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WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY
March 26, 2006

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Hearing postponed in Internet sex crime case

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

A 39-year-old Westland smoke shop owner will remain in jail until an April 6 hearing to determine if he should stand trial on charges that he used the Internet to commit a crime. Eighteenth District Court Judge Gail McKnight refused a defense request to lower the \$500,000 cash or surety bond placed on Jonathan Nunoo, despite attorney Bertram Johnson's contention that his client "is not a risk for flight."

"I'm not trying to take away the allegation, but with his background I believe he qualifies for a reasonable bond," Johnson said. "He has been in this country at least 10 years. He is the owner of a business in Westland and the owner of a home in Westland. He has every reason to challenge these accusations and not face deportation." Nunoo, a native of Ghana who is in this country legally, owns the All-Star Smoke Shop on Wayne Road south of Marquette. McKnight wasn't swayed by the argument and questioned why as a legal immigrant, Nunoo had not applied for citizenship. "The particulars with the bond that has been set are not going to change," said McKnight, who

added two conditions - no contact with people under age 18 and no Internet use. "I understand he has circumstances. His business is a plus, but it's also a negative," she said. McKnight did accept a defense request to postpone the hearing until April 6 to allow Johnson to review 15 pages of notes and reports related to the case. The Westland resident has been charged with two counts of using the Internet to commit a crime and one count of child sexually abusive activity. The charges are 20-year felonies and include fines of up to \$100,000. He was arrested March 15 when he went to the

parking lot of a Wayne Road bowling alley, Town & Country Lanes, to meet a 15-year-old girl. He became a suspect after police received a tip that Nunoo was selling cigarettes to minors and possibly engaging underage girls for sex. The local Metro Street Enforcement Team brought in the undercover decoy who conversed with Nunoo twice before arranging to chat with him online. The decoy was replaced by a Wayne County sheriff's deputy who Nunoo corresponded with by e-mail up until his arrest.

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



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susan Radke and her son, Ian, try out the swing in the playroom at the refurbished Rose F. Kennedy Respite Center in Westland. They were among families with developmentally disabled children who were invited to the center which will open next month.

Center's reopening gives parents respite

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Susan Radke had only made it to the playroom, but she was already excited by what she saw. "Yes, this is something I'd be interested in," she said, sitting on a swing with her 14-

year-old son Ian. "It's beautiful." Radke and her son were among families who were at the Rose F. Kennedy Respite Center in Westland Thursday afternoon to find out more about the one-of-a-kind facility in Wayne County which will open its doors next

month. Operated by the Judson Center, the center is designed to give caregivers temporary relief from the day-to-day care of developmentally disabled children ages 6-17. It can accommodate up to six children and offers a fenced-in back yard with a

playscape to come, an indoor playroom, arts and crafts and a van to take the children to different activities in the community. "We're excited because this is our first venture in Wayne County," said Nancy Cormier.

PLEASE SEE CENTER, A5

Differences force Friends to cancel their '60s exhibit

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Westland Historical Museum won't become a time machine, transporting visitors back to 1966. A plan to transform the Felton Farmhouse's turn-of-the-century decor to 1966 styling has been shelved by the Friends of the Westland Historical Museum over difficulties with its setup and handling of the museum's furniture collection. "I had big plans, I'd hoped to take everything out and bring in a whole new exhibit," said Friends member David Carrick. "The point was to make people feel that when they walked into the building they were walking into a time warp, like they were walking into a 1966 home. I envisioned a newly married couple who bought a brand new home and went out shopping to buy the latest trend in furniture. I wanted it to look like how they would have furnished it." The Friends group was organizing the exhibit to honor the city's 40th birthday this year. It had planned to paint and wallpaper walls and fill the museum with '60s style furniture and memorabilia. While the Westland Historical Commission had given the Friends the go-ahead initially, problems arose when it saw that the proposal included moving the museum's antique furniture to the nearby Rowe House and redoing the walls. "I feel bad because I think it would have been a nice exhibit, but I think they could have done it without damaging the walls or storing the furniture in the Rowe House," said Jo Johnson, a member of the Historical Commission. "There's no heat there, no alarm system." Johnson said parts of the proposal, like adding cornices,

scared the commission "because they had to be nailed into something." "Initially, we didn't think they would damage the house," said Johnson. "If they'd done it on a smaller scale ... They wanted to do the entire house and tie it up for months." Carrick said the friends were two months into the project when the problems arose. They had had a good response from residents wishing to donate items for the display, especially furniture. The painting and papering the walls was a problem, but the furniture storage was "the biggest stumbling block," he admitted. The Friends saw the Rowe House as a safe place for the furniture, especially since items had been moved from the carriage house to make room for the Eloise fire truck, he said. Johnson, however, said the items from the carriage house that are being stored in the Rowe House are farm equipment, not antique furniture. "We didn't think storing the furniture there was a wise thing to do," she said. As for the painting and papering, the Friends had planned to repaper the farmhouse once the exhibit closed. A suggestion to build false walls was rejected because "it would have taken 10 times the work of painting and papering," Carrick said. "I'm a theater person and I understand how to present a set, there was no way to do it with the other furniture in the room," he said. "The whole presentation was that this is a room as it was in 1966." The Friends have now begun returning items donated for the exhibit. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do this, especially with the Vietnam Wall coming and the city's 40th birthday," Carrick said.

District honors Bowman for educational service

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER



Bowman

The former director of the Westland Youth Assistance Program turned the tables on the Wayne-Westland school board, telling them that the award they presented her was "a celebration of what can be accomplished when entities work together for the good of

community." The board presented Ronaele Bowman with a Service to the Educational Community Award, honoring her "tireless work for children of the district." "As we know, the board always has encouraged partnerships and with Ronaele, we know there's been a great partnership," said Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman in announcing the award. "She's always focused on pulling resources together so we get what's best for the children. "There's no us and them, there's no kids

in community and kids in school. It's how we can help together." Bowman, who recently retired as director of Westland Youth Assistance Program, has been a longtime member of the district's Health and Welfare Advisory Committee. Sherman praised Bowman for her willingness to bring programs to families, conducting parent meetings and workshops in school buildings. She also has participated in the Red Wagon summer

PLEASE SEE BOWMAN, A5

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Coming Thursday in Filter

The Detroit Tigers begin the season April 3 and the home opener is April 10. See Filter for what's new at Comerica Park.

Fish fry

The Men's Fellowship Group of the Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland Corps will host a fish fry and bake sale 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 31 and April 7, at the corps' Community Center, 2300 Venoy Road, Westland. The cost is a minimum donation of \$6 and the proceeds will go to buy new kitchen equipment for the center's feeding program.

Open House

St. Damian Catholic School will be having a preschool and kindergarten open house 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 25. The school has preschool programs for three-four-year-olds and full-day kindergarten, both with three- and five-day

options. Registration will be accepted at the open house. St. Damian is at 29891 Joy, Westland. Call (734) 427-1680.

Garage sale time

Hayes Elementary fourth-graders are working to raise money to pay for a trip to Lansing. To do so, the students are hosting a garage sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the school, 30600 Louise, in Westland. All are welcome.

While in Lansing the students plan to tour the Historical Museum, the State Capitol Building, attend the Supreme Court Learning Center and the Impression 5 Museum.

Security talk

National speaker Kevin

Graunke addresses the topic of security in an interactive talk called "Real Security ... Without the Blanket," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

The talk, sponsored by the Churches of Christ Scientist in Plymouth and Farmington, comes in light of community wide concerns about the state of the economy and how it affects everyone in the area.

The talk is designed to help participants understand there are real spiritual laws that govern the lives. This talk is for anyone who is experiencing any sense of instability or insecurity.

The library is at 32777 Five Mile in Livonia. Admission is free, and free child care will be

provided during the event. For more information contact Susan Tish, (734) 416-3349.

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. Call (734) 721-6770.

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, baby-sitting 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.

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<p>USDA GRADE A Great For The Grill Fresh CHICKEN DRUMS 69¢ lb.</p>	<p>BOB'S OF CANTON 31210 W. Warren (at Merriman) Westland 734-522-3357 HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 10 am - 7 pm Sat. 9 - 7 pm • Sun. 10 - 6 pm PRICES GOOD March 27th thru April 2nd</p>		<p>USDA GRADE A Fresh Whole Pork TENDERLOINS \$3.89 lb.</p>
<p>GROUND FRESH HOURLY Ground Beef from GROUND SIRLOIN \$2.19 lb. Family Pac</p>	<p>WE ACCEPT: We Accept: E-mail Address: www.bobsorcanton.com Thank You!</p>		<p>CORN FED SELECT BEEF Boneless Tender Top SIRLOIN STEAKS \$3.99 lb.</p>
<p>FROM OUR DELI Lipari Old Time Honey Mesquite TURKEY BREAST \$3.79 lb.</p>	<p>CORN FED SELECT BEEF Great in the Crock Pot Boneless Bottom BEEF RUMP ROAST \$2.49 lb.</p>	<p>CORN FED SELECT BEEF Boneless Lean Tender Rib Eye \$5.99 lb. SAVE \$1.40 lb. DELMONICO STEAKS</p>	<p>US #1 PRODUCE BROCCOLI \$1.19 ea. GREEN PEPPERS 2/\$1 IDAHO POTATOES \$1.69 5 lb bag ea. RED DELICIOUS APPLES 89¢ lb.</p>
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CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 6- 3/20/06

Presiding: Council President Wild
Present: Godbout, Graunstadt, Kehrer, LeBlanc, Pickering, Stottlemeyer,
82-Approved minutes regular meeting held 3/06/06.
-Approved Change Order No. 1, City Hall Counter Project, PCI Industries, amt. \$6,708.20.
-Introduced Budget Amend. 2006-08, General Funds, amt. \$135,000.00.
-Introduced Budget Amend. 2006-09, General Funds, amt. \$23,404.00.
-Approved request from Kicks 4 Kids, MDNR grant program, City portion \$70,980.00.
-Approved Ground Lease with Metro PCS Michigan, Inc. to co-locate on Sprint flagpole, at Municipal Golf Course.
83-Set Public Hearing date for 2006-07 City of Westland Budget.
87-Approved rezoning to amend Marquette Sr. Village Spec. Planned Development, Parcel #045-99-0024-702, n. side of Marquette, w. of Wayne Rd.
90-Sets Public Hearing date of 5/1/06 for vacation/abandonment of Stacy & Schuman Rights-of-Way, Marlee Woods sub., w. side of Farmington Rd., n. of Ford Rd.
91-Approved Proposed Land Division, Parcel #005-02-0186-300, w. side of Fremont, n. side of Ann Arbor Trail, w. of Middlebelt Rd.
92-Approved Proposed Land division, Parcel #032-01-0056-000 thru -0062-000, e. side of Walton, n. of Ford Rd., w. of Wayne Rd.
93-Approved Revised Site Plan for Proposed Outbuilding, Venoy-Palmer Shopping Ctr., Parcel #074-03-0009-301, s.w. cor. of Palmer and Venoy Rds.
94- Confirmed reappoint. of R. Johnson to Westland Cable Commission, term ending 3/25/10.
95-Approved Voucher List: \$1,771,737.50 and Prepaid: \$2,731,988.74.
Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.
Minutes available at the Clerk's office.

William R. Wild
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: March 26, 2006

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DFCU Financial has worked hard for 56 years to meet your ever-expanding needs for personalized financial services. We recently mailed our members detailed information regarding a proposed change in legal structure that will better position us to serve members and the community for years to come. Members will still enjoy all of the same great products and services at our convenient branches. We understand that members may have questions and we want them to be as informed as possible. We invite members to contact us at 888-336-2700, visit the nearest branch, or speak directly with the President of DFCU with any questions.

Thank you for placing your trust and loyalty in DFCU Financial. We are looking forward to serving you for another 56 years.

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FINANCIAL

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the annual election for School District of the City of Garden City will be held in said School District on Tuesday, May 2, 2006.

Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended provides in part as follows:

The inspectors of election at an annual or special election shall not receive the vote of a person residing in a registration school district whose name is not registered as an elector in the city or township in which the person resides...

The last day for receiving registrations for the annual election will be Monday, April 3, 2006. Persons residing in said School District registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2006, will not be eligible to vote at the annual election.

Under the provisions of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, registrations will not be taken by school officials and only persons who have registered as general electors with the appropriate Clerk of the City or Township in which they reside, or through registration at a Secretary of State driver's license bureau, are registered school electors.

Members for the Board of Education of School District of the City of Garden City will be elected. At the annual election there will be elected two (2) Members of the Board of Education of the School District for four year term, beginning July 1, 2006 and expiring June 30, 2010. The candidates for said office to the Board of Education are as follows:

TWO (2) FOUR YEAR TERM
(two shall be elected)

George Kordie
Roy Watts

This notice is given by order of the Garden City Clerk Allyson Bettis.

Allyson Bettis
City Clerk
City of Garden City

Publish: March 26, 2006

Council delays vote on 2nd auto store request

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The developers of an auto parts store will have to wait awhile longer to see if the Westland City Council will approve their development plan.

The council, at the suggestion of Councilman Charles Pickering, postponed votes on the land use and site plan for an Advanced Auto store on Wayne Road just south of Ford.

The decision came after a lengthy discussion in which real estate attorney David Lipski told the council that there was an "inherent risk" in denying the request.

"I believe the problem is with the design of the special land use," said Lipski, who maintained that there is no need for such a designation for an auto parts store. "The city has insufficient basis for denial."

The proposal is to build at 7,000-square-foot building on the site on the east side of Wayne Road, south of Ford. A used car/antique dealer and the Hit & Now fast food store currently sit on the 1.444-acre parcel.

The Planning Commission last month voted to recommend denial of the special land use and site plan for the development at a meeting in which Lipski told the panel he believed the city was running the risk of having its zoning ordinance declared unconstitutional.

According to Planning Director Bruce Thompson, the proposed development isn't compatible with the surrounding area, would have a detrimental effect on traffic in the area and have a negative impact on the sound and privacy of the adjacent residential property.

He added that the Downtown Development Authority plan includes a recommendation for no more auto-related uses in the central business district.

Lipski pressed the council for the approvals, telling members that a denial is an "unreasonable conclusion," that the developer has twice made changes to the plans.

"What is hazardous to the public about an auto-related parts store to require special land use," he said. "There is no sort of egregious conduct happening there that the city needs to protect the public."

Councilman James Godbout told Lipski that he appreciates that Advanced Auto wants to locate a second store in the city. There already is a store on Michigan Avenue. But he questioned Lipski's contention that retail auto parts is different than auto-related.

"It's very much related," he said. "I also fail to see how you make the connection that there's no toxic waste. You do recycle batteries and do oil changes and both of those are considered hazardous materials."

Council President William Wild told Lipski that the study

wasn't the reason why the project needed special land use approval.

"The problem is with the plan," he said. "There are major issues with the stormwater runoff, utilities, parking and signage. There's no way you are ready for approval."

City Attorney Angelo Plakas said that because there is another auto-related business in the area is not reason enough to deny the request.

"It wasn't a paramount reason for recommending denial," Plakas said. "This council knows it can't deny a request because the business next door is selling the same thing. You should have come with your plans in order."

"I understand you want to make your case, but let the record be clear and not painted in a manner you'd like."

Lipski defended the project, telling the council that Advanced Auto Parts would not put a store in an area, "if it didn't think the population was there to produce a profit."

This is the second time in a month that a request to locate an auto parts business in that area. In February, the council rejected developer John Romano's plan to bring a NAPA Auto Parts store in near-southwest corner of Wayne and Ford roads.

The council refused to approve a special land use proposal for NAPA, saying the company - mostly a wholesaler - isn't right for the retail site.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Memorial's marching band, color guard and cheerleaders lead the middle school students in singing the Zebra fight song at the sixth annual 'Celebrate Wayne.'

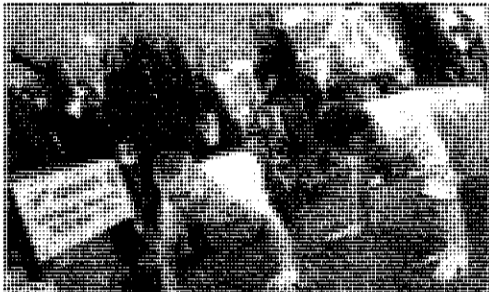
'Celebrate Wayne' welcomes high school's class of 2010

Eighth-grade students from Wayne-Westland's four middle schools paid a visit to Wayne Memorial High School Wednesday for what has become an annual celebration of high school.

"Celebrate Wayne" provides middle school students who will attend Wayne Memorial in the fall with an overview of the high school through skits, displays and tours of the school.

The students heard suggestion from the high schoolers on how to be successful and were able to sign up to get more information about its clubs, organizations and athletic activities.

An evening program also was available for students and their parents and included presentations on the ninth-grade academic



Adams Middle School eighth-graders Adam Szydzik and Brandin Everly got down and did pushups at Wayne Memorial's JROTC display.

and support programs.

This is the sixth year that the high school has staged "Celebrate Wayne."

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

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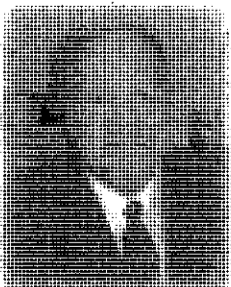
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Open Letter to All Member-Owners of DFCU Financial

Dear Member-Owners,

Do you know that DFCU Financial has applied to convert from a not-for-profit CREDIT UNION to a for-profit mutual savings bank?

As a former volunteer chairman of DFCU's board of directors (1988-1999), I have joined with a group of concerned members, called DFCU Owners United, to urge our credit union's 160,000 plus members to become alerted to any benefits they would lose or gain if this conversion to a bank is successful.

Your credit union DFCU Financial, with approximately \$1.8 billion in assets and nearly \$216 million in equity, is the largest credit union in Michigan and one of the healthiest in the country. It has achieved this success thanks to the money, loyalty and support of you, its member-owners for the past 56 years.

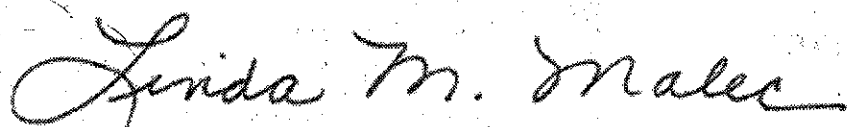
Why convert to a bank? How will member-owners benefit? How will management benefit? Historically, other conversions to banks have shown that it's executive management and board members who make millions in stock options and other compensation. And, did you join a credit union only to have it become a bank? I did not!

It is expected that members will soon receive a packet of disclosure information with a ballot from DFCU Financial. **I urge you to read all disclosure information very carefully before you vote.** Your vote is important. In a credit union, it's one member/one vote. This conversion will be successful if passed by only a simple majority of those who vote.

Again, your individual vote can determine the outcome of whether DFCU Financial continues to be a not-for-profit CREDIT UNION serving YOU, the member-owners.

For more information, please visit www.savemycu.com. Help us save DFCU Financial for its member-owners!

Sincerely,



Linda Malec
Spokesperson
DFCU Owners United

DON'T MAKE OUR CREDIT UNION A BANK!

DEARBORN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (DFCU)

www.SaveMyCU.com

CENTER

FROM PAGE A1

Judson program manager.

This is Judson's fourth respite center. It has had a facility in Beverly Hills for 20 years, one in New Baltimore for five years and opened one in Waterford in November 2005.

The Westland center, built in 1972, is owned by the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and leased by ConsumerLink Network which asked Judson to step in and operate the facility after its contract provider, Family Neighborhood Services, went out of business last year. "I received a letter in June 2005 that Family Neighborhood Services could no longer provide the service and literally the next call I made was to the Judson Center," said David Pankotai, ConsumerLink executive director. "I was very much aware of Judson Center's experience in respite care."

The walls have been painted and there's new carpeting throughout the entire facility, including a second wing that hopefully will be open for adult respite care this summer, said Cormier. That, too, would be a first for Judson, she added.

Alarms also have been replaced, and the heating and cooling repaired as part of the fix-up. By doing the work throughout the building, opening the adult side will be a quicker process, Cormier said.

The children's respite wing will be staffed with two employees each on three shifts, according to home manager Misty Fae. They will cook and



Brightly colored murals decorate the walls of the main room of the center which will be managed by Misty Fae (right). Joining her is Nancy Cormier, program manager for Judson Center, which is operating the facility.

clean the facility and do all of the direct care for the youngsters.

"This is like a house and we want them to feel they can do anything here that they can do in their house," she said.

Fae started working with the developmentally disabled when she was age 16. She worked with children and adults in group homes and even did some social work with teen-aged girls before returning to respite care.

"A lot of times in a career you do things people don't want you to do, but with respite care, people want it," she said. "And there's such a wealth of smiling innocence. No matter how difficult the work is, you can go home feeling good about it."

The center's opening is good news for Radke. The family has her soon-to-be ex-husband's parents to come from

Pittsburgh to watch Ian who is autistic.

"We had no family in the area - my family is in Montana - so we had to be selective about our time away," she said.

Radke happened to be at the Judson Center in Royal Oak and saw a flier about Thursday's open house. An employee of JARC, which provides residential care and service to families with developmentally disabled children, she has had no problem getting an evening baby-sitter.

"Now that I'll be a single mom this will be more conducive," she said.

The Radke family had lived in Capac, but moved to Dearborn when Ian was 4. They did it for a very specific

reason - to enroll Ian in the Burger Center for Students with Autism in Garden City.

"We took a tour of the place and decided that was where he had to be, hands down," she said.

While Radke checked out the bedrooms, representatives of ConsumerLink and the Judson Center gathered out front of the facility for a ceremonial ribbon cutting. There was no ribbon, just a colorful paper chain that came apart in one snip by Pankotai and Marn Myers, president of the Judson Center.

"ConsumerLink stood up and said we can't let respite services go away," said Myer. "Wayne-Westland worked with us to get it back up and operating, and the parents have stuck with us and said this is needed."

With the festivities out of the way, only thing left before the first family walks through the door is the state licenses. Cormier had hoped to have them by the end of March, but now expects them sometime in April.

"We're very excited and will be so glad when the day comes that we can open our doors," she said. "Hopefully, it'll be soon."

The Rose F. Kennedy Respite Center is located in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools administrative complex on Marquette east of Newburgh. For more information, call home manager Misty Fae at (734) 721-9072.

BOWMAN

FROM PAGE A1

literacy program and brought in young people involved in Youth Assistance to help pull the wagons filled with books.

"She always wants to help kids in the community," Sherman said. "I think the Wayne-Westland district and children are wealthier for her work in the community and in the district."

In accepting the award, Bowman told the board that the first word that came to mind when she heard about it was collaboration.

"When I came to Youth Assistance in 1992, the program stood alone, there were

no alliances, no collaborations," she said. "But what better collaboration is there than with Wayne-Westland schools, because we both have something in common with the kids."

Bowman also had praise for "the people from the top down - school counselors, school principals, attendance officers," for working with the Youth Assistance Program and for allowing the program to use the Tinkham Center twice a week to run teen and parent groups.

"I can't talk high enough about The Wayne-Westland schools and the willingness of its people to work with the community at large," she said. smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

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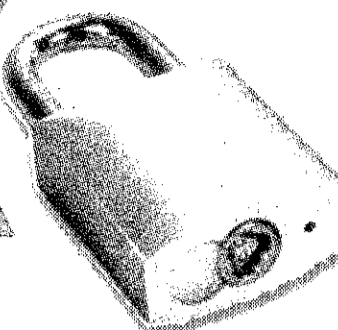
TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ready to read

Hicks Elementary School invited a few 'local celebrities' to come to class last Tuesday for a little reading. The guests - members of the Inkster Fire and Police departments, other elementary principals and members of the business community - each read a book to two classrooms. While waiting for their celebrity reader youngsters were entertained by kindergarten teacher Becky Finnegan who sang and read 'The Three Bears.'

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'Myth' of global warming may have real consequences

I don't care, I'm cold. I've been cold since the second week of November (give or take a few days in January).

I am cold at my desk at work, where we have some demented heating system that sends out a rush of cold air before it sends out a trickle of heat. I am cold at home, where the builder must have saved thousands by not using insulation, coupled with the shock of the monthly gas bill that keeps the thermostat in the low 60s. I wear a fleece and envy my cat's thick fur.

So I could be skeptical about all this global warming. Maybe a little local warming wouldn't be such a bad thing. Hey, they're only talking about 3 to 9 degrees warmer by the end of the century. Didn't the century just begin?



Hugh Gallagher

On Wednesday, Clear the Air and the Michigan Environmental Council released a report on the impact of global warming on Michigan's seasons, *Season Creep: Warming Climate Leads to Shifting Michigan Seasons*. The prospects for our environment (and our economic health) are seriously jeopardized by global warming, according to the scientists.

"The science is clear: global warming isn't off in the distant future or happening somewhere else, it's happening right here in Michigan and it's happening now," Vicki Levengood, Michigan representative to the National Environmental Trust, said in a statement.

Of course, global warming is a hotly (really, it's the only word I could think of) contested issue. If you use your Google to look up global warming, you'll find an array of sites spelling out the consequences of even a minute change in average Earth temperature. But you'll also find sites dedicated to debunking "the myth" of global warming.

One of these sites is operated by a "consumers" group dedicated to the proposition that consumers have a right to buy whatever they like without governmental interference or scientific "nonsense."

I used to receive an "environmental" newsletter masquerading as an Earth-friendly green sheet full of news about how business is working to help the ecosystem and we shouldn't worry about global warming. In fine print is the information that the newsletter was sponsored by the energy and petroleum industries.

In Michigan this is a very touchy issue. We are the Motor City and all those internal combustion engines have long been a leading suspect in global warming. Debates over CAFE standards and gasoline-loving SUVs have pitted our environmental concerns against our economic interests. (In the interest of full disclosure, I drive a Jeep Cherokee and drive more than 20 miles one way to work, so I am part of the problem.)

Like everything, the answer is both personal and political. President Bush and others have been reluctant to stall the short-term economy for the long-term environment. He suggests nuclear power as an alternative to coal power plants (though he was a firm advocate for coal power). Others see alternatives in wind and solar power and stricter emission standards.

And it is a problem. Even President George W. Bush, who kept the United States from signing the Kyoto Treaty, has admitted that we may just have a problem here.

On Wednesday, scientists outlined what all this means to Michigan. Jim Nugent, horticulturalist with Michigan State University Extension, reported that global warming has dramatically decreased ice cover on Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay. For 130 years, the bay froze over in 85 percent of winters, but has frozen only three winters from 1991 to 2000 and only once since 2001.

Jeff Andresen, MSU associate professor and climatologist, reports that temperatures have increased about 2 degrees since 1980, but 4.5 to 5 degrees during winter months because of the lack of ice cover.

So what? Cherries are blooming earlier and are more susceptible to cold injury. But that's just one of a series of subtle and dramatic changes in the way nature responds, from changing bird migrations to an earlier maple syrup season.

But more dire consequences are also foreseen. Melting glaciers in the Arctic may lead to droughts and a dramatic water shortage in the western United States. Rising sea levels will lead to coastal flooding. Warming temperatures may contribute to more severe hurricanes.

Like everything, the answer is both personal and political. President Bush and others have been reluctant to stall the short-term economy for the long-term environment. He suggests nuclear power as an alternative to coal power plants (though he was a firm advocate for coal power). Others see alternatives in wind and solar power and stricter emission standards.

There is much to debate on how we deal with global warming, once we get past the "myth" that there isn't any global warming.

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

We must engage with China, not blame them for our woes

I have just returned from a trade mission to China. I visited five cities in 10 days:

Beijing, the nation's capital; Chongqing, the auto capital of China; Chengdu, the home of the lovable giant, Panda; Mianyang, sci-tech city, which mass produces many of the TVs watched in America; and Shanghai, the financial capital of this country with a booming global economy.

As a student of China since a great teacher opened my eyes to the country in grade school, I have traveled to China six times since my first trip in 1989. I was with the hundreds of thousands of students in Tiananmen Square just prior to the June 4 massacre.



Tom Watkins

I will never forget a young Chinese student asking me as I stood in Tiananmen Square, to "describe democracy, describe freedom."

While I answered with my best civic lesson ringing in my ear, I felt inadequate explaining what many of us take for granted. It was like attempting to tell someone how you get up and start to breathe in the morning — it is just so natural and instinctive for Americans.

On this return trip, I was reminded that it is through cultural, academic, scientific, business and professional exchanges that ideas and commerce have flourished since the doors of China opened. As a Chinese student told me in Tiananmen Square in 1989, "When you open the window — all the flies can come in."

Today, with the transformational sea change in global economics that is taking place in the world and drastically impacting numerous Michigan families, many fear Chinese competition and blame China for our current economic woes.

Our nation's history is littered with this same reaction. The Chinese Exclusionary Act prohibited Chinese laborers from coming to this country for 10 years (1882-92) and was later renewed in 1892, made permanent in 1902 because it "endangers the good order of certain localities." Chinese were treated as heathen and subjected to widespread discrimination, persecution and violence. The law was finally eliminated in 1943.

Fast forward to 1982 and here in Michigan, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American at his bachelor party celebration, was beaten to death by two angry autoworkers. One of the men had been recently laid off, and both blamed the Japanese — and, mistakenly, Vincent Chin — for their loss.

He paid the ultimate price for their ignorance.

Most recently, on the University of Michigan campus, a Chinese student had insults hurled at him and then was urinated on for the "crime" of being Chinese. Fortunately, Mary Sue Coleman, the U-M president, quickly and forcibly denounced this behavior.

Yet with xenophobia running high, I fear that further incidents of violence against Asians will take place as our economy continues to sour. We need pre-emptive action by Michigan leaders to speak out against such behavior and turn down the political rhetoric that seeks to blame the Chinese for our current economic ills. I fear the tone currently being set will provide the ignorant with license to insult, intimidate or, worse yet, harm Asian Americans out of fear and stupidity.

I suspect as the political season heats up, we will see many attempting to exploit the current economic fear of China for short-term political gain. This strategy reminds me of a CEO only looking at the next quarterly report rather than the long-term vitality of the business. China's leadership has the opposite view of the world and their economic prosperity.

China's economy is expanding at double-digit rates and they are sitting on hundreds of billions of dollars in cash, looking for places to invest. It should be the goal of our leaders to make Michigan the place for China's investment, to help put our people to work.

Michigan has much to sell the Chinese, from our manufacturing know-how to the agricultural products we produce. At every stop, I heard government officials eager to have two-way trade with Michigan.

Wayne and Oakland County executives Bob Ficano and L. Brooks Patterson realize this potential and have sent trade missions to China that have produced economic opportunities benefiting their citizens.

We must fight for fair trade and do our best to protect Michigan workers from the global transformation that is stripping many workers of both hope and their jobs. We also must stay engaged with the people of China so the young man who asked me to "describe democracy, describe freedom" will someday have his question answered.

Tom Watkins is a business and economic consultant. He served as Michigan's superintendent of schools from 2001-05. Read his Michigan Education (R)evolution report at www.coe.wayne.edu. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

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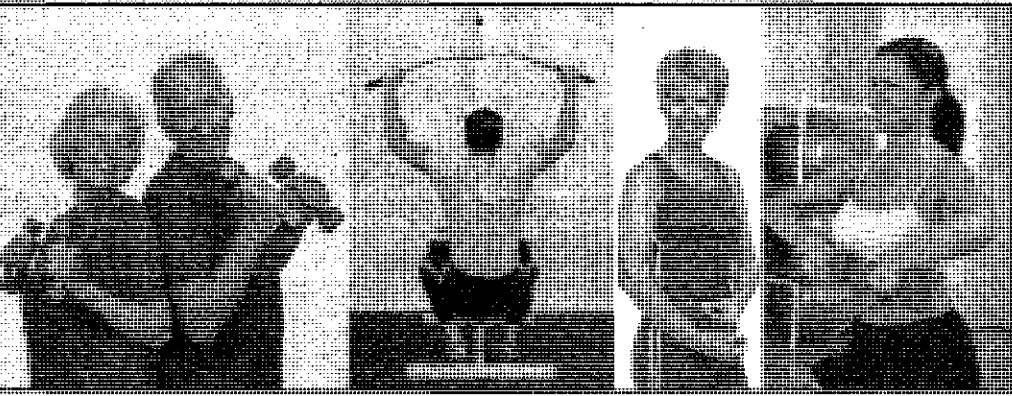
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Schoolcraft names new vice president

Camille L. Colatosti is Schoolcraft College's new vice president and chief academic officer. The former dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Davenport University stepped into her new post March 13.

"We are delighted to have an educator of Dr. Colatosti's experience join Schoolcraft College," said President Conway A. Jeffress. "What distinguishes her is not only the extensive knowledge she has of Schoolcraft, but also her experience directly related to several initiatives that align with our long-term objectives."

Colatosti said she was attracted to the Schoolcraft post because of the college's reputation as an innovator and a well managed institution, and because it is an opportunity for her to grow professionally and take on added responsibility.

At Schoolcraft, she will oversee everything relating to students, including curriculum, instruction and student services, and will serve on the President's Cabinet.

Her goals are to look for opportunities to develop new courses, evaluate the transfer process, and raise the rates of enrollment, retention and graduation. She said she wants to be sure the college is positioned to offer a bachelor's degree, if the state changes its policy and allows community colleges to offer



Colatosti

four-year programs. At Davenport, she managed a team of five division chairs, 52 full-time faculty

members and more than 300 adjunct instructors. She directed all undergraduate arts and sciences education, led all assessment issues and supervised the library.

She served as director of literacy, basic skills and the computer learning center for Operation ABLE of Michigan, was an adjunct faculty member at Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College and was a research associate for the Labor, Education and Research Project, Detroit.

She is the author of numerous scholarly articles and the book *Stopping Sexual Harassment: A Handbook for Union and Workplace Activists*. A member of the Hamtramck Board of Education from 2000-2004, she is founder and past president of Preserve Our Parks in Hamtramck.

Colatosti holds a doctorate and master's degree in English literature from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's in English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

County concerned about bill to reduce parking tax

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A state House bill to reduce a tax on airport parking from 27 percent to 15 percent could cost Wayne County \$8 million a year for state-mandated indigent health care.

Alan Helmkamp, assistant Wayne County executive, said the bill introduced by state Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, would reduce indigent medical care for the benefit of private parking lot owners.

"Airport operators don't pay the tax, they collect the tax from customers and pass it on to the state," Helmkamp said. "There is no method to roll back the tax and pass the savings on to customers."

Helmkamp said the House bill, 5536, does not require parking lot owners to reduce their rates. The airport parking tax affects two off-site private operators, Group 10 and Park & Fly, and parking facilities owned by the Detroit Wayne County Airport Authority.

Helmkamp said LaJoy sponsored the bill to benefit Mike Koza, one of the owners of Group 10 and a constituent. He said the private owners have testified in support of the proposal but the Airport Authority hasn't publicly supported the proposal, although they could also benefit from its passage.



Helmkamp



LaJoy

BILL MOVES ALONG

House Bill 5536 was approved by the Transportation Committee, chaired by LaJoy, by 9-8 vote and is expected to go to the House floor by early this week.

LaJoy said he met Friday morning with a representative from Wayne County to try to work out a compromise.

"There is no way that we will do anything unless we plug the hole in indigent health care," LaJoy said. "We wanted to get something on the table so that we get something done on this."

The airport parking tax was first imposed in 1987.

"Wayne County was in terrible financial straits, occasioned by deficits in state mandated indigent health care," Helmkamp said. "A bipartisan package was passed to assist Wayne County."

The original tax was 30 percent without a fixed amount allocated for indigent health care. All of the tax revenue from on premises parking

went to the county and 20 percent to the city of Romulus.

In 2002 then-state Rep. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, proposed reducing the tax to 15 percent. A compromise was reached reducing the tax to 27 percent with \$6 million allocated to airport security, \$1.5 million to the city of Romulus and the rest to Wayne County to be used exclusively for state-mandated indigent health care. For fiscal year 2004-05 Wayne County received \$10,170,273. In addition, the county received \$6,355,138 from tobacco tax revenue. In the previous fiscal year the tax generated \$7,227,758 for the county.

LaJoy said two months after the original tax was reduced to 27 percent, the Airport Authority imposed a \$360 per vehicle user fee on off-site parking owners.

"It's unfair competition," LaJoy said.

Under LaJoy's bill, the reduction in revenue would apply only to the portion of the tax revenue designated for Wayne County. A House analysis of the bill reports that the proposal would reduce total airport parking tax revenue from an estimated \$18.1 million to \$10.1 million for a reduction of \$8 million.

"Our ability to fund the mandate is removed from us by taking away \$8 million a year,"

Helmkamp said.

In the 1980s, then-County Executive William Lucas filed a lawsuit against the state of Michigan arguing that more than \$30 million in county deficits were due to the state mandates for indigent health care in violation of the Headlee Amendment. The amendment requires that the state must fund mandated programs. In arguing against the 2002 reduction, Lucas' successor Edward McNamara argued that the county dropped the suit because of the 1987 deal that included raising the airport parking tax to fund indigent health care.

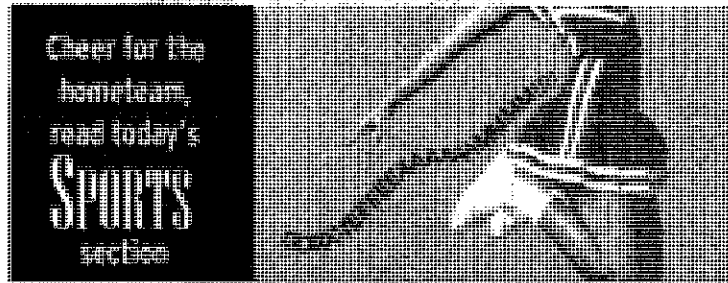
HOSPITAL FUNDS

Helmkamp said the proposal would also jeopardize federal matching grants for distribution to hospitals. Currently Wayne County sends back to the state \$15 million which generates a match from the federal government.

Wayne County's indigent health care funding is distributed to four health care providers.

On March 16, the Wayne County Commission voted unanimously to oppose the House bill.

LaJoy said Friday he wasn't sure when the bill was scheduled for a full House vote. He said the bill is still a work in progress and that he hopes to get a resolution soon.



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The mix of benefit and side effects means your doctor is likely to want you off prednisone once he achieves his goal with its use. Getting off prednisone is not merely a matter of stopping the drug; you need to decrease its use in an orderly manner, like a planned retreat.

Each physician has his own manner of stopping the medicine. If you have been on it only a short time such as a few days to under 2 weeks, you can stop the drug at once with no repercussions. Otherwise, decreasing slowly is in order. If your starting dose is 20 mg, my preference is to drop one milligram every week.

No matter what regimen your doctor uses, it is necessary for you to be patient and to follow his instructions in all its details.

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