

3/23  
Pack nutrition in  
your next lunch

TASTE - PAGE B5



Sneak peek at DTE  
summer schedule

FILTER - INSERTED SECTION



Tune into TV  
classics

AT HOME - PAGE B1



**HOMETOWNlife**

View daily updates of photos, news and sports online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

THURSDAY  
March 23, 2006

# WESTLAND Observer

Coming April 6,  
The Observer's  
new Weekly Real  
Estate section

75 cents

WINNERS OF OVER 100 STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS SINCE 2001

[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

## McKnight decides not to seek new term as judge

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Change is coming to Westland's 18th District Court, following the announcement this week that longtime jurist Gail McKnight will retire and not seek a fifth term.

McKnight made the announcement in advance of the March 27 filing deadline for incumbent judges to file for the Aug. 8 primary election.

"I haven't kept it a secret, but there are some very fine candidates who are interested in running for this position and they deserve to know my intentions,"

McKnight said in a prepared statement released Wednesday morning. "I have always worked hard to be worthy of the trust the voters have placed in me."

"Judge McKnight is certainly going to be missed," said Mayor Sandra Cicirelli of McKnight's decision. "She has been an ideal judge and has served this community well."

McKnight was appointed to the 18th District Court by former Gov. James Blanchard to fill a vacancy.

### RE-ELECTED

McKnight took office in

January 1985 and in 1986, was successful in being elected to serve out the remaining two years of Callanan's six-year term. She was re-elected in 1988, 1994 and 2000.

A Westland resident for more than 38 years, McKnight worked as a journalist before receiving her law degree from Wayne State University in 1976.

She worked as a clerk and did office work with her husband, Richard, also an attorney, before becoming a special assistant prosecuting attorney in Wayne County Juvenile Court in 1977. She went on to become an assistant Wayne County prosecuting

attorney, and served in that capacity until her appointment to 18th District Court.

McKnight is proud of what she has accomplished during her time as a district judge. A strong Law Day advocate, she started the program that brings actual cases before students in Wayne-Westland schools.

"This program is probably the best way for families to understand the consequences of making bad choices," she said.

She also started the court's community garden where defendants grew vegetables for use by



FILE PHOTO

Judge Gail McKnight is proud of her work to bring court cases into the schools as part of the 18th District Court's Law Day activities.

PLEASE SEE **McKNIGHT, A5**

## Seeing green

Food Services gets Seuss-ified for March Is Reading Month

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

You could blame it on Dr. Seuss. You could blame it on the *Cat in the Hat*. You could even blame it on St. Patrick's Day.

Green was in Friday in Wayne-Westland's elementary schools, even in the cafeterias where youngsters ate green eggs and ham, courtesy of the district Food Services Department.

Whether it was for breakfast or lunch, youngsters were served the Seuss-ified food as in what has become a March Is Reading Month tradition.

"I used to go to a different school each day and do the green eggs and ham," said Beth Sholler, the assistant food services director. "Our staff does it now and they do a wonderful job of getting the whole school involved."

At Wildwood, Cook Missy Sullivan went beyond just serving the youngsters in two shifts Friday morning. She had a *Cat in the Hat* coloring contest complete with prizes for the best artwork from each grade and the school's latchkey program.

She also brought in the *Cat in the Hat* - better known as Robin Borda - to meet and greet the youngsters. Surprisingly, people kept quite about the Cat's identity, but that didn't stop youngsters from asking if she was "the real *Cat in the Hat*," said Borda, who got the job "because the suit fit."

"Missy and I put together the program and got the people motivated," she added. "It was fun." "I got a line on a costume and thought it would be so cool," Sullivan said. "And when we found out it would fit, it just escalated. That's when we decided what we wanted to do."

Food Services Director Toni Makino estimates her department order 75 cases of eggs to provide the green concoction. There also was a like number of cases of ham as well as 60 cases of juice and muffins.

PLEASE SEE **GREEN, A4**



Wildwood Elementary kindergartner Brionna Harvey didn't notice the green eggs she was eating for breakfast matched her hair. Wayne-Westland's Food Services served green eggs and ham to youngsters as part of March Is Reading Month.

## Probationers heed St. Paddy's Day call to court

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

St. Patrick's Day revelers were lining up Friday at establishments around Westland, including 18th District Court. They weren't there to party - far from it. They were reporting to court to be tested to see if they had been celebrating the Irish holiday by drinking.

And they proved it by blowing into a Breathalyzer. "It was a great success this year," said Eric Lange, deputy chief probation officer. "Two hundred ninety-nine people showed and everyone was negative."

This is a second time the department has had a selected group of probationers check in on St. Patrick's Day. Last year, 370 people were asked to come to the courthouse between 7 and 9 p.m. Some 352 people showed up, with two testing positive for drinking.

This year, the department sent out 320 letters a week in advance of the holiday, asking the probationers to report at four different times between 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. The week's notice left no opportunity for those receiving the letter to come up with an excuse not to show.

"We're not looking to catch people drinking, but to be more proactive," said Lange. "It's a friendly reminder more than a deterrent."

According to Lange, the department randomly selected probationers who had no alcohol in the condition of probation. The group included first-time offenders up to those with three-four or more offenses for drinking and driving.

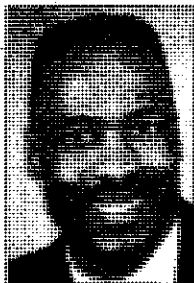
Such checks are nothing new to repeat offenders on intense probation who check in once-twice a week up to every day. They also did a post-St. Patrick's Day check on Saturday.

"The night before Thanksgiving and St. Patrick's Day are the two biggest bar nights," Lange said. "So this is a good reminder, a good deterrent for people who are on probation."

Those probationers who chose not to check in will receive show cause summons this week to appear before Judge C. Charles Bokos to explain their absence. They face possible fines, jail time and/or community service for not reporting for the check, Lange said.

[smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com) | (734) 953-2112

## McClain gets fellowship to MSU leadership program



BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

While he isn't what you'd call a college freshman, Terrance McClain is a new face on campus at Michigan State University.

The senior pastor at Annapolis Park Church of Christ and a member of the Wayne-Westland school board, McClain is among 24 people enrolled for the uni-

versity's 2006 Michigan Political Leadership Program.

McClain received a \$12,000 fellowship to attend the 10-month-long program that has a curriculum of practical politics, public policy analysis and process, personal leadership development and effective governance.

"I'm excited about making myself a better leader," said McClain. "It'll certainly help me on the board in working with

my colleagues and the administration."

McClain found out about the program from the instructors of a Michigan Association of School Boards' introductory class for new school board members. Both instructors had attended the program and encourage McClain to apply.

He missed deadline for signing up for the 2004 program and didn't make the cut for 2005, but is among the 12 men

and 12 women tapped for this year's program.

"I anticipate becoming a leader, so anything I can do to be a better one on the school board, in my congregation or the community helps," he said. "There's such a dearth of quality leadership, especially among minorities, and I want to be the person, the advocate to say you can

PLEASE SEE **McCLAIN, A5**

For Home  
Delivery call:  
(866) 887-2737



© The Observer  
& Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 41  
Number 86



Good Drivers Get Discounts Up To 40%  
GOOD WINS AGAIN.

**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	F10
BELIEFS & VALUES	C8
AUTOMOTIVE	G6
CROSSWORD	F8
JOBS	G3
MOVIES	D14
OBITUARIES	C8
REAL ESTATE	F1
SERVICE GUIDE	F10
SPORTS	C1
TASTE	B5

Coming Sunday  
in **PINK**

Guiding  
Light  
Livonia gal  
has soap  
opera life



**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Texas Hold 'Em**

St. Theodore Men's Club is sponsoring a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, April 21, in the Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

The cost is \$40 to buy in and only 110 advance tickets will be sold. No tickets will be sold at the door which opens at 6 p.m. Top prize will be \$500. Players must be at least age 18 and age 21 to drink.

For tickets, contact Mary at the parish office at (734) 425-4421. For more information, call Ken at (734) 564-4475

The Westland Jaycees will hold a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament and Vegas Night Saturday, April 22, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36551 Ford Road.

The poker tournament will run 6 p.m. to midnight, and here will be no rebuy into the tournament. Pre-registration is \$40 before April 8 and \$50 at the door. Registration begins at 5 p.m. that evening.

The Vegas Night will be 7 p.m. to midnight. It will offer games of black jack, Hold 'Em, Let It Ride and seven-card poker. Food, pop and beer also will be available for purchase.

For more information, call (734) 226-6400 and leave a message.

**Memorial fund-raiser**

Enjoy lunch or dinner at UNO Chicago Grill, 7525 Wayne Road, Westland, Wednesday March 29, and help raise money for the Dale Freese Memorial Scholarship Fund.

A fund-raiser is planned for 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the restaurant. Patrons can have 20 percent of their check to go to the Dale Freese Memorial Fund when they present special donation certificates.

The certificates are available at Norman's Market, 1546 S. Wayne Road north of Palmer. For more information, call (734) 721-6770.

**Art Auction**

The Wayne Rotary Club and Wayne Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring an Art Auction, featuring art in all media and price ranges. It will

be Friday, March 24, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne.

There will be a preview at 6:30 p.m., followed by the auction at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person which includes door prizes, silent auction, wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and coffee and cash bar.

Proceeds will benefit the Playscape for Rotary Park No. 1. For tickets or for more information, call (734) 721-7400.

**Spring Bazaar**

Edison Elementary is holding a Spring Bazaar and Art Show 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 6. There will be 25 vendors, a bake sale with eating area, babysitting with crafts for the kids and an art show featuring students' artwork throughout the halls.

**Membership month**

If you're interested in community citizenship, the opportunity to serve, growth and development, cultural awareness and nice people, then the Wayne Rotary Club wants to hear from you. The club is extending an invitation to people who live or work within the community to join the club as part of its Membership Month. People interested in joining can call Art Quintal at (734) 722-8925.

**Bunny bowl**

Children will have a chance to bowl with the Easter Bunny 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at Town & Country Bowling Alley, at Wayne and Avondale.

Cost is \$7, and children must have adult supervision. The cost includes one game of bowling and shoes, one slice of pizza or one hot dog, and pop. Tickets may be purchased by calling (734) 722-6478.

The event is being sponsored by junior and youth members of Grange No. 389. Part of the proceeds will go to AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center.

**Free seminar**

Vickey Foley, marketing director and development, and Penny Thomas, director of social service, both with Community Hospice, will

explain advanced directives, at a free seminar at 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, in Meeting Room A/B of the Westland public library, 6123 Central City Parkway.

Sometimes called living wills, advanced directives are documents which state a person's wishes on such things as extreme measures, feeding tubes and ventilators.

Bonnie Hilberer, an advanced planning funeral professional with Vermeulen Funeral Homes, also will be there to explain options for funeral preplanning.

For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

**Quilt Show**

The Plymouth/Westland Grange 389 is holding its fourth annual spring quilt show, workshop and classes 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

There will be classes in hand applique (cost is \$25) and techniques for a peony and vine wall hanging (cost is \$55), as well as a special quilt project for children (cost is \$6). Pre-register by April 19.

There will be a demonstration of yarns and new products by Hancock Fabrics and a display of quilts. Velda Kirby of Make It Sew will speak at a quilt luncheon that costs \$10.

For \$1, people can enter quilts to be judged in such categories as antique, mixed technique, mixed medium, single technique, group quilting, quilted clothing, wall hanging and unfinished top.

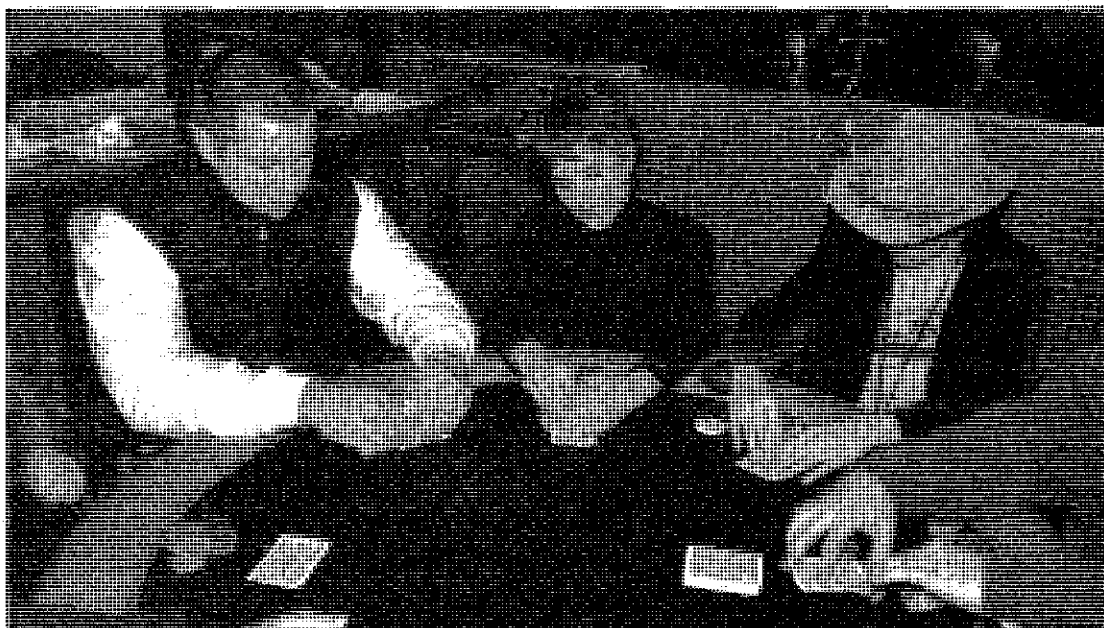
Admission is \$1 in advance and \$2 at the door.

For more information, call Sharon Strebbing at (734) 722-4857 after 6 p.m.

**Singers needed**

Do you like singing religious music? Kirk of Our Savior on Cherry Hill west of Wayne Road, Westland, is looking for singers for its adult (ages 13 and up) traditional choir. All Christian faiths and all voice ranges are welcome. Rehearsals are at 7 p.m.

Thursdays. For more information, call Tim at (734) 718-8733 or the church at (734) 728-1088.



Mark Moshluk and Rebekah Stoutenburg Brady survey their cards at the Texas Hold'em poker tournament at Brady's Tavern in Beverly Hills.

**Aces**

**Poker pals play for a shot at the big pot**

BY JAY M. GROSSMAN  
STAFF WRITER

A former art teacher at a private Catholic school in Detroit has traded in her pastels and paint brushes for a pair of pocket aces.

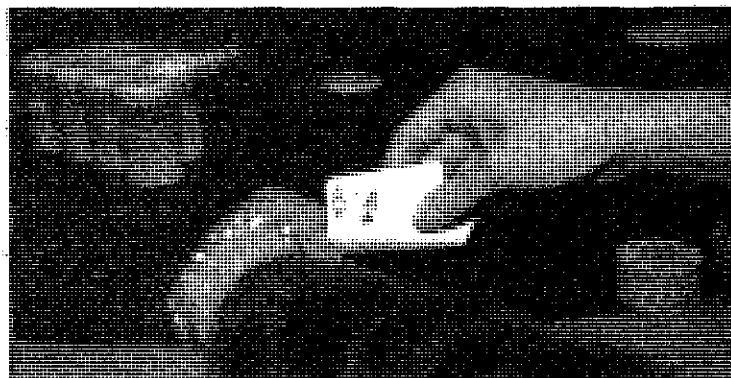
Sheryl DeRonne, 26, is quickly becoming the poker queen of southeast Michigan. The Southfield woman runs the Pioneer Poker League with her brother, Chris DeRonne, and Ferndale resident Adam Schomer.

They host free Texas Hold'em tournaments at various bars in Beverly Hills, Pontiac and Canton, while plans are in the works to start up new games in Troy and Rochester.

"Right now we have over 300 members and 15 bars participating," DeRonne said during a game at Brady's Tavern in Beverly Hills. "It's spreading like wildfire."

Poker chips are used in the game, but no money passes hands among the players. Instead, they accumulate points based on the number of winning hands.

The ultimate point winner earns a free trip to a major poker tournament in Las Vegas or some other hot-spot destination. One possibility is the



Pocket aces - a player's dream comes true.

May 5 Rapper's Poker Tournament in Miami that's hosted by Snoopy Dogg himself.

The top player at that tournament walks away with a cool million dollars in cash.

"Can't you see it?" DeRonne said. "This unknown player from an unknown league in Detroit comes out of nowhere to take them all down."

Vanessa Fettig wants to be that player.

A clinical psychologist with a practice in Detroit, Fettig started playing poker 18 months ago. She already considers herself a pretty strong player with a decent understanding of the game.

"It's fun being a girl because the other players don't know how to read me," she said.

**TOURNAMENT LOCATIONS**

Locally, free Texas Hold'em tournaments can be found at:  
 ■ 7 and 10 p.m. Wednesdays at the Shark Club, 42070 Ford Road, Canton. Call (734) 844-7665 for information.  
 ■ 7 and 10 p.m. Mondays at the Bullfrog Bar & Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road, one block north of Five Mile, Redford. Call (313) 533-4477 for information.

"That's the angle I like to work when I'm playing."

Greg Rivard, 48, drives in from Rochester Hills each weekend to play at Brady's. He's honing his skills for the day when he can sit down at a casino and play the game with actual stakes.

"It's a perfect way to learn," he said. "Last month I made a major mistake that would have cost me a fortune in a real game."

Rivard also plays in a Pontiac game that's hosted by the league. He knows the mechanics of the game and is now concentrating on how to "read" his opponents by studying their playing habits.

"See those two players?" he said, pointing to Fettig and another young woman. "If they're in, it's a solid hand."

The three partners date their friendship back to their high school days at Birmingham Groves.

While Chris DeRonne headed out to Arizona, where he now lives, Sheryl DeRonne remained in Michigan and earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Michigan. Schomer went into acting.

Sheryl DeRonne was an art teacher at St. Martin de Porres High School when the school closed last year. Before looking for another job, she decided to spend a few days with her brother in Arizona.

He took her to a poker tournament.

"It was a real comfortable atmosphere and that's what we're trying to recreate here," she said.

Once the two decided they wanted to organize a similar poker league in Michigan, Schomer was recruited to help out with the business end of the partnership.

It's his job to make sure the league complies with the Liquor Control Commission and other agencies that regulate gaming in Michigan.

Because gambling is illegal in Michigan without a license, the league cannot give away money or prizes. Instead, it "sponsors" top players and pays their way into poker tournaments around the country.

"Just like Nike would sponsor a snowboarder," Schomer said.

To learn more about the tournaments and how to play in one of the games, visit the group's Web site at www.pioneerpokerleague.com.

**BARNETT**  
 Roofing and Siding Inc.  
 RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
 Certainteed Select Shingle Roofer  
 Duro-Last Elite Roofer Award Winner  
 Professional Roofer Advisory Council  
 Family Owned and Operated for Over 45 Years  
 41700 Michigan Ave. • Canton • 734-397-8122

WESTLAND  
**Observer**  
 WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD  
 GANNETT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**HOW TO REACH US**

Susan Rosiek  
 Executive Editor  
 (734) 953-2100  
 srosiek@hometownlife.com

Hugh Gallagher  
 Managing Editor  
 (734) 953-2149  
 hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Sue Mason  
 Community Editor  
 (734) 953-2112  
 smason@hometownlife.com

Frank Cibor  
 Retail Sales Manager  
 (734) 953-2177  
 fcibor@hometownlife.com

Cathy White  
 Retail Advertising Rep.  
 (734) 953-2073  
 cwhite@hometownlife.com

Newsroom .....(734) 953-2104 Fax .....(734) 591-7279  
 Sports Nightline .....(734) 953-2104  
 Circulation/Customer Service ...1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)  
 Classified Advertising .....1-800-579-SELL (7355)  
 Display Advertising .....(734) 953-2153

To purchase page and photo reprints go to www.hometownlife.com/oreprints.  
 For more information contact 1-866-88-PAPER.

**Circulation Business Hours/Subscription Rates**  
 Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Sunday 8 a.m. to noon

If you missed a delivery please call by 6 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Carrier Delivery		Mail Delivery	
Sunday/Thursday		Sunday/Thursday	
One year	\$59.95	One year (in county)	\$83.95
6 Month	\$29.95	6 Month	\$41.95
3 Month	\$14.95	3 Month	\$20.95
For senior citizen rate, please call 1-866-887-2737		One year (out of county)	\$108.95
		6 Month	\$54.45
		3 Month	\$27.25

**POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS**  
 The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

CRC MPA GDMN  
 QUALITY ALIGNING  
 MARK OF INTEGRITY  
 Greater Detroit Newspaper Network

**FACTORY CLOSE OUT SPECIAL PURCHASE!**  
 While Quantities Last \$1399  
 (original price \$1999)

Traditional 36" 3pc. Wall Unit Entertainment Center  
 (81" x 23 1/2" x 81")

**FREE DELIVERY & SET-UP!**

**Mason FAMILY FURNITURE**

Hours:  
 Mon-Fri 10-9  
 Sat 10-9  
 Sun 12-5

Bad Mason and His Sons Welcome Back 25 Years of Previous Customers & Friends!

**QUALITY FURNITURE-GREAT PRICES!**

"We've Got The Good Stuff"

32104 Plymouth Road • Livonia  
**734-525-1737**

Located in the former Tempenny Furniture Building



# Children's lack of motor skills impacts learning

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

A child's ability to skip and jump rope in kindergarten might mean more to success in school than parents realize.

That's a key point made by Bob Sornson, an educator and founder of the Early Learning Foundation, during a presentation March 15 at Garfield Elementary School.

Sornson asked parents not to underestimate the importance of early language skills, sensory motor skills and a child's early elementary experience.

He said how a child sees himself or herself as a learner, a reader, and a problem-solver by age 9 is "pretty much how you stay the rest of your life." And activities like running, jumping and skipping are important indicators of learning success later on in life.

"Many kids are coming to school with language delays," said Sornson. "Many kids are coming to school with sensory motor delays."

He explained that children are starting school with poor balance, and social and behavioral issues.

He attributed all those concerns to children's exposure to too much television or too many video games - rather than playing outdoors with other children and being active.

"Nothing out there (on TV) is nearly as good as human interaction," he said, "real interaction with real human beings."

During his presentation *Improving Motor Skills to Strengthen Learning for Life*, Sornson shared the following statistics.

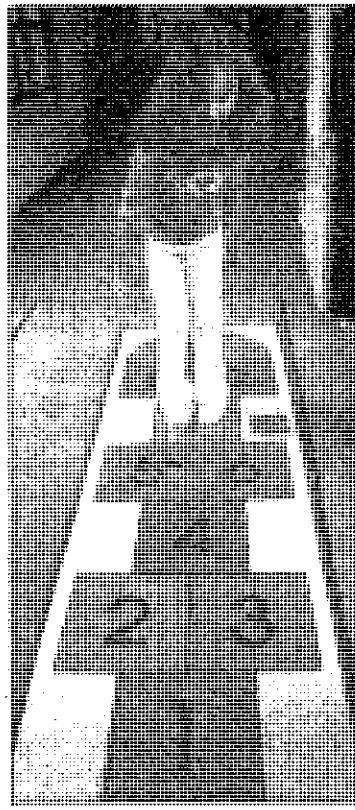
He said the average elementary student watches more than 30 hours of a television a week, in addition to videos and computer games. The recommended amount of time is under two hours of television, or no television time at all.

And Sornson noted that children experience 40 percent less play movement and exercise than kids did 40 years ago. He said that lack of movement can have a significant impact on brain development and on learning.

"They're not ready to be successful in the early years," he said.



Garfield Elementary School second-grader Robert Barns plays catch with parent volunteer Ellen O'Neil while balancing himself during his time to participate in the school's Motor Moms and Dads program.



Garfield Elementary School second-grader Sarah Kleiner runs through a hop-sotch station during her time in the motor skills program.

Sornson said children need stimulation in order for their bodies and brains to develop properly. They need to play and to interact. To develop balance,

children can ride bicycles, jump rope, walk or inline skate.

"Almost everything you do engages your balance system," said Sornson. "We've seen more children with compromised balance systems."

A good indicator of motor skill development, according to Sornson, is whether a child can skip smoothly and gracefully by the end of kindergarten. He said skipping requires both sides of the brain to work together, as do jumping jacks.

In an effort to promote exercise and movement, some elementary buildings within Livonia Public Schools offer the parent volunteer-based Motor Moms and Dads program.

Taking brief breaks from their classroom instruction, children in grades K-2 will run through a series of activities in the hallway. Parents oversee the activities. The stations often include balance beam, hopscotch, sit 'n spin, balance toss and crossover step. Each activity helps enhance a child's motor skill development.

Both the Motor Moms and Dads program and the recent presentation by Sornson are part of a districtwide effort to meet the needs of today's preschool students and early elementary students.

Ready Set Go! is an early learning initiative in Livonia

Public Schools which supports the development of young children by offering learning activities, strategies for discipline and helpful hints for parents. It grew out of the work of a committee of elementary principals, starting in 1999.

Joan Johnson, supervisor of preschool programs at Jackson Early Childhood Center, said the committee has been working to find new and different ways to reach out to parents and to preschoolers. And the initiative continues to grow and expand throughout the district.

The next Ready Set Go! event will feature an evening for parents titled *Creating Magic, Supporting School - Success by Reading to Your Preschooler*. It will be 6:30-7:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, Farmington Road south of Five Mile in Livonia. Call (734) 744-2765, Ext. 28103, to register for this free, adults-only program.

For more information on Ready Set Go! visit <http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/r>

# Relay for Life offers fun for good cause

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Thomas H. Brown Central City Park will be one happening place June 10-11. Those are the dates for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, which will run 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

Jenny McFarlane of the ACS is pleased with progress on the annual event, one of 42 in the metro area. A team captain meeting was held this past week with some 20 teams in place and more confirmed.

"We can always welcome more," said McFarlane, community development director, Metro-Detroit Area Service Center and liaison for the Westland event. She spoke Thursday, March 16, at Westland Rotary, urging people to get involved in the fund-raiser.

"It's a community-based event," she said.

The event is run by a committee of volunteers headed locally by co-chairs Pam Shaw and Lynette Hobyak. Teams of 10-15 people are recommended.

"You have one person on the track walking at all times," McFarlane said. "Cancer never sleeps and neither do we."

Highlights include a 4 p.m. Saturday lap to celebrate and honor cancer survivors. Around 10 p.m.

Saturday, luminaria paper bags holding candles - are lit to remember those who

have lost their lives.

"You get to have a connection with all these people," McFarlane said. "Family and friends have teams that are involved."

The local Web site for information is [www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/westland](http://www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/westland), or you can call McFarlane at (248) 483-4343. Money raised goes toward research, education, advocacy and services for patients and families.

"We know that early detection is key," McFarlane said of cancer.

Co-chair Hobyak is excited about this year's Westland event, the sixth.

"We're just kind of getting things rolling right now," she said Thursday. She's been involved for about eight years, and is in her third as a chair.

"It seemed like a good thing to do," said Hobyak, who lost her mom to cancer after getting involved. Organizers have raised more than \$100,000 a year in the past.

"It's just a good feeling," she said. "Just the community getting together and doing a positive thing."

She, Shaw and other organizers are working out details. The RE/MAX Homestead hot air balloon will again be tethered in the park.

"There's going to be a number of bands performing," Hobyak said of the entertainment, which will take place throughout the relay.



## THE SECRET IS OUT!

Savvy shoppers have discovered the secret known by the area's professional home decorators - **Recherché**. Whether your budget is large or small, this store is a must see. Looking for home furnishings? **Recherché** is the place to start! Whether you're looking for a new dining set, a mantel clock, or an original oil on canvas, **Recherché** will likely have something for you to consider. Lamps, candles, unique art glass, and clocks galore are just a sample of the items that you will find.



These original oil paintings provide a breathtaking backdrop for this antique walnut chair. Also featured is antique mahogany server - part of a beautiful dining set with table, china cabinet & 6 chairs (not pictured).

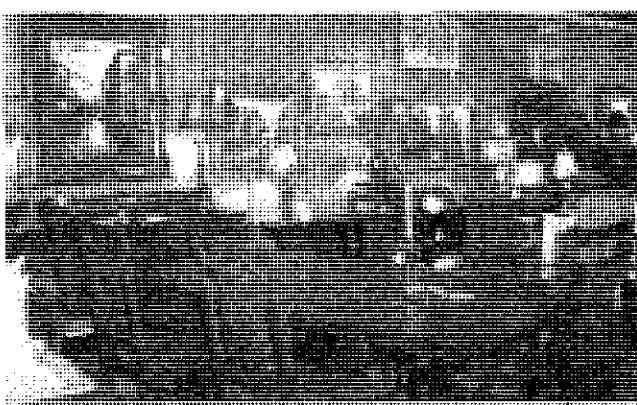
**Recherché** is no ordinary home décor store. In order to assure great selection,

**Recherché** has thousands of unique items including the best brands - both new and used, and they are meticulous about

condition, uniqueness and quality. If they don't have it, they can likely order it. Check it out - you'll be glad you did.



A fabulous Desk by Hekman with a burl wood top & elegant carving. Also featured is an original impressionist oil.



This beautiful mission dining set made of cherry by Canal Dover has 4 leaves & 6 chairs plus a server. The vignette is completed with an original oil painting in an ornately carved frame and a pair of buffet lamps with red shades.

**35% OFF ONE ITEM**  
Original Price • \$250 Value  
One Coupon Per Family  
Expires 3/31/06



**RECHERCHÉ**  
Downtown Farmington Center  
23330 Farmington Road  
888-221-3702

Hours:  
M-F 11-6  
Sat. 10-5

**Heron Pinot Noir '03**  
750 ml  
**\$12.99**

This is a value Pinot that has a great character and depth. Try this with Grilled Pork.

**Pess Parker Viognier '04**  
750 ml  
**\$23.99**

This is a red wine-drinker's white. Full bodied and Rich. Stunning!

**Joe's Weekly Specials!**

<p><b>Jumbo Cantalope</b> 6 Count <b>2/\$5.00</b></p> <p><small>Sweet &amp; Juicy</small></p>	<p><b>Texas Pro Star Red Grapefruit</b> 5 lb. Bag <b>\$2.99</b></p> <p><small>Great on Salads</small></p>	<p><b>California Navel Oranges</b> 8 lb. Bag <b>\$3.99</b></p> <p><small>Sweet &amp; Juicy</small></p>
<p><b>Grape Tomatoes</b> 1.50 pkg. <b>2/\$3.00</b></p> <p><small>Great on Salads</small></p>	<p><b>Arizona Lemons</b> 5 lb. Bag <b>\$2.99</b></p> <p><small>Great on Salads</small></p>	<p><b>Earthbound Farms Organic Carrots</b> 2 lb. Bag <b>69¢</b></p> <p><small>Great on Stir Fry</small></p>
<p><b>Beringer White Merlot White Zinfandel and Pinot Grigio</b> 750 ml. <b>\$4.99</b></p> <p><small>No Further Discounts!</small></p>	<p><b>Piave Italian Cheese</b> Robust Nutty Flavor <b>\$7.99</b> lb.</p> <p><small>Try this with Piave Cheese and Fresh Bread</small></p>	<p><b>Grove Street Merlot '01</b> 750 ml. <b>\$15.99</b></p> <p><small>Big fruit flavors with a smooth long lasting finish</small></p>
<p><b>Sahtein Chick Peas</b> 15oz. can <b>2/\$1.00</b></p> <p><small>Best for Hummus Dip &amp; Salads</small></p>	<p><b>Borghozola Tripple Cream Blue Veined Brie Cheese</b> Good Snacking Cheese <b>\$9.89</b> lb.</p> <p><small>Chicken or Beef Flavor</small></p>	<p><b>Kitchen Basics</b> 32 oz. \$2.50 each while supplies last! <b>2/\$5.00</b></p>
<p><b>Haagen-Daz Ice Cream Pint Size</b> A Variety of Delicious Flavors! <b>2/\$5.00</b></p>	<p><b>"Think Spring" Fresh Cut Spring Bouquets &amp; Tulips</b> Starting at <b>\$6.99</b></p>	<p><b>Nestles Drumstick Ice Cream Cones</b> 8 cones per pkg. <b>\$4.99</b> ea.</p> <p><small>The Original Sundae Cone</small></p>

**Byrd's Choice Meats!**

Slab Lean Spare Ribs.....	\$2.69 lb.
Meaty Fresh Baby Back Ribs.....	\$4.69 lb.
Country-Style Spare Ribs.....	\$3.69 lb.
Choice Whole New York Strips.....	\$8.98 lb.

"Cut & Wrapped Free"

33066 W. Seven Mile • Livonia • 248-478-8680

**Come Into Joe's Produce...**

for a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables! Joe's also offers a variety of domestic and imported wines and cheese, a grocery, bulk food and fresh roasted coffee department.

Prices Good Through March 26, 2006

**Joe's Produce**  
33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia, MI 48152  
[www.joesproduce.com](http://www.joesproduce.com) (248) 477-4333



# Lawson gets life in jail for 1989 Livonia murder

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER

After 17 years, Victor Giller finally had his chance Tuesday to vent his family's agony, knowing the man convicted of murdering his father would have to listen.

"I would hope and pray that he confesses to anything he's done to anyone else so one else has to go through the torment we've been put through the last 17 years," Giller said.

Giller's father, Exavor "Big John" Giller, was shot to death during a robbery at his Livonia home June 19, 1989. Earlier this month, a Wayne County Circuit Court jury found Richard Lawson guilty of first-degree murder, two counts of armed robbery and one count of felony firearm for his role in the crime.

Judge Michael Hathaway sentenced the 60-year-old California man, who once worked for Exavor Giller at his family's taxi company, to spend the rest of his life in prison without any chance of parole.

"There is no punishment in this state that can adequately punish this man for what he's

done," a stern-faced Victor Giller added. "It's just too bad Michigan doesn't have the death penalty."

During Tuesday's court proceedings, Hathaway said he "wholeheartedly" agreed with the jury's decision to convict Lawson, but wishes judgment day would have come much sooner. He praised the work of investigators who were able to gather the evidence needed to bring justice in this 17-year-old case.

"People like you can run, but you cannot hide," Hathaway told Lawson.

Lawson, who entered the courtroom with a smirk on his face, said his "heart and prayers" go out to the Giller family for their loss of a loved one, but he said all the facts in the case were not heard. He added he felt his court proceedings were unfair and the trial was a "mockery of the justice system."

Lawson tried to direct blame in this murder on other people, but he never denied he shot Exavor Giller in court or to investigators.

Lawson's opportunity to speak in court was cut short by Hathaway because the

judge said sentencing was not the place to retry the case.

Victor Giller said later his family, most of whom live in Livonia, was pleased the emotional ordeal was over and justice was served.

"We're just glad our mother was able to be here for this, especially at her age," he said of Catherine Giller, now 81, who was attacked and knocked unconscious shortly before her husband was shot.

Lawson plans to appeal the conviction, but Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Rob Moran said the chances of reversal were "slim" because there was strong evidence presented in the case. Moran added murder convictions are frequently appealed.

Police consider Lawson "a person of interest" in the investigation into the Oakland County child killings, where four youngsters were found murdered in 1976-77. Sources said Lawson is among several people recently interviewed by investigators, including one person in Ohio who failed a lie-detector test. No arrests, however, have been made yet.

dwest@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2109



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The breakfast may have been green eggs and ham, but the attire was strictly St. Patrick's Day for fourth-graders Amye Gnacke, Kyle Johnson, and Savannah Britt.

## GREEN

FROM PAGE A1

Schools that offer a breakfast program like Wildwood had a choice of serving the food in the morning or at lunch, but schools like nearby Madison Elementary rolled out the

green eggs for lunch.

At Wildwood, fourth-graders Krista Symansic and Chealsie Miffer liked the ham, but not the eggs, while classmate Matthew Slack gave the green eggs a thumbs up.

"I think the best part is the eggs," he said. "It didn't bother me that they were green."

Matthew liked them even more after discovering he had a smiley face on the bottom of his tray, making him the winner a Major League Baseball computer game in the secret tray contest.

The green eggs and ham breakfast was only part of the activities going on at schools around the district for reading month. Many of them hosted family reading nights and some principals like Wildwood's Amy Carpenter made bets with their students in exchange for reading. Carpenter's bet was to go up in a tethered hot air balloon.

"It encourages them to read, especially about science," Carpenter said. "I hope it sparks an interest in reading. I think the kids overall enjoy it."

For Sullivan, the breakfast was nothing short of a huge success and was just the begin-



The Cat In The Hat has a hug for kindergartner Annabelle Dunn.

ning of a "fantastic day" for the students. Fantastic because she planned on serving their favorite food — pizza — for lunch.

"The blessing for me is seeing their eyes shine ... and serving them healthy foods," she said. "I've been doing this for five years and seeing them eat the healthy food, that's the best part for me."

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

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF:

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL BLEACHER INSTALLATION

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: March 31, 2006

Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education  
Wayne Westland Community Schools  
36745 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after March 16, 2006.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge Plan Room, Southfield, Michigan; or the Construction Association of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of thirty (30) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: March 23 & 26, 2006

CE06421528

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF:

ROOSEVELT-McGRATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAYGROUND - PHASE I

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: March 31, 2006

Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
36745 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after March 16, 2006.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge Plan Room, Southfield, Michigan; or the Construction Association of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of thirty (30) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: March 23 & 26, 2006

CE06421524

### CITY OF WESTLAND

#### INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 23, 2006 at 11:30 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

#### Light Tower

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

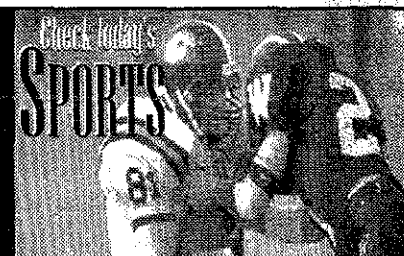
Dwayne R. Harrigan,  
Controller

Publish: March 23, 2006

CE06422803

Got Game?

Yep, got scores, too.



Where are  
Rich, Karen and Barry?

Rich, Karen, and Barry invite their previous customers to stop in and receive a complimentary oil change

**VARSITY**  
248-305-5300 • I-96 and Wixom Road • Novi





**McKNIGHT**

FROM PAGE A1

the needy and victims of domestic violence.

**TEAMWORK**

She also worked closely with fellow 18th District Court Judge C. Charles Bokos to create a program of intensive probation to help those with substantial alcohol and drug problems.

They also obtained a victim advocate to work with the victims of domestic violence, a reflection of her involvement with First Step, the western Wayne County domestic violence program. McKnight served on its board of directors for several years.

"I'm very proud of the programs that I have initiated to help and educate this community, however, it's not been done alone," she said, adding that with Bokos, Court Administrator David Wiacek and members of her personal staff and entire court staff, "I have worked to bring justice, honor and compassion, plus a strong work ethic to the job."

According to Cicirelli, who is an attorney, McKnight is known for getting things done, for her integrity and her command of the law.

"She is very knowledgeable about the law and has a good reputation among those on the bench and among attorneys," she said.

McKnight was fixture in the Westland community long before she was appointed district judge. She served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, on the Westland City Council for eight years and on the city's Bicentennial Commission. She also was the general chair of the first Westland Festival in 1971 and served on the festival committee from 1972-74.

In addition to First Step, McKnight also was president of the board of directors of the Wayne-Westland Family YMCA, the Suburban Bar Association and the Wayne County District Judges Association. She currently is secretary of the Michigan Parkinson's Foundation Board of Directors and co-facilitator of the foundation's Ann Arbor support group.

As for retiring, McKnight said her plans include finding some warm weather next winter.

"Hopefully, I can renew some friendships I haven't had time to nurture," she said. "This is a great job, but it takes a lot out of you every day, and I'm ready to give someone new an opportunity to serve our community."

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

**McCLAIN**

FROM PAGE A1

still achieve."

The group meets Friday and Saturday through November at different locations around the state. This month they were in Flint, last month in Lansing.

The program gives participants the skills to facilitate public policy decisions, to serve as effective leaders and government officials and to run campaigns for political office.

McClain already is a leader. He is president of the Michigan Caucus of Black School Board Members and serves on the MASA's Leadership Training Committee. He hopes to some day lead the national school board association and admits he has his eye on political office.

"I anticipate becoming a leader and then run for a legislative position," he said. "Definitely at the state level, but after a trip to Washington, D.C., I'm suddenly been interested in that."

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

**LENNOX**  
AIR CONDITIONING  
**10 S.E.E.R.**  
In Stock  
(734) 525-1930  
Free Estimates!  
Our 32nd Year!  
UNITED TEMPERATURE  
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA  
GE06421017

**DEATHS**

**A**  
**L. Jeffery Allen**  
Allen, 50, of Auburn Hills, died March 1.

**Kathleen Andrushko**  
Andrushko, 87, of Rochester Hills, died March 7.

**Evelyn P. Axford**  
Axford, 93, of Rochester, died Feb. 18.

**B**  
**Brian Robert Barbee**  
Barbee, 95, of Dunnellon, Fla., formerly of Canton, died March 8.

**Edward A. Bevan**  
Bevan, 76, of Rochester Hills, died March 11.

**Joan Bonomo**  
Bonomo, 91, of Rochester Hills, died Feb. 20.

**E**  
**Richard A. Eckley**  
Eckley, 47, of Roseville, died Feb. 21.

**Franklin D. Ellis**  
Ellis, 71, of Westland, died March 8.

**F**  
**Anne Fracassa**  
Fracassa, 47, of Warren, died March 13.

**H**  
**Douglas T. Haesler**  
Haesler, 74, of Bloomfield Hills, died March 12.

**Betty Haugh**  
Haugh, 93, of Birmingham, died March 14.

**Edward E. Hoskins**  
Hoskins, 93, of Millford Township, died March 5.

**K**  
**Sam Kreis**  
Kreis died March 9.

**M**  
**Dr. Raymond F. Madigan**  
Dr. Madigan, 82, of Livonia, died.

**Erma M. Manley**  
Manley, 93, of Northville, died March 15.

**Charles Robert Morris**  
Morris, 55, of Whitmore Lake, died Feb. 24.

**Richard "Steve" Morris**  
Morris, 50, of Ann Arbor, died March 8.

**P**  
**Eugene R. Provenzano Sr.**  
Provenzano, 82, of Redford Twp., died March 15.

**S**  
**Marilyn L. Sasina**  
Sasina, 76, of Oxford, died March 7.

**Bruce E. Schlink**  
Schlink, 76, of Auburn Hills, died March, 4.

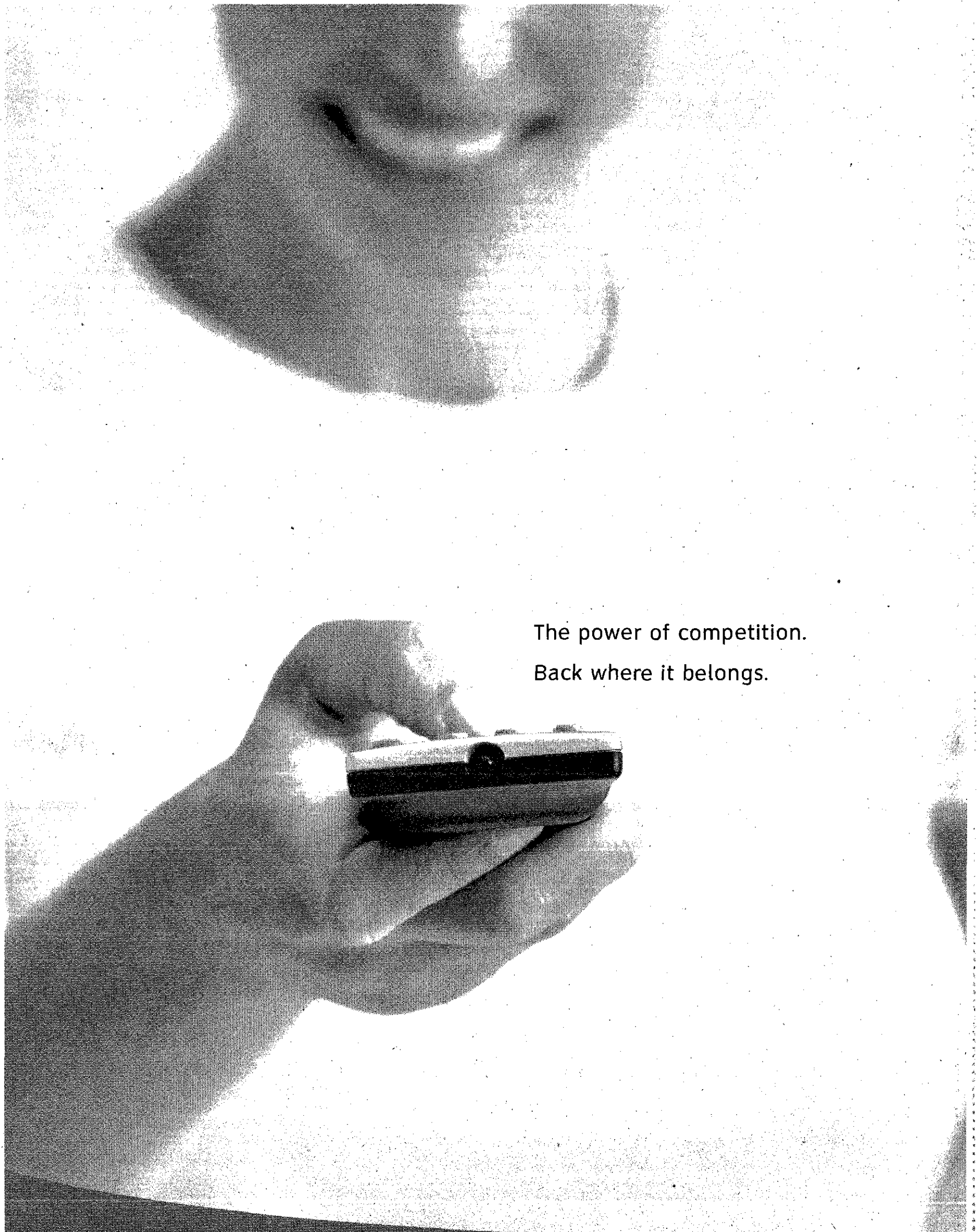
**Patrick A. Smith**  
Smith, 70, of Harbor Springs, Birmingham, and Aspen, Colo., died March 9.

**Patricia Morell Smith**  
Smith, 78, died March 13.

**Keith E. Spear**  
Spear, 68, of Rochester Hills, died March 6.

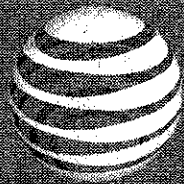
**Bernice J. Swiderski**  
Swiderski, 90, of Rochester Hills, died March 2.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C8.



The power of competition.  
Back where it belongs.

Michigan is ready  
for a choice to cable TV.  
We're ready to deliver it.



at&t

Your world. Delivered.

At AT&T Labs, we invented fiber optic technology. Now we're ready to install fiber optic networks in communities across Michigan to deliver new choices in television, Internet and more.

With new home entertainment options and more control over their TV, everyone will get the benefit of companies competing for their business.

The Michigan Legislature can be the catalyst.

AT&T's passion to invent joined with SBC's drive to deliver.

We're ready.



SBC and the SBC logo are trademarks of AT&T Knowledge Ventures. © 2006 AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All rights reserved.

GE06422495



Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
Westland, Michigan 48185

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Bid Package #20.

Consisting of: **Wayne-Westland Administration Building Mechanical Upgrades**will be received until **10:00 A.M. local time on Tuesday, April 4, 2006** at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Wayne-Westland Community School Board of Education Office, located at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

117 Acoustical Ceilings & Treatment  
120 Painting  
142 HVACBidding documents prepared by **TMP Associates, Inc.** will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit.Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents, beginning Wednesday, March 22, 2006, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 353-2950. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.** The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.There will be a pre-bid meeting at 11:00 am on Tuesday, March 28, 2006 in the board room at the Board of Education Office. (36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185) The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project sites and to answer any questions that bidders may have. **Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.**

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Wayne-Westland Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: March 23 &amp; 26, 2006

OE08422717



Cheer for the  
hometeam,  
read today's  
**SPORTS**  
section

When is the last time you did something out of the ordinary?

Whether it was last year, last month, last week, or last night, we are challenging you to "Change Your World @ Your Library" April 2-8. That's the theme for National Library Week this year and at the William P. Faust Library, we've got contests and programs to help you do just that.

With all the natural disasters in the past few years, along with the dip in the economy, more people than ever need a helping hand from others. By helping to provide clean, safe housing to these people, you can change their world, and you might just change your own in the process.

Habitat for Humanity will be here at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, to show you how they are helping those left home-

less by Hurricane Katrina, tsunamis, or those who just can't afford a decent place to live. Please call the Reference Desk to register.

Our other adult program for the week is "Change Your World... One Room at a Time." This program will feature an interior decorator who will help give ideas for updating your home décor.

The program will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8, and you can register by calling the library. Everyone attending either of the adult programs will be entered into a prize drawing.

The children's story time on April 3 will end with a craft that will be given to the library's homebound patrons, proving that no one is too young to change someone's world.

## INFORMATION CENTRAL

There also will be two family movie days. The featured movies are *Chicken Little*, showing 1 p.m. Sunday, April 2, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, showing at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8. Call the Children's Desk to register or for more information.

In addition to special programs, there will be plenty of contests during the week. The Young Adult department will be holding a raffle and giving away bookstore gift cards.

There will be a scavenger hunt in both the adult and children's departments. Everyone who participates will receive a prize and one winner will be picked daily for a bookstore gift card.

Finally, people who check out items during National Library Week will be entered into a raffle. Among the prizes are gift certificates for laser

tag, cosmic bowling, the Detroit Science Center, and dinner for four at the Rainforest Café, all designed to help your change your world by trying something new.

So, whether you're looking to get out of a rut, or always on the hunt for something new, the library is the perfect place to be April 2-8.

**Internet 101:** 10:30 a.m. March 28. For the very beginner. What the Internet is and how to get there. No registration or fee required.**Information Central** is compiled by Bridget Sturdy, reference librarian, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

## Program looks at identity theft

State Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia, in cooperation with the Livonia Police Department, is offering a special presentation to educate residents about how to protect themselves from identity theft.

The featured speaker will be Sandra Hoffman, the interim director of the Identity Theft Program at Michigan State University.

"Unfortunately, identity theft continues to be a growing crime in our country," Sen. Toy said. "This is a great opportunity for people to learn the information that they don't get in the 30 second soundbite on the

evening news, and what to do if they become a victim."

The presentation will be 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 27, in the Activity Room at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Residents of Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township and Westland, and their guests are welcome to attend. There is no charge for the presentation.

For more information, residents can call Toy's office at (517) 373-1707 or visit her Web site at [www.senate.michigan.gov/toy](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/toy).

## Franklin students pitch in pennies for patients

Franklin Middle School students waged a penny-collection campaign that raised \$2,124 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Students from the Wayne school raised the money Feb. 13-24 to help the LLS's Pennies for Patient's program, which aims to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. It also provides services to help patients from the diagnosis stage through treatment and recovery.

Franklin administrators embraced having young people reach out to those in need.

"Student involvement with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society reinforces the importance of community service," school coordinator Jill

Kunnath said. "I am so proud of our students and how they have come together and raised (over) \$2,000 for a great cause. They have gone above and beyond my expectations."

During the 2005-6 school year, more than eight million students in 15,000 U.S. schools raised \$13 million for the Pennies for Patients program.

"This really shows kids that they have the power to make a dramatic difference in the lives of people who need their help," said Heather Ferrand, campaign manager for the Michigan chapter.

For more information about programs and services provided by the Michigan chapter of LLS, call (800) 456-5413 or (248) 582-2900.

## CITY OF WESTLAND

## INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 11, 2006 at 10:45 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

## City of Westland Weed Cutting

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dwayne R. Harrigan  
Controller

Publish: March 23, 2006

OE08422713

## CITY OF WESTLAND

## INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 23, 2006 at 11:15 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

## Emergency Sewer Repairs

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dwayne R. Harrigan  
Controller

Publish: March 23, 2006

OE08422712

If your business or organization serves seniors — you'll want to be part of this exciting event!

## Swing into Spring at the Third Annual SENIOR CITIZENS EXPO

We will hold our third annual Senior Expo **Wednesday, May 24, 2006**, from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the beautiful VisTaTech Center on the **Schoolcraft College** Livonia campus.

Your participation in the Expo will give you the opportunity to meet and talk with prospective clients and gain quality leads from a segment of society with the highest net worth of any group—more than seven trillion dollars.

The Expo will be intensely promoted with ads in 17 award-winning community newspapers for a tremendous **172,300 circulation** plus additional promotion on the Observer & Eccentric website, [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com), which receives more than one-million page views per month.

You will also receive a listing in the center of our colorful Senior Expo section which will include your quarter or full page advertisement.

Participation ranges from \$695 to \$1,195 and includes a covered 8-foot table, two chairs, complementary coffee and donuts and two boxed lunches.

**Call by April 3 and reserve your space at our special  
Early Bird rate!**

**A superb  
marketing  
opportunity!**

**1-800-579-7355**

or email [cyoung@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:cyoung@oe.homecomm.net)

Presented by—

THE  
**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

[WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM](http://WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM)



**Schoolcraft College**

[WWW.SCHOOLCRAFT.EDU](http://WWW.SCHOOLCRAFT.EDU)



## Bill would regulate protests at military funerals

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

After members of an extreme fundamentalist church in Kansas protested the funeral of a Michigan man killed in Iraq, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives has crafted legislation to control what can and can't go on outside memorial services.

U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, was in attendance at the March 11 funeral for Michigan National Guard Sgt. Joshua Youmans in Flushing when he ran into members of the Westboro Baptist Church who were there to protest. What he saw turned his stomach.

"It was a difficult time for the family, they were mourning a son, husband and father," Rogers said. "The protesters were hateful, harassing and taunting."

The Westboro Baptist Church, on the Web at god-hatesfags.com., has made news around the country by holding protests at the funerals of service men and women killed in Iraq. The group is neither anti-nor prowar, rather they hold that America's tolerance of homosexuals has raised God's ire and caused the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the Virginia coal mine disaster and the deaths of American soldiers by explosive devices in Iraq.

The group regularly appears at the funerals of American servicemen and women with signs and chants to remind the grieving of why they think their loved one died.

"Their speech is hateful and harassing," Rogers said. "They attack the families verbally, it's vile."

Frank Campanaro, a retired

Army Ranger from Auburn Hills, was preparing a charity event for wounded soldiers when one of his contacts told him about what was going to happen in Flushing. He called his friends in several Genesee County biker clubs, many of whom are Vietnam veterans, and tried to give the family some cover on the fly.

"We had 250 vets on cycles show up and another 250 people on foot," Campanaro said. "The Governor showed up, (Rep.) Rogers showed up. We drowned them out."

The counter-protest was calm, if noisy, even though Campanaro himself didn't know if he was going to end up in handcuffs with an assault charge at the end of the day.

"I was wondering if today was the day I'd be going to jail," he said. "You have a right to free speech, definitely. You

have a right to protest. But if you're for or against the war, for or against the president, protesting a funeral is not right."

But even "vile" speech is still protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as is the right to peacefully assemble. Rogers says his legislation takes that into account.

"The Supreme Court has ruled that the government can regulate the time, place and manner that protects the right to protest and protects the families," Rogers said.

Specifically, the legislation allows protests to go on an hour before or an hour after a funeral and at least 500 feet away from the service venue. He says the bill has wide support in Congress.

alundberg@oe.homecomm.net | (248) 901-2536

## Schoolcraft celebrates diversity with fair

Cultures from around the globe will share their food, language and customs at the fifth annual Schoolcraft College Multicultural Fair Wednesday, March 29.

The fair is a celebration of the many ethnicities represented among the student population on the Schoolcraft campus, with displays prepared by students, instructors and staff as well as their families and friends.

The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center's DiPonio Room. It is free and open to the public, with continuous performances and demonstrations. Visitors can expe-

rience the food, language and artistic expression of about 20 countries from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South America.

There will be language demonstrations, henna painting, Native American drumming, Indian folk dancing and Irish step dancing.

Beside promoting cultural sensitivity and increasing an awareness and appreciation of other cultures, the fair extends education beyond classroom walls by exposing students, faculty, staff and the community to a cross-cultural experience. It also creates an opportunity for students to teach others.

## Ernie and Tram host Library Day at Comerica

May 2 has been designated as the second annual Michigan Public Libraries Day at Comerica Park by the Michigan Library. The Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries program encourages public library supporters to attend the May 21 game and see the Detroit Tigers play the Cincinnati Reds.

Nine dollars from every \$20 ticket sold by libraries will be used to create endowments at public libraries in Michigan.

Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell and former Detroit Tigers manager Alan Trammell are well aware that libraries have, for a number of years, faced critical funding shortages and this program is designed to help libraries build strong financial bases.

"We had a great first year supporting libraries and baseball and I am looking forward to an even bigger second year," said Harwell. "I encourage all library supporters to join me on Sunday, May 21, at 1:05 at Comerica Park."

"I enjoy working with library supporters who are also great Tiger fans!" said Trammell.

Last year more than \$15,000 was raised, enabling public libraries in Clare, Gaylord, Hesperia, Homer, Houghton Lake, Menominee, Oxford, Saginaw and Three Rivers to start endowments. In addition to the money generated by ticket sales, each library that applies for endowment funding is required to raise matching funds.

As a special treat before the game on May 21, the Detroit Public Library (located at 5201 Woodward Ave.) will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., allowing library ticket purchasers to visit the Lulu and Ernie Harwell Collection. Harwell will be at the library from 10:30 a.m. to noon to talk with fans about the collection, as well as the importance of supporting Michigan's public libraries.

To order tickets for the May 21 Detroit Tigers vs. Cincinnati Reds game, contact your local public libraries. Those who don't live near a participating library may download an order form at <http://woodlands.lib.mi.us/tickets.pdf> or call (800) 962-4472.

The Library of Michigan is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) and sponsor of the event.

# Get the answers to your Medicare Questions

## Where can I find an affordable Medicare Advantage plan?

Imagine getting more for less. With HAP's Medicare Advantage plans, you get all your Medicare-covered benefits:

- + enhanced health care benefits
- + your choice of prescription drug plans  
*subject to limitations*
- + worldwide emergency coverage  
*\$50 copay for Medicare-covered services*

All for less money than you probably pay for health care now! That's the HAP advantage.

Starting as low as **\$20**/mo

### Doris Biscoe

Former TV News Anchor  
HAP Spokesperson

powered by



Health Alliance Plan (HAP) and Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company each have a Medicare contract with the federal government. To take advantage of these plans, you must continue to pay your Medicare Part B Premium if not otherwise paid for under Medicaid or by another third-party.

**1-800-651-3525, TTY/TDD 1-313-664-8000**

PPO is a product of Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Health Alliance Plan. PPO is powered by HAP.

\* Paid spokesperson; Doris Biscoe is powered by HAP.

**www.hap.org**

H2312 H2322 604NP





OUR VIEWS

## Library Week is good time to visit

Next week, the William P. Faust Public Library will join libraries around the state and the country in observing National Library Week. It's a time to celebrate the contributions of our libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

A lot has changed at libraries since the observance first began in 1958. Back then, you tracked down books using an index file and a card tucked in the pocket of the front cover was hand-stamped with the date the book had to be returned.

The age of technology has replaced those services, but the books and the wonders they offer are still there to explore, whether turning the page of a book or surfing the Internet.

Westland's library is techno-savvy, with computers that let residents find the book they want with the click of a few keys. It's on the forefront of the information age. In a world that's information rich, the library is information smart and helps ensure that everyone is information literate.

The library also is unique in person and online. Where else can you have access to nearly anything on the Web or in print as well as personal service and assistance in finding it?

The theme of this year's National Library Week is "Change Your World @ Your Library," and the Westland public library has plenty of activities planned to celebrate.

You can learn about Habitat for Humanity and how it is helping those left homeless by Hurricane Katrina or "Change Your World ... One Room at a Time" with the help of an interior decorator. There will be movies for children, scavenger hunt and raffles, including one for people who check out items during the week.

If you're a regular library patron, National Library Week is a good time to stop by and thank the staff and the Friends for the Library for all they do.

If you have never been or only once in a blue moon, it's the perfect time to stop by and rediscover your public library. Who knows, you may find a good book or periodical to read or a video to watch and win a prize.

## Trip right on over to better roads

There's been good news and bad coming out of the tri-county area in the last week. The good news is that many of our roads are going to be repaired or reconstructed this year.

And the bad news? Of course, it's that many of our roads will be repaired or reconstructed this year.

This is one time, however, when the good news outweighs the bad. It costs big bucks to do road construction, and coming up with the funding has been tough in years past. For instance, the Road Commission for Oakland County plans to spend \$54 million on road projects this year alone. One construction project — the Northwestern corridor — doesn't even have a price tag yet.

In Wayne County, there are plans for a \$37.8 million reconstruction of M-14 from Haggerty Road to the Washtenaw/Wayne county line. Another major project is the underpass on Sheldon Road and CSX track. Cost is \$12 million, but local officials are waiting for federal funding to the tune of \$4.7 million that is earmarked for the project.

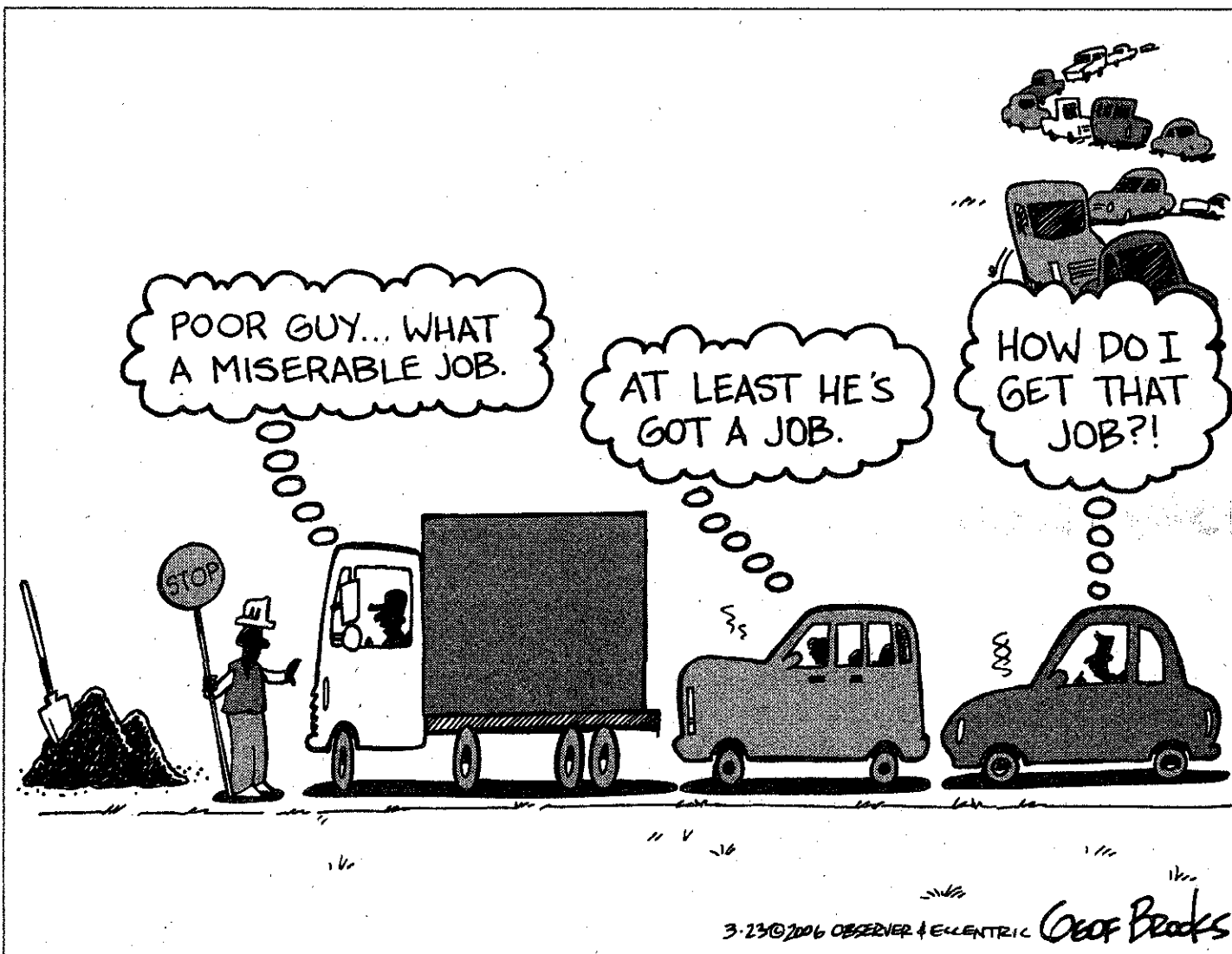
The good news comes from a plan outlined by Gov. Jennifer Granholm that would use bond sales to fund the local city and county portions — roughly \$80 million — of road repairs. It is expected that will produce \$320 million for the road projects.

Forget the moving pothole crews you swing around on the freeway. That good news means those sinkholes you're dodging while going to work, or even just to the grocery store, will get a permanent fix.

Besides the thousands of jobs that will be created by the road projects which were already announced, Granholm's plan and the economic investment spurred by a good transportation system will translate into more people earning — and spending — cash.

Those are the points we'll all have to remember as we deal with the perennial bad news in Michigan — orange barrels that cause no end of headaches.

But, hey, spring arrived Monday. So roll down your windows and smell the countryside ... better make that the fumes from the car ahead.



### LETTERS

#### Decision was a farce

Regarding the Westland City Planning Commission denial of the proposed Advance Auto Parts store, I'm disappointed with how this latest battle played out. What was certainly an openness on the petitioner's part to "play ball" was "rained out" due to an "argumentative attitude" by both sides. Cooler heads "should" have prevailed, but too many feathers were ruffled and the city decided to take its ball and go home.

I'm sure the "truth" lies somewhere in between: "Gosh, gee-wilikers the city e-mail system failed and we only got the plans Friday" or "Handicapped parking placement to footcandle regulations."

They want to make money selling auto parts, you need the tax dollars ... compromise. I sure as heck heard someone called a liar, so apologize and get some revenue for the city coffers. Instead we get sued and lose a retailer.

That said, I'm always happy with Bruce Thompson's work, even treatment of petitioners and overall professionalism, however, even he got flustered during this debacle.

I am very concerned that the city attorney didn't respond to Advance Auto's request for a meeting prior to the second planning commission date. Talk about a chess game!

A better solution would have been to take Petitioner Sharpe's suggestion and approve contingent upon the planning commission recommendations or even postpone like Mr. Lipinsky advised.

I hope Westland doesn't look forward to a lawsuit just because the commission got rattled by Advance Auto's mouthpiece or total unresponsiveness by the city attorney.

You all normally do a great job for the city, but this is an absolute farce. I'd suggest some folks involved need to apologize, shake hands, get down to business

Mark Bajek  
Westland

#### Birthday exhibit canceled

With regrets the Friends of the Westland Historical Museum have canceled the Celebration of the Westland's 40th Birthday Exhibit at the Museum at 857 N. Wayne Road.

The three rooms needed for the Exhibit at the Helen C. Brown Westland Historical Museum were the two front rooms and the enclosed back porch. Plans were to remove all items from these rooms except the showcases. The large kitchen stove would be left in the kitchen, and the 1900 organ and the mirrored buffet would be moved to the north room not being used for the exhibit.

A proposal was made to the historical commission to use one room at the 1837 Rowe House for storage of all other items. A major restriction by some of the commissioners was the Rowe House could not be used for storage.

This made it impossible for the Friends project to happen. I don't understand. This building now has items stored in it. It was necessary recently for the commission to move items from the Carriage Shed to the Rowe House in order to make room for the 1919 Eloise Fire Engine.

The mold issue in the Rowe House has been resolved. With no utilities in the

building, heat was an issue for some. This should not have been a concern since the exhibit would run from May through September.

As a part of the exhibit, Friends requested painting over wallpaper in the two front rooms, adding 1960s wallpaper on two walls. Friends of the Museum made an offer to purchase and install new wallpaper after the exhibit was closed. It was a NO by some of the commissioners to change the walls.

Displays were planned that would interest all ages. It was to be a fun, educational and interesting '60s exhibit, a temporary five-month exhibit. Another important factor was the '60s exhibit would have brought people of all ages from Westland as well as neighboring communities to the museum site. Several years ago, we were criticized for not serving the general population, specifically children and young families.

Thanks to Josephine Capra, Meghan Chatham, Judy Cornfoot, Peggy Gatteri, Greenmead, Ken and Fran Hahn, Dorothy Krueger, Sue Mason, Al Olweean, Donna Slem, Diane Winfrey and several Friends of the Museum who loaned or donated items to help make the '60s exhibit a success.

Sorry for the inconvenience to those who had already brought items to the museum. Items are being returned as soon as possible. A special thanks to David Carrick, project chairman, for his passion and countless hours put forth for this activity.

Ruth Dale  
Birthday Committee member  
Friend of the Westland Historical Museum

#### Decision wasn't 'groovy'

Members of the Friends of the Westland Historical Museum aren't in a very "groovy" mood.

Plans were well under way for the Friends presenting an exciting exhibit celebrating the city of Westland's 40th Birthday. When I first proposed the idea, back in January, members of the Historical Commission said they didn't believe there was enough time to put such an elaborate exhibit together, but gave the OK. I knew the Friends could do it, and we knuckled down and got to work.

As word got out about what we were doing and the items we were looking for, residents truly showed interest as they flocked to the museum with several early 1960s items.

We were offered everything from a 1966 Pontiac GTO convertible to a Vietnam MIA bracelet for use in the various displays. And rest assured that G.I. Joe would have been in good company with Mary Poppins and Mr. Machine in the toys display.

Then, two months into the planning, the Westland Historical Commission held a special meeting where it issued a laundry list of restrictions that would have been impossible to meet and still be able to provide residents with the array of quality displays that had been planned.

Instead of embracing the idea of such a unique, informative exhibit taking place and offering solutions to some problems that had come up, several Historical Commission members just added more limitations to the list.

One major concern of the Friends 40th Birthday Committee that needed to be addressed was the proper storage for the exhibits now on display in the museum. The Rowe Meeting House is presently used only for storage; the Friends had hoped to use one of the empty rooms in that building for the temporary storage of the items. The Historical Commission said the Rowe House was not to be used. It failed, however, to offer any alternative locations.

Personally, I felt it would be a little difficult to be climbing over antique washers to see a lava lamp or straddle an antique sewing machine to check the time on the sunburst clock.

The Historical Commission also said it would not allow any fresh paint or wallpaper to be used. With so many restrictions and limitations issued, I called for — and the Friends Birthday committee concurred with — cancellation of the exhibit.

The Friends may not be able to share the exhibit with fellow residents, but the research we had completed sure did bring back a lot of great memories. Now grab that "One Way" bottle of Pepsi and "Pop" the bubble on the trouble game, it's your turn.

David Carrick  
chairman, 40th Birthday Committee  
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum

#### Acted responsibly

The Westland Historical Commission's responsibilities include preservation and maintenance of the historical buildings and antique artifacts donated to them.

I believe the commission acted in a responsible way when it told the Birthday Committee that it could not store the valuable antique furniture in a house with no heat, no alarm system and boarded up. Also, the request to paint and wallpaper over existing wallpaper was denied.

We are willing to work with alternate solutions concerning the antique furniture storage and suggestions on exhibits, but the Birthday Committee was not willing to compromise.

We would like to thank the people who were willing to donate articles pertaining to the 1960s, but under the circumstances, it looks like the furniture exhibit will not exist, but there will be displays at the museum pertaining to the city's 40th birthday celebration.

Jo Johnson  
chairman

### 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.

Mail:  
Letters to the editor  
Westland Observer  
36251 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:  
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:  
smason@hometownlife.com

### QUOTABLE

"We have used these funds to provide for the elimination of blight, to provide community policing in eligible areas and to provide services to Westland residents that we would not normally be able to provide with shrinking funding from the state."

— Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, about how the uses it federal Community Development Block Grant money

WESTLAND  
**Observer**

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

Sue Mason  
Community Editor

Marty Carry  
Advertising Director

Hugh Gallagher  
Managing Editor

Peter Neill  
General Manager

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor

Richard Aginian  
President/Publisher

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.



# Initial conference hopefully first step to a real solution

"We are in a pickle. The state of Michigan is in the midst of serious structural economic trouble, probably its worst crisis in our lifetime. Since 2001, the state has lost one-quarter of its automotive work force and is in its sixth consecutive year of job loss, a period of decline unequalled in the 50 years for which we have data."

— George Fulton, University of Michigan economics professor

That dash of cold water from a nationally recognized authority was just one of many bracing moments at "Where Do We Go From Here?" last week's economic policy agenda-setting conference in Ann Arbor.

Two hundred fifty policy experts and civic leaders gave up their entire day to take turns listening to detailed policy papers and then huddling in small groups to discuss Michigan's situation — which vitally concerns all of us.

The objective of the conference, co-sponsored by The Center for Michigan and U-M's Center for Local, State and Urban Policy, was to see if a cross-section of Michigan's leaders could reach broad agreement on an economic policy agenda that could work — and make a major impact.

And, remarkably, though it was a highly diverse group, broad agreement was reached on a number of topics. They included:

- The vast majority of the public woefully lacks understanding about the true nature of our state's present financial circumstances.

For example: Michigan has a reputation as a high tax state, but we actually rank below average. We were 29th in the nation in state and local taxes as a percentage of personal income for 2002, the last year for which data are available. That's down considerably from 1972, when only a dozen states ranked above us. The experts' best guess is that we may be even lower today.

- Michigan's government is also, believe it or not, malnourished. The state has experienced a \$1 billion-plus state operating budget deficit for the past six years. The politicians have covered the deficit by cannibalizing rainy day funds and selling off assets. But without serious structural tax and spending reform, this deficit can only get worse, according to Tom Clay, the highly respected budget expert of the non-partisan Citizens Research Council.

And our leaders' actual spending patterns seem bizarrely out of whack. For example, conferees were astonished to discover that Michigan spends \$1.8 billion on our prison system in 2006 — with substantially higher incarceration rate and operating costs than our neighboring states.

This expenditure just about equals the total amount we spend on all our colleges and universities. We spend more to keep a prisoner behind bars each year than it would cost to send them to Harvard Law School.

Participants wondered if very expensively warehousing felons was more important to us than educating our young people.

The conference agreed far-reaching tax reform is

necessary, beginning with the Single Business Tax. Most felt the SBT has become politically so unpopular that, as a practical matter, any serious discussion of tax reform must take on the SBT, either by substantial revision or outright repeal.

However, an equally strong consensus was that any revenue loss from SBT reform or repeal must be replaced. Not doing so would be, "financially irresponsible to an extreme degree," according to Michigan State University Professor Charles Ballard. A review of state-by-state economic data revealed that no evidence could be found that further tax cuts, in and of themselves, could contribute in any serious way to economic growth.

The leading candidate to plug the \$1.9 billion hole left if the SBT was repealed is extending the sales tax, now levied on goods, to services while reducing the rate from the current 6 percent. Another possibility, politically less popular, would be to make the state income tax more progressive.

The conference also examined issues of competitive advantage for Michigan's economy and actual spending patterns in labor force skills and education. Participants agreed that it is vital for Michiganders to come to terms with the fact that the state is deep into a fundamental transition from a relatively low-skilled manufacturing base to a higher skill and knowledge-based economy.

To that end, conferees agreed that Michigan needed to make substantial investments in education and knowledge infrastructure.

Education, ranging from very early childhood through high school and on through community college and four-year and graduate universities, was regarded as suffering from years of underinvestment by the state.

Lately, the lack of investment has turned into something even worse — actual budget cuts, which threaten to cripple our future.

Many participants expressed frustration that many basic issues lying at the heart of Michigan's economic crisis have not been addressed by our state's leaders. They believed many Michigan citizens were yearning for a way to express their concerns and get something practical done without political posturing or ideological diatribe.

As a co-sponsor of the conference, I ended the day by saying that "a successful conference is just the first step in a journey of structural reform that could last many miles," while pledging that our new think-and-do tank, The Center for Michigan, was committed to investing in the process for the long haul.

Whether the conference turns out to be a one-day, flash in the pan, or the start of something really big will depend on the willingness of people to step forward. As the famous comment goes, all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men and women to do nothing.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics, public policy and economics. He is the founder of The Center for Michigan, which co-sponsored the conference in Ann Arbor. For more information, go to [www.thecenterformichigan.net](http://www.thecenterformichigan.net).



Phil Power

# Steering clear of trouble means using common sense

You know there's trouble ahead, at least you think you do, when traffic comes to a dead halt on southbound I-75 at 9 in the morning.

Slowly you inch your way forward for miles. Finally, you see the accident in which a car came to rest in the median. There was a tow truck and two police cars, narrowing the number of useable lanes on the freeway.

All are understandable reasons for snarling traffic. The only problem with this scenario, however, is that the accident was on northbound I-75, opposite the direction in which I was creeping along.

There was absolutely no reason for traffic to put on the brakes, but drivers couldn't resist the urge to take a long, slow look at the accident. There oughta be a law against that.

Fortunately, to my knowledge, such irresponsible driving didn't cause another accident on our side of the road.

Which leads me to the results of a national survey conducted, in part, by Precision Tune Auto Care. The survey addresses issues with teen driving practices. But after reading some of the results, it occurred to me that they directly reflect some of the bad examples set by adults.

For instance, don't drive while you're angry, said PTAC staffer Joel Burrows, who is known in some circles as The Car Doctor.

Oops! That certainly applied to me that recent morning, but he was talking about the kind of road rage that causes aggressive driving. Defensive driving is what's called for on the road, such as watching for brake lights coming on ahead of the car that's right in front of you.

But there are a lot of maddening things that one encounters, particularly on the freeway. They include drivers cutting in and out of traffic, and drivers of SUVs thinking that because they have an all wheel drive vehicle that they can zip down the freeway with impunity.

I think they cause accidents among those of us trying to stay out of their way.



Sandra Armbruster

But there are a lot of maddening things that one encounters, particularly on the freeway. They include drivers cutting in and out of traffic, and drivers of SUVs thinking that because they have an all wheel drive vehicle that they can zip down the freeway with impunity.

But back to the survey. The car doc tells teens to drive only when sober, not to talk on their cell phones when driving and to turn down that radio.

It's good advice; in fact, it's so good that parents ought to heed it as well. Those folks facing drug court for substance abuse, including alcohol, are by and large adults. And on any one drive, one can find someone at the wheel trying to balance a cell phone while making a turn. Cell phone use, according to the report, accounts for 6 percent of all accidents in the U.S.

As for loud radios, adults trade that traffic in for applying makeup or shaving, actually watching small in dash TVs and using computer equipment.

The point of Burrows' comments is that drivers need to be focused on what they're doing, on the road and on what other drivers are doing.

A lot of what he said is common sense, like not falling asleep at the wheel. But common sense seems to be in short supply when it comes to maneuvering in traffic.

The survey was conducted after agencies became aware that teens have twice the rate of fatalities as in car accidents overall. That's scary news, and the aim of the survey was not only to gather information, but to help educate teens.

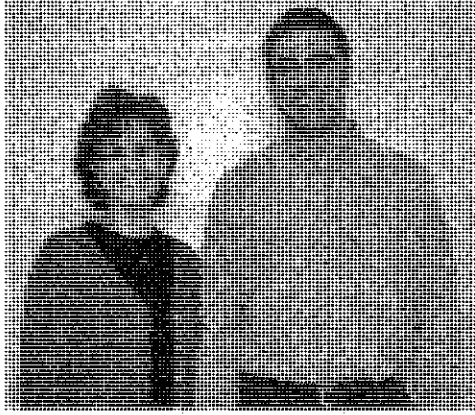
For Burrows, driving safely comes down to two basic things: Buckle up and observe posted speed limits.

It's all a way to avoid trouble ahead.

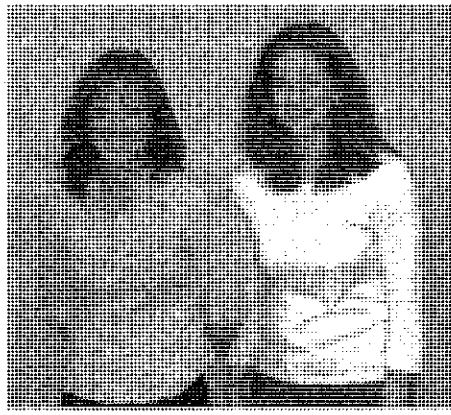
Sandra Armbruster is editor of the *Troy Eccentric*. She welcomes your comments by e-mail to [sarmbruster@hometownlife.com](mailto:sarmbruster@hometownlife.com).



## Performax Physical Therapy Celebrates One Year in Livonia



Michelle Krings, MS,PT,ATC and Vincent Baylerian, PT,DPT

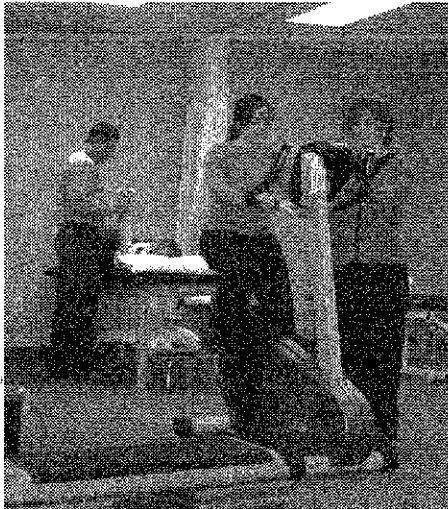


Betsy Pollock, PTA,CSCS and Gretchen Lang, MOT,OTR

This month marks the one year anniversary of Performax Physical Therapy of Livonia. Performax Physical Therapy is an innovative and cutting edge physical therapy center located at 19809 Farmington Road.

Performax Physical Therapy is pleased with their first year in business celebrating new patients, doctor referrals and public awareness of their new Livonia office. The mission statement of the staff is to treat patients like family. This philosophy means that new and existing patients can expect extra care from the staff and a feeling of belonging.

The Clinical Director, Vincent Baylerian, PT, DPT brings experience and a Doctorate degree to Performax Physical Therapy. His expertise and education in the Physical Therapy field is a vital component of the



Michelle and Vincent working with patients

success this year. Under his direction the staff at Performax Physical Therapy is held to high standards in the area of current therapies and excellent customer service.

Michelle Krings, MS, PT, ATC has 18 years of experience in the area of orthopedic and musculoskeletal conditions.

Gretchen Lang, MOT,OTR a nine year veteran with a Masters in Occupational

Therapy specializes in hand, wrist and elbow conditions.

Betsy Pollock, PTA,CSCS is also a nine year veteran in physical therapy with extensive patient care and experience in the field.

Performax Physical Therapy is a center for people who are looking for a place to receive quality care.

**Performax Physical Therapy**  
19809 Farmington Road • Livonia • (248) 888-0077  
Mon, Tues, Thurs 7-7 Wed & Fri 7-4

Advertorial

An offer like this will make you feel right at home.



Prime  
Minus 1.00% APR

Fifth Third Equity Flexline<sup>SM</sup>

**Fifth Third Bank**  
Working Hard To Be The Only Bank You'll Ever Need<sup>SM</sup>

Visit our new locations in East Dearborn, Flint, White Lake, Waterford, Roseville, Sterling Heights, Bloomfield Hills, Livonia, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

WALK-IN Over 80 Southeastern Michigan Locations  
CALL 1-866-53-LOANS | VISIT [www.53.com](http://www.53.com)

\*Upon qualification. For a line of \$125,000 - \$1,000,000, the variable APR is as low as Prime -1.00% and is currently 6.50% as of 02-01-06. Interest rates may vary and are indexed to the Prime Rate as published daily in The Wall Street Journal Eastern Edition "Money Rates" table. Applicable interest rate varies depending on your credit qualifications and loan to value ratio from a variable APR of Prime - 1% (currently 6.50% APR) to Prime + 4.50% (currently 12.00% APR). Offer is available only on new Fifth Third equity lines of credit. Fifth Third checking account required. For lines in an amount less than \$125,000, the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is as low as Prime + 0% and is currently 7.50% as of 2-1-06. Interest rates may vary and are indexed to the Prime Rate as published daily in The Wall Street Journal Eastern Edition "Money Rates" table. Applicable interest rate varies depending on your credit qualifications and loan to value ratio from a variable APR of Prime + 0% (currently 7.50% APR) to Prime + 4.50% (currently 12.00% APR). The maximum APR will not exceed 25%, or the state usury ceiling, whichever is less. \$65 annual fee waived for one year. In Florida, documentary stamp tax and intangible taxes apply. The total cost of these fees will generally range from \$28 - \$275. Consult a tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest. Fifth Third and Fifth Third Bank are registered service marks of Fifth Third Bancorp. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

Subscribe to the Observer — call (866) 88-PAPER



## Hiller's CEO will speak at MU lecture series

Jim Hiller, president and CEO of Hiller's grocery store chain, is the guest speaker at Madonna University's McManus Distinguished Business Lecture Series on 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at Kresge Hall on the Livonia campus.

"Integrating Your Ethics with Your Business" will be the subject of the Spring lecture. This event is free and open to the public.

Hiller is a Detroit native and graduated from the University of Detroit Law School in 1973. He has received numerous awards including the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund and the Outstanding Young CEO Award from the National Retail Association.

In addition to his business efforts, Hiller endowed the Program for Understanding Neurological Diseases at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, which does research for neurological diseases like Lou Gehrig's disease.

The McManus Distinguished Business Lecture Series at Madonna University was established by Michael F. McManus Jr., founder and CEO of Header Products, Inc. in Romulus, in memory of his father and to acknowledge his father's entrepreneurial success. Michael F. McManus Sr. was an effective manufacturing agent for more than 50 years in the Detroit area.

His sales efforts helped establish the Chicago Rivet and Machine Company.

Madonna University is a liberal arts university for men and women. Located at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia, the University offers 70 undergraduate and 22 master's degree programs. Classes are also offered at the Orchard Lake Center and at the Downriver Center in Southgate.

For more information, call the School of Business at (734) 432-5356.

## Regional cooperation focus of Tri-County Summit

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

With the understanding there are things everyone agrees on and things they don't, representatives of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb Counties and the City of Detroit got together Monday to talk about those topics where their interests overlapped.

The Tri-County Summit, formerly an annual get-together of community leaders from all over southeast Michigan, met at Glen Oaks Country Club early this week to share plans for regional cooperation and cost savings and, possibly, lay the groundwork for further cooperation in the future.

One of the topics up for discussion was jail diversion, clearing nonviolent cases out of the regular correction system that could be better served in a substance abuse or mental health setting. Mark Metalski from the Oakland County Sheriff's office said it's not a way of excusing behavior,

rather a way of taking people out of a place that can't address the problem.

"Jail is not set up for the needs of mental health," Metalski said. "This has a positive impact on jail overcrowding and lets corrections officers focus on the most dangerous inmates."

While it's almost an axiom that a get tough on crime posture is gold for a politician, Oakland County Commissioner Helaine Zack, D-Huntington Woods, said times are different now.

"(Jail diversion) isn't such a tough sell as it was five years ago," she said. "Jail overcrowding is everyone's issue. You don't want a low-level mental health offender taking up a bed in a jail."

SEMCOG Executive Director Paul Tait laid out a laundry list of problems the region has with its infrastructure. He said there are four realities community leaders have to face up to.

"Infrastructure is essential to

business and quality of life, we need to get more out of our investment," he said. "We have to look at infrastructure holistically and there's not enough money to get everything done."

He said there are 22,800 miles of road in the state and 950 miles of those are in poor condition, 800 miles are congested. There are 3,560 bridges in southeast Michigan and more than 1,300 are deficient. All of those numbers are expected to grow within the next 20 years.

"There are 3,500 miles of distribution mains in the Detroit Water and Sewerage system and another 9,000 miles in customer communities," Tait said. "If population growth follows forecasts, we'll need 5,000 more miles of mains."

As if the laundry list weren't enough, he added that none of the items were adequately funded for the future. Multiple revenue streams, inconsistent maintenance and the addressing of infrastructure issues

independently and in isolation of each other has caused a dramatic gap between what the region needs and what it's budgeted to get.

"The physical plants were built 30 to 50 years ago and had a 30 to 50 year life," Tait said. "By the year 2000 the region was 32 percent developed. By 2030, it will be 50 percent developed. There has been no adequate investment and there will be a \$100 billion shortfall over the next 25 years."

The net effect, he said, will be diminished quality of life and business environment.

Oakland County Commissioner Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham, said the Tri-County Summit was about common ground.

"It's a process to get the three counties and the city to talk about their common interests," he said. "It's about finding consensus, not about being a battle ground. It's like a regional UN, not a social event."

## Wayne County will collect hazardous waste

The Wayne County Department of Environment's Land Resource Management Division will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 1, in the parking lot of Huron High School,

32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston.

This free event open to all Wayne County residents and is an excellent opportunity to make your home and environment safe by properly disposing of waste that is consid-

ered toxic, flammable or corrosive.

Examples of acceptable waste being collected on April 1 include; household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, medicine, nail polish, glue, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries, propane tanks, computer monitors,

printers, scanners, keyboards, mouse, cell phones, fax machines, VCR/Cable boxes, televisions and passenger vehicle tires (limit four per vehicle).

Two additional countywide collections have been scheduled for Aug. 19 and Nov. 4, locations and times to be announced.

For more information on the April 1, 2006 collection please call Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

**We're Buying**  
Jewelry (new & old), Gems, Diamonds,  
Signed Jewelry, Paintings, Silver, & Artwork

Immediate Cash Payment  
or  
Consignment for sale at Auction

Call for a confidential appointment  
to meet with one of our Experts & Specialists

1-800-475-8898  
Birmingham, Grosse Pointe, Ann Arbor  
(in home appointments available)

If you're not wearing it or using it...Sell it while it has value!

**DuMouchelle**  
17 Kercheval Ave. (Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236)  
(800) 475-8898 or (313) 300-9166  
Offices in Birmingham, Grosse Pointe, Ann Arbor  
(in home appointments available)

**Herniated Disc Technology  
Discovered by  
NASA Scientists**

Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.midischerniation.com](http://www.midischerniation.com)

**Play System Mega-Store**  
4 National Brands 100s Of Models  
CA Redwood, Redwood/Cedar, Pine

Similar To Unit Displayed At COSTCO  
The Cascade  
**\$1295**

FREE Delivery in Zone 1  
1st 100 Units Sold by 3/31/06. Details in store.

Financing  
On approved credit thru CitiFinancial

**DOLL HOSPITAL**  
Virtual Catalog... [www.dollhospital.com](http://www.dollhospital.com)  
3947 W. 12 Mile, Berkley 248-543-3115  
POP050611062 Mon-Wed 10-5:30, Thu 10-6:30, Fri & Sat 10-5:30, Sun 12-4 For Swingsets

**Rapid Refill Ink**

**SAVE 40 to 70% off inkjet and toner cartridges**

- 100% Guarantee
- Convenient Drop Boxes
- Superior Quality
- FREE Pick-up & Delivery for Business Accounts
- No Waiting—Most Remanufactured Inkjet Cartridges immediately available

**\$3.00 OFF**  
any single cartridge with this coupon  
[www.rapidrefillink.com](http://www.rapidrefillink.com)

Northville/Livonia  
17394 Haggerty Road  
(in the College Park Shopping Plaza)  
p: 734.464.4466  
M-F: 8 a.m.—8 p.m.  
SAT: 10 a.m.—6 p.m.

**ROBERT'S BUDGET AUTO CARE**  
734-729-3306

38521 Ford Road • Westland (just W. of Hix, on the S. side of Ford Road)

**GRAND OPENING!**  
Specialists in Hot Rods and Classic Cars

We Offer Complete Car Care to Keep Your Car Running Smooth:

- Engines • Brakes • Electrical • Alternators • Suspensions
- Tune-ups • Shocks • Batteries • Transmissions • and much more

<b>OIL CHANGE, FILTER &amp; LUBE</b> only <b>\$15.99</b> Up to 5 qts. brand name oil. Most vehicles. With ad. Coupon expires 4-16-06.	<b>25% OFF ANY REPAIR</b> With ad. Coupon expires 4-16-06.	<b>REGULAR MAINTENANCE TUNE-UPS</b> 4 cyl.....\$34.99 6 cyl.....\$39.99 8 cyl.....\$49.99 Replace spark plugs. Reset idle. With ad. Coupon expires 4-16-06.	<b>Engine Light On? COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC CHECK</b> <b>\$29.99</b> Engine analyzer service. Most vehicles. With ad. Coupon expires 4-16-06.
--	---	---	---

The **EASTER BUNNY** Arrives at **WESTLAND SHOPPING CENTER**

Saturday, March 25th, 2006  
11:00 a.m. in the East Court

...So gather your little Bunnies and hop on down.

Get a gift just for visiting the Bunny, while supplies last!

**WESTLAND SHOPPING CENTER**  
Marshall Field's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's & 80 Specialty Stores  
Wayne & Warren Rds.  
734-421-0291  
[www.westlandcenter.com](http://www.westlandcenter.com)