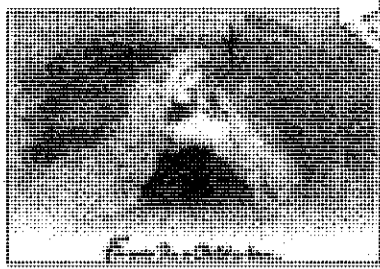


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OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



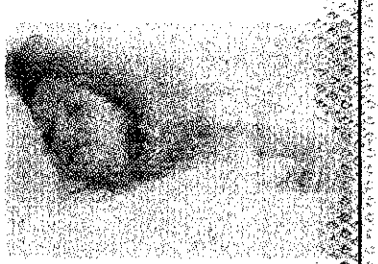
cross country
sets the pace

SPORTS - PAGE B2



The importance of
getting a good
night's sleep

HEALTH - PAGE C6



WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY
November 13, 2005

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Published

Serial killings are basis for her 1st book

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

There's excitement in Robyn Stockwell's voice as she announces that she found the book on amazon.com. It's not just any book, it's her book ... her first published book.

The 30-year-old Westland woman is on cloud nine with the release of *Archetype*, a fictional piece about obsession and serial killings, by PublishAmerica.

"The first letter I sent out (to a publisher), got a response," said Stockwell. "When I wrote PublishAmerica, I never dreamed I would be published. I didn't think it was good

enough, I didn't think it would sell."

The title is a Greek word for pattern, and the tale that Stockwell weaves through her book is that of a young man, Ryan Balander, who becomes obsessed by the infamous co-ed killings in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor in the late 1960s.

Balander is a transfer student at Eastern Michigan University where his obsession with the killings leads him to visit cemeteries where the victims are buried, the crime scenes. Hallucinations lead him to believe that the ghosts of the dead co-eds are stalking him, seeking the truth about their deaths.

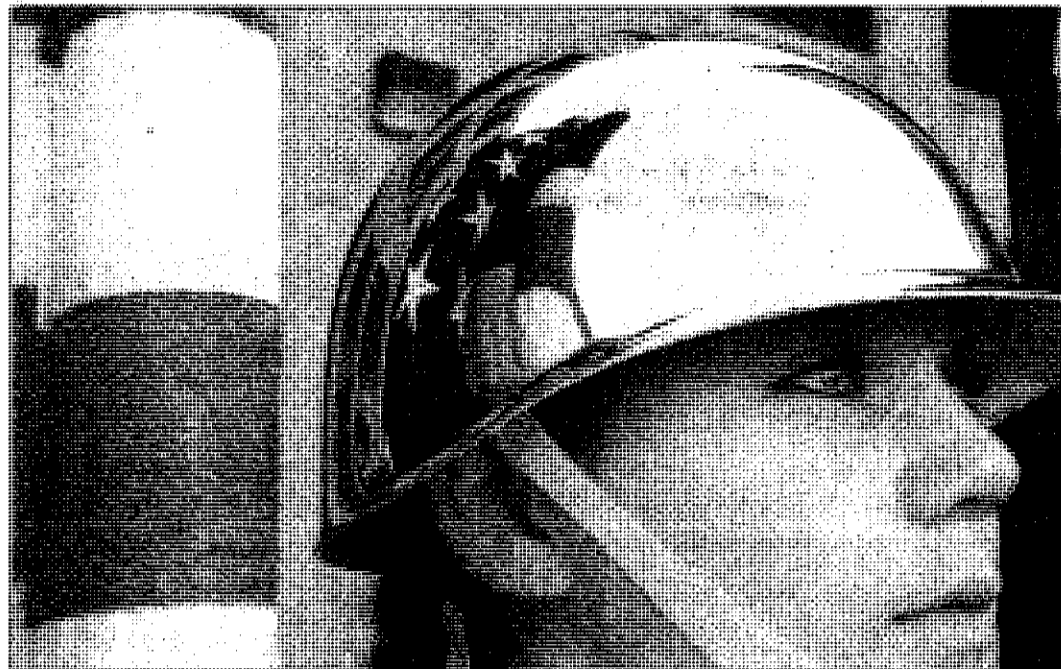
It changes his own life and that of seven innocent women as he recreates the fear and frenzy of the late 1960s in the two college towns.

"I created an outcast," she said of her character. "It gets to the point where he eats, sleeps and drinks the case. It gets to the point where he can't control himself and snaps. He loses it totally and

PLEASE SEE AUTHOR, A5



Stockwell



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The finish of helmet reflected the flag as Sgt. Kateri Little, a ninth-grader at Wayne Memorial High School, joined fellow JROTC members and color guard in dress rehearsal in advance of a Veterans Day ceremony at the school Friday.

Time to remember

JROTC leads school in Veterans Day ceremony

For the second time in as many years, the staff and students of Wayne Memorial High School gathered at the main flagpole at 11 a.m. Friday for a Veterans Day ceremony led by members of the school's JROTC cadets.

The ceremony was lead by the cadet commander 2nd Lt. Ryan Bies. Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. John Cipolletti was in charge of the cadets and set up the ceremony which included a presentation of the colors, music by the high school band and the reading of President George W. Bush's Veterans Day proclamation by Andrew Pate.

In his proclamation, the president said "Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have sacrificed for our liberty and for the security of our Nation."

"From the beaches of Normandy and the snows of Korea to the mountains of Afghanistan and the deserts of Iraq, our courageous veterans have sacrificed so that Americans and others could live in freedom," Pate read.

"Through their commitment to freedom, America's veterans have lifted millions of lives and made our country and the



Platoon Sgt. Richard Castaldini (right) leads one of four platoons in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

world more secure. They have demonstrated to us that freedom is the mightiest force on Earth. We resolve that their sacrifices will always be remembered by a grateful nation."

The ceremony also highlighted the history of Veterans Day ceremonies, held annually at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. There also was traditional formation of boots and rifle, representing a soldier who has made the ultimate sacrifice.

The cadets also touched on the sacrifices during fighting

stretching from the Revolutionary War through to Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Throughout our nation's history, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and support personnel were there, putting their lives on the line for freedom," a spokesman for the cadets said. "We pay tribute to all who served and this ceremony is but a small way to say thank you to the 45 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and support personnel who have stood in harm's way for the noble cause of freedom."

Federal grant helps replace dead ash trees

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Ash trees destroyed by an aggressive insect are being replaced in Westland by different trees, as the city continues a gradual rebirth in devastated neighborhoods.

In all, 160 trees have been planted as officials and residents work together to begin replacing 3,217 ash trees that got the ax, said Kevin Buford, the city's superintendent of construction and maintenance.

Now, Westland will receive a new, \$24,500 grant to continue its tree-replacement program, state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, announced.

Redford will receive a \$2,500 grant.

"This is wonderful news for Redford and Westland," Toy said, issuing a prepared statement. "Our area is ground zero of the emerald ash borer infestation in Michigan. Communities throughout the 6th Senate District have been just devastated by this destructive insect."

The latest grant, funded by the U.S. department of Agriculture's Forest Service, will allow the city to replace an additional 196 trees of the 3,217 that were cut down on city property, Buford said. That would push the total number of new trees to 356.

Initially, the city focused its efforts on the Tonquish and Surrey Heights subdivisions because they were par-

'Our area is ground zero of the emerald ash borer infestation in Michigan. Communities throughout the 6th Senate District have been just devastated by this destructive insect.'

Sen. Laura Toy

PLEASE SEE TREES, A4

Comments are mixed on new voting system

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A voting system used for the first time in a Westland general election had no major glitches, city officials said.

"We had a few minor glitches, but they were not machine-oriented problems," Deputy Clerk Nancy Bonaparte said. "I think the voters are acclimating to it now."

Voters used the new M-100 optical scan system that allowed them to use pens to fill in oval spaces next to their chosen candidates.

The new system, tested in the August primary, replaced an old touch-screen system.

"I heard a couple of mixed comments," said Peggy Ellenwood, director of the senior citizen Friendship Center. "A couple of people liked the new system and a couple didn't."

Ellenwood heard the comments while working Election Day at Holliday Park Townhouses, off of north Wayne Road.

"Some people felt that it took them longer to complete their ballots," Ellenwood said. "But, I was out there (at Holliday Park) for seven-plus hours and only heard a few comments."

The counting of absentee ballots took a little longer than in recent city elections, but all vote totals had been tabulated by shortly after 11 p.m.

Bonaparte heard some voters complain that they could hardly see the oval spaces on the ballots.

However, she said the spaces can't be made any darker because the machines that count and record ballots could misread them.

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

Suspect faces new charges in Westland robbery

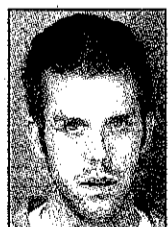
BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A serial bank robber suspect was arraigned Thursday on charges of robbing a Comerica branch on Wayne Road, south of Warren.

Russell A. Rasmussen, 28, also is suspected of robbing banks in Canton and Dearborn.

Rasmussen faces a hearing on Thursday in Westland 18th District Court for charges of robbing the Comerica branch on Nov. 1.

He is jailed in lieu of a \$1 million bond as he awaits a court ruling on whether he will have to stand trial. He is accused of going into the bank, passing a note to a teller and



Rasmussen

indicating a holdup, police Sgt. Chris Benson has said. The note warned the teller to hand over money "and no one will get hurt," Benson said. No weapon was revealed.

Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos entered a not-guilty plea in Rasmussen's court file and ordered him to return on Thursday for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether the case will advance to Wayne County Circuit Court.

Rasmussen was arrested after a Plymouth Township woman told authorities that the suspect had borrowed her car and didn't

return it. Dearborn Heights police found her car, and when she went to pick it up she found a note that, according to Canton police Sgt. Rick Pomorski, looked like the notes used in the bank robberies.

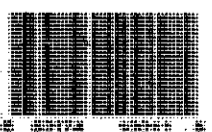
Rasmussen's arrest came Monday. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

He was reported on Oct. 11 by Washtenaw County and Ann Arbor police for absconding from parole. He has prior convictions for unarmed robbery, fleeing from police and auto theft.

He had been released from prison in April.

Staff writer Carol Marshall contributed to this story. dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

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Coming Thursday
in Filter

More than 300
area cheerleaders
are set to kick off
this year's
Thanksgiving Day
parade in down-
town Detroit



Enthusiasm drives 'Teacher of Year' winner at Franklin HS

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

There's no mistaking it. Anyone who enters Franklin High School will see the banner right away. It announces Angela M. Hillman as Livonia Public

Schools High School Teacher of the Year.

Hillman, who currently teaches drama and broadcast arts classes, has worked at Franklin for 13 years. For the past nine years she's been nominated for this award - making

her something of a Susan Lucci in the education community. Though her students would be surprised to hear it, she didn't initially plan to go into teaching.

She started her career in broadcasting. For more than three years, Hillman worked for WJBK Channel 2 in public relations and promotions. When the position of theater director opened at Franklin High School, Hillman applied and got it. It didn't take long before she realized the job entailed "everything I was supposed to be."

For a while, Hillman kept her broadcasting job and worked at night so she could go back to school and earn her teaching certification.

"It was all meant to be," she said. She created the school's first drama class, and began teaching a broadcasting course with access to dated tools, a tape recorder and camcorder.

Hillman still teaches both courses. Over the years she taught speech, English and communication skills, too.

"You have to love teaching, to be successful," she said. "You have to have a fondness for teenagers also. Teenagers are a rare breed. They need so much during the course of a day."

Her philosophy is simple. "It's



Angie Hillman, a drama and broadcast arts teacher at Franklin High School, loves to travel. She's been chosen as the 2005-2006 High School Teacher of the Year.

not about you, it's about the kids," Hillman said. "Teenagers want to be heard. They want to be cared for in an honest way."

She's spent her career working to get the best out of her students - whether they are onstage acting or in the classroom. And her work is evident around Franklin and in the district.

Fellow teacher Margaret

Latva said: "In my 35 years with Livonia schools I have seen few teachers that have been able to make connections with students like she does. I have observed her working with all levels of ability, finding that connection to each individual student to make them feel good about themselves and strive to be the best they can be."

Earlier this year Hillman made the difficult, and rather emotional decision to resign from her position as director of the Franklin Players. Though it served as a creative outlet, and one she very much enjoyed, Hillman said it was time for her to leave.

She'll never forget the memories of those 28 productions, she said. That is something she shares with her former students.

"It was time for me to do some other things, to travel," she said.

The announcement of Hillman as a Teacher of the Year came with plenty of fanfare last spring. She remembered being escorted from her classroom to the theater to address a so-called "problem."

When she arrived in the darkened room, a spotlight shone directly on Hillman's face and she soon realized she was surrounded by family, friends and a bevy of former students.

"Of course I started crying," Hillman said.

She maintains that her teaching career allows her to see the success of her students, to watch them grow. "It really is an honor for me," she said.

It's been a difficult road, too. Hillman learned early on she

wasn't always going to be able to reach every single student, to "save them all" as she said.

She calls teaching exhausting and exhilarating, an adventure she's eager to continue.

Each day she wakes up with enthusiasm to return to work. "This drives me," Hillman said.

Her classroom is filled with photographs of former students, many who return to visit - and make sure their senior picture is still prominently displayed near her desk.

Teaching is what Hillman will continue to do as long as she honestly loves the work.

She is aided in all she does by the love and support of her family. Her mother, Barbara Hillman, recently retired from her work at Franklin. For 12 years they collaborated on live performances at the school. Angela Hillman would direct shows, while her mother created the costumes, coordinated ticket sales and managed the business end of productions.

Her mother holds the "beautiful memories" of all of those experiences dear. Together, they made a good team, she said.

"I'm so proud of her," beamed Barbara Hillman. "Angie was just born to teach. It's her passion. It's what she loves. She role models excellence in all she does."

Though Hillman is a Churchill graduate herself and a Livonia resident, her allegiance is solidly tied to Franklin High School. She expresses sheer pride in the school, and she said "This has been a home for me."

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WESTLAND Observer

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www.gardencitymi.org

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk

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LeBlanc: Teen driving law needs changing

A Westland City Council member was in Lansing recently to press for passage of a House bill that would revise the Michigan Driver Education Graduated Licensing law.

Richard LeBlanc, a part-time driver education instructor, testified in Lansing on Nov. 1, before the Michigan House of Representatives Transportation Committee, chaired by Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, and vice-chaired by Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

The committee was considering HB 4756, which would limit a first-year driver under 18 years of age to one non-family member passenger in a vehicle that they are driving.

"I speak in support of HB 4756 because I believe it's both wanted and necessary, and because my experience as a (Canton) reserve police officer is that passengers contribute substantially to driver distractions and accidents,"

LeBlanc told the committee. "Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-20-year-olds, and most teen fatal crashes occur when passengers, usually other teenagers, are in the vehicle."

"Two out of every three teenagers who die in a vehicle crash are passengers in a vehicle driven by another teenager. This is a staggering statistic."

LeBlanc also told the committee that the bill "places sensible limitations on new teenage drivers until their skills have had a chance to become refined."

"Household transportation concerns have been addressed with the provision excluding immediate family members from the restriction," he said.

The Michigan State Police as well as AAA of Michigan support the bill.

The committee voted 13 years/1 pass to send the bill to the full House of Representatives with a recommendation for approval.



Westland City Councilman Richard LeBlanc testifies before House Transportation Committee.

AROUND WESTLAND

'50s Night

The Hellenic Cultural Center will be the place to be on Friday, Nov. 18, to catch up with friends, support local non-profit charities, and reminisce the 1950s with music and fun.

Sponsored by the Women of Westland and the Westland Jaycees, '50s Night with a Mission is in its fifth year and tickets are selling fast.

"We've been inundated with requests for tickets, but still have some left" said local Realtor Robin Cooke, Women of Westland's communications director. "As in past years, we expect this will be a sold-out event."

Partygoers will enjoy The Reflections and dine 1950s style at "The Diner" as the Hellenic Center staff serve a menu of sliders, Coney island hot dogs, french fries, beverages and a cash bar. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with entertainment starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland, or by calling (734) 261-3680.

At the library

The anti-war Movement during the Civil War will be the topic of a presentation, entitled "Fire in the Rear," by local author and historian Daryl A. Bailey at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road.

To reserve a seat, call the library at (734) 721-7832.

Surplus food

The City of Westland will be distributing surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey.

Eligible residents living north of Michigan Avenue will pick up their commodities on the third Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Seniors living in Taylor Towers should call the building manager for the date of the distribution at their facility.

Administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services,

the program this month food will distribute corn cereal Shelf Life milk and vegetable oil.

Call the surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

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. Visit the Web site www.tops.org.

Shopping event

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. The day starts with the continental breakfast, provided by Panera Bread, at 9:30 a.m. at Marshall Field's. 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. Call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Holiday party

Westland senior citizens are invited to the Holiday Extravaganza, a Christmas party, at the Westland senior Friendship Center, Thursday, Dec. 15. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with the "fabulous feast" will be served at noon. There will be a chance to have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, dancing to the music of the Tommie James Trio and gifts galore. Tickets cost \$8 for members and \$10 for guests. Available at the Friendship center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

Legacy plan goes to school board Monday

The next phase in the process surrounding Livonia Public Schools Legacy Initiative will take place this Monday.

The district's Demographics Committee will present its proposal for the first time to the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, in the administration building, 15125 Farmington Road.

The committee-style session is open to the public and includes an opportunity for audience comments. The Legacy plan has received both praise and criticism across the school district.

If approved by the board, the plan could close seven school buildings, move fifth and sixth graders into upper elementary buildings, redraw district boundaries, increase art and

music programming, and provide a savings of \$1.5 to \$2 million annually.

Residents and community members interested in sharing their comments and concerns with the school board before this issue comes to a vote, may also do so at a public hearing at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road.

The board's second regular

meeting of the month, originally scheduled for Nov. 21, has been moved to Tuesday, Nov. 22, at the board office due to the public hearing.

All open meetings will be cablecast on LPS cable Channels 15 & 19 in Livonia and Westland. For a complete cable schedule see the district's Web site at <http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/great/nov05.pdf>.

By Stephanie A. Casola

Golden Corral serves free meals for military

Golden Corral, a buffet-style restaurant in Westland, will serve up free meals Monday to active and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The free meals will be served 5-9 p.m. Monday at

the restaurant on Warren Road, east of Newburgh. It's all part of the restaurant chain's nationwide Military Appreciation Monday, which comes three days after Veterans Day.

Veterans from such groups

as the Disabled Veterans Association and the nonprofit Veterans Haven Inc., among others, participated in last year's event.

Those dining free will save \$8.99 plus tax on their meal and \$1.39 on their drinks.

It's all part of the restaurant chain's nationwide Military Appreciation Monday, which comes three days after Veterans Day.

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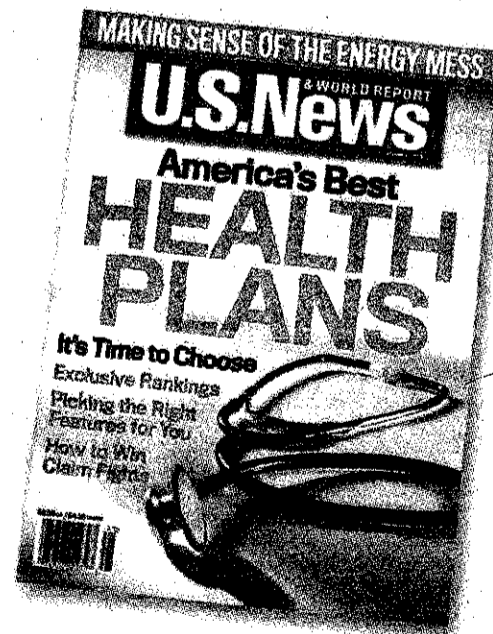
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TREES

11M PAGE A1

ularly hard hit by the emer-
l ash borer, Buford said.
Officials will now turn their
ention to other neighbor-
ods.
Residents who want to
it a new tree will have to
y \$75, and the grant money
ll cover the remaining tab.
It costs \$250 to \$400 for a
w tree, depending on the
ecies, Buford said.
Westland residents will
eive help on a first-come,
st-serve basis.
To seek grant money or for
re information, call (734)
8-1770.
The program is being fund-
by the U.S. Department of
riculture Forest Service.
The emerald ash borer is an
ect native to Asia that
acks ash trees.
n its larval stage, the bug
s undetected under the
k, disrupting the flow of
er and nutrients and ulti-
tely killing trees.
nce 2002, the borer has
troyed or damaged some
million trees in southeast
chigan.

m@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Super Bowl hosts '08 tourney

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The women will number
40,000, and will trickle into
western Wayne County for 90
days in 2008 for the second
largest bowling tournament in
the country.

"It'll be more like a flood
than a trickle," said Mike
Reffitt, general manager of the
Super Bowl on Ford Road in
Canton.

Super Bowl has been select-
ed to host the 2008 United
States Congress Women's
Championships.

The 60-lane center will
accommodate team, doubles
and singles competition for the
tournament, which is the
largest participatory sporting
event in the world for women.

"Super Bowl was the perfect
venue because we prefer to
host all three events in the
same center whenever possi-
ble," USBC Chief Tournament
Officer Roseann Kuhn said.
"The center is also very close to
shopping, restaurants, hotels
and the airport which will
make it convenient for our
bowlers."

Though the bowling center
itself was a strong sell in win-
ning the bid to host the tourna-

ment, it didn't hurt that
Canton has a variety of excel-
lent dining and shopping ven-
ues, according to Super Bowl
Director of Operations Roger
Philipi.

"We were in stiff competition
with Livonia, Allen Park and
Taylor," Philipi said. "But
Canton is such a beautiful
community, and things like
shopping, convenience to the
airport, and the availability of
restaurants and hotels definite-
ly made a difference."

The tournament, which will
be during the months between
April and July in 2008, marks
the first time in more than 50
years the Detroit area has host-
ed the event.

"The last time this area host-
ed the event was 1953," Philipi
said.

The economic impact for the
area is huge.

"There will be 40,000 com-
petitors and 20,000 spectators
who will stay in this area for
three or four days at a time," he
said.

"What that adds up to is \$3-
\$4 million pumped into our
local economy because these
people will stay at local hotels,
eat in local restaurants and
shop in local stores."

Janeen Foreman, who works

at Super Bowl, was excited her
employer won the bid, but not
for professional reasons.

"As a bowler, and as someone
who lives here, I was just
thrilled that this is going to be
in my own back yard," she said.
"It's just huge in the bowling
world, and I can't wait."

Leading up to the 2008
event, the Women's
Championships will be con-
ducted in Reno, Nev., next year
and in Charlotte, N.C., in 2007.
Beginning in 2010, the event
will move to an arena setting
similar to the USBC Open
Championships.

Open to all women who hold
USBC adult membership, the
Women's Championships con-
sists of five divisions: Classic
for bowlers with averages of
190 and above; Division 1 for
averages of 170-189; Division 2
for averages of 150-169;
Division 3 for averages of 131-
149; and Division 4 for aver-
ages of 130 and below.

Team captains can enter the
2006 Women's Championships
in Reno by calling (414) 423-
9006 or by visiting
USBCwomenschampionships.c
om.

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

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Imagine the wonderment of reading
a book for the first time. Cover-to-cover
you can claim it; the words make the
story, the story touches the senses, the
senses enhance the experience that
fosters learning.

We take it for granted, but when you
really think about the power of reading
is an amazing gift.

Children's literature is celebrated
each year through National Children's
Book Week. From Nov. 14-20, the Public
Library of Westland will highlight this
literary event.

It originated with Mr. Frederic
Melcher, the secretary of the American
Booksellers Association in 1919, hoping
families and community would respond
to the challenge to make literacy for
children a primary goal.

This year's theme - Imagine - speaks
to the heart of every child. Books are
for fun, inspiration, knowledge, coach-
ing and insight. Books offer one of the
best ways for a child to learn about an
ever-expanding world.

Learning colors is fundamental in
Dog's Colorful Day by Emma Dodd, but
painting a deep-turquoise sea is equally
important in *Art Ideas* by Fiona Watt.

While the antics of a clumsy bunny
make you laugh, the struggle of an awk-
ward child in *Freak the Mighty* by W.R.
Philbrick can touch your heart. No one
ever said understanding exponents
would be easy, but you can do it. Books
can show you how.

Books bear witness to other lives in
other places. Was it harder growing up

in Appalachia? Read *Silver Packages* by
Cynthia Rylant.

What made Rachael Carson crusade
for ecological protection? Read
*Listening to Crickets: A Story About
Rachel Carson* by Candice F. Ransom.

How will I explain prejudice to my
second grader? Read *Sister Anne's
Hands* by Marybeth Lorbiecki.

A child asks a billion questions as
she navigates new worlds, ultimately
following her own unique path. Imagine
the resources to help her learn and
understand. Just imagine how literacy
increases confidence, wisdom and skill.

We begin a fun-filled week on
Monday, Nov. 14, in concert with Julie
Austin. Story times are interactive and
will include a creative craft at 10:30 a.m.
both Tuesday and Wednesday. An imagi-
native Lego program is sure to be fun
on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Throughout the week, kids are invit-
ed to stop by the Children's Department
to guess the number of Legos and
Duplos on display. Prizes will be given
for the closest guess.

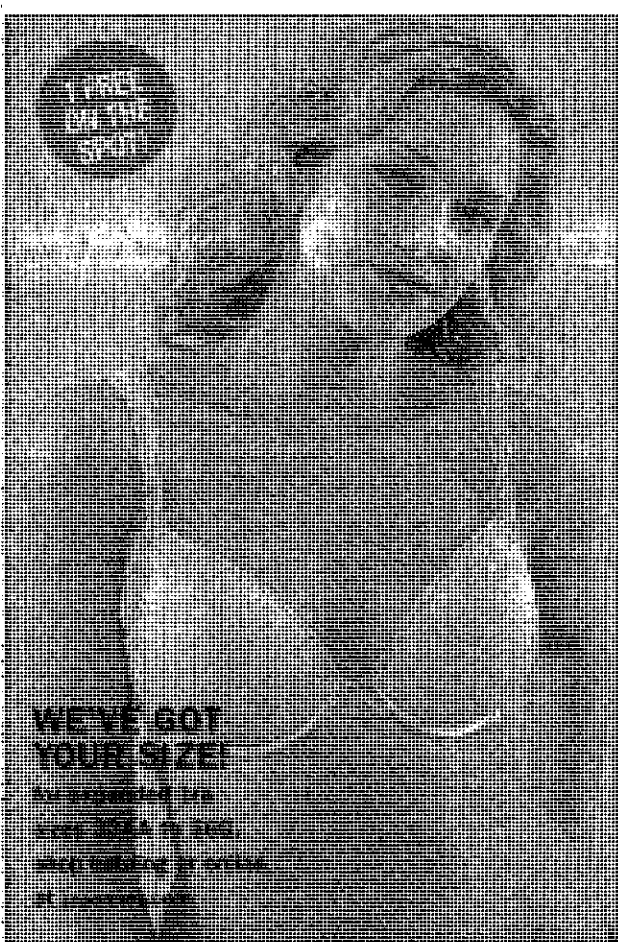
Adult Book Discussion: 7 p.m. Nov.
15. *Tonto and the Lone Ranger Fistfight
in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie.

Fifth-Sixth Grade Book Discussion:
7 p.m. Nov. 15. *The City of Ember* by
Jeanne DuPrau. Register at the chil-
dren's desk.

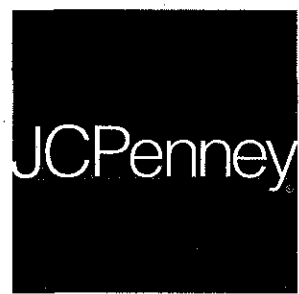
Internet 20! 7 p.m. Nov. 16. An inside
look at Internet search engines.
The William P. Faust Public Library is
at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.
Call (734) 326-6123.

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AUTHOR

FROM PAGE A1

GETTING STARTED

Stockwell got interested in convicted killer John Norman Collins while she was a student at Concordia College in the late 1990s. Situated at U.S. 23 and Geddes Road, the college sat across the street and half-mile down the road from where three of the victims were found.

"No one at Concordia wanted to talk about it," she said. "It wasn't a taboo subject, it was just something they didn't want to remember."

So Stockwell did what her main character did. She visited the cemeteries, the crime scenes, houses and went everywhere in the EMU and UM campuses related to the killing spree.

She talked to a close friend of one victim, the woman who discovered the body of the third slain co-ed and the fiancé of the sixth victim. Using an Internet people search, she found a friend of the first victim and a friend of the third victim.

She went to the towns where the victims had come from - Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Plymouth, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Romulus. She even corresponded with Collins, who serving out his life sentence at Marquette State Prison for the murder of EMU freshman Karen Sue Beineman in 1969.

She changed her name and presented herself as a married



Collins

woman in hopes of getting some additional information from Collins. "I was at the point where I knew he was guilty, but I wanted to know why," she said. "I worded the letters in a way that I could get some subliminal information from him."

She gave up when it looked as though Collins was about to hit her up for some money, but points to a paragraph in a letter he wrote to her on Nov. 7, 2001, as quite telling.

"You mentioned reading the Keyes' book (author Edward Keyes' 1976 book, *Michigan Murders*) that is 'SUPPOSED' to be about me," Collins wrote. "You may not believe this, but I've had that book in my cell for the past 25+ years and NEVER read it from cover to cover ... only portions of it. Whenever I opened it and began to read it, it seemed like I was reading about someone else - CERTAINLY NOT ABOUT ME."

INTEREST IN TRUE CRIME

Stockwell grew up in Westland, moved to Plymouth and then Las Vegas before returning to her roots. She decided to look into the murders because of an interest in true crime. She decided to write her book because Keyes' tome "has aged." She started writing it in 2002 and eventually finished it in 2004.

"I don't glorify in any way what John Norman Collins

did," she said. "I feel for the victims. If I do make any significant money, I'll donate some back to their families because they've been through enough and I don't want to profit from what they lost."

With her first book ready for publication, Stockwell is switching gears and starting to work on a non-fiction piece about the crash of Flight 255 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in August 1987.

She was 12 years old when the crash took place and remembers the night "very distinctly."

"I've already talked to the lone survivor," she said.

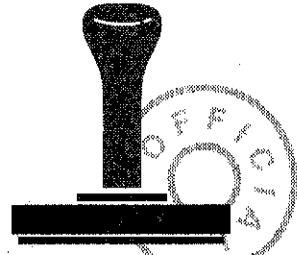
As for *Archetype*, it will go on sale Jan. 1 through PublishAmerica. Stockwell is excited to have the Maryland-based company handle her first book.

It uses digital printing technology so it can publish books one at a time as orders are made and has a proven track record with first-time authors. Its largest customers are Barnes and Noble and Borders, followed by Amazon and Books A Million.

The cover is a 1969 photograph of the LaForge Road farmhouse where it was confirmed that at least one of the victims died. On the back ... well, Stockwell would like nothing better than having a quote from a famous true crime author.

"I'd love it if Vincent Bugliosi would read the book and give me a big quote on the back," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112



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

- B**
Eric E. Bentlage
Bentlage, 89, of Waterford, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 9.
- Violet V. (Dumke) Bitz**
Bitz, 86, died Nov. 9.
- C**
Patty Ann Cool
Cool, died Nov. 8.
- F**
Helen Marie McNamara Feys
Feys, 81, formerly of Redford, died Nov. 7.
- H**
Richard M. "Dick" Hansz
Hansz, 88, of Traverse City, died Nov. 9.
- Amber Marie Harrison**
Harrison, 19, died Nov. 8.
- Phylis M. Henderson**
Henderson, 86, of Beverly Hills, died Oct. 30.
- O**
Barbara G. Oliver
Oliver, 87, of Chelsea, died Nov. 7.
- R**
Helen F. Rice
Rice, 87, of Northport, died Nov. 7.
- Richard C. Reilly, M.D.**
Reilly, 74, of Birmingham, died Nov. 3.
- T**
Sheridan M. Thurston
Thurston, 54, of Plymouth, died Nov. 3.

Senior centers host Medicare info talks

State Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia, will host a series of informational presentations at area senior centers for Medicare recipients and their families about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit.

The first presentation is at the Redford Township Senior Center, 12121 Hemingway, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Presentations will also be at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, and at the Garden City Maplewood Senior Center, 31735 Maplewood Street, from 3-4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for residents of the 6th Senate District to learn more about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage," Toy said.

Starting on Nov. 15, beneficiaries can enroll in the Medicare drug plan of their choice.

There are a number of different plans and everyone with Medicare must make a decision about their drug coverage.

An expert from the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program will be available at each session to discuss the new prescription drug benefit and provide information that will help those with Medicare decide which plan is right for them. U. S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is also supporting the events.

The new prescription drug insurance through Medicare gives individuals without coverage the chance to join an affordable plan and people who already have minimal coverage the opportunity to receive additional savings on their prescriptions.

For more details or to obtain an informational pamphlet about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, contact Toy's office at (517) 373-1707.

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Workshop to help grieving families get through holidays

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The weather's turning brisk and southeast Michigan could get its first dusting of snow this week, reminders that the winter holidays are growing ever more near. But not everyone finds this time of year a happy one, particularly if grief is part of the season.

To help people who are trying to deal with grief during the holidays, L. J. Griffin Funeral Home is for the 12th year inviting the public to attend a memorial service and grief workshop for families who have experienced loss and personal grief during the past year.

"Every year we have a grief counselor come in for a

bereavement support group and a workshop on coping during the holidays," said David Griffin. "We have to do this every year. It helps."

The evening will begin with a half-hour memorial service at 7 p.m., then a workshop on grief.

The counselor is also available to offer personal one-on-one sessions, Griffin said.

"It's not just for our clients. About half of the families who attend every year have heard about the workshop from a friend or in the newspaper," Griffin said. "Sometimes people just need a little extra support to make it through this time of year."

It's difficult, he added, because so often it's the holidays that brings families

together, and the holidays can remind grieving people of happier times.

"With busy schedules and families being so scattered, very often they only get together during the holidays. It's too bad that we can't focus on the family daily or weekly. So during the holidays, the grieving family may have sort of a flashback of the memories and the times they did have together," Griffin said.

The L. J. Griffin Funeral Home 12th annual memorial service will be held 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 42600 Ford Road in Canton. For more information or to RSVP, call (734) 981-1700.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

Grant funds Girl Scouts ME! program

Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council received a grant from the Dove Self-Esteem Fund to implement the uniquely ME! program in the communities they serve.

The council will receive an estimated \$95,000 from 2005 to 2008, designating them as a uniquely ME! council, which serves troops in Westland and the Plymouth-Canton area.

The uniquely ME! program helps to build self-esteem by empowering girls to recognize the pitfalls of risky behaviors like smoking, drinking, drug use, eating disorders and unsafe sexual behavior, which are all linked to low self-esteem.

The program also aims to make girls feel better about themselves, both physically and emotionally.

Armed with this knowledge and confidence, the girls can build a foundation for a healthy self-image.

"Everything we do at Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council is aimed at uplifting and empowering girls and making sure they can make informed decisions throughout their lives," said Gail Scott, council CEO. "We are very excited to be a part of the uniquely ME! program and we thank Unilever and the Dove Self-Esteem Fund for enabling us to spread these important



Accepting the first installment of a three-year grant from The Dove Self-Esteem Fund is Gail Scott, Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley CEO, and Diane Hockett, director of membership, (third and fourth from right respectively) along with Philippe Marousseau, marketing director - Dove Skin Masterbrand, Dominique Dawes, uniquely ME! spokesperson and three-time Olympian, Mary Lee Hoffman, senior vice-president Development - National Funding Girl Scouts of the USA, Patti Wakeling, Dove Masterbrand senior marketing manager, and Christy DeSantis, Dove global medical manager.

life lessons to our girls."

In 2002, Girl Scouts of the USA teamed with Unilever, Dove's parent company, to create uniquely ME! The Girl Scout/Unilever Self-Esteem Program designed to reach thousands of girls from diverse backgrounds who deal with issues of esteem and confidence in many facets of their lives.

In its first three years, and with the assistance of approximately 3,000 volunteers, uniquely ME! reached more than 166,000 tweens and teens, ages 8-14, through its activities and events.

Due to the success of the program, Dove has committed

to the partnership with Girl Scouts through 2008.

With the help of the newly funded councils, uniquely ME! will broaden its curriculum to include girls up to age 17.

The uniquely ME! curriculum uses mentoring and education through group and individual activities to foster self-esteem. The curriculum integrates the latest research from the Girl Scouts Research Institute (GSRI) and hand-on activities.

For more information on how to join, volunteer, or donate to the Girl Scouts, call (800) 49-SCOUT, or visit the council Web site at www.gshvc.org.

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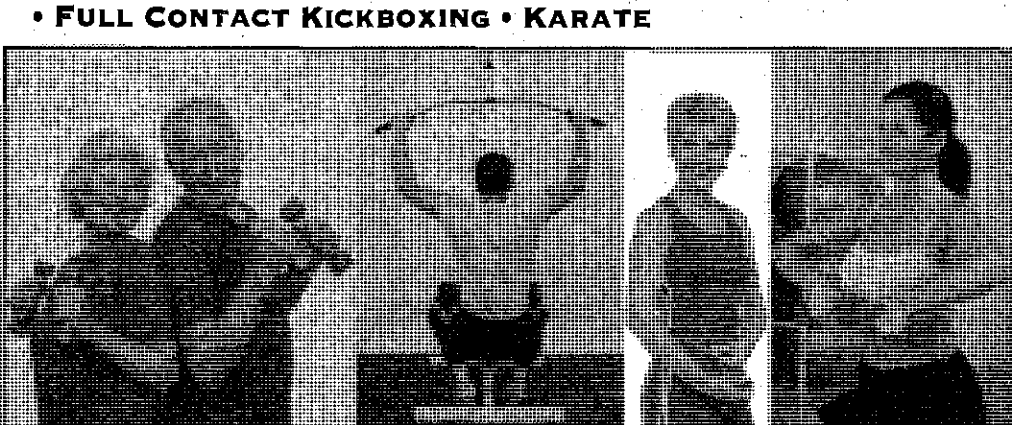
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Politics takes sordid turn in Cox, Fieger soap opera

Politics is an ugly game sometimes. For some nothing is out of bounds, no one's privacy is beyond breach, no misstep isn't be turned to political advantage. This became all too clear this week when Attorney General Mike Cox, R-Livonia, came forward to admit to an extramarital affair. Cox made this private matter public because, he claims, attorney Geoffrey Fieger was using the information to blackmail him into dropping an investigation into Fieger's contributions to a political action committee opposed to the reelection of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman. Fieger has also put his name forth as a potential Democratic candidate to challenge Cox in next year's race for attorney general.

The accusations will be sorted out through the legal process. We wouldn't presume to take sides in this matter. Neither Cox nor Fieger will come out of this without being soiled.

The scandal raises some interesting thoughts about our perceptions of the political parties, the rights of privacy and the sheer viciousness of some people who claim to be champions of liberal ideals.

Let's start with the last. Whether or not Fieger did what Cox alleges, his response to the accusation is a blood chilling example of cut-throat politics.

In published comments, Fieger accuses Cox of serial adultery while proclaiming (or is it feigning) his innocence with his usual over the top rhetoric: "The people of the state of Michigan should also be offended by Mr. Cox's admission that he has so many skeletons in his closet that he feels personally threatened by his political opponents."

He says, "This is an intensely private matter, which should have remained private. I am offended that Mr. Cox has publicly attempted to deflect his own improper behaviors by repeatedly engaging in extramarital affairs and then making accusations against myself and others to deflect his guilt."

Parse that if you can. It adds insult to injury. If Cox is telling the truth, of course, he disclosed this "intensely private matter" rather than cave in to extortion and do his duty as the state's top law enforcement official. The alternative, under that scenario, would be to drop the investigation and save himself the embarrassment (until the next time). If Cox is not telling the truth, then why would he reveal this private matter? On the spur Wednesday, press reports say Fieger fumed "(Cox has) lost his mind."

The political pundits are saying that Cox will be most hurt in this matter. They reason that the Republican Party is the party of "morality"

The idea that the Republican Party represents 'morality' to some pundits only shows how effective the GOP PR has been in recent years.

and that Cox has seriously damaged his image as an upright Eagle Scout kind of guy.

I suppose that depends on your definition of morality. Certainly Cox has spent a lot of his time in office supporting positions of the religious right. He's been their darling on what they perceive as moral issues: gay marriage and benefits for homosexual couples and their families, abortion, "family values." His admission makes those positions smack of hypocrisy. But he's always given off the impression that he was looking out for the next higher political office and playing to his base.

But personal morality or immorality isn't limited to one party or the other. I've met Democrat and Republican politicians that I respect as honest, fair, decent human beings who disagree on the role of government, social and economic issues. I've also met Democrats and Republicans that I thought were more than a little shady, more interested in their personal ambitions than in the public good (though some of them were quite effective political leaders).

The idea that the Republican Party represents "morality" to some pundits only shows how effective the GOP PR has been in recent years.

Just as Republicans defend their positions as moral, Democrats would argue that concern for the poor, racial and sexual equity, more funding for schools and social programs, a responsible foreign policy and other issues make them the "moral" party.

Certainly, Cox's admission takes the steam out of his implied claim to a higher morality and that won't play well with his more church-going supporters. The pundits are right, this will hurt.

But Mike and Laura Cox are no strangers to hardball politics, just ask Lyn Bankes who was boxed out of running for re-election to the county commission to make a place for Laura Cox.

He'll tough it out. They'll tough it out. By early this week, we'll see what Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca will make of all this.

We can only hope that this isn't prelude to a year of nasty, character-destroying political attacks. If it is, we might all want to run for cover from Democrats and Republicans.

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

Let's connect the dots and say enough is enough for Bush

Failure to "connect the dots" became a very popular phrase to explain why the terrorists were able to hijack four passenger airplanes and fly three of them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. There is another set of dots that needs to be connected, so everyone can see who benefits:

1. The cost of the Iraq war is \$1 billion per week.

President Bush is the only U.S. president who has reduced income taxes in war time. His first term started with a financial surplus. Now our country is in more debt than at any other time in our history. U.S. companies received very lucrative contracts to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure after our military destroyed it. It has also been very expensive in terms of lives lost and people permanently injured.

Without broad-based economic development where Iraqis can earn a living wage, without effective institutions of civil society and without a form of government that is responsive to the needs of its people, there will be no peace in Iraq.

2. The cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast will be as expensive as the war in Iraq.

Private corporations are again the beneficiaries of very lucrative contracts. We are told that to avoid any hindrances with redevelopment, the Bush administration wants to waive the minimum wage and EPA standards.

The residents of the Gulf Coast need long-term employment where they receive a living wage, not a minimum or lower wage. This huge rebuild should be organized as a federal public works program that hires those who are victims of the hurricane.

With oil, chemicals and e-coli bacteria in the water and land, EPA standards need to be fully enforced, so the Gulf Coast will be a safe and healthy place to live and visit.

3. Speaking from New Orleans, President Bush told us taxes will not be raised.

The funding of the Iraq war and the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast will be the excuses for making drastic cuts in the food stamp program, Medicaid and The Women, Infants and Children's nutrition (WIC) program. If the legislation is passed, it will diminish these programs by more than \$13 billion.

Once again, the president and Congress have decided to make life more difficult for the poor. The WIC program pays for itself by reducing the number of problem pregnancies and birth defects.

We saw how the poor of New Orleans were treated. We've read that Detroit is the poorest city of its size in the United States. Many other cities in Michigan and throughout the country struggle to provide basic services to their residents.

My statement about what is needed in Iraq can be slightly modified to describe what is needed in New Orleans, Detroit and other central cities. Without broad-based economic development that will enable people to earn a living wage, without effective institutions of civil society and without elected officials who are responsive to the needs of its people, violence is inevitable.

4. One percent of the population holds more wealth than the entire bottom 90 percent combined, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve Watch. The tax cuts in 2004 meant an extra \$170,000 for taxpayers in the nation's most affluent 1 percent.

It is absolutely amazing that the richest people in the United States have already received a significant tax break, but the president is still not satisfied. If the next proposed tax deductions are approved, it will amount to \$70 billion.

We are the richest country in the world and we do not take care of our own. As of 2004, the U.S. Census Bureau published the following statistics: 35.9 million people live below the poverty level; 1 in every 8 individuals and 1 in every 10 families lives in poverty; more than 1 in 6 children live in poverty; poverty rates have risen for three straight years; 1 in 3 Americans living in poverty worked, but didn't earn enough to cover food, housing and other essential expenses. The bureau's benchmark of poverty for a family of three with two children is \$14,824.

5. The number of people without health insurance has increased from 30 million during the Clinton administration to currently 45.8 million.

In the Sept. 22 *Detroit Free Press*, Derrick Jackson wrote about the Kaiser Family Foundation report. This report states that health insurance premiums continue to increase at triple the rate of inflation. The average annual cost of family coverage is \$10,880.

George W. Bush told us that he is a compassionate conservative. He never defined what he meant by that, but his actions tell us a great deal. Let us connect the dots to see what kind of president and Congress we've voted into office.

The president and Congress have approved enormous tax cuts for wealthy individuals and large corporations. Large corporations have become war and natural disaster profiteers. The middle-class economic squeeze gets tighter, and the safety net for our poorest and most vulnerable citizens is being destroyed by the greed of people in power and influence.

It is time for us to stand up and say enough. We will no longer continue down this path of increasing inequality in income, wealth and health.

Find out more at www.graypanthersmetro-detroit.org. In addition, the 11th Congressional District Citizens for Peace has published a Political Action Guide.

Ann Abdo lives in Livonia.

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March of Dimes lunch, NICU tours to raise prematurity awareness

Once again, the March of Dimes is hosting a "Prematurity Awareness Day" luncheon to increase public awareness about the serious issue of preterm birth.

This year's luncheon is set for noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Pasquale's, 31555 Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak. Reservations are required and should be made as soon as possible.

The awareness day is part of a multi-year, multi-million dollar campaign launched by March of Dimes with the goal of reducing premature births by 15 percent by 2010.

According to the March of Dimes, prematurity "is a common and serious problem" with premature births occurring "without warning and for no known reason." Between 1992 and 2002, the rate of infants born preterm in Michigan has increased by more than 10 percent with 25 percent of preemies suffering lifelong health problems including

To make reservations for the luncheon and/or NICU tour(s), please call (248) 359-1562 or e-mail MI630@marchofdimes.com.

cerebral palsy and blindness.

There also will be informational tours of three hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Units this week. Those will be 3:30 p.m. Monday at Hutzel Hospital in Detroit, 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and 2 p.m. Thursday at Dearborn's Oakwood Hospital.

To make reservations for the luncheon and/or NICU tour(s), please call (248) 359-1562 or e-mail MI630@marchofdimes.com.

Schoolcraft scholarship encourages adults to 'Return To Learn'

Schoolcraft College is offering a special scholarship to adults who are aged 25 years or older and enrolled in a degree or certificate program for credit. The funds are being made available as part of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's "Return To Learn" initiative, designed to encourage adults to earn college certificates or degrees.

Michigan lags behind other states in the percentage of citizens with college degrees, and Granholm has called for a doubling of the number of college graduates. She has declared November "Return to Learn" month, encouraging adults to go back to the classroom for a post-secondary degree.

"According to the 2000 census, there are 42,725 people in our district who have some college, but no degree," said Conway A. Jeffress, college president. "We want this group, which represents 24 percent of the adults, to know that Schoolcraft has multiple programs that can lead to a better job or a new career, and can be completed in one or two years."

"As an added incentive, we have set aside a pool of funds to help them get back into school, and have designated a counselor who is assigned to work on a one-to-one basis with returning adults."

The Return To Learn Scholarships are offered in \$500 and \$1,000 amounts, and are limited to one per aca-

ademic year. Students must apply to enroll for the winter 2006 semester and must complete three forms: a college application for admission; a Return to Learn Scholarship application; and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

All forms are available in the Schoolcraft Admissions Office or online at www.schoolcraft.edu.

Schoolcraft representatives also will visit area plants to explain college programs and procedures to employees. The first visit is scheduled for Nov. 15 at the Visteon plant in Belleville. Many United Auto Workers members can receive assistance for degree programs through joint union-corporate funds.

For questions about the Return to Learn Scholarships, Schoolcraft programs and degrees, or the transfer of credits earned at another post-secondary institution, contact Cindy Cichelli in the Counseling Office at (734) 462-4429, or e-mail her at ccichelli@schoolcraft.edu.

Schoolcraft offers several options for earning credits, including traditional classes during the day or at night, online instruction, video courses, open entry/open exit classes in which students chose their start and stop times, and hybrid instruction that combines classroom and online work.

Schoolcraft winter registration under way

Registration for the winter 2006 semester at Schoolcraft College began Monday, Nov. 7, with classes starting Saturday, Jan. 14. Students can choose from online, touchtone telephone or walk-in registration.

In addition to the traditional 15-week classes, students may choose 7-week and 12-week courses. Learning options include classroom settings, online Internet-based courses, video instruction, open entry/open exit classes where students chose their start and stop times, and hybrid courses that combine classroom and online delivery.

New initiatives for winter '06 include a second cohort of the

massage therapy program; an accounting class focusing on Michigan income taxes; a world literature class examining universal themes; and a firefighter course on terrorism awareness.

Students can register easily online at the Schoolcraft Web site, www.schoolcraft.edu by clicking on WebAdvisor for Students. Telephone registration is available at 734-462-4800. Walk-in registration is in Room 200 of the McDowell Center. Registration ends Jan. 20.

New students must meet with a counselor before registering. For more information, call (734) 462-4426.

Lawyer discusses doing business in Poland

Michael H. Traison, a principal at the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C., will discuss "Doing Business in Poland," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Madonna University, Kresge Hall, in Livonia.

Traison will highlight various aspects of doing business in Central and Eastern Europe as a commercial matter and as a historic event post-World War II. He will discuss cultural and language differences and standards, as well as American capitalism as a

means of promoting stability and democracy.

The event is presented by the McManus Distinguished Business Lecture Series of Madonna University School of Business. It is free and open to the public. Call (734) 432-5354 for more information.

Although resident in Miller Canfield's Detroit office, Traison also works out of the firm's three offices in Poland. He practices international law, commercial law, and debtor-creditor relations, with particular emphasis on the represen-

tation of unsecured creditors, committees, trustees and debtors under Chapter 11 and out-of-court workouts. He lectures extensively in and about Poland, including its legal developments.

He is active in professional organizations including the American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Illinois State Bar Association, International Bar Association, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, and Oakland County Bar Association. His civic organizations include the

Israel/Poland Chamber of Commerce, Jewish Vocational Service, North American/Israel Chambers of Commerce, Detroit Branch of the NAACP, Jewish Community Counsel of Metro Detroit, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Polish American Jewish American Council, and the American Friends of Shaarey Zedek Hospital of Jerusalem, Israel.

Lawyers in Miller Canfield's U.S. offices work closely with attorneys in the Poland offices.

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