 years and they pay the same school taxes.

The anti-Westland feeling prompted Peggy Steffes to stand up. "We live in Westland and we're good parents," she announced.

Steffes and Jennifer Fideler, who both have children attending Nankin Mills, will see their attendance area (just south of Joy and east of Wayne) moved from Churchill to Franklin, even though there are only 41 students involved. "How does that affect the balance?" Fideler asked after the meeting. Committee members also agreed to re-examine that issue.

The demographic committee presents its plan to the board at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, at the board office, 15125 Farmington Road. Public comments will be accepted during a hearing at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, at one of the district high schools, yet to be determined.

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Caroselli re-elected to association board

The director of Operations at Westland Convalescent Center has been re-elected director-at-large for the Independent Owners for the Board of Directors of the Health Care Association of Michigan.

Judith Gilbert Caroselli was returned to the board during elections held at the association's annual convention in September. HCAM is a state-wide trade association representing nearly 400 nursing homes and assisted living communities.

Caroselli has served on the HCAM Board for 18 years and has been chair of the association's Political Action Committee since 1996. She was

the recipient of the association's prestigious President's Award an unprecedented two times in 1997 and 2000.

She also received the Distinguished Administrator Award from the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) in 2000 for attaining the highest professional standards in long-term care.

Caroselli also serves on the Nursing Advisory Board for Schoolcraft College and Arbor Hospice.

"Being elected by one's peers to make decisions that affect the lives of thousands of our state's elderly is an enormous responsibility," Caroselli said. "I



Caroselli

feel honored to be entrusted with the care and quality of life issues that every long-term care facility faces each and every day.

"This is a serious business that demands nothing but the best from all of us."

Westland Convalescent Center is a 230-bed nursing home located on Warren west of Wayne Road in Westland.

Career tech center students wins honors in state contests

The William D. Ford Career Technical Center is celebrating after racking up 50 state winners in three national student organizations this year.

The students competed at the regional and state levels and placed in more than 40 events.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is one of the four major student organizations to offer competition opportunities for Career Technical students in the state of Michigan.

The organization is for medical assisting and health occupations students.

HOSA students also participate in several community service activities. They sponsor a bowl-a-thon for St. Jude Hospital, a canned food drive, and an American Red Cross blood drive twice a year.

State HOSA winners from the Career Technical Center include Jessica Kuk, gold; Wiley Collins, silver; Trisha Donaldson, silver; Tanya Feilhauer, silver and bronze; Jo'Nelle Smith, bronze, and Justin Croft, Roenisha Gale and Evetta Johnson, finalists.

SkillsUSA is a student organization which promotes fair play, dignity of work and high moral standards. Students competing in SkillsUSA perform a task while a member of the industry observes and judges.

Programs involved in SkillsUSA are printing technology, computer aided design, electronics technology, heating/ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) and construction technology.

The Career Technical Center has more than 130 members in SkillsUSA this year with 40 students competing at the regional level and

eight placing at the state level.

James McGinnis, construction tech II, will be competing at the National SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City next summer. He received a first place in state competition.

Also placing at the state SkillsUSA competition were Brandon Russell and BraAdam Smith, second, and Joseph Michalek, James Congdon, Jessica Maas and Alex Scott, third.

In Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society competition students compete projects in the classroom which are judged by industry professionals.

Students complete projects in the classroom. Thirty-four Career Technical Center students placed in the state competition.

They were Brandon Guenther, Brian Kohler, Sean LaGuire, Jon McCahill and Daniel Marsh, all first place, and Jesse Windzer and James Congdon, third place.

Students weren't the only winners. Diane McLean, teacher consultant in special education, received a runner-up award for Outstanding Secondary Professional Award presented by the Michigan Occupational Special Populations Association.

She was nominated by MOSPA president Pat DeVoy.

"Diane's unique gift or special characteristic is her ability to give of herself expecting nothing in return," said DeVoy. "She comes to school early, she stays late, phones students from her home, attends students' special events."

"I have no way of knowing how many special population students have been successful over the years due to Diane's assistance."

RE/MAX sponsors scholarship contest

Students can get help with their college education through the fourth RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan's annual "American Dream" scholarship program.

The scholarship program is open to high school seniors in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties. Twenty students will receive \$500

scholarships through the program established as part of the celebration of RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan's 25th anniversary four years ago.

To apply, students must provide a short essay on what the "American Dream" means to them and the role that higher education plays in helping to achieve that dream.

Essays and supporting materials will be judged on content, originality and creativity. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 1, 2006.

For more information about the scholarship program call Cindy Brozo at (248) 440-0404, Ext. 206, check online at www.manyhouses.com, or visit any local RE/MAX office.

MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

The teenage informant was walking to his Inkster home from basketball practice when Ford - an acquaintance - offered to give him a ride. Ford told the teen that he first needed to make a stop on Liberty Court.

"We don't know why he had gone to Liberty Street," Dexter said.

Ford visited a home briefly and was returning to his vehicle when a hooded gunman suddenly appeared, ordering Ford inside the car and warning the informant to get out.

The teen told police he recognized the gunman as Walker.

"Boysie Walker was his neighbor," Ridener said.

Ford and Walker drove off, and the teen heard the next day that Ford had been killed, Dexter said. The body had been found near an east-west service drive on the Eloise property.

The informant finally came forward even though he wasn't promised any leniency on his six-year drug sentence, Dexter said.

Authorities learned that Walker had since moved to Battle Creek, and they took him into custody on Oct. 25 when he showed up in that city's probation department for an unrelated crime.

Detectives who interviewed Walker said he claimed he had been working in Ohio when Ford was killed and, therefore, couldn't be the murderer.

But, Dexter said the story unraveled when police checked with Walker's supposed employer and learned that he didn't work there.

Last Friday, Walker was brought into Westland 18th District Court, where Judge C. Charles Bokos arraigned him on first-degree murder and felony firearm charges.

Bokos denied bond and scheduled Walker for today's preliminary hearing. dclem@oe.homecom.net | (734) 953-2110

KINDNESS

FROM PAGE 1

Personal checks and well-wishes came to their home from Westland, Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Redford and other communities.

"We didn't expect this," Stacy said. "The money has been put to good use. We paid things like medical bills."

Many people also have offered their prayers for the Sues family.

The story originated from a fund-raiser that Duane's mother, Jeannie Mazur, said is still planned for 2-7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Club Canton, 39651 Michigan Ave., east of Haggerty Road.

For a \$10 door charge, there will be a live disc jockey, food, T-

shirt sales and raffles for prizes. The money raised will go to Duane and his family.

For more information, call Mazur at (734) 612-0186.

Duane continues to receive chemotherapy at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit. He also has had surgery and radiation, but he faces an uphill battle as he fights a form of cancer that typically strikes much older men who are heavy drinkers and smokers.

"He doesn't do either," Stacy said.

She wanted everyone who has contacted the family to know that it is appreciated. She even met a neighbor - an elderly woman - who she didn't know until the woman read about the Sues family's situation.

Said Stacy: "It's been amazing."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Workout benefit

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will be on the receiving end of a benefit at Nu-Lady Fitness in Westland Shopping Center, Warren at Wayne Road, Westland. The workout benefit will be Monday, Nov. 7, through Saturday, Nov. 12. To register for the program, call Nu-Lady Fitness Center at (734) 525-0000.

Open house

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter MI-53 in Westland will host an open house 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road. The event is free and open to the public. Women, men, teens, preteens and seniors interested in losing weight are invited to attend. Gail Washburn, a T.O.P.S. member who lost 108 pounds and has kept it off for almost two years, will speak about her weight loss success with T.O.P.S.

TOPS MI-53 Westland is one of the oldest chapters in Michigan. It has been helping people take off and keep off pounds sensibly since 1956. For more information about T.O.P.S., visit the Web site www.tops.org.

Shopping Extravaganza

The Westland Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with Westland Shopping Center and Marshall Field's to sponsor an exclusive half-day shopping event Friday, Nov. 18.

Participants will enjoy discounts and give-aways at participating stores and will be able to sign up for a free holiday eye makeover by Clinique. Clinique also will do a holiday makeup presentation during the continental breakfast.

The day starts with the continental breakfast, provided by Panera Bread, at 9:30 a.m. at Marshall Fields.

It will end at noon with lunch and door prizes at the Lakeshore Grill.

The shopping extravaganza costs \$25 per person and is limited to the first 100 people to respond. To reserve a spot, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Texas hold 'em

St. Theodore Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne, will sponsor a Texas Hold 'Em tournament 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the church's social hall. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 to buy in. Tickets must be bought in advance by calling (734) 564-8222 or (734) 421-9315. Participants must be at least 18 to play and at least age 21 to drink. There will be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. The event is being sponsored by St. Theodore's Men's Club and Confraternity of Christian Women.

Get Smart seminar

As part of its Get Smart Seminars, Westland Convalescent Center will have Mark McCauley and Mary Schneider from the American Association for Wartime Veterans discuss V.A. Benefits for Wartime Veterans 2:30-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the center, 36137 W. Warren.

This informative session will include topics on V.A. Benefits for Wartime Veterans, including what benefits are available for wartime veterans; what is improved pension with aid and attendance; how can you substantially reduce the cost of a stay in a long term care facility; are you eligible if you are a surviving spouse of a wartime veteran and how do you apply for this entitlement.

Westland Convalescent Center is on Warren between Wayne and Central City Parkway in Westland. Call Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for this event.

Toy Show

Space is available for the Westland Rotary toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, Westland. Tables are available in advance for \$30. The day-of-show price is \$35.

The show will feature new and antique toys, collectibles, slot cars, model cars, and more. There also will be lucky door raffle prizes and refreshments will be available. Admission will be \$3 with children under age 12 free.

Call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24, at the church, southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

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

The Village of Westland will be having its Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at complex, 32001 Cherry Hill between Venoy and Merriman in Westland.

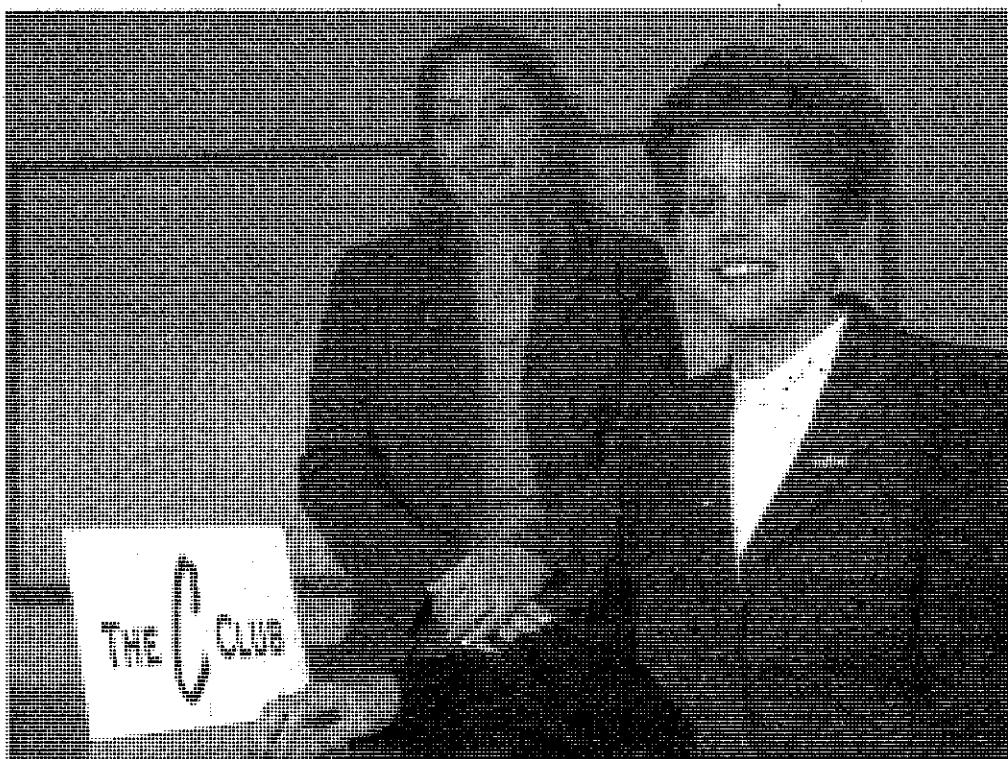
Tables and/or space is still available for an indoor fall craft show Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Tables and/or space costs \$35 for a 12-foot table/area. Electricity is an additional \$5. Call (734) 728-5010 and speak with Terri for more information.

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.

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.

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.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lisa Mininni (right) of Canton and Janine Krasicky of Ferndale turned their own personal experiences with cancer into the C Club.

Club helps cancer survivors put pieces back together

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Lisa Mininni and Janine Krasicky sipped coffee and spoke in a rapid-fire code understood only by other members of their club. It's not that they had to learn a language or secret passwords to be in the club. It's just that the club's members all know the language of survival.

The club is called The C Club, and it's a coaching program developed by Mininni to help those who've conquered cancer navigate through a difficult period of change (the C in C Club doesn't stand for cancer, but rather for conquer, Mininni said).

"It started with a conversation I had with a colleague," said Mininni, who is also a business coach.

As a business coach, clients and peers share their aspirations and their dreams with Mininni, and they also share life-altering experiences with her. From time to time, she'd hear from clients about how cancer had changed their lives, but that change was often a struggle, just as it's a struggle when they were in the process of changing careers.

"So I shared my own story about my experience with cancer, and some people told me I should really consider coaching people to help them through the cancer transition too," Mininni said.

Krasicky was making both transitions at the same time when she entered the C Club program.

"I would not know I had cancer if I hadn't lost my job," Krasicky said. She was facing her second layoff in as many years back in 2003, and made an appointment to get a physical while she still had health insurance, she said. Her doctor found some irregularities while running routine tests, and in less than a week she was having a biopsy of her thyroid. It was cancer, and she had surgery to remove her thyroid.

The treatments that followed made it difficult to look for work (when you lose your thyroid, you also lose your metabolism and most of your energy, Krasicky said), but she networked, trying to land freelance and consulting public relations jobs. In just months, she realized that there was no sense looking for a full-time job because she was already working full-time for the clients she'd been able to pick up. It was time to start her own company, J9 Media Solutions.

Then last spring she met Mininni at a workshop and the two arranged to meet to discuss Krasicky's new company.

Program membership includes a quarterly newsletter, The Catalyst, a C Club pin, and access to specialty workshops and teleclasses that help cancer conquerors move ahead with their lives, rather than getting stuck during the transitional period. Coaching communities are part of the program, and the most intensive option for members is the C Club specialty coaching program, which is a one-on-one training program designed to reshape and renew the participant's life.

"It was so strange because at the time, I wasn't telling anyone I had cancer," Krasicky said, "but somehow it came up in conversation that I'd just had surgery and Lisa came out and asked, 'Do you have cancer?' I didn't know if I should answer that."

But she did. And the women found out they had more in common than they'd thought. Mininni started her business coaching company, Excellerate Associates, in 2002 after a layoff by her former employer. The two had similar experiences professionally, as well as sharing the experience of conquering cancer.

Krasicky started doing some work for Mininni, but even more valuable to her was the opportunity to join the C Club program.

"It's changed my life," she said. "I've written a life vision, which I am living today. I'm definitely in a better off place than when I started."

Program membership includes a quarterly newsletter, The Catalyst, a C Club pin, and access to specialty workshops and teleclasses that help cancer conquerors move ahead with their lives, rather than getting stuck during the transitional period. Coaching communities are part of the program, and the most intensive option for members is the C Club specialty coaching program, which is a one-on-one training program designed to reshape and renew the participant's life.

For information, call (734) 223-3938 or e-mail info@excellerateassociates.com.

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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.hometown.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church fair
The First Congregational Church of Wayne is holding its 59th annual church fair, "An Angel Christmas," until 8 p.m. today (Nov. 3) and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3-4. The fair will feature aprons, attic treasures, books, boutiques, a candy booth, a country store, gift baskets and much more. There will also be homemade lunches 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and dinners 5-7 p.m. both days. Meals are \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. The church is at 2 Towne Square at Wayne Road in downtown Wayne. For more information, call the church at (734) 729-7550.

Scandinavian bazaar
The Finnish Center in Farmington Hills hosts a Scandinavian Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. The event features crafts, imports, deli goods, a bake sale and raffles. Refreshments will be available. The Finnish Center is located at 35200 W. 8 Mile between Farmington and Newburgh roads. For more information, call (248) 478-6939.

Bowl with Santa
Santa is making an early stop in Livonia to help raise funds for O.U.R. Camp, a summer day camp for children with special needs. The "Bowl with Santa" event takes place 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 at Merri-Bowl in Livonia. Parents can bring their kids to enjoy an afternoon of bowling with Santa. Cost is \$10 per bowler or \$35 for a group of four. Fee includes two games of bowling (bumpers available), shoes, hot dog and pop. Pre-registration recommended, space is limited. All proceeds benefit O.U.R. Camp. Merri-Bowl is located at 30950 Five Mile Road at Merriman. For more information or to register, call Jan Slattery, (734) 414-0231, or write Bowling with Santa, P.O. Box 6059, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Craft show
Reserve a table now for the Wayne Senior Activity Center pre-holiday arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the senior center, 35000 Sims, Wayne. Cost is \$25 per table, electricity provided. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 721-7460.

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.

Starfish programs
Starfish Family Services Great Parents. Great Start teachers help prepare children, ages 2-4 years for preschool and school in their own home. Fun, learning activities help children grow and learn and parents learn tips, too. The program is open to families in western Wayne County, if they qualify. Call (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104, for more information. Starfish also has an ongoing, free Pregnancy Support Group, offering pregnant women a chance to talk with other pregnant women, meet with a prenatal nurse, hear baby's heart beat and learn about nutrition, pain management and other topics. Groups to be held in Wayne, Westland and Inkster areas. To register, call (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104.

ORGANIZATIONS

Vietnam Vets
The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at

www.mihometown.com/oe/Plymouth CantonVA for more information.

Friends of library
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony
The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartet can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol
Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capiborders/.

Habitat help
The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

Veteran's Haven
Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

Pet-A-Pet
The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson,

(734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

Zonta Club
The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920

Franklin PTSA
The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

Tutorial program
A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

M.O.M.S.
M.O.M.S. Club of Canton/ Westland is a nonprofit support group for stay-at-home mothers. There are weekly events, Mom's Night Out, age-oriented play groups and more. For information, call Wendy, (734) 398-6957.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6:30-7:15 p.m., with the meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299.

Menopause & More
A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group
A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for

each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM
Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

Grief support
Angela Hospice offers ongoing grief support groups every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. All groups are free of charge and open to the community. Call bereavement coordinator Ruth Favor at Angela Hospice, (734) 464-7810.

Childbirth classes
Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Association
Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

Fibromyalgia
The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek
The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise
The Friends of Eloise group meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

VFW Bingo
Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

Dems hold bingo
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club has bingo 10:45 a.m. every Monday at the Wayne Ford Civic League, on Wayne Road south of Ford in Westland. For information, call Jan or Cliff at (734) 591-1694 or Cliff at (734) 729-8681.

St. Mel Church
Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo
Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays.

The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

Metro Wayne
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club offers a bingo at the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Fridays. Doors open at 9 a.m. with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet is available for \$3. For more information, call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

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GO TEAM

Fun event keeps Angela Hospice lighting up lives

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Four hours after Sister Mary Giovanni greeted the first of her 570 guests she was finally able to twirl a strawberry under the chocolate flowing from the fountain at Laurel Manor Special Events Center on Oct. 16.

The 20th anniversary celebration for the founding of Angela Hospice provided a full afternoon and evening of fun in addition to raising nearly \$200,000 to assist terminally ill patients and their families. Sister Giovanni estimates that more than 5,000 patients and their families have received end-of-life care since she founded the organization. This was the 18th annual Light Up a Life benefit.

"It's absolutely fantastic. We have 100 nuns from four continents" said Sister Giovanni, founder of Angela Hospice in Livonia.

"After all the intense work of the planning committee, it was gratifying to see so many people present for this annual event. I am truly grateful to God and to all our benefactors whose generousities have enabled us to care for so many."

While Tom Coyne, his wife, Rose, and friend Anna Mae Savage enjoyed the dinner and silent and live auctions, they came primarily to support Angela Hospice. Coyne would have come even if he hadn't received a wonderful dinner and gifts that included the softcover book *An Ordinary Life Lived in an Extraordinary Way*, the story of Felician founder Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska, and a hardcover book featuring the art collection of Blue



Sister Mary Giovanni gives the Most Rev. Moses B. Anderson an award in recognition of his pioneer efforts on behalf of Angela Hospice during the Light up a Life benefit Sunday evening.

Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

"This is our third fund-raiser," said Coyne of Livonia. "We started coming after the death of my mother who died before she was able to enter hospice. I was impressed by the compassion extended to me during the intake process. For the children of those who are terminally ill, it's nice to have someone to talk to who understands. Just walking into the place, it gives you the feeling that people care." Coyne watched intently as a video saluted the work of Angela Hospice staff

and volunteers. Sister Giovanni was especially grateful to Bishop Moses Anderson and presented him with the first Pioneer Award. She said it was "a great thing to answer the call of people in distress."

Bishop Anderson made it possible for Angela Hospice to secure a \$40,000 grant from the Archdiocese of Detroit to allow Sister Giovanni to initially provide hospice care in a patient's home in October of 1985 and then later in the building on Newburgh. She also recognized the late Sister Mary Francilene and then Provincial Sister Mary Cynthia for their contributions.

Today, the nonprofit is able to offer in-home and in-patient hospice, pediatric and pre-natal programs, bereavement and spiritual care, and grief support groups. The Good Samaritan program enabled Ronald Fulmer, the nephew of Robert and Janet Smith, to receive hospice care at St. Mary Mercy Hospital until his death without charge.

"It was excellent care. The nurse came every day," said Robert Smith who later made a contribution in his nephew's name. "They do excellent work."

State Sen. Laura Toy couldn't agree more about the compassionate care provided by Angela Hospice. Toy brought a special official tribute with her to recognize the nonprofit's 20 years of service.

"I've been coming to the event since its inception," said State Sen. Laura Toy. "I strongly believe in what they do, how they help families in time of need, families that don't experience death every day."

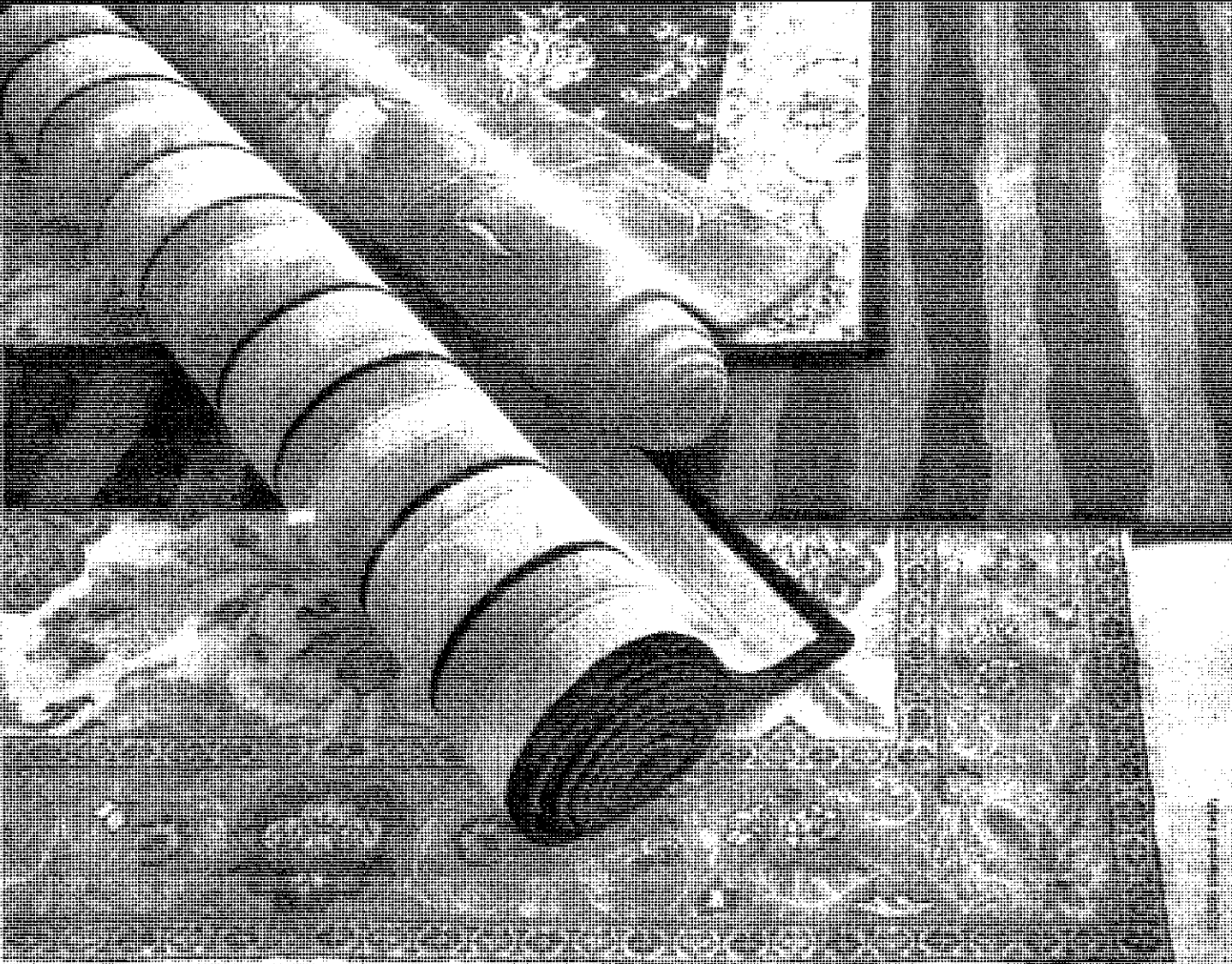
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PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Samantha Paulson, 4, looks at the Angela Hospice ice sculpture during the 20th anniversary Light Up a Life benefit Sunday at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Behind her are Kelly Harris and Russ Hardy.

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Marshall Field's

Kindergarten dropped from gifted class

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools will alter requirements for its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented to exclude kindergartners from participating.

The program, housed at Webster Elementary, was founded in 1976 and expanded to include lower elementary students in 1984. Last week, the K-six program was changed again, and will be offered in grades one-six.

Sheila Alles, director of academic services, detailed several reasons for the administrative decision before the school board. In ACAT, kindergartners shared class with first- and second-graders. "They don't have the same ability to stay on task," she said. "They don't have organizational skills at the depth other children have. They don't seem to have the same ability to maintain a focus on instruction ... Their fine motor skills are not developed yet. They have great minds, but their emotional levels are not the same."

Besides developmental differences, kindergartners received only part of the ACAT instruction, since they attended school for only half a day. They missed out on some literacy lessons as well as science and social studies, which are taught

in the afternoon.

Trustee Cynthia Markarian said she didn't object, particularly because kindergartners only get half of the program. "(They're) missing out on a big part of what's happening," she said.

Lorna Durand, principal of Webster, said the change had "nothing to do with intelligence." Rather, she said it is about "developmental appropriateness."

"We're asking them to keep pace with 6- and 7-year-olds," she said.

By offering those students a traditional kindergarten class, Durand said she believes it is still possible to meet their needs using differentiated instruction and the literacy initiative. Once students enter first grade, they may apply to ACAT.

"We want to do what's best for kids," said Durand.

Trustee Rob Freeman asked if this would open up more spaces for first- and second-graders.

He was assured by Alles and Durand that it would. Approximately 25 students are accepted into the lower elementary ACAT class.

Alles said she would notify parents in the school district that this change has taken place.

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Bouchard plans to retain sheriff's post during run for Senate

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

For the second time this year, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard has put himself in the running to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in next year's election.

He now joins a race for the Republican Party's nod with Southfield-based Rev. Keith Butler and Grand Rapids-



Bouchard

based Jerry Zandstra. Bouchard announced his re-entry to the campaign Oct. 31. He had originally announced his candidacy for the Senate in early February, but dropped out just two weeks later citing "health issues" that were not life-

threatening. Now, with those issues put to rest, he is getting back into the political ring.

"I've been looking at this over the last couple of weeks," Bouchard said. "I looked at the timeline and talked to family and supporters."

Bouchard, 48, currently serves as Oakland County sheriff and has been an elected official since his first term on the Beverly Hills village

council in 1986. He served in the state House and Senate until 1999, when he was appointed sheriff. He was elected to the post in 2000 and has been re-elected twice since then. His term of office expires in 2009.

He said he would not step aside from his position as the county's top law enforcement officer while he runs for a desk in Washington D.C.

"I'll just have to squeeze

more time out of the day," Bouchard said. "I've been doing (office) paperwork at night. There's going to be less time for me. It's a sacrifice, but it's worth it."

He said his platform was about security in terms of jobs in Michigan as well as national defense. In those regards, he said, he was eminently qualified.

"These issues run through my life experiences," Bouchard

said. "I was a small business owner and worked on jobs in the state Senate. From my experience in law enforcement, I have an insider's view of homeland security in my profession."

Bloomfield Township treasurer and county chairman for the Bush 2000 and 2004 campaigns Dan Devine said there might be more candidates for the Senate seat by the filing deadline in May.

Zandstra: Policy changes are the right Rx for economic ills

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Michigan's problems are the country's problems. If our outlook on how we do business, at every level, doesn't change, we can only expect our economic fortunes to worsen as time goes by.

That's the policy stance of Republican Senatorial candidate Jerry Zandstra of Grand Rapids. The first-time politician threw his hat into the ring earlier this year to replace Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, in the nation's capitol. The Rev. Keith Butler and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard have announced their candidacy for the Republican nomination.

Zandstra is running for the Senate to clean up some of the policy situations he says are dulling Michigan's, and the nation's, competitive edge.

"A big part of what I see as the challenges we face are the same as they are in other parts of the world," he said. "Bad policies lead to bad economies."

Michigan, sitting at an unemployment level 40 percent higher than the national

average, is about as bad as it gets. He said a lot of the blame for that can be laid at Gov. Jennifer Granholm's feet, but an equal portion can be laid at the national doorstep, beyond the governor's realm of influence.

"Everything we manufacture in the U.S. is 22 percent more expensive than our closest trading partners," Zandstra said. "It's not the cost of (borrowing) capitol or the cost of labor, either. It's the tax structure, tort abuse, the cost of health care and the cost of education."

He said tax compliance — the time and money putting annual taxes together for the IRS — eats up between \$250 billion and \$500 billion every year. It's the structure of the tax system, he said, and not the rate that's keeping the country from being as competitive as it can be.

Tort reform, he said, is necessary as well.

"The cost of abuse has become a significant portion, 2



Zandstra

JERRY ZANDSTRA

Party: Republican

Age: 41

Marital status: Married, three sons

Profession: director of Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty; pastor, Christian Reformed Church, Cutlerville; M.B.A. professor at Cornerstone University
Education: B.A., psychology, Calvin College; M.A., divinity and historical theology, Calvin College; Ph.D., administration, Trinity University

percent, of what we manufacture," he said. "We want to protect people, but we don't want to make (a lawsuit) an opportunity for a judicial lottery."

He said part of the job has been done now that the practice of jury shopping — arguing cases in communities known for high jury awards — has been stopped. He said

there still has to be a reform of the assigning of indirect damages so that insurance companies will fight more cases than they settle.

For health care, he said the system is set up in a way that keeps people from taking care of the most common illnesses themselves. Heart disease, diabetes and obesity are related, controllable and largely preventable. The system doesn't reward people for avoiding them or dissuade the behaviors that cause them.

"If there's an economic incentive to being healthy, people will be healthy," Zandstra said. "Right now, that's illegal. If being healthier, lowering your cholesterol, cuts the per-month premium for health care, wouldn't you do more to be healthier?"

He said a nationalized system, like the ones in Canada and Europe, would only drive the cost of health care upward through inefficiency. As if by parallel, he said the education system needs to be more efficient as well.

"Many public school districts are well-performing, but some have failure rates of 45 percent. That's staggering in light of the global economy,"

Zandstra said. "We are not a manual labor-based economy anymore."

The ultimate responsibility, he said, rests with parents, but they have to have more

tools to make their wishes known within the schools. Zandstra said parents have to be able to hold schools accountable for the service they provide.

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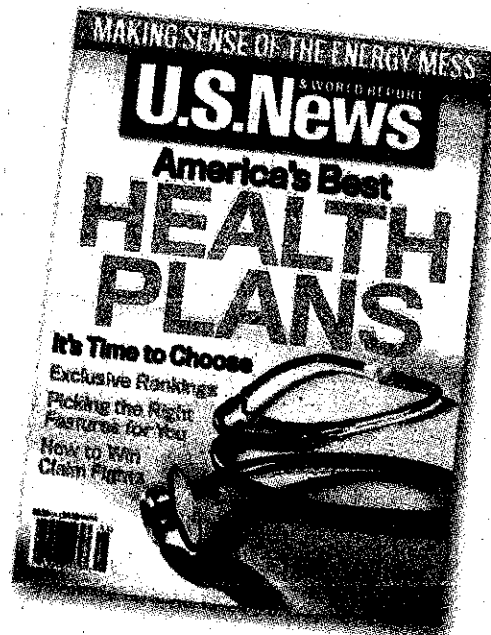
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OUR VIEWS

Mayor has right answer on center

When the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals by a 5-2 vote refused to grant a use variance to operate out of its facility, it looked like the end of the road for a soup kitchen and warming center at the Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road.

But it now looks like a bump in the road to a new location for the warming center.

ZBA members cited safety concerns in the area in turning down the request. Their decision shocked supporters. The soup kitchen had been in operation for 15 years with no hint of problems and the warming center for five years. The decision meant an immediate end to serving the daily meal and left the winter opening of the warming center in doubt. The center, open 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., operated only during January, February and March.

Pastor Michael Enersen claimed it was fear of the homeless that was behind the vote, while local school officials expressed concern about its middle school students being hit up for money on their way to school.

Who's right? The truth may be somewhere in the middle. Is there a fear? Yes. Could students be accosted? Sure. Has it happened, will it happen? Possibly.

But we as a society cannot stop caring for the less fortunate because of possibilities. We cannot sit on our hands and let people go hungry or freeze to death because we are afraid. It's time to face the fact that homelessness is not just an urban problem. It knows no boundaries.

It's also time to realize that being homeless doesn't necessarily make a person bad. Circumstances of their choosing or out of their control played a role in their homeless state.

We are happy to see that Mayor Sandra Cicirelli acted quickly to get the soup kitchen reopened and we hope that bringing county officials in will help find a new home for the warming center. Volunteers may not be able to reopen the warming center this winter, but we are confident that it will be back for 2007, bigger and better equipped to meet the needs of the homeless.

And once a location has been found, we hope that more than a handful of churches and residents will get involved in helping at the warming center. Remember, the person you help today may be the person who helps you tomorrow.

It's also time to realize that being homeless doesn't necessarily make a person bad.

Do whatever you can to help local charities

Your local charity desperately needs your help this holiday season.

Donations are down 50 percent this year compared with last year, yet the need is up 25-50 percent, according to representatives from Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan and several nonprofits it serves.

Hurricane relief efforts have diverted monetary and food donations to other parts of the country at a time when more and more Michigan workers are finding themselves out of work because of the state's poor economy.

"People are just struggling," said John Kastler, vice president of program services for Gleaners, which provides surplus food from national companies to 440 agencies in southeast Michigan.

The charities need monetary donations most.

Readers who donated to hurricane victims may think they can't afford to help anymore. But a little bit goes a long way toward feeding hungry families.

At Gleaners, \$1 translates into 16 meals.

Cash can also be used by charities to help people pay rent or utility bills to avoid being evicted or having their heat or electricity shut off.

Those who really can't afford to give money can organize nonperishable food drives at their offices, churches or schools.

Or they can volunteer to answer phones, sort clothes or repack food for distribution.

Charities sometimes get a lot of help for Thanksgiving and Christmas, so consider volunteering after the holidays. The regular volunteers will appreciate the extra help.

However you can assist — whether it's donating money, food or time — please do so. Your local charity — and needy families in your neighborhood — are counting on you.



Geoff Brooks ©2005 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC 11-3

LETTERS

Writers are narrow-minded

I write in response to the extremely narrowed-minded and uninformed letter written by Craig and Cindi Armbruster. In their letter they infer, among other things, that the Johnson Elementary School area is not safe, not inspiring and unfriendly.

The Armbrusters should first be aware of the fact that while their children will be attending school in the city of Westland, the school is still part of the Livonia Public Schools. Accordingly, there will be no change in the quality of education that they will receive, and under this plan the quality of education will probably improve.

I encourage the Armbrusters to drive around the area of the Johnson Elementary School. If they do drive around the area, they will find that the houses are for the most part, newer, larger and worth more than the homes in their immediate area, and the people are employed, educated, friendly and also concerned about their children's welfare and education. In fact, if they drove through the rest of Westland, they would find the same, including nice parks, new residential construction, great restaurants and shopping, much like Livonia.

I believe the true point of their letter is their concern that their children will be on a bus for too long. This point is understandable, but could have been made without making derogatory comments about the city of Westland or the people who live near Johnson.

If I were as narrow-minded and uninformed as the Armbrusters, I would find it unnerving that my child attends the Jackson Center near their home, but fortunately, due to the wonderful education I received in the Livonia Public Schools, I am not narrow-minded or uninformed.

I think the committee should be commended for taking on such a large project, and putting together an impressive and cutting edge plan to guide the Livonia Public Schools into the future.

Mark A. McConnell
Westland

Stunned by response

I must say I am stunned! I watched the council meeting that was held on Monday and am wondering what is going on?

The Festival Committee announced that Westland was chosen to display the Vietnam Moving Wall and there was stone silence. Did the mayor, council and people in the audience fall asleep or were they in a state of shock?

There was a loud applause for the kids who led the opening Pledge of Allegiance, but not a sound for this very important announcement. Councilman Godbout and LeBlanc said a few words, but the mayor and rest of the council were silent.

This announcement should have been met with much enthusiasm, it is an honor that our city was chosen for this display. The Festival Committee, I'm sure, worked very hard to get this for our city and they should have been acknowledged for their endeavor.

Now, I sure don't understand Councilman Mike Kehrer's comments.

The festival has always had a layout or a plan. This has been standard for years. Was this grandstanding or just plain not knowing the facts?

I must say I was happy to see Mr. Ken Mehl correct two councilmen about statements they made. It reminded me of when Mr. Mehl served as our councilman for many years. He was always prepared and even his political foes acknowledged he was one of the best councilmen ever to serve the residents of Westland.

If Mr. Kehrer would like to debate Mr. Mehl on an issue, I would put my money on Mr. Mehl. In addition, it should be duly noted that Mr. Mehl himself is a decorated Vietnam veteran, something that should have been acknowledged.

Ed Wager
past chairman
Westland Summer Festival

Making an impression

A long time ago, when Republicans were in the minority and had principles, a right wing pundit, George Will, wrote an article about the demonstration of perception. His expression, "When you try to make an impression, that is exactly the impression you make." He was referring to a young man he was acquainted with. This is a good thought and perhaps one guideline to live by.

I was recently reminded of this when Mr. Bush had staged a teleconference with troops in Iraq, prior to the Iraqi election. The cameras were on before the conference and the U.S. soldiers were practicing their lines.

The show started later and the U.S. soldiers with only a few hours of practice sounded flat and read their lines without emotion, which is odd considering their location. Mr. Bush, off cue again and perhaps because he didn't have to face an audience, tried to ad lib unsuccessfully.

Again another embarrassing moment for Mr. Bush, but also for all Americans knowing this inept White House occupant is still in office.

This reminded me also of the plans Mr. Bush had for the fall and his fall after the Hurricane Katrina. He had planned on traveling the U.S. to rebuild his support for the war in Iraq. Typical of all his travels, Mr. Bush only faces sympathizers and worshippers, with selected questions, not those of U.S. citizens, and his intent was to build support of a war. I would ask all Americans to think about that one thought for a little bit.

Citizens from all countries around the world have learned war is the most reprehensible of all of man's activities. All leaders should avoid war unless it is absolutely necessary, but when it is necessary, the citizens of a country will support it. Now just think about the one thought above.

Mr. Bush was going to travel this country, in front of staged public forums with only sympathizers present, hiding from anyone that may ask a difficult question, to build support for a war that has been going on for a few years?

Mr. Bush is trying to make an impression, and it's not a good one.

Allan Biber
Westland

Time for new mayor

As a Westland resident for more than 40 years, I've seen the politicians come and go and then be called back again. Westland residents went through a recall, we also endured the embarrassment of having the senior director caught gambling on city time.

The current administration has brought that director back and it makes us wonder who else is coming back. Sharon Scott stepped down after a recall, and she, too, is serving the citizens of Westland by a Mayor Cicirelli appointment.

We've had many state and federal strings in aid, and at a time when the purse strings should be tightened, the current administration spent money on cityscapes on the corners of Found Wayne Road.

It does look nice when you enter a city, but times are going to get tough. We need not waste money. We need to cut back, we have big pensions that need to be paid to the former Mayor Robert Thomas and former directors.

Westland residents also need to remember former Mayor Robert Thomas who refused to answer questions during the recall and failed to be at council meetings. Although he was not required to be there. You would think the mayor, the place where the buck stops, should have been in attendance at those meetings.

We need recycling in Westland, but no recycled politicians that are collecting pensions. We need to have a mayor that is tight with the purse strings and doesn't squander the tax money on corners and flowers and other frivolous items.

Tougher times are coming, we need to save tax money and I believe the best person for the job of mayor would be Elenor Swistak. She has a degree in accounting, and I believe our tax dollars would go farther under her administration.

She is a faithful council watcher, checking the vouchers, questioning the spending that should be stopped.

Judi Cornfoot-Husolf
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"While the city of Dearborn Heights would prefer single- or multiple-family residential use, they do have a PD (planned development) ordinance. That could allow a mixed use. We want to be as flexible as we can to get ideas."

— Steven Aynes, Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority executive director, about the upcoming sale of the 33-acre incinerator site

WESTLAND Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY



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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Restructuring only option left for struggling auto industry

With Delphi Corp. in bankruptcy and General Motors and the United Auto Workers cutting a deal to drastically reduce health care costs, it's absolutely clear that a long and stable — but now totally unsustainable — economic era in Michigan is coming to an end.

The question, of course, is whether that end will be followed by economic apocalypse ... or an overdue but valuable recognition of reality on which we can build for the future.

Last week, I sketched out the apocalyptic scenario. This week, I'll propose the more optimistic one.

Begin with Benjamin Franklin, who famously remarked upon the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Those are wise words. And that's a concept that the leadership of the UAW must have had in the back of their minds as they struggled to find a way to help the struggling company without creating a political firestorm among the union rank and file.

What a change! In the old days, labor relations between the auto companies and the UAW were a strange combination of hostility and co-dependence. Union negotiators would rattle their swords across the bargaining table at management. Even though they battled over the wage and benefit increases, both sides figured that eventually they could administer any increased costs to an essentially closed market.

But as the years passed, this pattern of expedient — but economically indefensible — collaboration began to look more and more like a mutual suicide pact.

Take GM as a case in point. Its market share has plummeted from more than 45 percent a decade ago to 28 percent this year.

In 1965, GM had 409,000 hourly employees represented by the UAW; today there are only one-fourth as many. If not for astonishing productivity gains at GM's factories — vehicle output per worker has doubled over the past two decades — the company would have gone bust trying to pay benefits for its 460,000 retirees.

Today the market is no longer closed, and American consumers are all too ready to buy cheaper and better foreign vehicles. Or cars produced on these shores by non-union labor.

Something has to give, and that something is old-fashioned adversarial bargaining, workers vs. management.

David Cole, the head of the Center for Automotive Research and one of the most respected industry analysts, put it in crisp terms: "It's very simple. It's change or die."

GM Chairman Rick Wagoner told his employees, "a cooperative approach to problem solving

clearly gets the best results." UAW President Ron Gettelfinger is in uncomfortable agreement.

They can read economic history just as well as anyone, especially the history of other old-line unionized industries that got trapped by escalating costs and a globalizing world economy.

The case of the steel industry is especially instructive. Steve Miller, Delphi's CEO, knows that all too well; he was the guy who led Bethlehem Steel into bankruptcy in 2001.

Back in the 1990s, the domestic steel industry was near death. Most of the great integrated American mills had closed, victim of cheaper steel from abroad. Under enormous cost and market share pressure, the industry started transforming itself, with the relatively silent cooperation of the United Steelworkers Union.

Twenty-five years ago, steel companies employed around 400,000 workers and it took around nine man-hours to produce a ton of steel. By 2004, there were only 120,000 workers in the industry, each making a ton of steel every two hours.

Between 2001 and 2003, the failing steel companies dumped their pension plans for some 250,000 workers and retirees onto the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., an estimated \$10 billion obligation, while more than 200,000 retirees and dependents lost their health care benefits.

The pain was extreme, but today the domestic steel industry is reasonably prosperous. Louis Schorsch, CEO of Mittal Steel USA, told *The New York Times* that labor-management relations have improved markedly: "The union has recognized that the old way of doing business doesn't work. We shouldn't talk about how to carve the pie, but about how to make this industry more competitive."

The auto industry — in an optimistic scenario — could follow the example of the steel companies in developing a route to restructuring and renewed competitiveness.

But in practice, all kinds of pitfalls are lurking out there. The kinds of wage and benefit cuts Delphi is demanding from the UAW could provoke an enormously damaging strike.

The negotiations between the auto companies and the union over the labor contracts that expire in 2007 will be difficult and tense.

Gettelfinger is also taking a major political risk with UAW members and retirees by arguing that cooperation with the auto companies, although necessarily painful, is the only way to salvage jobs and preserve the industry.

We're all holding our breath. But the choices we all face are pretty clear. They're apocalypse or restructuring. And only the second option offers hope for any future prosperity. Yes, it will hurt.

But it always hurts when a baby is born.

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



Phil Power

Acknowledging problem goes long way in helping homeless

Last December, my husband, kids and brother made the trek to Ford Field to see the Motor City Bowl. It was the second time we had gone, and wise to the cost of parking near the stadium, we found a small lot four or five blocks the other side of Woodward Avenue.

It was cold heading to the stadium and even colder heading back to the lot. My brother, the master of Detroit side streets, took us on a circuitous route to the freeway through areas of the city that were sprouting new residential development, buildings with massive iron fences and



Sue Mason

gates around the property and some rundown homes and vacant fields. We hit a traffic light and sat there for what seemed like an eternity watching the people on the street, coming from several directions headed for a building down the street.

We watched them walk down the street to the building, an outside light serving as a beacon. It was my son who broke the silence, asking where they were going. And my brother came up with the answer.

"They're going to that building to get warm, Bobby," he said. "They're homeless people."

That image came to mind when I heard about the closing of the warming center at Full Gospel Temple. For five years, the center had been opened from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. for the homeless during the three coldest months of the year.

The Rev. Ruby Beneteau said the church opened the center after finding the homeless sleeping on the church grounds. The last thing church members wanted was to find one of them dead, so they opened their doors and invited the people inside.

The two shelters are very much alike, but are different in one way. The Detroit shelter was in the middle of the block, with few if any neighbors. The Westland center is in the midst of a residential neighborhood, a middle school just a few hundred feet down the road.

In Westland, there were complaints from neighbors about the homeless bothering students on the way to school. One woman volunteered to videotape it to show that what she said was true.

Pastor Michael Enersen of Full Gospel Temple maintains that it was a fear of the homeless that doomed the warming center, that naysayers were wrong about the

people who came to his church for warmth.

He's right, there is a fear. It's those Dickensian images of the Artful Dodger that make us hold our kids' hand a little tighter and grip our purses a little harder when we see a homeless person. But not all of the homeless are pickpockets and thieves. They're not all panhandlers. Circumstances beyond their control have left them living in tent cities, cardboard boxes or under viaducts.

Many years ago, while working on a story about women answering the call to be nuns, a photographer and I went to interview a future Sister of Mercy. She was working at the Coalition of Temporary Shelters in Detroit.

We knew we were at the right spot by the crowd of people hanging around the main door. It was even more crowded once we got in, but the hubbub died away as we followed the woman to an office several floors up. The photographer positioned himself near a large bay window that dominated the drab office, snapping photographs and occasionally looking outside.

It wasn't until we were done and headed back to the office that he admitted he was keeping an eye on his car. He was worried that it would be stolen. I don't think he needed to worry about the people in the shelter taking it. They had more important things on their mind, like eating and staying warm.

But it does illustrate the reaction we have. I would be lying if I said I didn't feel a twinge of discomfort, fear, whatever you want to call it, while I was there. The COTS shelter was warm, but depressing. Men, women, children milling around, looking for some kind of help. It wasn't the nice comfortable surroundings I was used to.

And I'm sure the warming center in Westland wasn't the cheeriest place in town either, but it did serve a purpose. It should continue to do so, but in a location that doesn't put it at odds with its neighbors.

The Golden Rule talks about doing for others what you'd want them to do for you. The fact that we have acknowledged the problem of the homeless is a step in that direction. And finding an adequate location to shelter them in the dead of winter now needs to be a priority in the city.

Sue Mason is the editor of the *Westland and Garden City Observers*. If you have a question or comment, e-mail her at smason@oe.homecomm.net.

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Off-duty deputy acquitted in road rage shoot-out

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The off-duty Wayne County deputy involved in a road rage shoot-out in Southfield has been cleared to return to work after being found not guilty by an Oakland County Circuit Court jury.

But Derrick A. Wade will be on restricted duty pending the outcome of an internal affairs administrative investigation, Sgt. Larry Crider, a spokesman for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, said Tuesday.

Wade, 35, was charged with felonious assault and reckless driving after the April 2 incident during which, "bullets were flying all over," according to one witness.

One of the eight bullets fired grazed a motorist scuffling with Wade, and another went through the window of a business on Eight Mile, between Greenfield and Southfield Roads, according to investigating officers.

Jurors were not sure who to believe, Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Craig Pavlock said after a jury returned the not guilty verdict in the courtroom of Judge Rae Lee Chabot.

Jurors deliberated a total of five hours over two days before returning their verdict

Monday, Pavlock said. The prosecutor quoted unnamed jurors as saying they were not certain which witness - who gave vastly different versions of the incident - was telling the truth.

James Manley Jr., 47, of Detroit testified that he was driving home from work around 7 a.m., when he stopped at a light next to a vehicle driven by Wade who was accompanied by a woman.

As he testified in Southfield District Court, Manley said he briefly glanced inside the vehicle and noticed an "attractive" woman. But no words were exchanged, he said, and he did not make any gestures or eye contact.

Moments later, as he was driving west on Eight Mile, the car driven by Wade came beside his and words were exchanged, and they scuffled, Manley testified.

Wade was the first to pull a gun, Manley testified, and they scuffled. Manley testified he pulled his weapon, for which he had a concealed weapons permit, and shots were exchanged.

Manley, a heavy equipment operator, said the shot that grazed his foot may have come from his own gun.

The testimony of the woman riding with Wade gave a vastly different

account of the incident. Jody Trotter, a Wayne County jailer and Wade's fiancée, testified she felt "uncomfortable" when their vehicles were stopped at the light and Manley was looking in their vehicle.

Moments later, Manley's car pulled along side theirs, Trotter testified, and Manley brandished a handgun.

Trotter also testified Wade stopped Manley's vehicle, and

Wade identified himself as a police officer as he approached Manley's vehicle, before shots were fired.

Defense attorney Henry M. Scharg was not available after the trial. After Wade's preliminary examination, however, he said the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office had been overzealous and filed charges against the wrong party.

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Madonna University holds open house

Madonna University in Livonia is holding an Open House for prospective students 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, in the Take 5 Lounge on campus.

Those attending will tour the campus, meet with faculty, staff and students, and learn about the more than 70 career-oriented undergraduate majors and 22 master's degree programs offered during the day, evenings, and weekends. Information on financial aid and scholarships will be available, and transfer students are encouraged to bring their transcripts. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Madonna University's Admissions Office at (734) 432-5339, email: muinfo@madonna.edu or www.madonna.edu. Classes are also offered at the Orchard Lake Center and the Downriver Center in Southgate.

Glusac new chairman

The gavel has been passed to a new chairman of the Wayne County Airport Authority Board. Vice Chair Michael M. Glusac was elevated by his fellow board members to chair of the Authority which operates Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and Willow Run Airport. Secretary David Treadwell is the new vice chair and board member James Settles Jr. is the new secretary.

Glusac has been a WCAA board member since the inception of the Authority.

A senior adviser to Detroit Renaissance from 1997 to 2005, Glusac served as the organization's chairman in 1995 and 1996. While vice president of government affairs for Chrysler Corp., Glusac worked with all levels of government to develop the Chrysler World Headquarters in Auburn Hills and the Jefferson Avenue North Assembly Plant in Detroit. He also served as executive director of SEMCOG for eight years and was Detroit Mayor Roman Gribbs' corporation counsel from 1970 to 1974.

An attorney with a degree from Wayne State University Law School, Glusac also served as a mayor and councilman for the City of Highland Park, as chairman of the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau, and president of the Michigan Municipal League.

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