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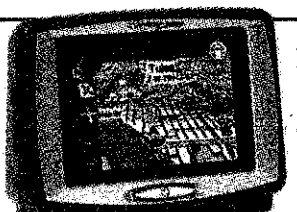
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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
April 13, 2006

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Mayor delivers 'conservative' budget to council

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland residents would see their water-sewer bills increase slightly under a new budget proposed by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. A typical customer using 22,000 gallons of water every two-month billing cycle would pay an additional \$15.84 a year for the budget year that starts July 1, according to an analysis by Finance Director Steven Smith. That would amount to a 2.3-percent increase, with water-sewer rates climbing from \$5.29 to \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons, Smith confirmed.

That's in keeping with Cicirelli's pledge to pass on to local consumers only those rate hikes imposed on Westland by the city of Detroit and Wayne County. On occasion, local officials have padded the Detroit-Wayne County increases to bolster Westland's water-sewer fund. But Cicirelli, saying local residents already are reeling from soaring home-heating and gas-pump prices, had promised she would be sensitive amid tough economic times. "The economy just doesn't show any signs of improving in southeast Michigan, and that makes it difficult for all communities — Westland

included," she said Tuesday during a telephone interview. On a brighter note, the city's general fund surplus is projected at \$2.3 million for the one-year spending cycle that ends June 30 — substantially higher than earlier estimates of \$1.4 million. "Our continued fiscal restraint has helped us build the unallocated fund balance to over \$2 million," Cicirelli wrote in a letter to Westland City Council President William Wild. The full seven-member council is expected to approve a new \$59.6 million spending plan in early June, after a series of budget sessions that will

begin with an overview at 6 p.m. Monday at Westland City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh. "It's a very conservative budget, as we've presented in the past," Cicirelli said Tuesday. "Our costs are rising dramatically, but our revenues are not keeping pace." She cited rising fuel and health-care costs as particular areas of concern. Still, Cicirelli said city officials will try to keep the budget surplus over \$2 million, despite cuts in state-shared revenue. In other budget highlights: Cicirelli has proposed buying 10 new police cars, in-car digital video

cameras for police cars, a new fire rescue vehicle and four new pickup trucks for the building department. The new police vehicles would complete the transition to the retro-looking, black-and-white patrol cars. The Bailey Recreation Center swimming pool would receive \$100,000 in much-needed repairs. The budget would be balanced with no tax increases, no cuts in service and no layoffs, although Cicirelli has warned that budgetary issues will only become more challenging in coming years.

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Community volunteer Marlene Doran helps Special Olympics adults at the Dyer Center pool.

Board, resource center collaborate on Project 180 Too

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board is going on the road again with its highly successful Project 180, but instead of focusing on two school communities, the new program is expanding to include all families in the community. Planned for 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Franklin Middle School on Annapolis east of Howe, Project 180 Too will offer sessions covering a variety of topics of interest to parents with children in elementary through high school, as well as a "fun" keynote address by Linda Lee of "Young Country" radio station WYCD, a parent in the Wayne-Westland district. "The whole idea is to encourage learning over the summer and get ready for the new school year," said Maria Mitter, director of the district's Family Resource Center which is collaborating with the school board in staging

Project 180 Too. The second installment is geared for parents with breakout sessions covering such topics as keeping kids safe on the Internet, "a big hot topic right now," according to Mitter, grandparents raising children, working with children with ADD or ADHD, funding a child's college education now and fun and educational Internet sites. There also will be "Help, My Child Is Entering Middle School" and "Help, My Child Is Entering High School" as well as preparing for college entrance exams for parents of teenagers. Each half-hour session will be offered twice, so parents can take in two during the course of the event. Mitter is hoping to attract at least 250 people and as an incentive to attend, there will be prizes given out at the end of each session as well as several grand prizes. The gifts include one night

PLEASE SEE PROJECT 180, A7

Westland's First Citizen

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

From homeless to handicapped, Doran gives them her all

She feeds the homeless and plays cards with them. She coaches an adult Special Olympics swim team. She helps high school students prepare for a pro-democracy speech contest.

She's a Salvation Army bell-ringer, a Toys for Tots volunteer and a Bible school coordinator. She visits the sick in hospitals and helps raise money for the American Cancer Society. And she's a clown — costume and all. Just where is Marlene Dean Doran's

PLEASE SEE FIRST CITIZEN, A6

School board gives superintendent perfect score for work

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

On a scale of one to three, Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy rates a three, three as in a perfect score for meeting the goals set for him by the school board and in leadership. "Everything said about Greg by the board was positive, he always seems to exceed the board's expectations," said school board President Frederick Weaver. "We're very pleased to have him as superintendent." Weaver presented the results of the review, conducted by the board last month, at this week's meeting. The



Baracy

board evaluates the superintendent once a year to see how he is leading the district. It also provides him with a list of priorities trustees want him to address. The high priority goals included improving student achievement, keeping the district on firm financial ground, improving the level of technology in the district and developing an award for the district's high achieving schools. Baracy received a perfect score for meeting those goals, including "finding a way to navigate the district to stay

financially sound, which is no less than a miracle," said Weaver. He also created the Lighthouse School Award, presented for the first time in December to Madison Elementary School for its high academic achievement. Recently released results of state standardized tests taken by the district third- through eighth-graders shows continuing improvement, with students meeting or exceeding state scores in almost all subject areas. He also received perfect scores in how he deals with people and the board and how he leads other people. Baracy has been the Wayne-Westland superintendent for nine years

and is "well-respected in the area and around the state and among other superintendents and is a voice for education in Lansing," Weaver said. "Since the beginning of his superintendency, there has been a great leap in the quality of leadership," he said. "He brings people around him who are able to perform and bring this district to the next level. According to Weaver, Baracy's greatest strengths are his ability to assess situations and his performance for the district. He is able to "put an excellent face on this district." He also spoke highly of his "passion for the job." "He's a good man and we're pleased

to have him as superintendent," he said. "After nine years as superintendent, he continues to exhibit a high energy level in dealing with all aspects of school district operations. He continues to motivate the staff and address goals set by board." Baracy thanked the board for the positive review and for the opportunity "to serve the Wayne-Westland School District and the children." He also thanked his administrative team for their efforts. "These kind of accomplishments and the momentum don't come about without a strong team effort," he said.

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Coming Sunday in Health
Cancer news
Conference hears about new studies, treatments for ovarian cancer. In Sunday's Health section

Oakwood Annapolis updates radiology unit

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is nearing the end of a \$2.5 million renovation and equipment upgrade in radiology, giving the department the capacity to handle more technologically advanced equipment and software.

Since 2005, Oakwood Annapolis has seen the installation of state-of-the-art equipment, including two dual-headed nuclear cameras and a digital radiology room.

This fall, a 64-slice CT scanner also will be added.

Oakwood Annapolis radiology is currently operating the Picture Archiving and Communication System, a filmless and paperless technology being implemented throughout Oakwood Healthcare System.

It allows radiologists to view an image up to four seconds after the X-ray has been taken and for the instant transmission of such things as CT scans, MRIs, nuclear medicine studies, ultrasounds and general X-rays. Physicians also have the ability

to view exams either on a CD or directly from their offices.

The department also has gotten a fresh coat of paint, new ceiling tile, hardwood flooring and a new wall base. The changes are welcome, according to Robin Ross, director of cardiology and imaging explains.

"Our staff is proud to come to work each day," he said. "We now have an area that really shows we're proud of what we do and who we are."

Patient comfort also is being addressed with wider beds, allowing for easier mobility while maintaining excellent quality.

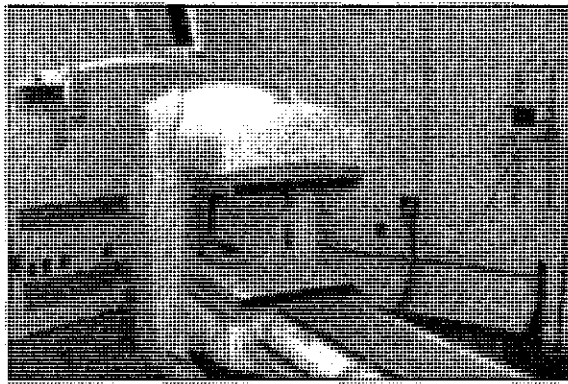
According to Ross, both patient and physician satisfaction scores have dramatically increased since the changes have taken place.

In January 2004, a new state-of-the-art surgery center with the most advanced technology and services was built.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is a 259-bed, full service community hospital that has been serving western Wayne County since 1957.



Radiology technician Jamie Stichter accesses information on the new computer system.



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital upgrades include the new imaging table with a nuclear camera and facility renovation.

2 suspects sought in holdup at Pit Stop

Store robbery

An employee of Pit Stop party store in the 1400 block of South Merriman told police that two suspects came into the business about 11:15 p.m. Thursday, April 6, and robbed it.

She said one suspect was carrying a metal crowbar at the time and warned her to be quiet and get out of the way. She said the suspects broke into a safe and a cash register.

She fled during the incident and called police for help.

A police report gave limited descriptions of the suspects. One was said to be about 5-foot-8 and heavy set, wearing a gray sweatshirt and blue jeans. The other was described as 6-foot to 6-foot-2 with a medium build.

Home break-in

A 45-year-old Westland woman told police that someone broke into her home on Hershey while she and a relative went for a walk 6:30-7:45 p.m. Saturday. The street is located in Westland Meadows mobile home park.

Reported missing from the break-in were several prescription drug bottles, a 14-karat gold bracelet, a gold angel pin with a small diamond, and a death certificate of the victim's mother.

The woman told police that her home was locked when she left but unlocked when she returned.

Arson case

A 50-year-old woman reported that someone started a fire in a first-floor hallway of

CRIME WATCH

a building at Western Hills Apartments, off of Cherry Hill between Wayne and Newburgh roads.

The incident happened about 1:55 a.m. Monday. The fire damaged the hallway carpet and an apartment door.

A resident reported the incident after smelling smoke. The fire was small enough that she was able to put it out.

A man who lives in the apartment with the damaged door told authorities he didn't know anyone who might have started the fire.

Domestic fight

A 39-year-old woman told police that an ex-boyfriend came to her home on Peppermint, refused to leave and ultimately kicked her in the right thigh as she was holding their 16-month-old daughter.

The kicking incident happened about 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the Westland Meadows mobile home park, according to police reports.

The victim told police that she came home on Saturday night and found her ex-boyfriend there. She said he refused to leave, so she went to her sister's house.

She returned home Sunday morning and found the ex-boyfriend sleeping on her couch. She told police that when she told him to leave, he kicked her and threatened to kill her unless she left him alone.

The woman called police, who arrested the suspect.

DEATHS

B
Ernest F. Blair
Blair, 89, of Clawson, died April 6.

C
Howard Clayton Cole
Cole, 83, of Oxford, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died April 6.

E
Max Erdmann
Erdmann, 84, died April 10.

M
Patricia Jean (McDonald) McNeil
McNeil, 82, of Westland, died April 7.

P
Erlene L. Pummill
Pummill, 77, died April 7.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A18.

CORRECTIONS

An article on April 6 in the At Home section on Passover indicated that Shirlee Bloom, catering specialist at Bloom's Jewish Cuisine in Farmington Hills, receives orders for pork during Passover.

Actually Bloom does not receive orders for pork — and nor does she serve it — as Jews do not eat pork.

During Passover, Bloom receives orders for roast chicken, stuffed chicken, beef brisket and gefilte fish. Bloom serves kosher foods.

Anyone who wishes to order Passover or kosher foods from Bloom can contact her at (248) 855-9463.

The information under the illustration accompanying the April 6 in the At Home section article, "Students make creative space for carpets," should have read, "Carrie McCallum, a student at Baker College, was awarded first place in The Ghiordes Knot-American Society of Interior Designers Creative Space Competition for this design."

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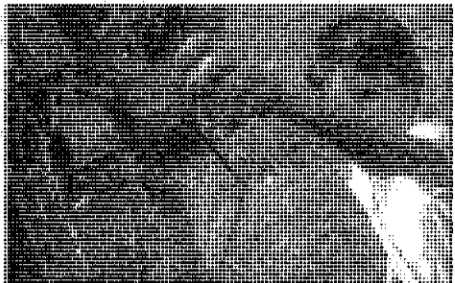
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Kindergartner Madison Morell looks inside the flap of her box to see if she had the special sticker for a grand prize at the St. Damian's Easter Hunt Monday afternoon.



Second-grader Jimmy Ryan of Livonia reaches up for his Easter prize.



Second- and third-graders take off running during the first ever Easter hunt held at St. Damian School on Monday.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Egg-stra nice

St. Damian students search out treasures at Easter Hunt

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Superman would have had a hard time keeping up with youngsters like Donovan Krueger who had his game face on and was ready to run in an Easter Hunt at St. Damian School Monday.

"I already see three of them, but I think I'll go for the closest one," said the eight-year-old Redford resident.

With a countdown from three to one, he took off along with his fellow second and third graders, looking for small boxes and eggs filled with candy hidden under bushes, in flower beds and in trees. There were even a few sitting on a patio table, passed up by students headed for the less obvious prizes.

Organized by Patti Knapp of Livonia, Dawn Tavian of Canton and Kelly Burchart of Dearborn Heights, the first ever Easter Egg Hunt, gave kinder-

garten through third graders a chance to get outside and enjoy the spring weather.

Knapp came up with the idea a few weeks ago, using candy gift boxes that she had gotten marked down after Easter last year. She threw away the year-old sweets and replaced them with suckers, stickers and candy.

Youngsters in kindergarten through second grade searched for the boxes that contained suckers and a "God rocks" stickers, while the third graders searched for plastic eggs filled with Smarties, stickers and Easter pencil sharpener.

Third grader Laura Duszkiwicz of Livonia guessed her egg contained a ring, sticker and pencil sharpener. The sight of a roll of Smarties brought a smile to her face.

"Anything with candy is good," she said.

There was one container for each of the 100 students who had to wait until

the hunt was done to open them up ... carefully. At each grade level there was a box or egg that contained a special sticker, making the bearer eligible for a grand prize.

Kindergartner Julia Chapman of Garden City, first grader Jeremy Tracy, also of Garden City, second grader Ryan Dobney of Westland and third grader Dante Ufferman of Livonia were the lucky ones, each receiving a tub of sidewalk chalk.

The three women, who have worked together on other projects, including the school's Mom to Mom sale, were please with result although Knapp's "biggest fear was that the special boxes would be left out in the courtyard."

"We'll definitely do this again next year," she said.

"It's a nice perk," added Tavian. "The kids enjoy it and it gets them in the Easter spirit."

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New honor

Westland Civitans honor Bowman as Citizen of Year

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

For a woman who has helped hundreds of troubled Westland youngsters improve their lives, Ronaele Bowman seems remarkably humble.

Bowman molded Westland Youth Assistance into one of Wayne County's leading programs to help youngsters overcome such problems as failing grades, shoplifting, substance abuse and parental disrespect.

Bowman, who left her 13-year job as Youth Assistance director in December, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Westland Civitan Club - a group dedicated to helping the physically and mentally impaired.

She received her latest award last Thursday, mere weeks after the Wayne-Westland school board honored her with an award for her service to the educational community.

"I just don't feel like I deserve all this recognition," Bowman said Tuesday. "It's embarrassing."

Bowman, a Livonia resident, not only spearheaded Westland Youth Assistance; she has taken her caring spirit as far away as Haiti, where she and husband Hugh have made trips to help that nation's poor children with basic necessities.

"She has done so much with Youth Assistance, but it wasn't just a job to her," said Civitan board member Barb Polich. "She was very involved, and she went above and beyond her regular duties. She's very involved in her church, and she's just a good citizen. She puts a lot of things in front of herself. She's community oriented."

Bowman received her latest award during Civitan Awareness Month. She was caught off guard when given her award during a ceremony last Thursday. She accompanied Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard,



Ronaele Bowman

thinking that Beard was being honored.

"I'm happy that the efforts that I put into my involvement in Westland are appreciated and recognized," Bowman said Tuesday. "But it means more to me that people understand that I really do care about the city of Westland and the people of Westland."

Bowman now works as a legislative aide to Beard, who is the longest-serving Wayne County Commission member.

Bowman is proud that Youth Assistance - now in the hands of former Deputy Director Paul Motz - has a 90 percent success rate. That's the percentage of youngsters who stay out of trouble after completing the program.

Youth Assistance provides classes to help troubled youths and their families, and it pairs youngsters with adult mentors who try to become a positive influence.

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, a longtime Youth Assistance supporter, has said there couldn't have been a better choice than Bowman to build up the program.

Bowman became the program's first full-time director in 1992. When she left, more than 2,700 youths ages 7 to 16 already had been referred to the program by police, courts, schools and parents.

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'What will you do ...'

Merriman Road Church offers 3 dramas in 1 Easter pageant

**BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER**

There will be drama and comedy, modern dress and historical costumes – a little something for everyone – in this year's Easter play at Merriman Road Baptist Church.

"What Will You Do With Jesus?" – a production put together by congregation member John Rowe – will be presented 7 p.m. Friday. This year, the church has scaled

What Will You Do With Jesus?" will be presented 7 p.m. Friday.

back its annual Easter production which in past years would have two or three performances.

"It's three separate dramas with music tying it together," said Bill Riddle, a congregation member and church facilities manager. "I think it will be

really good. We didn't have time this year for our usual big production, but we wanted to do something."

One of the acts is about two brothers whose mother has asked a religious man to visit them in prison.

"One of the brothers realizes he's done wrong but the other makes fun of him," said Riddle, who portrays the visitor. "It parallels the two thieves on the cross with Jesus."

Not to get away from the traditional costumed Easter play,

one act features historical figures from Christ's life, such as Peter and Paul, culminating with testimony from a congregation member.

The third act focuses on two modern couples – one homeless and living in a park. The plays lasts just under an hour and everyone is invited. Admission is free.

With many churches no longer putting on Easter plays, Merriman Road Baptist Church traditionally gets a good response to the holiday production. The church auditorium will hold 500-600 people.

Merriman Road Baptist Church is located on Merriman just south of Ford in Garden City.



Ernie Weathers, who plays a homeless person in the Easter pageant, drops rose petals onto Jerry Murray, who does not believe. Watching is Elaine Weathers (left), a homeless wife, and Jackie Murray, playing a wife who does believe.

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Coffee Hour

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, April 17, at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter.

Citizens are welcome to attend and discuss their issues and/or concerns. Anderson's local coffee hour take place on the third Monday of each month.

Gardening seminar

The Village of Westland, a senior citizen residential community, will host a free gardening seminar open house at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19.

The featured speaker will be Janet Macunovich, master gardener and co-founder of the Michigan School of Gardening. She will give a lecture on "More Than a Garden: Balm for 'the Soul, Glue for the Family."

Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call (734) 762-8926.

The Village of Westland is at 32001 Cherry Hill Road, between Merriman and Venoy.

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.

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 appliqué (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 Strebbling at (734) 722-4857 after 6 p.m.

Senior Dinner Dances

The Wayne Ford Civic League is hosting a Senior Dinner and Dance Sunday, April 23, at the hall, 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland. The dinners and dances start at noon and feature a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee and pop with dancing to the live entertainers. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members of the league. Memberships are on sale year round and are only \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information. Participants must be 60 years of age and older to attend.

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 for information.

Mother's Day benefit

April showers bring May flowers and Mother's Day! And while Mom will appreciate any gift you buy her, why not give her a gift that will help make a difference in the lives of so many others?

The YWCA Western Wayne County has Mother's Day Cards available for a minimum donation of \$25. Donations can be made in your mother's honor, or in honor of any women who have impacted your life!

"As an organization committed to helping women and their families, it is so important for us to honor those women who have been essential to our lives," said Karen Murphy, YWCA chief executive officer. "Mother's Day is a great time of year to do this. This card is not just for Moms, but for our friends and other significant women in our lives."

Donations from the Mother's Day cards will help the YWCA to create more programs to help women and their families.

Approximately 1,000 families benefit from the programs and services offered by the YWCA,

and there are more who need help everyday.

For more information, about the Mother's Day Cards, or to purchase a card for one of the wonderful women in your life, call the YWCA Western Wayne Co. at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 20.

Recycling benefit

Madison Elementary School is collecting empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, April 28, at the school, at 1075 S. Carlson, south of Avondale, Westland.

The school participates in the

Funding Factory Recycling Program throughout the school year and is expanding its collection to include the community in observance of Earth Day 2006.

Companies interested in demonstrating a commitment to education and the environment also can participate free of charge in the Funding Factory Business Support Program.

Funding Factory will send each supporting business free, postage-paid shipping boxes for the return of collected cartridges and cell phones.

By donating to Madison

Elementary, businesses help them earn the technology and recreational equipment.

To learn more about supporting the school, call Funding Factory toll-free at (888) 883-8237 and mention Madison Elementary in Westland.

Senior volleyball

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center hopes to start a co-ed volleyball team to compete in Wayne County's 2006 Senior Olympics.

If interested, call Mel Tockstein at (734) 722-0159.

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FIRST CITIZEN

FROM PAGE A1

halo? It must be invisible.

"She's a sweetheart," longtime friend Barb Polich said.

On Tuesday, Doran, 67, was named this year's recipient of the First Citizen Award, given by the *Westland Observer* and the Westland Chamber of Commerce. She will be honored during an April 21 ceremony at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

"It's totally amazing. I'm in awe," Doran said. "I've known about this award, but I've never considered what I do worthy of this. There are so many great citizens in Westland. I certainly am honored."

Doran immerses herself in so many selfless activities in the Wayne-Westland area, it's amazing she finds time to sleep.

"I try to make a difference," she said. "I'm thankful to God that I have the strength to do it."

AN EARLY START

Born in Saginaw as one of Arlie and Nellie Kingsbury's four children, Doran started her volunteer work when she was 4 years old, helping her mother with church rummage sales.

"I just never got out of it," she said.

Doran's education reflected her desire to help. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University's School of Occupational Therapy and then earned a master's degree from EMU's School of Education, studying how to help the physically impaired.

She worked 27 years as an educator and occupational therapist for Wayne-Westland

schools, retiring from her full-time job in 1992. She continues working part time for the district, helping with an arthritis aquatics classes and a youth swim program.

Doran, a former Westland resident now living in Wayne, helped open the district's Dyer Center pool in 1980.

"She's very reliable and very dependable. She's always cheerful, and she does her job very well," said Carolyn Hatcher-Baron, a district paraprofessional who knows Doran. "She is always willing to help out."

Doran is a twice-married widow, a parent or stepparent to seven children, and a grandmother of 12.

"I've got great friends and family, and I have a very supportive community that I'm proud of," she said.

'A DREAMER'

For nearly three decades Doran has been involved in the Westland Civitan Club, dedicated to helping the physically and mentally impaired.

"She's a dreamer," Polich, also a Civitan, said. "She has ideas that go on and on and on. She really can't find fault with people. She always finds something good to say about them. She looks for the silver lining in people, and she's very dedicated to what she does."

Doran has held many Civitan leadership positions, including becoming the first governor of the six-state North Central District in 2004.

"I had never been the first governor of anything," she said.

Doran has been involved since 1984 in the Wayne-Westland First United



Marlene Dean Doran gives instructions to Keith Thompson and Marlane Miastkowski, members of an adult Special Olympics swim team.

Methodist Church. Her duties have included serving as women's vice president, singing in the cantata choir and coordinating Bible school. Her church and five others run a homeless program that feeds and provides a warming center at another church, Full Gospel Temple.

"My homeless deserve someone who gives them value as

human beings," said Doran, who helps out on Tuesday nights. "I help feed them, play euchre with them, watch television with them and put them to bed at 11 o'clock."

At the VFW Harris-Kehrer Post 3323, she is instrumental in youth programs, including helping high school students who write speeches for a local Voice of Democracy competi-

tion. Youngsters who win can advance to state and national contests.

Doran also spent decades helping with Boy Scouts, and she delights young children as a clown, Marzy Marlene. She has appeared in costume in such events as the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. While vacationing in February, she actually graduated from Clown College in Venice, Fla.

Doran has won several prestigious awards over the years. She earned the Honor Key from Civitan International in 2005 - the highest honor a club member can receive. This year, she

was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

Amazing as it may seem, she somehow finds time for hobbies such as reading, crafts and watching her grandchildren play sports.

When her life is over, Doran hopes to arrive in heaven like a baseball player crossing home plate.

"I hope to slide in at the end of my life and say, 'Hey, what an adventure.' I won't have any regrets," she said.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, April 29, 2006 @ 1:00 PM. #506 & 432 Lois Luellen; #1327 John Brandstatter; #1427 Dianne Fazio; #1222 Anthony Wells; #1104 The Arc of WW; #247 Lillian Madison; #1224 Ralf Shaffer. Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: April 13 & 20, 2006

OE0842690

CITY OF WESTLAND PROPERTY TAX SALE

Parcel #56 060-06-0184-000, Lot 184, Glenhaven Subdivision No. 8. This buildable 50x135 lot is located on Hazelwood between South Carlson and South Crown, and is zoned R-5 single family. Bidding begins at \$20,000. Bid applications are available for pick-up only in the Assessor's Office located at 36601 Ford Road, 2nd Floor, in Westland.

Publish: April 9 & 13, 2006

OE0842738

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON 2006-2007 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007 will be held on Monday, May 1, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Eileen DeHart City Clerk

Publish: April 13, 2006

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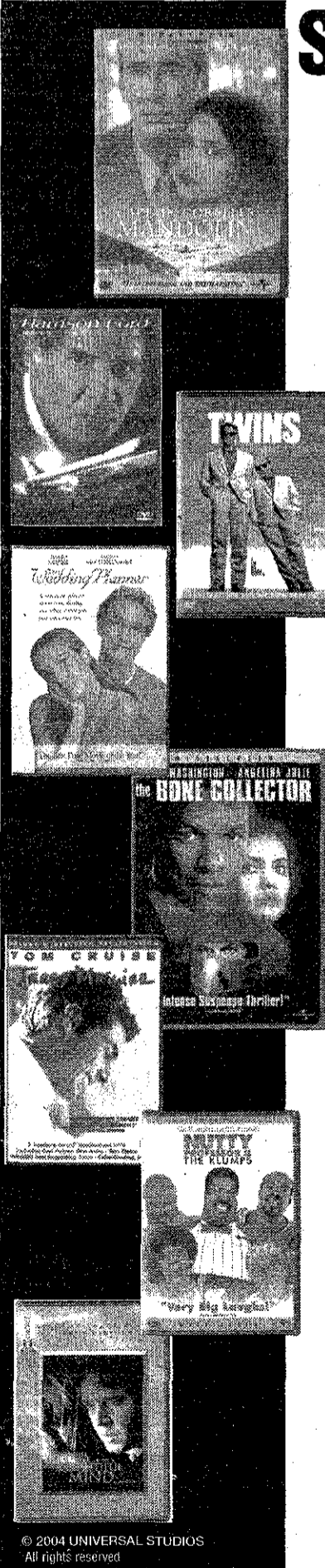
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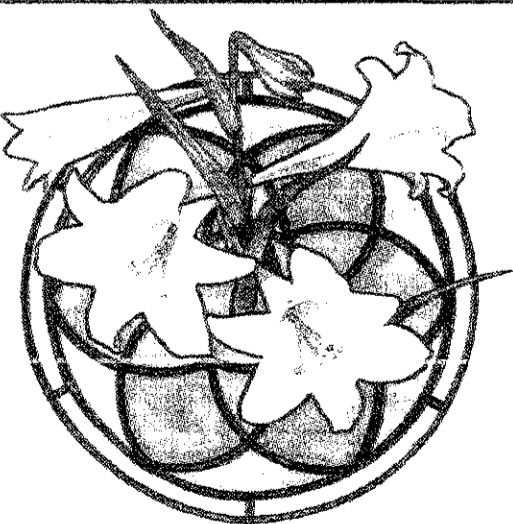
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Made in America

New cable TV station caters to Muslim audience

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Mo Hassan thought he was being optimistic.

But just two weeks after he launched Bridges TV, it turns out he had been underestimating the demand for the new television network.

Hassan is the CEO of Bridges TV, the only all-American Muslim television station in the world.

Programming is in English, and is entertainment-heavy, rather than news-centered (even though the station airs news during prime time daily).

Bridges TV made its debut just two weeks ago in the Detroit area on WOW! Cable, Comcast, Globestar Satellite and Dish Network, and it's pending on Direct TV.

"We had planned to have one million viewers by the end of this year, but at the end of this week, we have that many," Hassan said last week. "I need to write a new business plan."

The plan was originally hatched at the end of 2001. He and his wife, Aasiya Zubair, spent November and December of that year in Southfield because she was attending training to open a franchise in their hometown of

Buffalo, N.Y.

"It was after Sept. 11, and we were listening to the radio, and there was a lot of talk — talk that was very disparaging toward Muslims," he said. "My wife was pregnant at the time, and she said that this is not a good environment for raising children, and wouldn't it be nice if there was a media outlet that could reach people and show them what Muslims are really like?"

Zubair turned to her husband and said, "You should do it. You should start a television station."

Hassan said he couldn't. He was a banker and knew nothing about the television industry. But he put together a business plan and by the time he left his job, he left with his employer's blessing and a \$1 million line of credit.

Not that he's needed to tap into the credit.

Right away, he reached out to the Muslim community, and his initial seed money was sent to him by 10,000 families from around the United States. Each sent \$100.

"That was our first \$1 million," he said. "It truly is a grass-roots thing. It was very grass-roots, very door to door, very mosque to mosque."

There is some corporate sponsorship — from Ford Motor Co., for example — and the station collects licensing fees from cable and satellite companies who buy it. And, of course, there are the memberships bought by the people who send money to support the station, Hassan said.

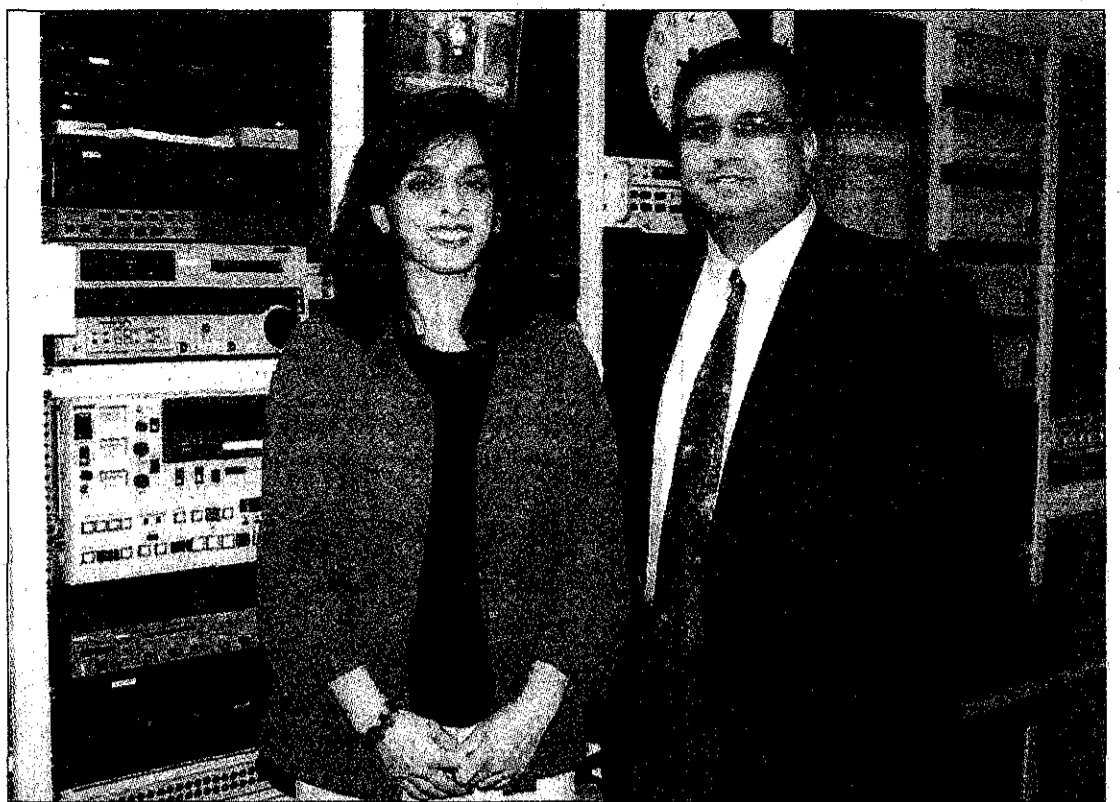
There has been absolutely no foreign financing of the station, and no "giant media conglomerate," Hassan said. "It's 100 percent made in America. It's homemade apple pie."

Bridges TV has rolled out in the Detroit market, Chicago, Toledo, Columbus, Boston and Dallas. And Hassan has found that meeting with cable companies in new markets doesn't require weeks or months of waiting, contrary to what he'd heard about the industry.

"They call me," he said.

The station's programming lineup includes game shows, children's programming, music videos, history programs, biographies, news, current affairs and religious programming. About half is produced at the company's headquarters in Buffalo, where some 30 people work for Hassan. He employs 20 news correspondents in the field around the country.

"I think what appeals to peo-



Aasiya Zubair (left), wife of Bridges TV CEO Muzzammil Hassan (right), played an instrumental role in the creation of Bridges TV since she came up with the idea of an American Muslim lifestyle network and encouraged her husband to write a business plan.

ple is that when there's something going on like the struggle in Iraq, the Danish cartoon issue, or the Dubai ports, people can turn on Bridges TV and get another perspective," Hassan said. "We are definitely building bridges, just like the name says."

On May 15 at 8 p.m., Bridges TV will air a town hall meeting with Paul Moskal, the chief legal counsel for the FBI in New York. Moskal will take

direct questions from Muslim and Arab Americans on national television. On May 14, the station will air the cable television premier of PBS' *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*.

"It really fills a void," said Adnan Mirza, a director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). "There's a clear disconnect between popular American media and Muslim audience. The nice

thing is, this is not just for the Muslim audience. Bridges TV gives a clear understanding of the issues to viewers and an opportunity for us to speak for ourselves. Americans are increasingly interested in better understanding Middle Eastern cultures, and Muslim Americans want to be better understood. Bridges TV creates a public platform for this dialogue."

cmarshall@hometownlife.com

REI gives \$10,000 to Rouge, Maybury Land says license ATMs a success

Two area parks will receive \$10,000 donations from Recreational Equipment Inc. Las week REI announced plans to dedicate \$1 million to community parks across the country. These parks grants are in addition to the more than \$3 million in grants REI previously earmarked this year for outdoor recreation and conservation causes.

A total of 100 parks grants, each in the amount of \$10,000, will be given to non-profit organizations dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of community parks throughout the U.S. Seven community organizations in Colorado will receive a grant that will benefit a specific park. The benefiting parks and partner organizations include:

■ Rouge River Park, Partner Organization - Friends of the

Rouge River, grant presentation 9 a.m. Earth Day Saturday, April 22, at Rouge River Park.

■ Maybury State Park, Partner Organization - Friends of the Maybury State park, grant presentation was set for 10 a.m. Wednesday at Maybury State Park.

Grant recipients were selected after REI employees identified community parks that were of particular interest to their customers, offered outdoor recreation opportunities, and were in close proximity to an REI store.

Once specific parks were selected, REI worked with park officials to identify a non-profit group that provides volunteer care for each park. In collaboration with the local parks, these non-profit groups will dedicate funds to projects

that maintain and preserve each community park.

"REI had an amazing 2005," said REI President and CEO Sally Jewell. "As a co-op we share our success with our members, employees and the communities in which we do business. I can't think of a better way to celebrate our success than by dedicating an additional \$1 million to support our community parks. The importance of these parks is immeasurable in getting people outdoors — as recreation areas, as community gathering spaces and often, as our children's first introduction to the natural world."

Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reports that in the 12 months since introducing Self-Service Stations for renewing licenses, the state has recorded 30,000 transactions and \$3 million in revenue.

"Self-Service Stations are a key part of our efforts to make a trip to the Secretary of State's office a quick and helpful experience," Land said. "It is encouraging to see so many customers using them. This is another effective way technology can be used to enhance customer service for the people of Michigan. I recommend that anyone who has not used these machines yet give them a try. It's as easy as 'Scan, Pay, Go.'"

There are 28 self-service machines statewide, 17 of which may be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by customers. They are located at 23 PLUS Offices and five Super Centers throughout 17 counties. From April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006, there were 29,619 tab renewal transactions, gener-

ating \$2,958,688 in revenue.

The stand-alone ATM-style stations feature simple touch-screen instructions and can dispense new license tabs within seconds. Customers simply scan the bar code on a renewal notice with their correct name, address, vehicle information and personal identification number (PIN), then swipe a debit card or Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card.

Tabs may still be purchased online, by phone or mail, but customers who have run out of time to use those methods of who would otherwise have to wait for service at the counter can obtain renewals quickly and easily at the Self-Service Station.

Livonia Area SUPER Center is at 17176 Farmington Road in the Burton Hollow Plaza. PLUS offices are located at 25700 Joy Road, Redford and 44948 Ford Road, Canton.

The department Web site is www.Michigan.gov/sos for more information

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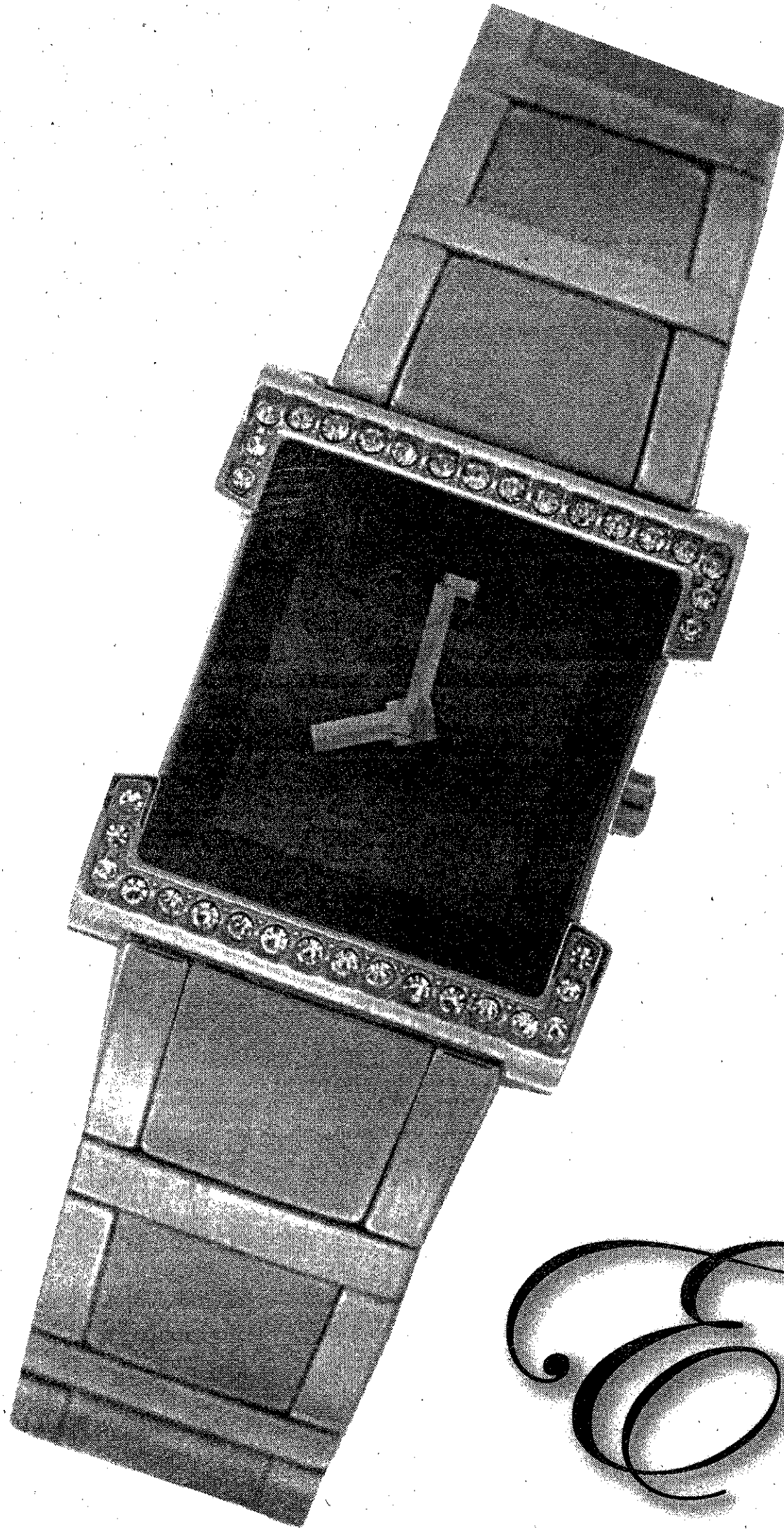
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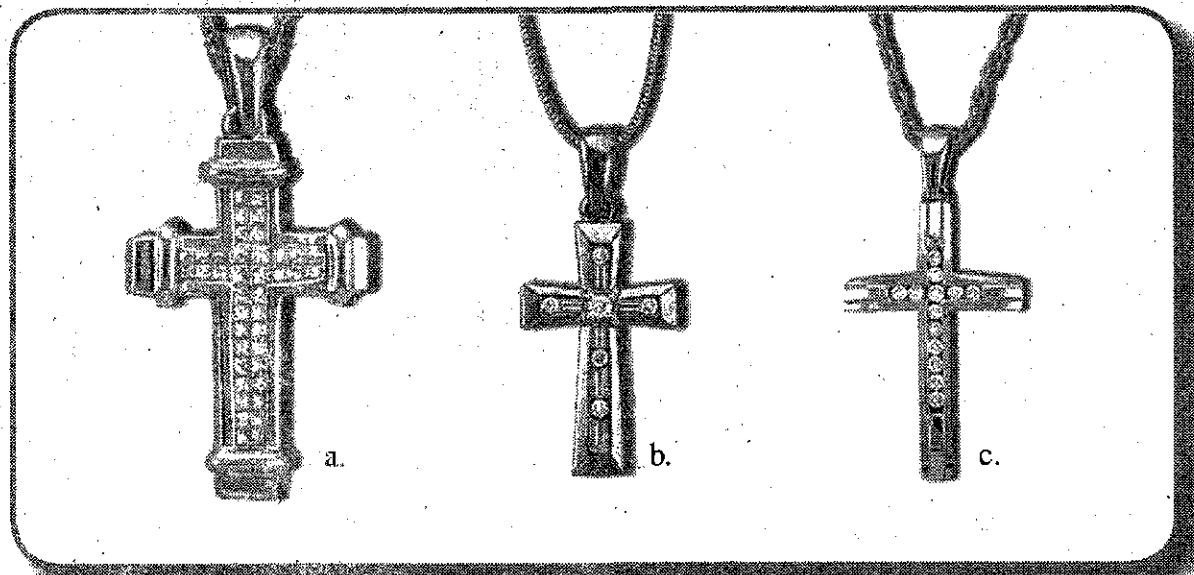


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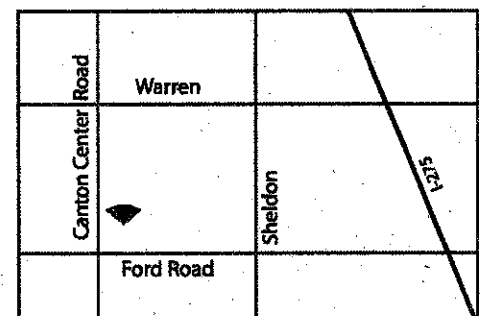


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Sea Cadets introduce youth to military life

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Cousins Zachary Polak of Wyandotte and Erick Jackson of Romulus dreamed of joining the elite ranks of the Navy SEALs.

"I started researching stuff and I found a military Web site with a link to the Sea Cadets and they had SEAL training," said Polak, a senior at Wyandotte High School and petty officer second class in the Sea Cadets.

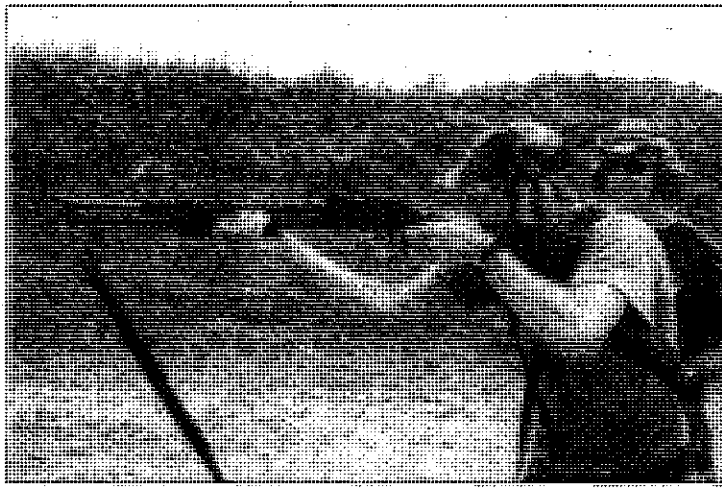
According to Ensign Edward C. Brennan of Milford, that hands-on military experience is what makes the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps a great opportunity for young men and women ages 11-17.

"The beauty of the Sea Cadets is that they get initiated into military opportunities to see if this is what he or she wants to do," Brennan said. "It's a great way to find out what it's like to be in the military."

INTERVIEWS

The James M. Hannan Division of the Sea Cadets has openings for a limited number of new recruits. Interviews will be held 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, at Redford Presbyterian Church, 22122 W. McNichols, Detroit. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling (248) 685-9568.

On April 15, the Sea Cadets will have a display at the Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt. Applications and



Rifle training is part of the Sea Cadets SEAL training.

interviews will take place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Hannan Division meets 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the first and third Saturday each month at Redford Presbyterian. The 35 Cadets come from throughout the metro Detroit area.

Brennan dates the beginning of the Sea Cadets to Teddy Roosevelt who urged the Navy to develop an organization for civilian support. That led to the founding of the Navy League. About 45 years ago, the Navy asked the Navy League to form a youth group. The Hannan Division has been in operation for 42 years.

From April through November, the Sea Cadets operate a ship, the SCS Gray Fox out of Port Huron. Three two-week cruises and several one-week and weekend cruises are available. About 900 cadets from the Midwest will

sail this coming season.

COAST GUARD TIES

"We have a close relationship with the Coast Guard. Kids are on ship steer, plot courses, do everything," Brennan said. "We have a dummy, Oscar, that they throw over the side to practice rescues."

The 120-foot Gray Fox is a decommissioned Navy torpedo recovery ship. Hannan Division cadets will bring the ship down to Hart Plaza in Detroit April 28 and 29 where it will be open for public tours.

In addition, Sea Cadets introduces young cadets to a variety of military options.

"We have 65 different activities including Navy band, JAG school, medical training," Brennan said.

Activities also include submarine school, seamanship, sailing, photojournalism and



Lifting a heavy rubber boat teaches teamwork but Sea Cadet Zachary Polak said the bottom of the boat feels like sandpaper.

Several former Cadets are serving in the military in Iraq.

SEAL training. The Sea Cadets also have an exchange program with other countries which allow some cadets to work on British, Russian, Canadian and other foreign vessels.

All that comes after basic training.

"It was a lot of yelling," Polak said of basic training. "It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. At first I thought it was bad and then I did SEAL training. I complained about boot camp and now I don't know why."

Polak described SEAL training as "hell for three weeks." Trainees learn to dive, but they

also learn to carry heavy logs and water heavy rubber boats as a team.

"You cannot get through SEAL training as an individual. If you do it alone, you won't make it," Polak said.

Brennan, a Navy veteran of the Korean War who became involved as a Sea Cadets volunteer officer five years ago, said about 15 to 20 percent of the cadets get into the military.

"Ten percent of the cadets at Annapolis are former Sea Cadets," Brennan said.

Several former Cadets are serving in the military in Iraq, Brennan said.

Polak and Jackson say they've gotten a lot out of their Sea Cadet experience, though they aren't sure that the Navy is for them.

"We got a lot of military knowledge, that's for sure," said Jackson, a junior at Romulus High School with a seaman rank. "I got a look at what branch of military I wanted to go into."

Polak said his experience led to a full-ride ROTC scholarship at Central Michigan University. But the ROTC will lead to the Army not the Navy.

"The only reason to go into the Navy was SEAL training and if I didn't make it, there isn't anything else I would want to do in the Navy," he said. "But if I went into the Army and didn't make Special Forces I could still be a Ranger or Airborne. I'm the kind of person who wants to be in the field and hands-on."

Jackson is also considering the Army or the Marines.

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Ford Foundation awards \$1 million to Focus:HOPE

The Ford Foundation has granted \$1 million to Focus:HOPE as part of a major initiative to expand its education and training opportunities, increase enrollment, and graduate more underrepresented minorities into sustainable careers.

Designated for scholarships and core operating support, the award will offer more options and a better future to hundreds of young men and women in the city of Detroit.

Announcement of the award was made during a recent visit to Focus:HOPE's campus in Detroit by Ford Foundation executives Susan V. Berresford, president; Pablo Farias, vice president, Asset Building and Community Development Program; and John Colborn, deputy director, Economic Development, Asset Building and Community Development Program.

"This grant will advance our efforts to ensure our training programs are providing the outcomes expected by our partners," said Keith W. Cooley, who recently was appointed CEO of the 38-year-old civil rights organization. "It will enable us to meet the rapidly changing demands of the marketplace, build our scholarship fund, provide experiential learning opportunities for our manufacturing engineering students and adjust curriculum to address current skills shortages."

The Ford Foundation and other national foundations provide support for Focus:HOPE's education and training programs. Existing programs open career opportunities in the manufacturing, engineering and information technology industries.

"Our first grant to Focus:HOPE was in 1977. Since then, we have provided grants and loans totaling over \$5.5 million and watched as thousands of Detroit residents have benefited from its educational programs and community outreach," said Berresford. "We are pleased to help this talented and dedicated group of people as they work to address the economic challenges facing Detroit and its residents."

Ford Foundation funding will also support a new scholarship initiative which gives talented students the financial

Designated for scholarships and core operating support, the award will offer more options and a better future to hundreds of young men and women in the city of Detroit.

resources they need to complete their studies. Beginning in 2006, enrolled students who demonstrate financial need can compete for scholarships to complete their programs. Three students enrolled in the information technology program, which trains students for the computer industry certifications, recently were awarded the first scholarships.

"We are grateful for the trust in us shown by the Ford Foundation," said Eleanor M. Josaitis, co-founder of Focus:HOPE. "Their partnership with us means that more men and women will be able to develop the skills they need to make a success of their lives."

Since its founding in 1968, Focus:HOPE has been committed to using "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." In addition to its education and training programs, Focus:HOPE has a food program that provides commodity foods to 43,000 women, children and senior citizens each month; a child care center; business conference facilities; community arts programs and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Through Focus:HOPE, thousands of individuals - especially women and minorities - have become financially independent. www.focushope.edu.

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For more than half a century it has been a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide, guided by its goals of strengthening democratic values, reducing poverty and injustice, promoting international cooperation and advancing human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Russia.

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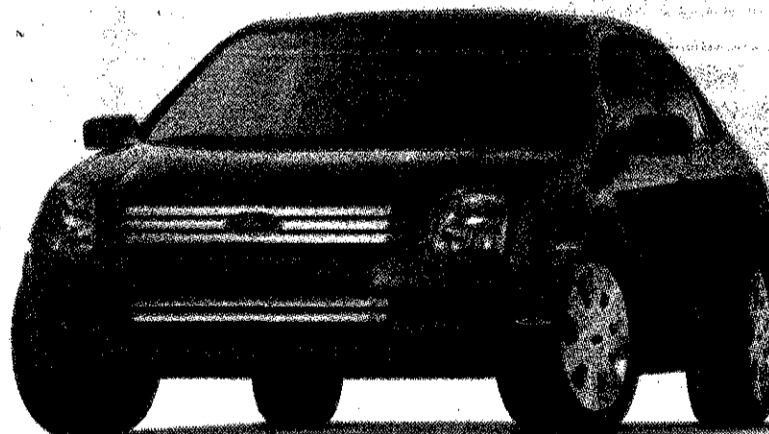
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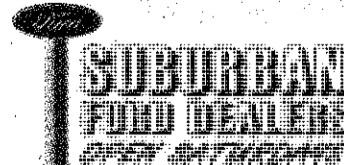
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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

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OE08427242

Wayne County offers up summer fun in the pool, on television

Jumping right in

John Forrester and his son John Forrester Jr. opened their first Discount Pool & Spas location in Belleville four years ago, but they always hoped to have a store in their hometown - Livonia.

"I have always thought the people were great in this city and I wanted to support my community," said John Forrester, adding that "having a shorter drive to work is pretty nice too."

Together, they opened the second Discount Pool & Spas location on Monday, April 3, at 37613 Five Mile Road in the Village Shopping Center. A grand opening celebration is set for Saturday-Sunday, May 13-14 in Livonia.

John Forrester Jr. worked for a related business, Pooltown, for 10 years before he decided to open his own store. When Pooltown was sold, the Forresters saw an opportunity. Their first family-owned venture began with their retail and service department at 10860 Belleville Road in Belleville.

"I was in the automotive engineering field for 15 years," said Forrester.

He sold his business and joined forces with his son to open their first Discount Pool & Spas.

"Right after we opened the

WHAT'S IN STORE

Belleville store my hope was to someday open a second store in Livonia," he said.

Now a reality, the store sells a complete line of chemicals, above-ground and in-ground swimming pools, spas, toys and more. In addition, they sell gameroom furniture, darts, and pool table accessories.

For more information, call

Discount Pool & Spas at (734) 464-9100.

More Family Programming

Bright House Networks now offers a new family programming tier in Livonia, Redford, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Customers can now receive more than a dozen family-friendly channels, which consist of primarily G- and PG-

rated programming. Those channels include: C-Span 2, C-Span 3, CNN Headline News, Discovery Kids, Discovery Science, Disney Channel, DIY Network, Fit TV, HGTV, Nick Games & Sports, The Weather Channel, Toon Disney and TV Food Network.

"We have always made available to our customers the tools by which they can actively exclude any channel or program they might find objec-

tionable for their families," said Bob McCann, president of Bright House Networks Detroit Division. "This new family tier offers them yet another way to obtain kid-friendly programs without the need for parents to proactively block programs from their TV sets."

Bright House Networks customers can pay \$32.95 per month to receive the family tier, along with basic cable, and select Interactive TV applications like the Interactive Guide.

"This is another example of Bright House Networks continued commitment to offering customers what they want," McCann said.

Those interested in subscribing should call (866) 898-9101.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.

Dance company performs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Diane Mancinelli pauses to catch her breath. She's between rehearsals for Full Circle Dance Company performances of *The Wiz* and an annual spring concert at Henry Ford Community College. The college's musical comes to the stage April 21-23, and 28-30. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 for students with ID, \$6 for ages 12 or under. Special rates also available for high school students. For more information, call *Wiz* director Gerry Dzuibinski at (313) 845-9892.

According to Dzuibinski, the production is a collaboration between the music and dance departments and includes a 17-piece live orchestra, under the direction of Kevin Dewey, as well as actors from the theater department and 13 munchkins from the community.

"It's a full production this year in terms of cast and integrates the entire dance company," said Mancinelli. "*The Wiz* is a spectacle. We're taking a different approach to movement and interpretation and have three choreographers with 21 dancers in all."

To close out the year, the company returns to the college's Adray Auditorium for its 18th annual Spring Dance Concert, 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, May 12, and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 13. Reservations are still available for all of the performances including the 10 a.m. to which Mancinelli is inviting high school students.

Tickets are \$10, \$5 students. For more information, contact Mancinelli at (313) 845-6314.

"It's going to feature all the dances from *The Wiz*," said Mancinelli, "and choreography by guest artists and students that include Hawaiian, tap, even liturgical."

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Concert to feature leading musician

Eastern Michigan University is presenting A.R. Rahman in concert to raise money to create opportunities for students to gain greater understanding of Indian culture and the arts. The concert is 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at the Convocation Center. Tickets cost \$50 to \$205 and are available by calling (734) 487-2282 or online at www.emich.edu/convocation or www.tickets.com.

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