

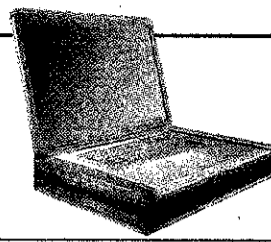


Can travel and fashion really go hand-in-hand?

Pink PAGE D8

Garage band spotlight burns bright on Web

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A guide to buying a better notebook

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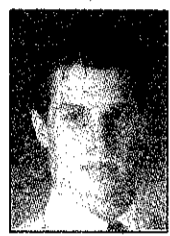
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'... A kid who has never been in any trouble ...'

Westland teen charged in fatal accident in Florida

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Jeremy Peer, a Westland teen and Franklin High School star athlete, was described by his football coach Wednesday as a model student who had earned an academic scholarship to Adrian College.



Peer

"He's a kid who has never been in any trouble since I've known him," football coach Chris Kelbert said. "He's always been one of our outstanding leaders."

Peer, 18, was jailed

Wednesday with a \$195,000 bond after Panama City Beach, Fla., police arrested him on charges he fled the scene of a traffic accident that killed a 33-year-old woman and injured her husband. "I was hoping it was just a rumor," Kelbert said. "I was hoping it wasn't true just for his sake and his parents."

They're really good people, and they've been really supportive of our school.

"I know they're going through a lot of emotions right now," the coach said. "It's a bad decision he will live with for the rest of his life."

Peer is accused of driving a 2006 Jeep Commander off the shoulder of U.S. Highway 98,

or Front Beach Road, and striking Colleen and Montey Martin as they walked alongside the road near a Wal-Mart super center, Panama City Beach Deputy Police Chief David Humphreys said.

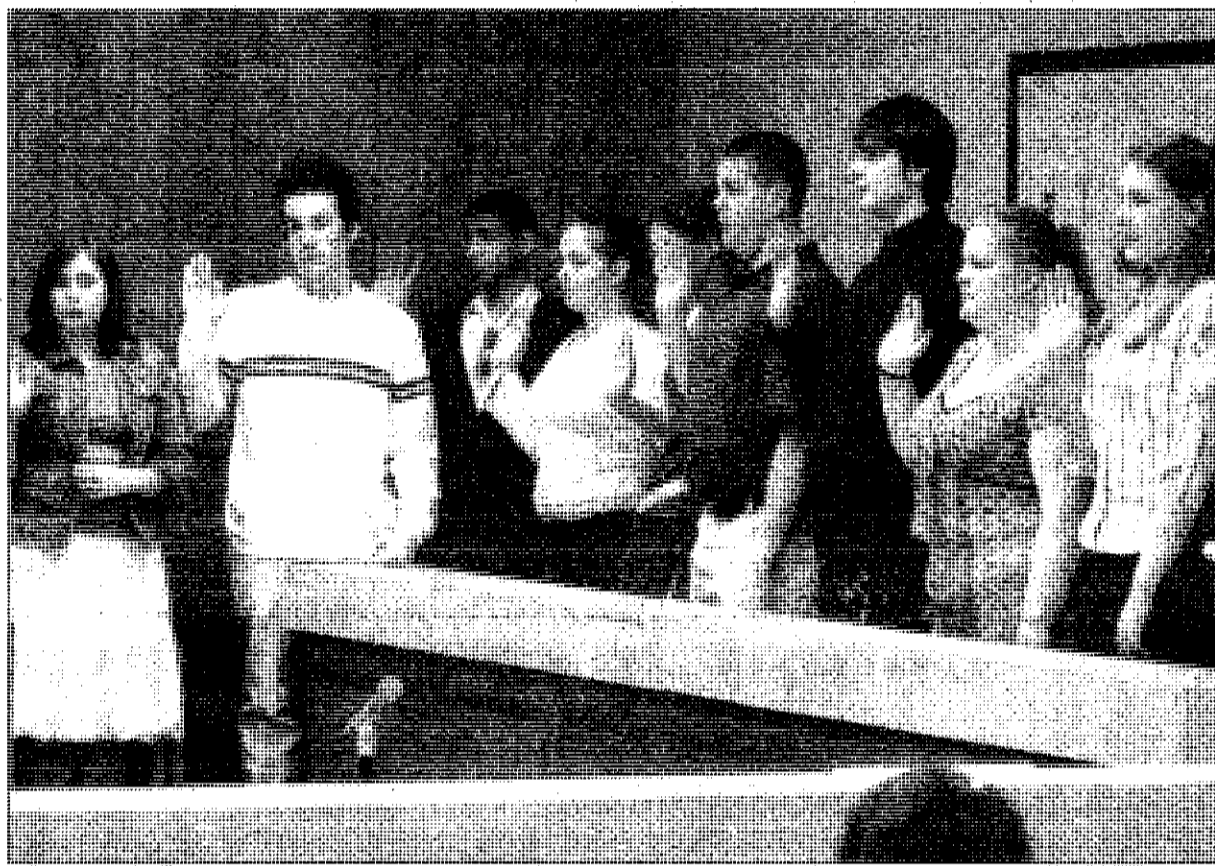
Colleen Martin died on the scene. Her husband was taken to a nearby hospital for his injuries, Humphreys said.

The accident happened about 10 p.m. Monday during the Florida community's busy spring break season. Authorities hadn't concluded Wednesday whether alcohol was involved, Humphreys said. Kelbert described Peer as a Franklin senior who was a

PLEASE SEE TEEN, A



Meghan Plumley, a Wayne Memorial 10th-grader, asks a question during the Teen Court proceedings.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students from Wayne Memorial High School, serving as members of the Teen Court jury, are sworn in before hearing the first case.

Jury of their peers

Teen Court lets Wayne High students experience justice system

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Wayne Memorial High student who admitted his involvement in a spray-painting vandalism spree sat in court, facing a real-life sentencing by a teen jury.

'It teaches us responsibility and leadership.'

Meghan Plumley
Wayne Memorial 10th-grader

If this 15-year-old defendant thought his peers would be lenient, he quickly learned otherwise.

His sentence: Pay \$563 in restitution. Remain on probation for nine months. Stay off of property he vandalized. Prove he's seeking a part-time job. Provide school

progress and attendance reports. Receive tutoring. Perform 30 hours of community service. Apologize in writing to the city of Westland, a 7-Eleven store manager and a homeowner for spray-painting street signs, a Dumpster and private property.

The defendant appeared in Wayne 29th District Judge Laura Mack's courtroom for Wayne County Teen Court - a program that will allow him to avoid having a criminal record if he complies with his sentence.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's

Office started the juvenile diversion program to teach first-time offenders a lesson and to educate volunteer jurors about the justice system.

"It teaches us responsibility and leadership," said 16-year-old juror Meghan Plumley, a Wayne Memorial 10th-grader.

Teen jurors don't render a verdict. Rather, they impose sentencing for misdemeanor offenses after defendants admit their guilt to juvenile authorities.

PLEASE SEE COURT, A4

Block grant cuts could mean trouble for city programs

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland programs that help troubled teens, abused women, shut-in senior citizens, low-income renters and disabled bus riders could be threatened by a potential cut in federal dollars, local officials fear.

Already, the city has absorbed a two-year, 15 percent cut in federal Community Development Block Grant dollars, reducing this year's allocation to \$1,075,896.

But local officials worry about a potential plan to slash CDBG dollars by another 25 percent next year - a decision that could eliminate some Westland programs altogether.

If it happens, according to Community Development/Housing Director James Gilbert, "we're going to be in a lot of trouble."

His gloomy remarks came Monday as the Westland City Council had a public hearing on CDBG projects proposed for the budget year that starts July 1.

He provided a list that shows how the federal dollars will help Westland during the next year. Consider these examples:

■ Low-income residents will receive help for repairs to make their homes handicap accessible and to eliminate potentially life-threatening hazards.

■ Homebound senior citizens will continue to get delivered meals and transportation for doctor visits.

■ Abused women will receive counseling education and emergency shelter through First Step - a program funded by Westland and other communities.

■ Troubled youths will continue to benefit from the Youth Assistance Program, which provides counseling and adult mentors.

■ Disabled seniors will receive a new, 24-passenger bus with a special lift to allow them to participate in community events.

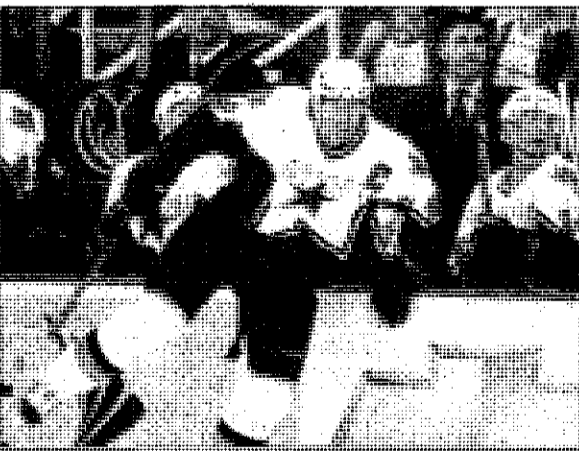
■ A new rescue vehicle will be bought for a fire station on the city's southeast side, where many elderly residents live.

CDBG dollars have been threatened before, and some cuts have been made - but nothing like the 25 percent hit that officials fear they could take next year.

Gilbert urged residents to contact their elected federal leaders and to encourage them to protect CDBG funds.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt also suggested that Gilbert air a program on city cable station WLND to explain how a sharp cut in CDBG dollars would devastate certain programs.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Star's star

Westland native Mike Modano, a familiar face as the captain of the Dallas Stars, was in Detroit Monday for a last regular season game against the Red Wings at Joe Louis Arena. Find out more about the Stars' star in Today's Sports Section.

Grocery store to locate on former YMCA site

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An ALDI grocery store will anchor a redevelopment plan for the former Wayne-Westland YMCA site at Wayne Road and Bayview.

"Our goal is to have it open by the end of the year," said David Kapusansky, ALDI Inc.'s director of real estate.

His remarks came Monday after the company's proposed site plan won sweeping approval from the Westland City Council, despite some earlier con-

cerns by neighboring residents.

"I think it's going to be a bitter pill for some of the people in the neighborhood," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said.

Even so, no residents voiced opposition Monday as city officials heard the latest plans for the 6.7-acre, former YMCA site.

ALDI plans to build a 16,100-square-foot grocery store on the north side of the property.

Other buildings will include a 23,000-square-foot, multi-tenant strip mall

and a 3,000-square-foot restaurant, possibly fast food.

All of the buildings will be made of brick. Developers also plan to erect masonry walls and landscaping to partially shield the development from its residential neighbors.

The closest ALDI grocer is in Garden City. In all, Kapusansky said, the company has 14 stores in southeast Michigan and 800 across the nation.

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Volume 41
Number 94



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Coming Sunday in Health

'Premie Stars' to help March of Dimes' quest

Bookstock benefit takes over Laurel Park April 30-May 7

Laurel Park Place will host Bookstock, the area's largest used book and media sale, with all proceeds benefiting literacy and education projects April 30-May 7.

Over the past three years Bookstock has raised close to \$136,000 for literacy and education projects in metro Detroit. Bookstock is run by the Oakland Literacy Council, the Detroit Jewish Coalition for Literacy and a consortium of Jewish organizations, with more than 700 volunteers working to coordinate and conduct the week-long sale.

This book-lovers paradise features donated used books, DVDs, CDs, books on tape, magazines and records, all for sale at bargain prices.

Shoppers and collectors can get first crack at the Bookstock

Pre-Sale from 8:45-11:45 a.m. Sunday, April 30. There is a \$10 admission charge only for the Bookstock Pre-Sale.

The sale will continue through Sunday May 7, running Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Books will be sold for half-price on Sunday, May 7, the last day of the sale.

All of the books and media items sold at Bookstock are donated at collection sites throughout the year. These donations continue to provide reading enjoyment and promote learning by funding education and literacy projects in Detroit and throughout the metropolitan area.

Laurel Park Place is located on Six Mile Road, east of I-275 in Livonia.



Appearing in *Once Upon a Mattress* are Tiffany Mullins (from left) of Westland as Winnifred, Tom Sparrow of Allen Park as King Sextimus, Nancy Gurwin of Southfield as Queen Aggravain, Mark Byars of Garden City as the Wizard and Andy Christler of Detroit as Prince Dauntless.

Guild presents 'Once Upon a Mattress'

The Players Guild of Dearborn will present the critically acclaimed and multiple Tony Award-nominated musical comedy *Once Upon a Mattress* as the final production of its 78th season.

The play will be presented Friday-Saturday, April 28-29 and Friday-Sunday, May 5-7, 12-14 and 19-21, at 21730 Madison, southeast of Monroe and Outer Drive.

With book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer, music by Mary Rodgers and lyrics by Marshall Barer, *Once Upon a Mattress* is a tweaking of Hans Christian Anderson's famous fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*.

The kingdom is an unhappy one. As a result of King Sextimus (Tom Sparrow of Allen Park) being struck dumb by a witch's curse and condemned not to speak, Queen Aggravain (Nancy Gurwin of Southfield) has assumed power and decreed that no one in the kingdom may wed until Prince Dauntless (Andy Christler of Detroit) is married to a true

princess of royal blood.

The Queen has tested the eligibility of 11 applicants and each has failed the almost-impossible tests she has devised. When Sir Harry (Dean Vandal of Dearborn) and Lady Larken (Anna Hnatiuk of Dearborn) learn that they are going to be parents, wed or not, he desperately goes off to the swamps and brings back Princess Winnifred - Fred to her friends (Tiffany Mullins of Westland).

The queen is horrified and immediately begins to scheme but Winnifred, with some help from Sir Harry the Minstrel (Paul Bruce of Dearborn), and the Jester (Kenneth Kilgore of Dearborn), manages to pass the Queen's supposedly impossible sensitivity test.

When the Queen still tries to prevent Prince Dauntless from marrying, he defies her, which ends up breaking the curse on the King.

Now able to speak, King Sextimus regains his rightful position as leader of the kingdom, and everyone lives happily ever after.

Also, appearing in the cast is Mark Byars of Garden City as the Wizard.

The Players Guild of Dearborn's production is directed by Kim Donovan of Farmington Hills, with musical direction by Ken Pletzer of Canton.

The play will be presented at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with the ticket booth opening at 7:15 p.m., and at 2:30 p.m. Sundays, with the ticket booth opening at 1:45 p.m. On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 7, the Guild is offering a ticket special: Bring Mom and she gets in for free. One regular price ticket must be purchased.

Tickets are \$16 and all seats are reserved. Student and group rates are available. To purchase tickets or for further information about tickets and availability, call the ticket office at (313) 561-TKTS. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

For more information about the Players Guild of Dearborn, visit the group's Web site at www.playersguildofdearborn.org.

Earth Day collection focuses on e-waste

Classic Computer Recovery Inc. is helping the community and the environment free of charge by picking up and/or taking in old computers, monitors and printers.

CCR, a Michigan based computer and electronics recycling company, is coordinating two collection events, one at their permanent drop off facility at the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County in Southfield and one at its corporate headquarters in Garden City to help promote and advertise Earth Day 2006.

The women-owned minority certified business is accepting old computers for free 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22, and Monday, April 24, through Friday, April 28, at RRRASOC at 20000 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield, and CCR at 32400 Ford, Garden City.

CCR also is the Midwest's biggest promoter of America Recycles Day, offering the free events for the past three years. This is the first year CCR is participating in the Earth Day campaign.

In 2005, CCR in conjunction with county recycling coordinators, property managers, public works, chambers and other organizations, CCR collected and processed more than 400 skids, totaling an estimated 300,000 pounds or 150 tons, of computer equipment and e-scrap as part of the America Recycles Campaign.

CCR hopes to help school districts with no budget for disposing of their old computer equipment and to get the word out about the importance of recycling e-waste. E-waste has now become the largest waste stream in the world.

For more information about the recycling program, contact RRRASOC at (248) 208-2270 or on the Web at www.rrrasoc.org or CCR at (734) 341-3793.

DEATHS

B
Francis Donald Brogan
Brogan, 75, died April 13.

C
Cheryl L. Caram
Caram, 67, died April 13.

D
Thaddeus Edward Danaj
Danaj, 78, of Petoskey, died April 9.
Arleen Marie Debozy
Debozy, 84, of Westland, died April 15.

Florence M. Devriendt
Devriendt, 79, formerly of Farmington, died April 10.

F
Bertha Louise Fuqua
Fuqua, 69, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 14.

Elizabeth Furbacher
Furbacher, 99, of Westland, died April 15.

H
Richard M. Howell
Howell, 75, of Indian River, died April 8.

J
Ruth Isabel Jones
Jones, 80, died April 14.

P
Virginia (nee Ursuliak) Perrot
Perrot, 67, of Covenant Village, Colo., died March 30.

R
Mary Jane "June" Ryan
Ryan, of Bloomfield Hills, died.

S
George L. Schaffer Jr.
Schaffer, 84, of Plymouth, died April 12.

Ann Krysa Sims
Sims, 83, of Bloomfield Hills, died April 15.

Donald J. Smith
Smith, 83, formerly of Rochester, died April 15.

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

BARNETT

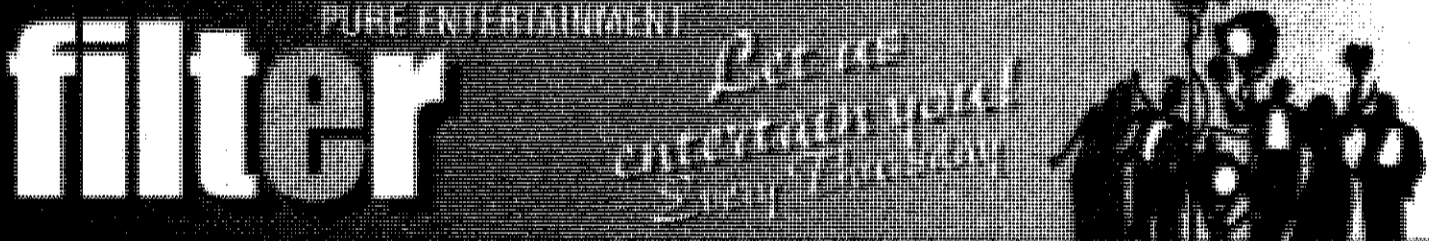
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CORRECTION

For the record, Angelica Woods, representing the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, scored 25 points to win the Girls 12-13 age division in the state finals of the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Hoop Shoot skills competition held

April 9 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Also representing Livonia was Mary Fitzgerald, who scored 34 points to place second in the Girls 14-15 division, and Boulos Saba, who netted 35 points to finish third in the Boys 12-13 competition.

WESTLAND Observer

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WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The Westland City Clerk will hold a public accuracy test on the M-100 voting equipment for the Wayne-Westland Community School District Board of Education election to be held on May 2, 2006 on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan. All interested parties from the Township of Canton, and the Cities of Dearborn Heights and Westland are hereby notified.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the ballot results count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Eileen DeHart
Westland City Clerk

Publish: 4-20-2006

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City of Westland

Invitation to Bid

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185-2298, on or before **Monday, May 8, 2006, at 3:00 p.m.** (no exceptions) for the following:

Central City Parkway and Nankin Boulevard Lighting Project

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from William Caya, AICP, Economic Development Director, 37095 Marquette, Westland MI, 48185. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dwayne R. Harrigan
Controller

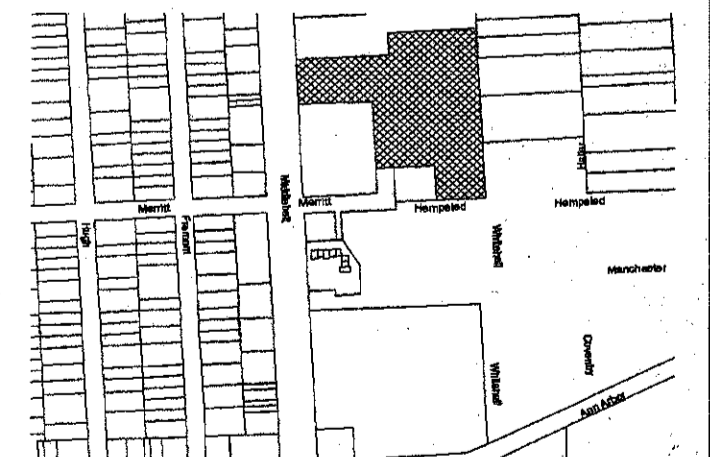
Publish: April 20, 2006

06042006

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #0832C - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed T-Mobile Wireless Communication Facility, Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt Road, Parcel #002-99-0050-702, East Side of Middlebelt Road, South of Joy Road, Stephen J. Francis (Americo Capaldi Jr.)



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 20, 2006

06042006

Organizers roll out plans for city's 40th birthday bash

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It was the year that *Star Trek* and *Batman* debuted on television.

The Montreal Canadiens clinched the Stanley Cup by defeating the Detroit Red Wings four games to two.

Comedian Chris Rock was born; actor Montgomery Clift died.

The Beatles released the *Revolver* album, and The Monkees chucked up the singles charts with *I'm A Believer*.

And, for final *Jeopardy!*, it was the year Westland became a city.

The answer: What is 1966? Forty years later, a Westland anniversary committee has rolled out party plans for a city that took its name after a mall.

"I think we're all very vivacious and excited," said Diane Fritz, committee chairwoman and former city clerk. "This is about our history and our culture."

Westland, formerly part of Nankin Township, became a city on May 16, 1966, after residents had circulated petitions and called for a vote in April. It was their way of thwarting an attempt by Livonia to annex the mall area and reap its tax revenues. This week, Fritz and Westland Parks & Recreation Director Robert Kosowski unveiled the latest plans to celebrate the city's 40th birthday.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Former Fire Chief Ted Scott, who was involved in the petition drive to make Westland a city, will lead a prayer breakfast ceremony that will start at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, in an outdoor area between City Hall and the Bailey Recreation Center.

The Glenn Singers from John Glenn High School will perform, and the U.S. flag will be raised to *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

In one of the anniversary celebration's more reflective

moments, a list of names will be read of former city and district court employees who have died.

"Right now we have 99 names," Fritz said.

The ceremony also will include a bagpipe performance and the launching of balloons. A giant anniversary card will be available to sign.

The crowd will move into the Bailey Center for a free pancake breakfast sponsored by the Westland Fire Department. Children born to Westland families on May 16, 1966, will be honored for their 40th birthdays, along with officials who served on the original city charter commission.

'60S 'FLASHBACK' DANCE

Forget *Shindig* and *American Bandstand*. A 1960s dance party will celebrate Westland's anniversary 7-11:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the city's Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford.

Tickets are \$40 per couple. Groovy '60s attire and hairstyles are encouraged, but even those who think they're too cool to dress retro will be admitted.

"They can dress like the '60s or just go casual," Kosowski said. The band Second Wind will perform, and the party will include The Strolling Cafe, complete with cheeseburgers, chili dogs, french fries, root beer floats and other such fare. Those who've unclogged their arteries since the 1960s can nibble on fruit, vegetables, or cheese and crackers.

During the dance, the Friendship Center decor will include before-and-after pictures of local businesses that have been in Westland since it became a city. Among them, Fritz said, will be Bray's hamburgers, Red Holman Pontiac, Clyde Smith & Sons, and Wayne Lawn & Garden.

In all, Fritz said, 36 businesses already have been lined up, and they will be honored during the '60s bash.

BE A PART OF THE PARTY

Westland's 40th anniversary celebration committee may be looking for you to help make this summer's party a hit.

Call one of the phone numbers below if:

■ You know of a former city or district court worker who has died. Their names will be read during a May 16 prayer breakfast.

■ You know someone who was born to a Westland family on the day it became a city on May 16, 1966. They will be recognized during the prayer breakfast.

■ You want to get tickets to a 1960s dance scheduled for Saturday, May 20, at the city's Friendship Center. They're \$40 for a couple.

■ You know a business that has been in Westland since it became a city. The committee wants to honor such businesses during the 1960s dance and to display before-and-after pictures. The committee can arrange for new pictures.

For tickets or for more information, call the mayor's office at (734) 467-3200, the city cable-TV department at (734) 467-3198, or the parks and recreation department at (734) 467-3256.

"The response has been overwhelming," Fritz said.

The decor also will include old campaign literature, old newspapers, and the meeting minutes of the old Nankin Township Board of Trustees and the early Westland City Council, Fritz said.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Remember buying an ice cream sundae for 40 cents? Do it again 1-4 p.m. Sunday, July 2, during an ice cream social that will coincide with the Westland Summer Festival.

The event will be in Thomas H. Brown Central City Park and feature the sounds of the Sweet Adelines and the Renaissance Barber Shop Quartet, Kosowski said.

The ice cream social also is expected to include such children's activities as a puppet show.

YW Readiness program wins award

The YWCA's Michigan School Readiness Program recently received a Red Wagon Award from Michigan's Promise: The Alliance for Youth.

As a participant in Michigan's Promise, the YWCA, is designated as a site of promise committed to fulfilling five promises to children enrolled in its programs: Caring Adults, Safe Places, Healthy Start, Marketable Skills, and Opportunities to Serve.

Michigan's Promise is dedi-

cated to making the streets safer for children, children healthier and communities better.

The Red Wagon Awards are designed to recognize and thank special local programs for their contributions toward making Michigan communities the best places to raise children.

The YWCA also will be recognized at the Michigan Nonprofit Superconference in May.

The YWCA is a winner in the Caring Adult category.

"This is a great way to honor our teachers who make visits at home," said Karen Murphy, YWCA chief executive officer.

"We have a very dedicated teaching staff who provide quality instruction to children in the comforts of their own homes."

For more information about the Red Wagon Awards, the YWCA Michigan School Readiness Program, or any other program offered by the YWCA Western Wayne County, call (313) 561-4110.



Red, white and blue honor

Westland resident Georgia Becker (left) was honored Saturday, April 8, for her volunteer efforts on behalf of her community and the Democratic Party by Michigan Democrats at the annual Jeff-Jack Dinner at Cobo Hall. A capacity crowd of more than 3,000 from across Michigan attended the event, which featured U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Indiana, a likely presidential candidate in 2008. Becker was seated on the dais along with Gov. Jennifer Granholm (right), Michigan Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, Democratic Chair Mark Brewer and Bayh.

Shaklee's Thurmond hosts Earth Day event

Local Shaklee entrepreneur Natalie Thurmond is inviting residents to join her for an Earth Day Celebration 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at her Westland home.

Thurmond who is participating in a Shaklee Corporation's new campaign to plant one million trees in celebration of Earth Day 2006, will give each family who attends a free white pine seedlings.

Shaklee has a goal to plant more than one million trees throughout North America that will help raise awareness of global warming and the importance of taking action.

Thurmond has set her goal at 1,000 trees, a goal which she has already exceeded.

"Five elementary schools, two day cares, one church and Westland Parks and Recreation have been the main partners in the project with my goal of 1,000 trees far exceeded to a remarkable 2,400 plus trees," said Thurmond.

The event Saturday will be at Thurmond's home at 794 Ravencrest Lane, Westland, south of Marquette. Families interested in participating in the program can call Thurmond at (734) 595-4403.

As part of the campaign, Shaklee has made available a free Carbon Calculator in partnership with nonprofit organization American Forest. Offered as a public service, the calculator lets anyone calculate how many trees they would need to plant to offset their own CO2 impact on the environment.

According to Roger Barnett, chairman and CEO of Shaklee Corporation, 2006 is particularly important for Shaklee because it is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Human Rights film series offered by Citizens for Peace

A weekly film series on Human Rights will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesdays beginning April 26 in Madonna University's Kresge Hall. Four documentary films will be presented by the Citizens for Peace, one each Wednesday, with a facilitator who will field questions and opinions from the audience. Scheduled are:

■ April 26 - *Darfur Diaries*. This film looks at genocide as countless thousands flee from a conflict that spares nobody in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

■ May 3 - *Rich Media - Poor Democracy*. If the key indicator of the health of a democracy is the state of its journalism, this

film says our nation is in deep trouble.

■ May 10 - *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*. Newsweek said, "This riveting documentary made my jaw drop and my hackles rise."

■ May 17 - *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*. This film tells the story of the life and times of a genuine American hero.

All films will be followed by a discussion. A donation of \$5 per event is requested; \$2 for students. Parking is free. Madonna University is at the corner of Levan and the I-96 service drive (Schoolcraft) in Livonia. For additional information, call (734) 425-0079.

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<p>ARS Vitis Riesling '03</p> <p>\$9.99 750 ml</p> <p><small>Slightly Sweet & Pleasant</small></p> <p><small>This wine comes in an attractive bottle!</small></p>	<p>Cambozola Cheese</p> <p>\$11.89 lb.</p> <p><small>Soft ripened cheese a cross between Brie & Gorgonzola</small></p>	<p>Neige Ice Cider</p> <p>\$30.99 375 ml</p> <p><small>This a truly Unique dessert wine both sweet & acidic!</small></p>
<p>Edys A Family Favorite Ice Cream</p> <p>2/\$6.00 56 oz.</p> <p><small>All Natural Flavors!</small></p>	<p>N. Y. Sharp Cheddar</p> <p>\$3.69 lb.</p> <p><small>Buttery rich texture full flavored cheese</small></p>	<p>Bareman's 1/2% & Skim Milk Gallons</p> <p>\$1.79 ea.</p> <p><small>1/2% & Skim Only</small></p>

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COURT

FROM PAGE A1

"They're generally tougher than a judge," said Brian Morrow, deputy chief of the prosecutor's office's juvenile division. "They can read between the lines of what a teen defendant says in court."

Morrow and juvenile prosecutor Kathleen Svoboda train the teen jurors in fashioning sentences for such offenses as shoplifting, marijuana possession and fighting.

"I hope this teaches them respect for the legal system and how the juvenile justice system operates," Svoboda said.

Defendants, who appear in court with a parent or guardian, take the witness stand and explain their law-breaking behavior to the teen jury. Then, they agree to answer questions about their grades, their family relations and other behavior.

"I think it's a great experience for the students, particu-



Prosecutor Kathy Svoboda talks with students Alyssa Lockett, Karissa Matson and James Curtis of Wayne Memorial High School before court begins.

larly for the jurors," Mack said. "Our goal is to demystify the justice system and to avoid having them settle their differences in the street."

Authorities also hope that Wayne County Teen Court will deter crime.

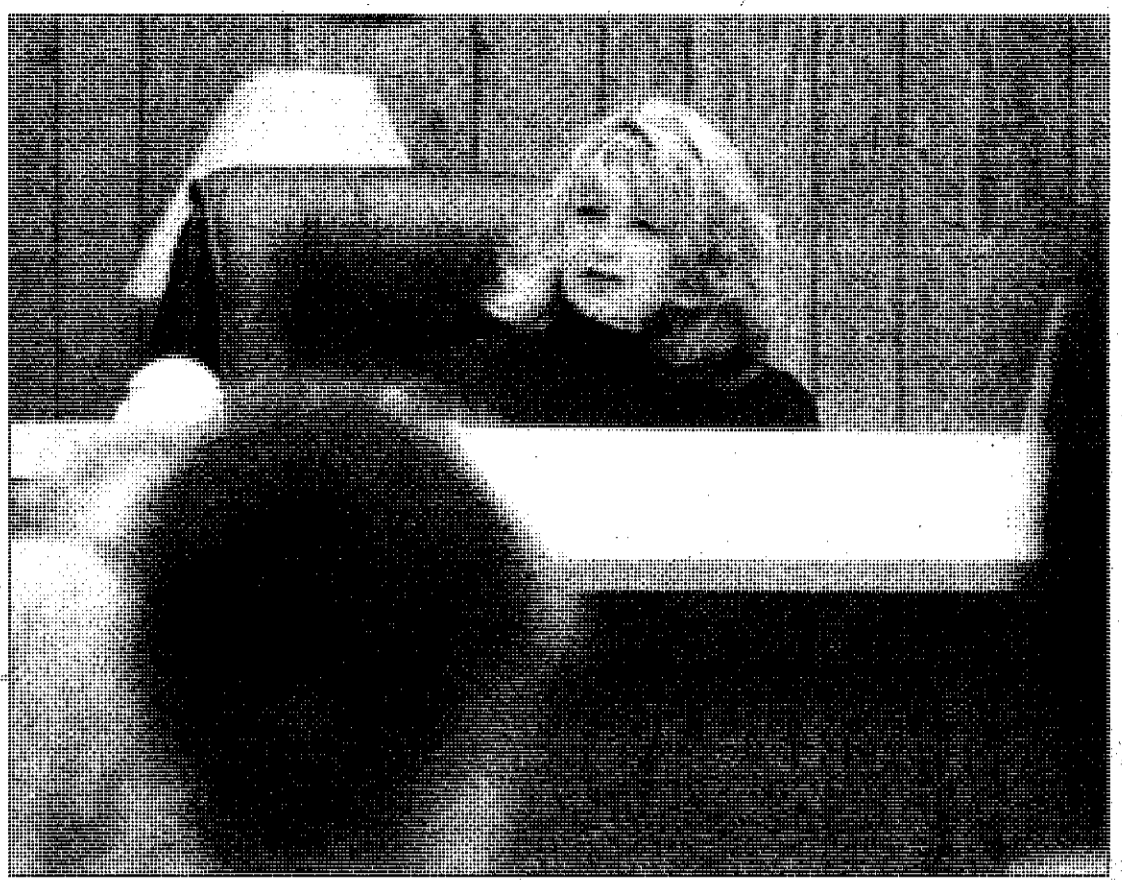
The Wayne-based program is similar to one in Woodhaven, and another is being planned for Dearborn,

Morrow said.

After the 15-year-old learned his sentence for his spray-painting spree, Mack left the students with a final thought:

"Everyone makes mistakes in life," she said. "It's how you handle them that can make a difference in your life."

dciem@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne 29th District Judge Laura Mack talks to teens about their role in the Wayne County Teen Court.

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LINCOLN MERCURY

ACHIEVERS

Named to the honor roll at the end of the first semester honor roll at the Tinkham Alternative High School were: **Mario Burton, Larry George, Brittany Jackson, Joanna Klein, Laura Lambert, Robert Lambert, Derek Lawson, Kristen Persh, Victoria Rodriguez, Sara Szyzkowski, Robert Wallace and Amanda Wood.**

Darlene Marotta and Erica

Vendal, both of Westland, have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2005 term in the University of Michigan's School of Education. The students needed a minimum 3.5 grade point average while carrying at least 12 credit hours during the semester to earn the academic honor.

Marotta is a senior majoring in language arts, while Vendal is a junior majoring in mathematics studies.

TEEN

FROM PAGE A1

football tight end, a basketball player and a track athlete. He formerly played hockey and has a 4.3 grade-point average, Kelbert said.

"He pretty much had his choice of which college he wanted to attend," the coach said. "It just makes this more difficult."

Peer was considering playing

football at Adrian College, where Kelbert said an academic scholarship awaited him.

Peer was allegedly driving westbound on Front Beach Road when his vehicle left the shoulder and struck the Martins, a Pennsylvania couple, according to authorities. Police believe Peer was alone at the time, Humphreys said.

Peer is accused of fleeing the scene, but Humphreys said police learned of his whereabouts after an alert motel manager heard about the acci-

dent and noticed the damaged vehicle.

Police arrested the teen, and he was charged Tuesday with leaving the scene of an accident involving death and leaving the scene of an accident involving injuries.

If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison for Colleen Martin's death and up to five years for her husband's injuries.

Peer was arrested about a mile from the accident scene,

Humphreys said.

According to a Bay County Courthouse clerk, Peer will return to court May 18 for an arraignment. At that point, a pretrial hearing will be scheduled.

The incident has left in doubt the future of a star athlete whose future seemed promising.

"This is out of character for him," Kelbert said.

dclm@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2110

Ground Zero Quilt featured at show

For four years the Plymouth/Westland Grange 389 has been holding a spring quilt show, filled with workshops, classes, demonstrations and appraisals.

This year's event, which takes place Saturday at the senior Friendship Center, will have all that and something more. On display will be Lois Jarvis' Ground Zero Quilt which contains more than 600 images of the people who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Jarvis made the quilt to be viewed and for three years it was part of the American Spirit Quilt Collection, a traveling show of 12 quilts representing the triumph of the American spirit over the events of 9/11.

It also has become the focal point of her Web site, www.LoisJarvisQuilts.com, where it has been viewed by more than 2 million people.

"I made it to be viewed by other people," said Madison, Wis., resident in a prepared statement.

"I hope it will remind everyone that the loss of the buildings and their material content was not the important event that day."

The quilt uses the Lone Star pattern which Jarvis manipulated into looking like an explosion with outward movement.

The starburst of faces is surrounded by a border of grays, symbolizing a smoke-enveloped city in mourning.

Jarvis downloaded more than 1,000 images from the CNN Web site, starting a few days after the attacks, using more than 600 which were printed on specially treated cloth.

"Why I needed to make this quilt I couldn't say. I don't personally know anyone who perished that day," she said. "I hope it will show the viewer that the individual people on this quilt, the happy smiling people at work and at play, the brides and grooms, the fathers and mothers, the young so full of promise and the old with so much still to offer, who all perished that day, are the important things to remember."

The quilt show will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

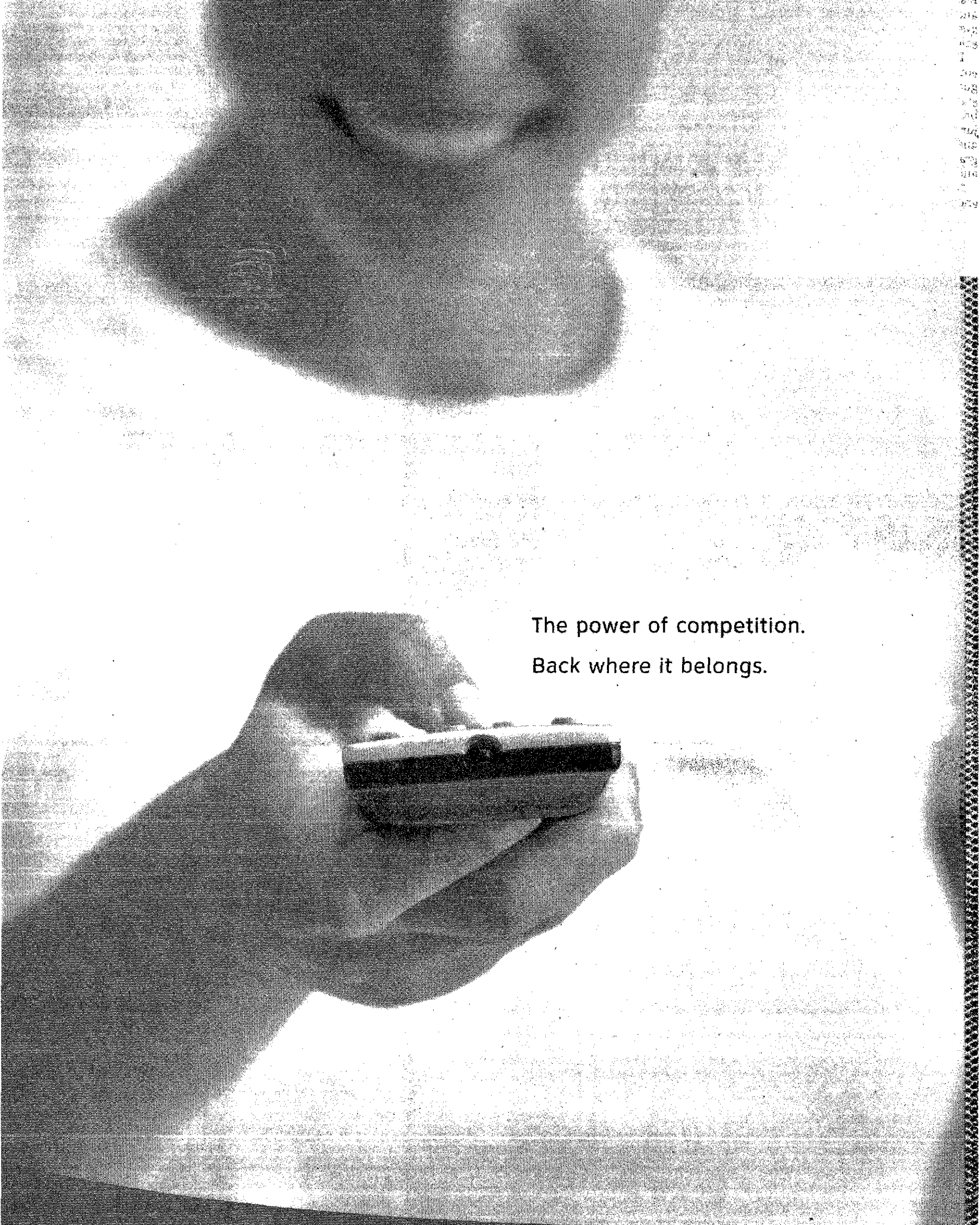
There will be classes, for a fee, in hand-appliqué and techniques for a peony and vine wall hanging, as well as a special quilt project for children.

There also will be a demonstration of yarns and new products by Hancock Fabrics, while Velda Kirby of Make It Sew will speak at a quilt luncheon which 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 are available at the Friendship Center. Tickets will cost \$2 at the door.

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



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'Run for the Roses'

The Westland Chamber of Commerce and the Westland Community Foundation have teamed up to host a night at the races. This mock night at the Derby is guaranteed to be a great time.

The "Run for the Roses" will be Friday, April 21, at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy west of Wayne Road.

Guests will place bets on several different races. "Fake" money will be given out to the winners who can use it to win several different prizes valued at over \$300 each. The grand prize is a trip for two to the Kentucky Derby.

Tickets are only \$60 and will include an open premium bar starting at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation of the 2006 Business Person of the Year and the First Citizen awards.

A strolling dinner will begin at 7 p.m. and then it's off to the races at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations are required. Call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or register on line at www.westlandchamber.com.

District office hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 27, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

McCotter and his staff can provide assistance with issues.

involving the federal government, including Social Security, Medicare, military and veterans' affairs, small business concerns and student loan repayments.

MHS program

The Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland is offering spay or neutering of cats and vaccinations for \$20 for families with financial difficulties now through May 31.

The center is at 900 Newburgh Road, south of Ford Road.

People must provide proof of financial need, such as 1

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.

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

The YWCA Western Wayne County has Mother's Day Cards available for a minimum donation of \$25. 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.

Healthy Living

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne is in line to host an Oakwood Healthcare System Project Healthy Living next month.

Project Healthy Living offers a wide array of helpful and practical health-related activities and provides a variety of screenings to adults 18 years and older.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital event will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, April 26-28, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W.

Warren at Wayne Road.

Many of the health screening tests and services are offered free of charge. There is a nominal cost for some screenings and all tests are administered by healthcare professionals.

For more information, call (800) 543-WELL.

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 FundingFactory 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 FundingFactory Business Support Program.

FundingFactory 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 FundingFactory toll-free at (888) 883-8237 and mention Madison Elementary in Westland.

That's entertainment

The Westland Friendship Center will feature

impersonators of Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond and other performers during a variety show 1-3 p.m. Friday, May 5, at the center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Michael Carluccio as Frank Sinatra and former Westland City Councilman David James as Neil Diamond will be among the performers, according to senior center Director Peggy Ellenwood.

Tickets are \$6, and proceeds will go to the Westland Relay for Life - a benefit in June to help the American Cancer Society. The show is being sponsored by the Westland Jaycees.

For more information, call the senior center at (734) 722-7628.

Spring Bazaar

Come one, come all. Bring your friends and family to shop for crafts and home party goods 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, at Wildwood Elementary School, 500 N. Wildwood, Westland.

The vendors will include Mary Kay, Tupperware, Arbonne, Parti Lite, Avon Pampered Chef. There also will be a bake sale and door prizes. All money raised will go toward guided reading books.

Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children age 12 and under.

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.

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 WWW; #247 Lillian Madison; #1224 Ralf Shaffer.
Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: April 13 & 20, 2006

0E2842909

CITY OF WESTLAND PROPERTY TAX SALE

Parcel #56 060-06-0184-000, Lot 184, Glenhaven Subdivision No. 3 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. Please call (734) 467-3160 if any questions. Bids must be received by 4/30/06.

Publish: April 20, 2006

0E09430741

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on April 24, 2006 at 7:25 p.m. regarding the proposed amendment to animal licensing regulations, § 90.17 LICENSE APPLICATION:

§ 90.17 LICENSE APPLICATION. Proposed Ordinance

(A) Upon application to the City Clerk or his duly authorized representative, giving the full name and residence of the applicant, the City Clerk or his duly authorized representative shall issue a license to the applicant and a tag of some durable material stamped or engraved with the number of the license, the year it is issued, and the words "Animal License, City of Garden City, Michigan."

(B) Before the City Clerk/Treasurer or his duly authorized representative shall deliver a license and tag as above provided for, the applicant therefor shall pay, at his option, to the City Clerk/Treasurer the charges in accordance with the Comprehensive Fee Schedule in Chapter 12 of this Code for each and every animal regardless of sex.

(C) The application for a dog or cat license shall be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the subject dog or cat has been vaccinated by a duly qualified veterinarian with modified live rabies virus of chick embryo origin.

(D) A license shall entitle the applicant to keep or harbor the dog or cat for the term commencing from the date of the license and terminating June 1 following its issuance, if a one-year license. For two-and three-year licenses, the termination date shall be June 1 in the second and third years, respectively, following its issuance. When issued for a period of less than half of the period prescribed, the City Clerk/Treasurer shall collect a total of one-half the fee hereinbefore provided. If the license is applied for 60 days or more after the dog or cat was subject to licensing, the animal fee provided therein shall be double the amount the fee would have been for the first year if obtained when required hereunder. Every dog or cat four months old or older shall be required to be licensed. ('83 Code, § 90.12) (Ord. 81-014, passed 5-18-81; Am. Ord. 82-044, passed 10-18-82; Am. Ord. 82-046, passed 12-20-82) Penalty, see § 90.99

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
Treasurer/City Clerk

Publish: April 20, 2006

0E06430707

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment and programs which will be used to tabulate voted ballots for the School Election to be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt
Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: April 26, 2006
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

Publish: April 20 & 28, 2006

0E06427221

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTORS NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS

Absent voter ballots for the Wayne-Westland Community School District election are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons who are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the Westland City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2006.

Eileen DeHart,
Westland City Clerk

Publish: April 20, 2006

0E840697

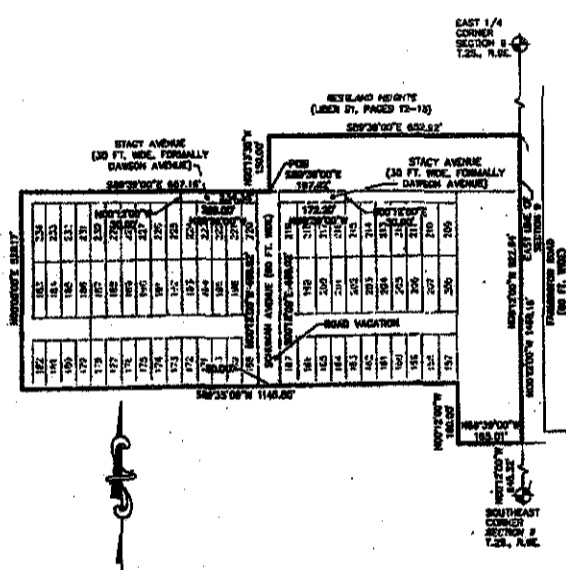
CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 16.2, Chapter XVI of the Charter of the City of Westland, this Body by Resolution dated, Monday, March 20, 2006, set a Public Hearing on said petition, and

WHEREAS, said hearing was held at the time and place appointed, Monday, May 1, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, and this Body having considered the recommendations of the Planning Commission and the advisability of abandoning, vacating and terminating the following:

DESCRIPTION OF ROAD VACATION

Proposed vacation and abandonment of Stacy and Schuman Rights-of-Way, west side of Farmington Road, north of Ford Road.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the public that the above-mentioned rights-of-way be absolutely abandoned, discontinued and vacated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that true copies of this notice be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter.

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: April 13 & 20, 2006

0E06429117

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*The Center for Responsible Lending, 2003

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BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE (PG)

THE SENTINEL (PG-13)
12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
FR/SAT LS 11:55

INSIDE MAN (PG-13)
1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:15

SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13)
(SAT/SUN 11:30) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
FR/SAT LS 11:30

THE WILD (G)
(SAT/SUN 11:05) 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
FR/SAT LS 11:05

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R)
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
FR/SAT LS 11:05

ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN (PG)
(SAT/SUN 11:25) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25
FR/SAT LS 11:25

TAKE THE LEAD (PG-13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FR/SAT LS 11:40

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Plymouth Road suffers more retail losses

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

House of Denmark is closing its Livonia store and two other metro Detroit locations this spring as part of a reorganization of the Michigan-based European furniture chain.

Store closing sale signs were posted Monday on the Livonia store located on Plymouth between Levan and Wayne. The 15,500-square-foot furniture store that has operated at that location for about 25 years is scheduled to close for good at the end of May.

House of Denmark General Manager John Paniccia said the region's economic conditions and changes in the industry's market — including the

scheduled June opening of the 360,000-square-foot IKEA furniture store in Canton — forced the company's decision.

"We didn't want to leave Livonia, but it makes prudent sense," Paniccia said. "IKEA didn't force this decision, but we need to reinvent ourselves and shed some brick and mortar to help us become a stronger company."

The seven-store furniture chain is closing its Livonia, Rochester and Keego Harbor locations. Unsold inventory will be shipped to the company's Holly-based headquarters, distribution center and 36,000-square-foot store located on a 13-acre parcel along East Holly Road near I-75. House of Denmark, Paniccia said, plans to expand its Holly

retail center into a facility that could be as large as 300,000 square feet.

"The trend now is that you need mega-centers in our industry," Paniccia said. "People want a destination point where they want a broader range of products and prices, and offer all the home furnishings you need in one place."

In addition to the Holly location, House of Denmark will continue to operation stores in Port Huron, Okemos and Traverse City.

House of Denmark is the third large retailer to close a Plymouth Road location in Livonia this year.

Media Play, near Middlebelt, closed its doors in January and nearby Sports Authority recently announced it will close soon.

INFO CENTRAL

April 23 is the birthday of arguably the most famous and well-loved writer ever born. You would get no argument in Stratford, England.

The writer in question is William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare was born in 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon, located in the center of England. The register of Stratford's Holy Trinity Church records shows Shakespeare's baptism on April 26. His parents, John and Mary set up home in Henley Street, Stratford, in the house now known as Shakespeare's birthplace. Visit www.shakespeare.org.uk to read more about this location.

John and Mary Shakespeare lost two children before William was born, then had five more children, another of whom died young. The world can be grateful that their son, William, survived.

It is not known what Shakespeare did when he left school, probably at the age of 14.

In November 1582, he married Anne Hathaway, the daughter of Richard Hathaway, a local farmer. Her home, now known as Anne Hathaway's Cottage, still stands in the village of Shottery, a mile from Stratford.

At the time of their marriage, William was 18 and Anne was 26. Their

first-born child, Susanna, was baptized on May 26, 1583. Two years later twins followed, Hamnet and Judith.

Shakespeare's first printed works were two long poems, *Venus and Adonis* (1593) and *The Rape of Lucrece* (1594).

These were both dedicated to the Earl of Southampton, a young courtier and favorite of Queen Elizabeth I, who had become Shakespeare's patron. At this point, he was off to an industrious career.

Most of Shakespeare's plays were not published in his lifetime, since there was no such thing as dramatic copyright and other acting companies would have gladly made use of them for nothing.

A very nice way to experience Shakespeare is to go to a live performance, especially one that is outdoors in the summer. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival has been presenting plays every summer since 1995 on an outdoor stage under a leafy canopy in Elia Sharp Park in Jackson. The 2006 season includes *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*. Visit www.michshakfest.org for full information on the schedule of plays.

For many people, the Shakespearean language is difficult to

understand. A good place to start is to watch a DVD or taped performance so that the actions can explain the words.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland has a wonderful collection of Shakespeare materials that includes a DVD and VHS copy of every play, an audio CD of every play and, of course, several copies in print of each play and the sonnets.

Adult Book Club: 7 p.m. April 18.

This month's book is *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper* by Harriet Scott Chessman. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

Microsoft Word for Beginners:

10:30 a.m. April 22. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets users create a variety of documents, including letters and resumes.

Internet 101: 2 p.m. April 22.

For the very beginner; what the Internet is and how to get there.

Information Central is compiled by Bridget Sturdy, reference librarian, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

FRANKLIN HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll at the end of the first semester honor roll at Franklin Middle School were:

Rediana Afeslari, Adeela Ali, Danielle Anderson, Austin Areeda, Shelby Arnold, Carli Bailey, Robert Baker, William Baker, Alexander Balli, Farrah Barnes, Tequeria Barrett, Avery Barron, Michael Battaglia, Jaspreet Benipal, Leanne Benson, Cynthia Berean, Navneet Bhangu, Chelsea Blamer, Taylor Blevins, Karissa Bolish, Marshall Borsos, Christopher Bowie.

Destiney Brock, Andrew Browning, Brian Browning, Veronica Brummett, James Bryant, Samantha Bughione, Dominic Burnett, Cassidy Burns, Jazzmyn Burns, Alaina Butner, Aaron Byrd, William Cain, Dean Caldwell, Cody Campbell, Danielle Campbell, Sarah Carr, Amanda Chalmers, Tiara Childers, Taylor Clark, Angeliq Clemons, Candice Cole.

Cody Collinsworth, Megan Connolly, Heather Copeland, Michael Creger, Amanda Crill, Nastika Cukali, Erika Culey, Victoria Deblaere, Cierra Decraene, Staci Delezenne, Jessica Denny, Samantha Desselles, Michael Dewulf, Jose Diaz, Samantha Domeier, Cody Dotson, James Doyen, Stephanie Dulapa, Ashley Elliott, Shelby Erickson, Jennifer Farley.

Alexis Finger, Krystin Fisher, Alyssa Florn, Anissa Forbes, Scott Franklin, Scot Fretwell, Gabriel Garcia, Isiah Gibson, Thomas Goachee, David Gonzalez, Michelle Good, Elizabeth Gottlieb, Jenna Graham, Jared Green, Kevante Grimes, Samantha Grubb, Charles Gutzman,

Rabee Hamdan, Richard Hardyniec, Zakkary Hardyniec, Brandon Harnos.

Ryan Harris, Renee Hartert, Amber Hartford, Carletta Hatch, Amber Hawk, Lalita Hayes, Christopher Henisse, Alexander Hinken, Keslie Honeycutt, Jeffrey Horne, Bobby Hubbard, Emily Hude, Cody Huffaker, Stefanie Huffman, Zackery Huffman, Briana Hunter, Jacob Hurst, Frances Jackson, Alicia Jacobs, Taylor Jacobs, Arooba Javed, Cody Johannesen.

Daniel Johnson, Jenna Johnson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Nicole Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Alexis Jones, Katlaine Jones, Sarah Jordan, Hope Kaminski, Allison Kanter, Jordyn Karpinski, Ishpreet Kaur, Hunter Kennedy, Vivian Kennedy, Kaylie Knizewski, Jim Kodra, Devin Korzetki, Dylan Korzetki, Kyle Kotajarvi, Henry Kozlowski, Mary Kreutzkamp.

Courtney Kucharski, Samantha Kull, Sean Kunde, Jessica Labean, Patrick Lafferty, Halee Lankton, Zachary Lankton, Dakota Leming, Patrick Leonard, Michael Little, Trisha Lloyd, Bradley Lockhart, Meah Long, Samantha Lossos, Trevor Lossos, Casey Lovett, Joshua Lowe, Eric Macdonald, Kristina Macek, Kayteland Manning, Cameron Martin, Zachery Martinez.

Ashley Mashatt, Brianna Mason, Jennifer McCaffery, Sinead McGiffert, Megan McGregor, Scott McIntosh, Marquis Miller, Samantha Miller, Shae Miller, Brianna Minor, Christina Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Chanice Moore, Zachary Moreno, Gary Neill, Jenna Neumann,

Brittany Nichols, Alicia Nielsen, Stephani O'Harris, Jacqueline Odien, Kelsey Osborne, Asja Outerbridge.

Courtney Ozog, Aimee Papineau, Cailee Parendo, Cory Parendo, Emily Penner, Kayla Perdue, Glendy Perez, Korinn Pintar, Kayla Pio, Jacob Pipe, Chelsea Pobur, Kayley Porta, Samantha Rainey, Lillian Reid, Jasmine Richardson, Ashley Riggle, Caneshia Riley, Dylan Ritter, Anthony Roberson, Alyssa Roberts, Luis Rodriguez, Daniel Ross, Jerold Runion.

Jonathon Runstrom, Shawn Saldana, Tremor Sambrone, Ashley Schaefer, Cody Schaffier, Cary Scheuermann, Kelsey Schmittou, Tyler Schmittou, Kevin Scott, Catherine Shipley, Yasmine Shitta, Michael Shock, Andrea Sigler, Gunnar Smith, Zakkary Smith, Jamie Southard, Bernardina Spaqi, Cortney Sperry, Ashley Stamper, Keiara Stevenson, Taylor Stewart.

Eryn Struppa, Rachel Sullivan, Brianna Swales, Sara Tackett, Nicholas Talbert, Natasha Tarnowsky, Annmarie Temmen, Jane Thayer, Amanda Thomas, Brandon Thomas, Kristy Thomas, Steven Thompson, Jeanne Tolliver, William Toms, Alyssa Torres, Cheyenne Trujillo, Taylor Tucker, Jazzietta Turner, Jennifer Tyson, Toby Underwood, Martin Urbaniak, Torrey Vance.

Ashley Venters, Dixie Watkins, John Watson, Bijan Weaver, Alyssa White, Brandon Whittenberg, Edina Whittenberg, Kayla Wilkie, Sada Williams, Brianna Wilson, Krysta Wilson, Joanna Witte, Ryan Wright, Torri York and Robert Zdyb.

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LPS officials pleased with MEAP results

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public School students in grades 3-8 far surpassed state averages this year on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program standardized exams.

"Overall, we're very pleased," Supt. Randy Liepa said. He said the district compares its scores with results of the top 25 school districts in a tri-county area — and Livonia Public Schools is "faring very well."

On almost every exam — math, reading, writing, science and social studies — the district's scores soared above the state level scores. Only one group of students, third-graders, barely matched the state average, coming in with 50 percent of students who met or exceeded standards on the writing MEAP test. The state average showed 51 percent.

"Our district is about continuous improvement in learning," said Sheila Alles, director of academic services.

Reading MEAP tests, given to all students in grades 3-8, surpassed state scores by seven to 11 points. Sixth-graders showed 91 percent of students met or exceeded standards, compared to 80 percent at the state level.

Alles attributed the high reading scores to an emphasis the district has made on its reading initiative.

"I'm very pleased with our

reading scores and our ELA scores," Alles said. The English language arts MEAP is a combination score for reading and writing tests. "I expected our writing scores to be where they were."

The writing MEAP scores came in lower compared to reading MEAP scores, but still Livonia students showed they could meet and most often beat the state average. Students in grades 4-8 surpassed state averages by four to 15 points.

"We're moving toward a focus on writing," Alles said. "I anticipate our writing scores will increase as a result."

The district is also placing an emphasis on the math MEAP. Students in grades 3-8 surpassed the state math scores by five to 15 points this year. About 78 percent of eighth-graders met or exceeded standards, compared to a state score of 63 percent. But the scores also showed a drop for students in fifth and sixth grade.

"When I think of the alignment of math curriculum with the state's curriculum, we don't have a one-on-one alignment yet," Alles said. "We're working on that. We're not where we want to be."

The science MEAP, taken by fifth- and eighth-graders, also showed high success rates. Fifth-grade results showed 85 percent of students met or exceeded standards, compared to 77 percent at the state level. Eighth-graders across the state

also showed 77 percent accuracy, but 90 percent of Livonia's eighth-graders met or exceeded standards.

But it was the social studies results that pleased Alles. Students came in 10 points above the state with 89 percent accuracy. She called it a "significant increase."

"Students have strong comprehension skills and can adapt to any type of text they're reading," Alles said.

Now that MEAP results are in, the district will host workshops for department chairpersons at the elementary and middle school level in which staff will look at each test item and analyze results. Alles said teachers will use the information to plan for improvement.

Liepa said the additional data will be helpful to the district, particularly when it comes to instruction and improvement.

"The big focus is our building-based school improvement plan," he said. "This will provide us with more information. It gives us some good data. We're very pleased."

Increasing the number of students tested, compared to past years, proved to be a challenge for school districts like Livonia Public Schools.

"The coordination took a tremendous amount of effort and staff," Alles said. She said testing grades 3-8 was an "enormous task" at the elementary and middle school level.

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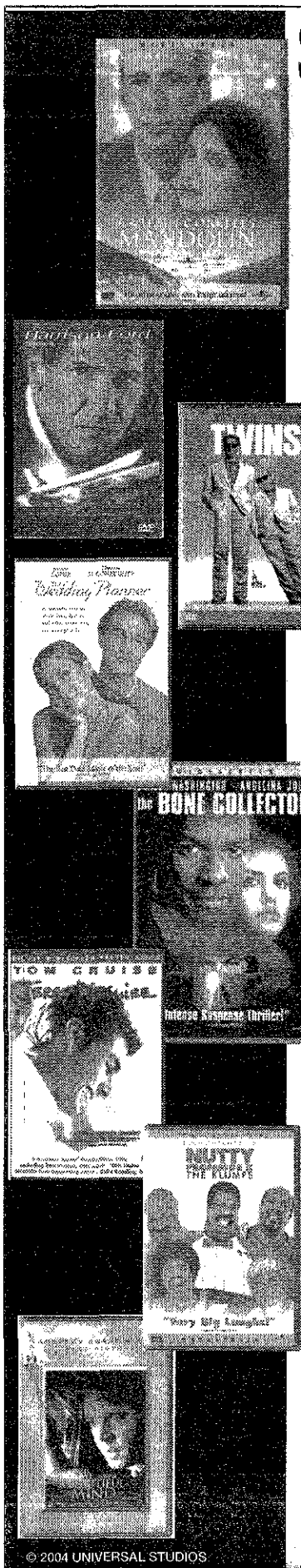
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Living Longer

Dr. Dorcas Hardy, policy chair for the White House Conference on Aging and former U.S. Commissioner of Social Security, will be the guest at An Evening Under the Stars - Living Longer and Loving It III Tuesday, April 25, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. The evening will include

hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, prizes, free goodie bags, music by the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society and exhibits by local businesses. The cost is \$5 with advanced registration and \$10 at the door. For more information, call Renee Merckx at (734) 658-4317.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

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

Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts

Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

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Week spotlights how to be Money Smart

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Glenn Hansen believes that the best customer a financial institution can have is someone who understands what goes on in a financial institution.

Unfortunately, many people are lacking in basic knowledge to make intelligent financial decisions.

"People will sign the first loan agreement they get but will try on 20 pairs of jeans before deciding which pair to buy," said Hansen, senior vice president and branch manager of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit Branch. "They need to have the same approach to buying financial services."

That's why the Federal Reserve began Money Smart Week to provide basic financial information with a special emphasis on youth, the elderly and the unbanked. Money Smart Week, April 22-29, has been given the official support of Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. "It started in Chicago about five years ago working with Jump Start Coalition," Hansen said. "We decided to start dealing with grass roots issues and providing free classes. This year we have 33 like-minded institutions participating and 320 seminars being put on."

Programs are being offered in Oakland, Wayne, Lapeer,



Hansen

Macomb, Monroe and Washtenaw counties.

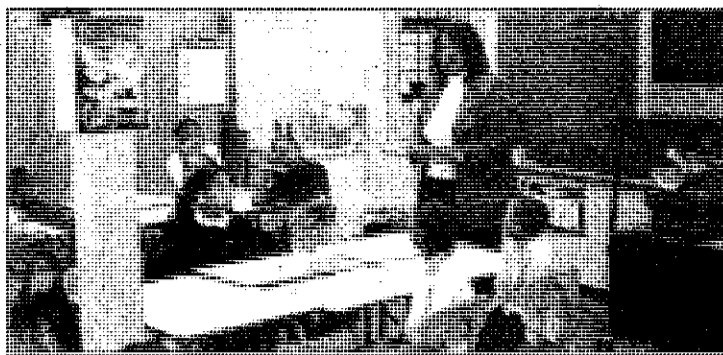
On Saturday, April 22, a Money Smart Week Youth Day program will be held 12:30-5 p.m. at

Marygrove College, 8425 McNichols, Detroit with seminars for parents and youth on credit, spending and saving. Registration is required by calling (313) 927-1230.

On Monday, April 24, a Senior Day will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Patrick Senior Center, 58 Parson, Detroit. The program will cover living wills, Medicaid, long-term care, electronic payments and Medicare changes. For more information, call (248)538-1800.

Junior Achievement will sponsor JA in a Day 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at Courville Elementary School in Detroit and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, Campbell Elementary School in Detroit.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn will sponsor a Money Smart Day 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 26. The free programs will cover financial education, tax-smart ways to save and invest, how to land a job, understanding basic investment concepts, getting ready for retirement, personal income taxes and homebuying. For



Money Smart programs are especially intended to help children understand finances. Professionals in banking give programs at Detroit schools.

more information, call Michael Foran, (313) 593-5286, or Victoria Hage, (313) 593-5230.

Marygrove College will host a Money Smart Seniors Day 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27. The program will include information on electronic payments, estate planning and medicare changes. For information and to register call Martha Soleau at (313) 927-1464.

Shorter programs dealing with everything from teaching children to save to identity theft to basic investing are planned throughout the metro Detroit area. For more information, visit www.chicagofed.org/moneysmart or call the Money Smart Hotline at (887)-MNY-

SMRT (1-877-669-7678).

"The approach we take is to help people understand the differences between wants and needs and the dangers of long-term debt," Hansen said.

Hansen will join volunteers from 33 institutions to provide 320 seminars.

"For kids we work with Junior Achievement and do a JA for a Day," Hansen said. "A group of volunteers go into the schools and teach the JA curriculum. I will be teaching second grade, when kids are just finding their voices and not full of themselves yet."

Hansen said the program has educated more than 20,000 area residents in the last three years.

LOCAL MONEY SMART EVENTS

■ Banking Basics, free and open to the public, 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, April 26, 3693 Metro Place, Wayne. Traci Emerson, benefit banking coordinator, discusses financial wellness and managing a bank relationship. Call (248)603-0408.

■ Women in Investing. By invitation. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, Livonia Civic Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Jim Craig discusses women learning to be careful, competent investors. For information, call Jennifer Fee (734)522-3700, Ext. 108.

■ Yes it Can Happen to Me: Teens and Identity Theft. Free and open to the public. Call to confirm time.

6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, Redford. Credit union professionals, Secret Service representatives and computer experts speak. For information, call Jeremy Cybulski at (877) 243-2528, Ext. 1231, or Kathy Hoen at (877) 243-2528, Ext. 1226.

■ Money Smart Kids, free and open to the public, 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 27, Community Financial, 500 S. Harvey, Plymouth. Information including a hands-on financial activity station including money identification, savings goals, growing money with Money Tree Seeds. For information, call Beth Troost at (734) 582-8848.

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OUR VIEWS

King to bring new viewpoint to board

It's tough to talk about Livonia Public Schools these days without mentioning the controversial Legacy Initiative. But the school board contest facing voters May 2 — pitting challenger Steve King against incumbent Joanne Morgan — should involve more than a direct referendum on that plan.

That's what makes an endorsement in this race so difficult. Both challenger and incumbent offer plenty of positive reasons to support them. In this case, we recommend Steve King as a new voice, an outside perspective to help improve the board and its communication with the entire community.

Joanne Morgan has been an articulate, respected leader on the school board. She has 10 years of board experience and on board organizations, along with valuable service in the PTA. She's also been a strong advocate for educational funding. However, it's time for a new perspective. The board on which she serves has had some missteps — including setup of the Demographics Committee and the handling of the groundswell of opposition to the plan.

As a candidate for the board before, King has shown he's not a one-issue candidate. As a product of Livonia schools and parent of students in the district, he certainly knows the community and its history. King proposes to bring a needed new level of transparency to the board, something that is certainly important in this time of conflict. He'll continue to ask difficult questions and to stand up against the idea of the "loyalty oath" that silences board member comments before an issue is brought before the whole board.

King believes the district needs a standing committee to publicly look at district land, and he supports trying pilot programs for a wide variety of proposals. His background in teaching and coaching and in operating his own business should also serve him well as he tries to fit into a board of seven people. As a student, King should also continue working to become well-versed on all the issues and serving the whole community.

We congratulate Joanne Morgan on her decade of valuable service to our community. However, we believe it's important to get a new viewpoint on the board and we endorse **Steve King** for this four-year board seat.

Tune it off during TV-Turn Off Week

How much time do we Americans spend watching television each day? The answer may surprise you. According to one nonprofit group, the average American spends more than four hours a day in front of a TV. That averages out to about two total months we spend each year staring at the tube when we could be doing something else.

The TV-Turnoff Network (formerly TV-Free America), an organization that encourages people to watch less television, also found that children under the age of 6 are watching about two hours a day and that nearly 100 percent of American households with young children have at least one TV.

These statistics seem to explain why television has become such a major influence on our society. While there is certainly some quality programming to be found, the television is all too often a vehicle for commercials and inappropriate content, a tool to play violent video games and a baby-sitter.

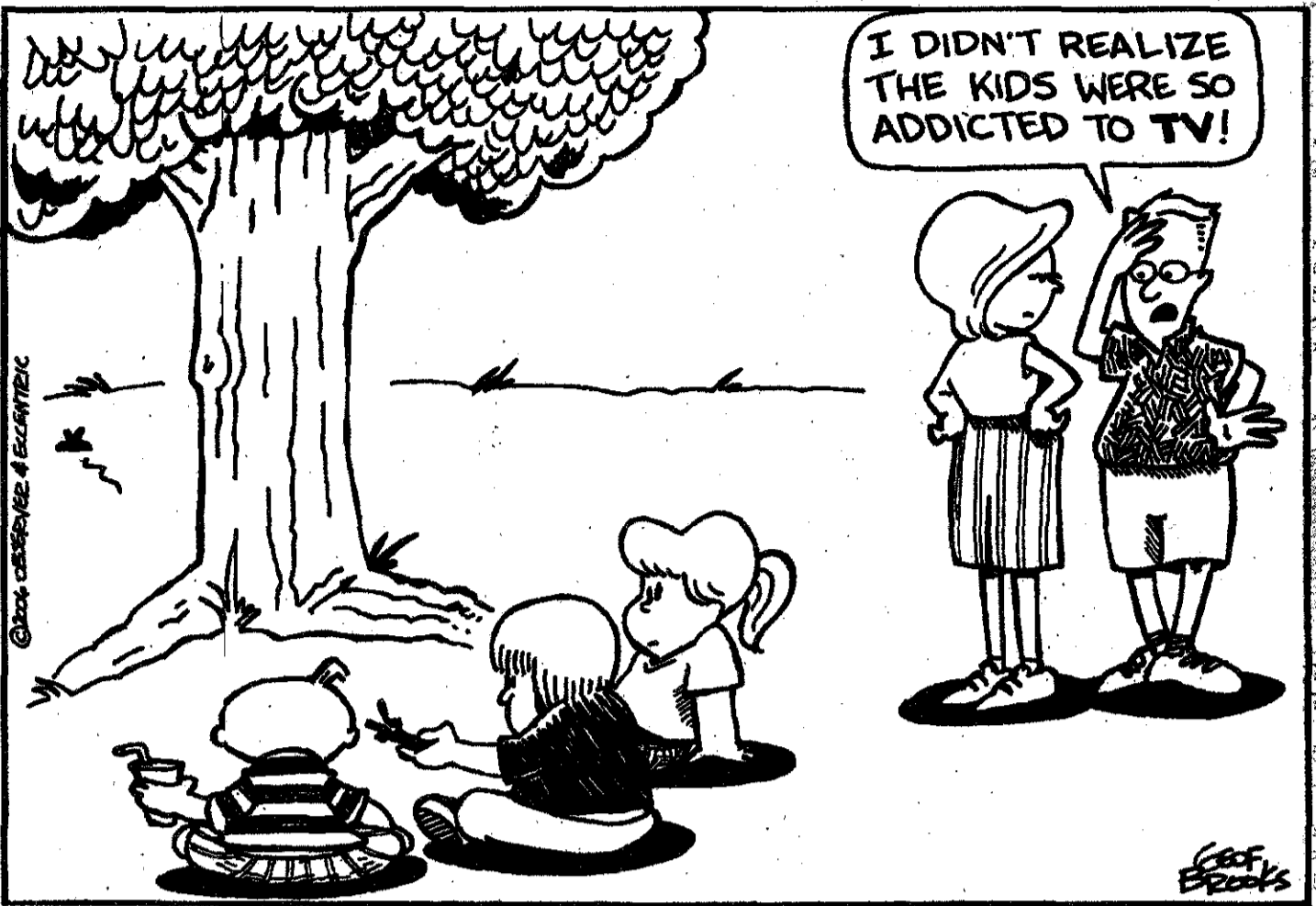
In many homes, the TV has almost become part of the family. In the average American household, the television is on about 7½ hours a day, and about 40 percent of Americans say they always watch TV during dinner.

Many studies suggest this is not a healthy trend, particularly for children, who on average will spend more time in front of a TV than at school this year. Not only is excessive TV viewing linked to childhood obesity and poorer performance in the classroom, it also increases youth violence, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. According to one study, children see an average of 200,000 violent acts on TV by the time they turn 18.

So clearly, there are many reasons to turn off the television. But if you were looking for an excuse, next week, April 24-30, is national TV-Turnoff Week. All over the country, school classrooms and church groups have pledged to go television-free during the week. Our readers are encouraged to do the same.

The fact is most of the time spent watching television is time that could have been better spent doing something else. For parents, it could have been spent having meaningful conversation with their children. It could have been spent volunteering for some civic or nonprofit organization to make the world a better place. It could have been spent enjoying the outdoors or reading a book.

Use next week to liberate yourself from the TV. The world outside of the tube is much more interesting.



TV TURNOFF WEEK IS APRIL 24-30

LETTERS

Whitehead, Lessard inflame

One can sympathize with school board members who feel abused by the very few parents who have gone well beyond civility in expressing their displeasure with the Legacy Initiative. One can also express appreciation for the parents who have become involved while disagreeing with the Legacy Initiative. Their concern is real and not to be dismissed or misrepresented. The people who are dissatisfied with the Legacy Initiative care about our schools and our children as much as those of us who support Dr. Liepa and the Demographics Committee.

Mr. Lessard's absolutely horrible leadership and an editorial written by Kevin Whitehead suggest otherwise.

It is just plain impossible that Kevin Whitehead could sit through countless board meetings where research and opinion concerning all sorts of educational issues were brought to his attention by parents and then write a column in the *Observer* that frames differences of opinion relative to the Legacy Initiative as a battle to chase provincial heretics and money lenders from the temple by those who drink from the Holy Grail of learning.

Words, the imagery they evoke in our consciousness and the way those words are framed, are important. They are the tools of writers and poets, engaging our intellect and emotion beyond personal experience. Skillful marketers try to shape the public consciousness consistent with their client's self-interest.

In public discourse, the imagery created by the selective use of words can be both elevating and inspirational or the semantic equivalent of three-card monte. Frequently, language is manipulated as an insincere surrogate for honest public debate.

At the very least, Whitehead's column tries to narrow the terms of discussion. The parents involved are narrow of view and focused upon money. In the best marketing traditions, he repeats the brand name "STUDENT LEARNING" eight times as the core of his counter-argument. The truth is that all concerned want to enhance student learning.

Whitehead's piece only adds to the distrust of the board already present in the minds of those who watched Mr. Lessard toss softball questions at the school administration and later refuse to engage in back and forth dialogue with parents because it was "illegal." He did not offer an alternative.

Most on the board deserve unending thanks for their commitment. The behavior of Whitehead and Lessard, however, is counterproductive and divisive. They inflame what is well on its way to becoming a bitter legacy.

Al Churchill
Livonia

Is it worth 1 percent?

As I read the opinion letters in the March 30 *Observer*, I began to think some of them must be written by school board members or some Livonia citizens (who) just refuse to understand why so many of us are not following this plan blindly.

If the LPS board is so dedicated to our kids, our families would have been included in designing this plan, and the community would have been better represented from the beginning.

Think about it, parents want a say in their kids' education. Think about it, citizens want a choice for their tax dollars. Think about it, other branches of government don't expect to be left out of decisions this big.

When public discussion finally started, you could tell board members were not listening with the intention of finding any compromise or solution other than the one they already wanted. Mr. Lessard just played with his egg timers and stared into space.

That's really all this board could do. They painted themselves, and the children, into a corner. The Legacy Initiative was the only option they wanted us to believe was workable. They quickly dismissed every alternative, and they never expected resistance from the community. They were so arrogant that they only developed and offered "Plan A."

As far as the plan goes, sure Livonia has closed schools in the past, but we did not reorganize the grade structure by implementing the K-4 idea, and most people are not convinced saving 1 percent of the annual budget will save the system from receivership if the situation is really as bad as the board wants us to believe. If they are willing to close seven schools and turn the city on its ear for 1 percent, who will they turn on and what will they cut next?

Furthermore, the \$2 million that Joanne Morgan claims it will cost to implement the Legacy Initiative, in her closing comments at the April 3 board meeting, was less transportation. Why not count transportation cost? What does Mrs. Morgan think — buses are free? Let alone fuel, drivers, maintenance, insurance and, worst of all, air pollution. Does she think these things are ALL FREE?

P. Evans
Livonia

Would you want this job?

Does Steve King watch the LPS open meetings on cable? Can he picture himself in Ms. Morgan's current seat, listening to irate residents' accusations that he did not give ample consideration to "enough" alternative plans before selecting a course of action? Will he still be the "red-camp poster boy?"

Declining enrollment in Livonia schools is no secret. It is happening throughout countless "established" communities. Ours is not the result of mismanagement of a school board. It is primarily the reflection of a stagnant demographic.

Last November, the time had come to act. With the enrollment projections heading downhill and resources from the government dwindling, the board was faced with the question: Will we take a reactive stance and close schools one at a time as needed? Or be proactive and adopt a plan to address what we will face in years to come?

With our ballots, we put them on that board to make that kind of decision. A decision we would never be able to arrive at collectively in a timely manner. They made the decision and, well, as Lincoln once observed, "... you can't please ALL of the people ALL of the time."

I personally saw the halls of the original Old Cooper and Monroe Elementary, both long gone now. I also survived three years at Whittier from '64-'66. As the new Cooper was being built, many of us who are now in our mid-50s were in class

across the road. And we managed to survive before the clay cap was in place!

We also endured the split-up as half of us went on to Franklin, with the other half going to the newly built Stevenson. The only point being made here is: It seems children handle necessary change on a level less complicated than their parents. They bend in the wind and seem to weather the storm.

I'd like to thank my former next-door neighbors, Peggy and Jerry Kmiecik, for acting as standard-bearers for what I believe is indeed, the TRUE consensus of Livonia residents.

Thanks as well to my present neighbors, whose recall signs pushed me to the keyboard. My wife and I have sent all three of our children through LPS and couldn't be happier with the results ... it is Livonia's legacy.

This community cares about kids! This board continues to address problems effectively and with distinction. At least that is their record.

Peter Heikkinen
Livonia

Hold Bush accountable

George W. Bush deserves both censure and impeachment for several reasons: wiretapping without warrants, the manipulation of intelligence to justify the Iraq war, failure to plan for the aftermath of the invasion, the acceptance of torture, the neglect of homeland security, arrogant abuse of presidential powers and domestic policies that favor the rich over the middle and lower classes.

Bush may be brought to justice someday. It is the responsibility of Democrats, independents and moderate Republicans in positions of power but, more importantly, on the grass-roots level to hold Bush and his administration accountable.

These persons must have passion and discipline. All citizens must be part of participatory democracy by voting and encouraging others to take active roles in government at all levels.

The 2006 and 2008 elections will determine whether or not the U.S. has a democracy instead of one-party rule in all branches of the federal government. The elections will determine whether or not our country can regain the trust and respect it once had.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce Township

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

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QUOTABLE

"We all agreed there had to be some cost containment. We're pleased we were able to come up with a settlement we believe we all can live with."

— Nancy Strachan, president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association, about a new agreement ratified by teachers and the district's Board of Education

WESTLAND
Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

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

SBT follies reveal the state's leaders playing dangerous game

In some ways, the battle over what to do about Michigan's Single Business Tax resembles the Vietnam War. Nobody is quite sure how it all started. Nor is it clear what we should do, or how we can get ourselves out of it — or who we should blame.

So let's start off by recounting some chronology. Last year, in response to criticism that the SBT was at heart a job-killing tax on payroll (meaning it punishes employers for hiring more workers) Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposed substantial modifications, designed to benefit mostly Michigan's struggling manufacturers.

The Republican-led Legislature ignored her proposals. Then, earlier this year, the Michigan House and Senate passed bills repealing the SBT at the end of

2007 without addressing the problem of how to come up with the \$1.9 billion the repeal would cost the state. Granholm last month vetoed the measure, saying it was "the height of irresponsibility" to cut nearly a quarter of the state's general fund revenue without providing a clue as to how to replace it.

While all this was going on, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson in early February announced he would lead a petition drive to put repeal of the SBT to the voters this fall.

The state Board of Canvassers last week approved the wording of the petition, obliging supporters to collect 254,206 valid signatures by May 31 to put the measure on the ballot.

Last week, Granholm upped the ante. She sent a challenge to Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Grandville) and House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Nov) to sign an "Agreement to Lead," committing everybody to repeal the SBT at the end of 2007 and adopt a "better business tax" that fully replaces SBT revenues lost and does not put the tax burden on the backs of individuals.

Both GOP leaders promptly rejected the proposal, calling it a "campaign gimmick." So where does this leave us, other than up the Au Sable without a paddle?

First, a far-reaching tax proposal that in a non-election year would be the subject of serious-minded discussion has been entirely swallowed by up political rhetoric, games of chicken, gotcha maneuvers and partisan gridlock. For example, a handout from Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos this week was headed, "On the road campaigning against the jobs-killing SBT."

Granholm's press release accompanying her challenge said, "I will not allow the business tax burden to be put on the backs of Michigan families."

Republicans think they've got the gov over a barrel by proposing a big tax cut that promises to create badly needed jobs in Michigan's stricken economy. The Granholm camp figures that voters will recognize how irresponsible it is to blow a \$1.9 billion hole in the state's budget without talking about how to repair the damage.

Second, much of the sound and fury is being fueled by two myths.

Myth No. 1: Michigan is a high business tax state. False. The taxes businesses pay reflect the sum of both state and local taxes.

According to a recent study conducted by the Council on State Taxation, Michigan's business tax burden is the 17th lowest in the nation. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Michigan business taxes rank 36th in the country as a percentage of personal income and 31st as a percentage of business profits.

The Small Business Survival Index ranked Michigan as fifth most small-business friendly state in the country, while *Site Selection* magazine rated our business climate eighth in the nation last year, up seven places from the year before.

Myth No. 2: More tax cuts are the answer to all our economic problems. Not so. According to an EPIC-MRA survey of 1,200 "new economy" business executives, a skilled work force and excellent universities are just as important as the business tax climate.

Despite their heavy business tax structures, high-growth states like California and Massachusetts got the highest ratings as states most favorable to high-tech businesses.

And it's not just high-tech industries. Speaking to the Detroit Economic Club last month, an "old-tech" manufacturer, Delphi Corp. CEO Steve Miller, said there was nothing any state government could do to prevent Delphi from shutting 21 of 29 U.S. plant sites.

Not tax cuts. Not financial lures. The underlying economic realities trump all. Ask General Motors boss Rick Wagoner if tax cuts would have resolved his market share problems or, for that matter, his relations with the United Auto Workers union.

Any CEO in the private sector would chop off the head of any silly subordinate who walked into the board room and proposed eliminating one-quarter of the company's revenue, without at the same time explaining either how to cut costs or get enough new income to at least replace the money lost.

Why should Michigan — the one company in which we all have a major stake — be any different? "Putting repeal of the SBT on the ballot could hurt the state's bond ratings," says John Ceffalio, Fitch's Ratings analyst for Michigan.

Ceffalio says our financial picture is cloudy and eliminating the SBT without a replacement for the \$1.9 billion it generates would create more uncertainty. On Wall Street, or anywhere else for that matter, uncertainty costs money.

Our political leaders are playing a very dangerous game. A story I picked up last week on a visit to Lansing tells it all. A top aide to DeVos was asked how his guy would make up the revenue.

"Who cares?" the man is supposed to have answered. "This is a campaign. We'll worry about where we'll get the money when we govern."

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economic and education issues in Michigan. He can be reached at ppower@hcnct.com.

Sometimes, club membership doesn't cost an arm and a leg

Over the course of my 44 years, I've been a member of various groups and organizations, some memberships lasting longer than others.

I've been a member of my family (haven't been disowned yet), several different churches (keep those collection envelopes coming) and, at times, sports teams, service clubs, school groups and neighborhood associations. I'm currently a card-carrying member of a union (for the first time in my life), Local 34022 of the Newspaper Guild (keep those dues coming).

I've never been a member of any political party (although I have been accused of being a communist), any religious cult (no, I'm not a Rastafarian) or any country club (you need two things to become proficient at golf — time and money; I'm forever short on both).

I discovered recently, in a coincidental sort of way, that I'm also a member of an exclusive group of property owners in northeast Oakland County. According to a very official-looking letter I received last month in the mail, I'm apparently a proud member in good standing of the Frost Drainage District, "legally established" under the jurisdiction of the Oakland County drain commissioner (John P. McCulloch for those who are unaware ... "Big John" to us exclusive drain district members.).

Now, though it's never before been brought to my attention, it's likely I've been a member of the Frost group ever since I bought my Orion Township home, in 1999. Further research indicates I've probably been a member in good standing since at least 1990, when my wife and I purchased our first house in the lovely village of Oxford (motto: no, we're not from England).

How do I know this? My very official-looking letter, on snazzy OCDC stationery, stated plainly, in language only a lawyer could love, that the Frost Drainage District includes 2,068 parcels, spread throughout various sections of Orion, Oxford, Oakland and Addison townships (what, they ran out of names that begin with the letter O?).

You can imagine my surprise at discovering I've been a member of the Frost (almost certainly named after the obscure 1960s band from Detroit whose big hit was the cleverly titled *Rock 'n' Roll Music*) for some 16 years. Shockingly, my wife didn't share my enthusiasm at finding out we were part of the club (she even talked me out of call-

ing my parents). Instead, she wanted to know why were just now receiving this news.

Well, I answered, it's time for us to pay our dues. Frankly, I don't understand how we've been allowed to be members of the club all these years and enjoyed all the benefits and privileges of uninterrupted drainage without having to pony up. I mean, miss one measly house payment and the mortgage company acts like we've stolen the Hope Diamond.

So realizing that I'd been basically scamming my exclusive club membership for the better part of two decades, I knew the day of reckoning was at hand. My mind began racing as I tried to calculate the cost of the county providing me and my family the wholly necessary and indispensable service of drainage. How can one place a price on the day-to-day task of making sure my neighborhood doesn't float away in a sea of sewage (my own sump pump notwithstanding)?

It was with trembling hands and sweaty palms that I grabbed the letter off the table. Would I have the funds in my checking account to cover the assessment? Would I have to raid the kids' college savings? Would I have to make a trip to the store to return bottles?

Silly me. I should have had more confidence in Brooks Patterson and his band of merry men that the fiefdom that is Oakland County would be run more efficiently than even I thought. Turns out my share of paying for the famous Frost Drainage District, calculated to a millage rate of 0.00010 mills (I wish I had paid more attention to that unit on decimals). The bottom line — I was in hock for 19 cents.

With a sigh of relief, I retreated to our bedroom, where the bowl of coins sits on a shelf. Just as I was getting ready to mail in the two dimes (I figured I probably owed a tip after all these years), I spotted the fine print at the bottom of the letter: "Do not make direct payment to OCDC. This assessment amount will be included on your 2006 winter tax bill."

Well, alrighty. I figure the good folks over at the county complex just wanted to let me know that my place in the Frost Drainage District was intact for another year. I'll sleep better tonight, especially after learning that it cost the OCDC 39 cents to mail me the notice that I owed 19 cents.

Ah, the privileges of membership!

Bill Emerick is a copy editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. He welcomes comments at bemerick@hometownlife.com.



Phil Power



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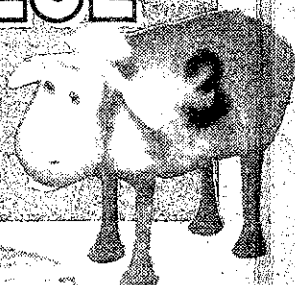
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Ear to ear

Operation Smile honors local news anchor Monica Gayle

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Monica Gayle, WJBK-TV (Channel 2) news anchor, always has a sincerity about her when she's delivering the stories of the day, good and bad.

So it's not surprising the West Bloomfield resident is receiving honors for her volunteer efforts to help children across the globe.

Gayle is slated to receive the Metro Detroit Humanitarian Award at the second annual Journey of Smiles event, Saturday, April 29, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Dearborn. The black-tie benefit raises funds for Operation Smile, a national organization that sends medical teams to foreign countries to perform surgeries on children with facial deformities.

Former Detroit Pistons player and coach Ray Scott will be honored as well. Also appearing are former NBA player John Salley and celebrity hair stylist Ken Paves.

Gayle became involved in the organization during the establishment of a local chapter, the Michigan Friends of Operation Smile.

"And she has been wonderfully dedicated and involved

since," said Terri Klimek, southeast Michigan liaison and medical volunteer for Operation Smile and Journey of Smiles event chair.

In addition to serving as a working committee member and hosting organization events as a local celebrity, Gayle traveled to Honduras on an Operation Smile mission just over a year ago. "She worked side-by-side with us," said Klimek, a nurse anesthetist at the University of Michigan Medical Center who, along with her husband, a physician, donates her expertise overseas for Operation Smile.

A typical mission involves travel by 40 medical professionals equipped with all necessary medical supplies and, ultimately, the surgical treatment of about 150 children with cleft palates and other facial deformities. The teams also train local medical personnel in current treatment standards and techniques.

Children are born with cleft palates at higher rates outside the United States. More importantly, many nations lack the resources to provide corrective surgery. The deformity is caused by a combination of genetics and poor prenatal care.

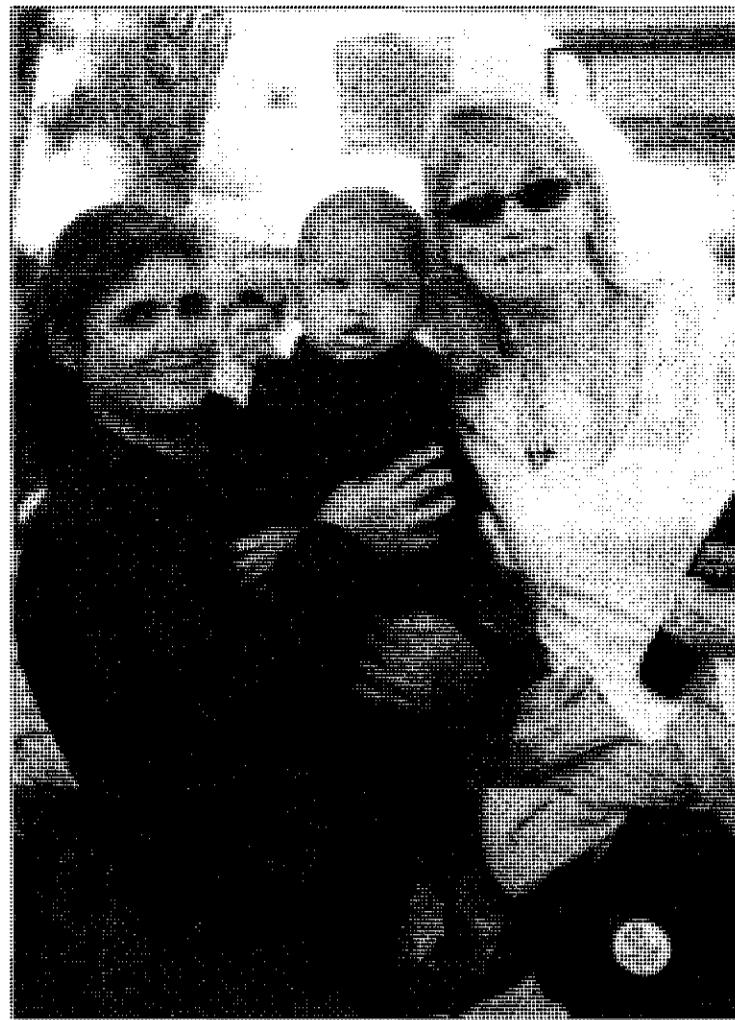
Operation Smile also sponsors surgical trips to the U.S.

for children whose needs require surgery here. In the U.S., it operates a referral program through which American families can locate financial assistance for the corrective surgery.

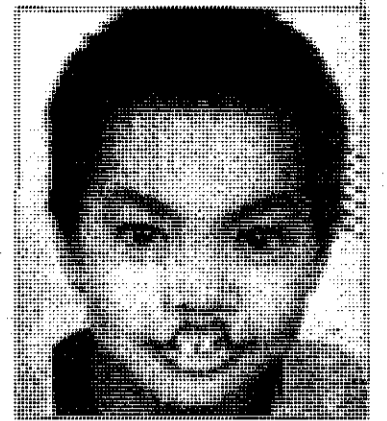
Gayle's involvement with the Michigan Friends of Operation Smile exceeds ordinary volunteerism, Klimek said. Her trip to Honduras inspired two WJBK-TV specials about the organization and children who have been helped. "And she continues to be a dedicated working member of our committee," Klimek said.

But perhaps Gayle's greatest contribution is her ability to convey Operation Smile's important message, Klimek said, adding "What is wonderful about Monica when she speaks as a non-medical person is that she speaks directly from the heart."

nstaffor@hometownlife.com, (248) 901-2567



Monica Gayle joined Operation Smile medical volunteers on a recent mission in Honduras.



Operation Smile missions bring much-needed surgery to children who are born with facial deformities in countries where the treatment is unavailable or too costly. These are before and after photos.



Back Pain?

Southfield, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, 1-888-744-2225. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

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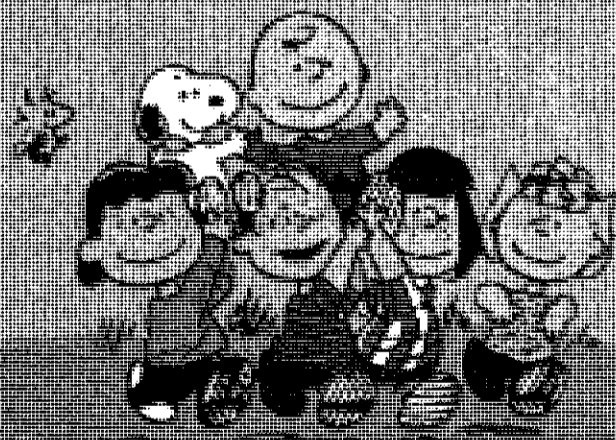
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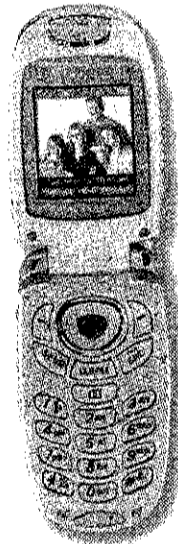
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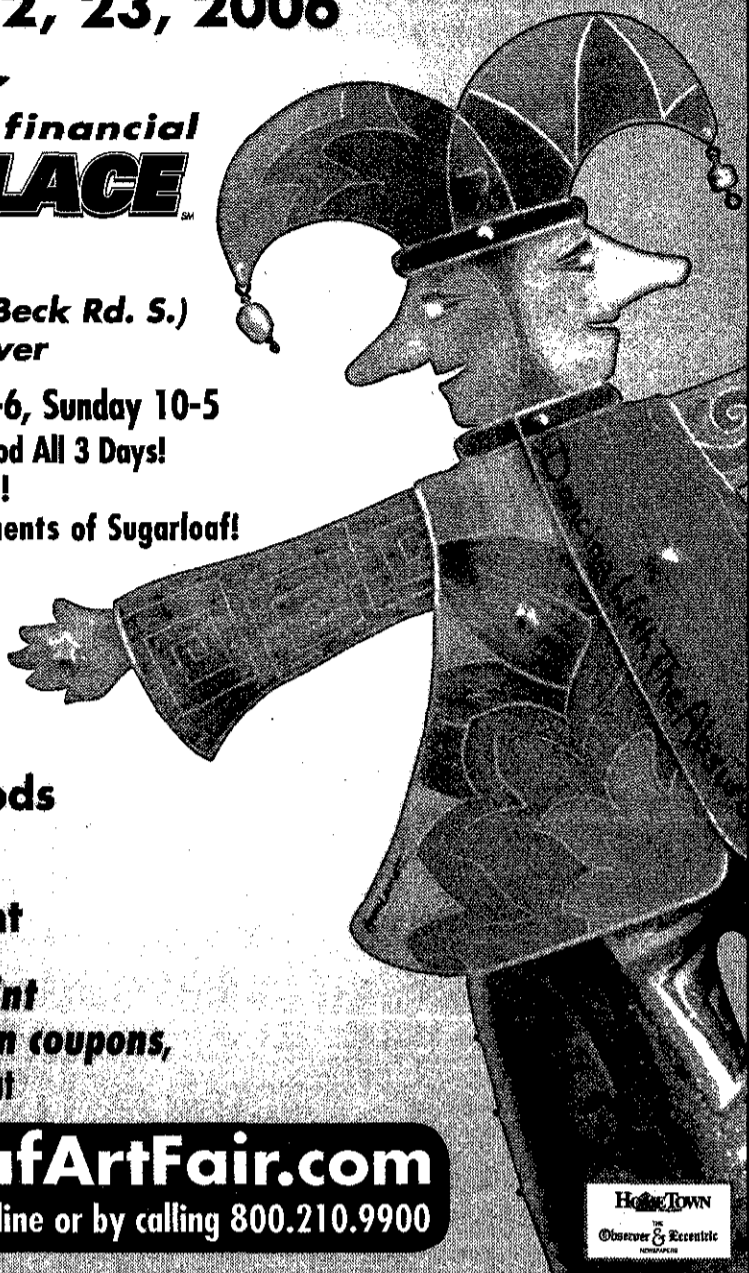
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State's GOP chair senses change

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER



Anuzis

Saul Anuzis can feel something in the air. It's the winds of change as he delves head-first into the 2006 political season as chairman of the Michigan Republican State Committee.

"The economic environment, the mood of the people in Michigan, is very negative," said Anuzis. "People are looking for change; they're looking for leadership."

Anuzis, 47, is setting the stage and gearing minds to the state's single largest issue.

"Jobs, jobs, jobs; it's that simple," said Anuzis. "The last three polls showed over 70 percent of the people in Michigan's No. 1 concern is jobs and the economy."

The Detroit native notes Michigan's unemployment rate, which teeters between 6.6 and 7.1 percent - one of the highest in the country for a state unaffected by the hurricanes last year.

"We were the only state in the country that lost jobs last year," said Anuzis. "And, the only state to lose jobs three years in a row. Michigan continues to be on the losing track."

Anuzis argues that the leadership is lacking in Lansing and the state is prohibitive for businesses in terms of regulatory issues, permits and taxes.

Yet, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a partnership between the state and local communities, reported this week a plan is in place to create and/or retain 14,297 jobs statewide through MEDC incentives.

The report states more than \$516 million has been secured in private investment in the five listed projects: Alma Iron & Metal in Alma; General Motors in Ypsilanti and Warren; Hess Industries Inc. in Milton Township; Otsego Paper Inc. acquisition of the former Menasha Paper facility in Otsego; and Second Chance Armor in Central Lake Township.

"The state continues to attract investment from global companies and local developers that create jobs and good places to live and work for our citizens," said Gov. Jennifer Granholm in the MEDC news release. "The fact that these companies are choosing Michigan over competing

sites in other states proves that they value our highly-skilled workforce and competitive business climate."

Anuzis said Dick DeVos is the person who can lead Michigan in the right direction, economically. DeVos, a Grand Rapids businessman who is credited for rebuilding Grand Rapids, has started his gubernatorial campaign.

Anuzis said DeVos' campaign ads are simply to gain name recognition in the Detroit area, where many are not yet familiar with him.

Anuzis said the state's Republicans are confident they will keep the majority of seats in the state House and Senate and are also hopeful a Republican governor will be elected in November.

Anuzis, whose parents immigrated to America from Lithuania after World War II, has been a political guru since attending college at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In 1980, he was elected as the youngest delegate to the Republican National Convention, held in Detroit that year. Attending President Ronald Reagan's first inaugural speech was one of the highlights of his life.

Anuzis was elected third vice chair of the Michigan Republican State Committee and served six years as a MRSC member and two terms as a congressional district chairman. He managed Dick Posthumus' state Senate campaign in 1982 and worked for the House Republican Campaign Committee, the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, and finally as chief of staff to then Majority Leader Posthumus.

Anuzis became involved in the telecommunications business and focused on his family - wife Lina and four sons. Now, he's back on Michigan's political scene and moving full speed ahead on the notion that change is in the air.

"People continue to be more and more dissatisfied and upset about the lay of the land," he said. "They're looking for change; they're looking for an alternative."

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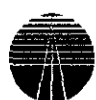
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Cell phone choices, self-defense on the rise in Wayne County

TALK THE TALK

This week Livonia welcomed a new no-contract cell phone service provider to its business community. MetroPCS hosted a grand opening Wednesday at its new location at 28505 Schoolcraft, Building 6, near Burton Manor.

The Dallas-based company has become the first cellular company in Michigan to offer a no contract, no credit check, month-to-month flat rate service. The Livonia office will employ 200 people by the end of 2006, officials said.

And that's only the beginning. MetroPCS plans to open eight stores in Michigan. The wireless provider aims to let you "talk all you want, anytime you want, with no strings attached"

The flat rate service includes unlimited local and domestic long distance calls anytime, without a contract. The company hopes to make counting minutes obsolete.

Basic plans cost \$30, \$35, \$40 and \$45. Options include TextTalk, which allows an unlimited number of text messages for \$3 per month; Metro411, a directory assistance service for \$2 per month; and PictureTalk to send and receive digital photos for \$5 per month.

"MetroPCS offers Detroit an affordable alternative to expensive, frustrating wireless plans," said Pat Markey, general manager of MetroPCS Detroit. "By allowing customers to pay by the month, not by the minute, we are giving residents of Detroit and

WHAT'S IN STORE

surrounding communities another option for their wireless service.

"And, we believe we will be the natural choice of wireless service for those who live, work and play in the Detroit area"

MetroPCS Communications currently has 2 million subscribers. For more information, visit the Web site at www.metropcs.com.

WALK THE WALK

After taking up self-defense on her own Katie A. Ling now teaches it. She has developed The Protection Connection, an organization meant to improve the health, safety and overall well-being of teens, students and women everywhere. Her Canton-based company private group seminars for student groups and sororities around Michigan.

The Protection Connection also provides Moving Body Meditation and Proactive Self-Defense classes on a weekly basis at Deborah Chase School of Dance, located at 29820 Joy Road in Livonia.

For more information, visit www.ProtectionConnection.biz. To register for programs, call (734) 649-8478 or send e-mail to katie@protectionconnection.biz.

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

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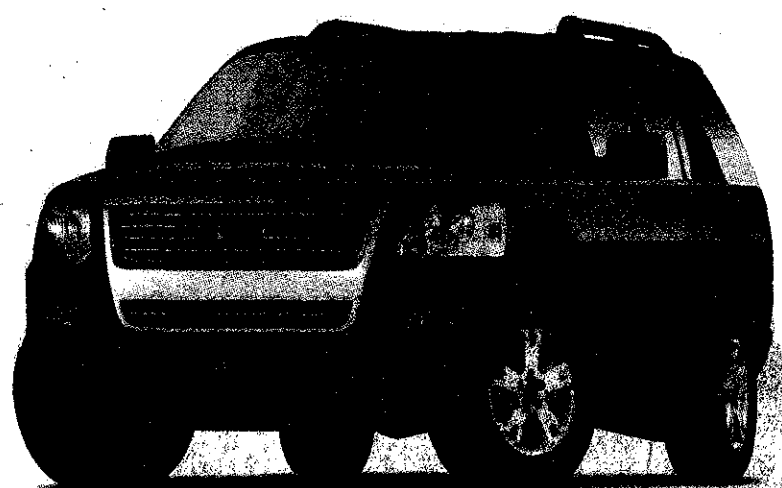
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Forum attempts to address water department concerns

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Last month, Gov. Jennifer Granholm vetoed a bill to create a regional advisory board to oversee the Detroit Water and Sewer Department for the second time in three years.

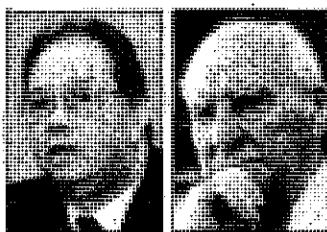
Both bills were introduced by state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, who has complained about the rates charged to suburban customers and about management of water department contracts.

On Thursday, April 27, DWSD and the Southeast Michigan Conference of Governments will hold a daylong forum on issues related to operations of the water and sewer department. More than 600 people have been invited to attend, including suburban officials, state legislators, state administrators and county officials from Genesee, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. Seating is limited to 150.

The 2006 Regional Forum: Partnering for the Future runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ford Conference and Event Center on Village Road in Dearborn.

"I think the driving factor is we've been trying to talk about the successes of working with our suburban customers and that just hasn't caught attention from a lot of people," said George Ellenwood, public affairs manager of DWSD. "We've heard from suburban customers, why aren't you talking about the partnership, why aren't you talking about groups that are generating new model contracts for water and wastewater contracts. The answer is we've talked about them, but they haven't been sexy."

The conference will begin with a welcome from Victor Mercado, director of DWSD, and Paul Tait, executive director of SEMCOG. The keynote address will be delivered by U.S. District Judge John Feikens, who since 1977 has been responsible for oversight of water quality and pollution problems and



Mercado Feikens

created the Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality.

Jo Anna Trierweiler of Project Innovations, the program facilitator, said that the DWSD has done "an amazing job" of reaching out to its water and wastewater customers (the communities to which it sells water and sewer services).

"They come together and talk about hard issues," she said. "They see that as a place where they can come together and place issues on the table and have mutual respect. Even in their own communities, that information doesn't make its way into the speech patterns of their elected officials."

The forum will include several suburban participants, including Sherri Gee of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's office and Tim Faas from Canton. Forum topics include regional security, efficiency and interoperability and regional collaboration.

"We'll have members of the Water Consortium of Southeast Michigan who'll give a report on what has been accomplished in the consortium," Ellenwood said. "One project they've been working on is understanding how water and sewer rates help finance water and sewer systems."

Organizers hope that the morning informational sessions will lead to interactive afternoon sessions where participants will share ideas on how to move forward.

"Our goal is to bring outside information into the room so that people could hear what other leaders or experts are thinking about or talking about so that the afternoon sessions will have interactivity," Trierweiler

said.

The discussion of regional collaboration will include participants who operate regional water systems under different models than Detroit's system, which is owned and operated by the city of Detroit and sold to local communities with an advisory board appointed by the mayor of Detroit.

"So frequently, these other models come up and people don't have enough information," Trierweiler said. "People sometimes push back and say why are you bringing them in. Well, it is the elephant, so let's bring them in and talk about it."

The luncheon speaker will be Jack Hoffbuhr of the American Water Works Association, who will bring a national perspective to water and sewer problems.

The security session will discuss very aspects of water safety.

"That question frequently comes up. Is there a risk that someone could put something microscopic in the water upstream and kill us all?" Trierweiler said. "The answer is no, but there are risks, health risks that people need to be aware of."

Ellenwood said Detroit has been a leader in protecting the water system and provided the model for Sandia National Laboratory's water security program used nationally.

Ellenwood and Trierweiler said the forum is trying to bridge a gap between political leaders and people working in the field.

"One challenge we've encountered in customer outreach is that it's very difficult to have operational and political people together, not because they don't interact well, but they have very different needs in terms of information," Ellenwood said.

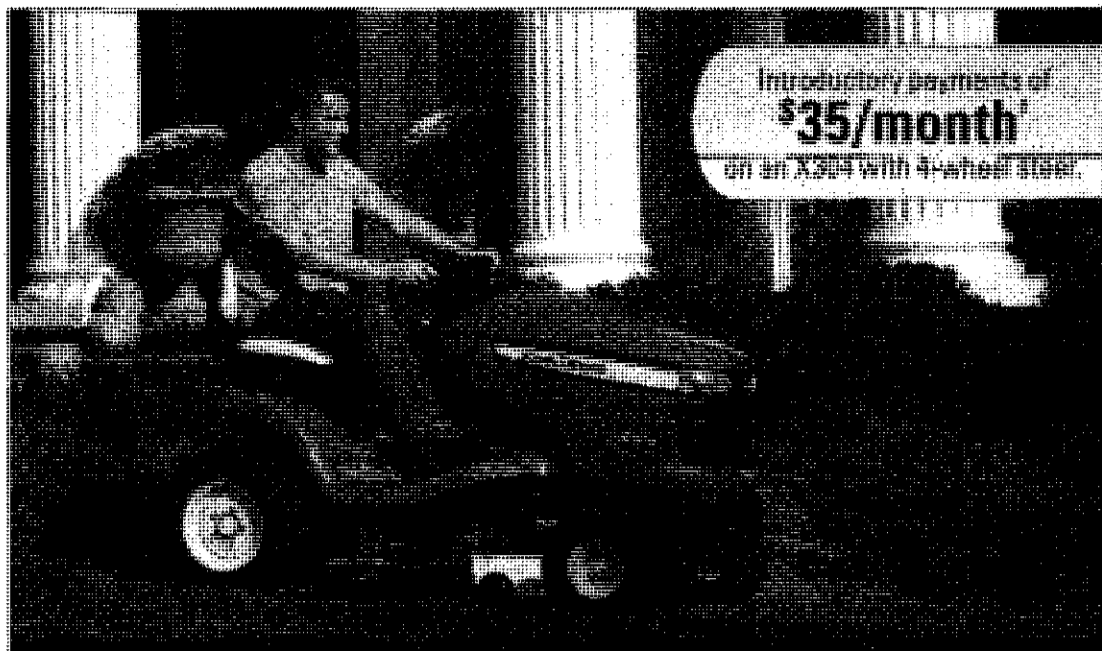
Trierweiler said Toy's office will have a representative at the sessions. Toy will not be able to attend because the Legislature will be in session.

Prosecutor's office upgrades Web site

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has upgraded its online service. The Web site, www.waynecounty.com/prosecutor, contains information on the functions of our prosecutor's office. Information covers vic-

tim's rights information and information to help navigate the court system. There are downloadable copies of helpful handbooks and many pages contain links to other valuable resources. A weekly case update of high

profile cases can be accessed by going onto the Web site and finding Units on the menu bar, then click on Units. The case updates are found on the Communications page of the Web site.



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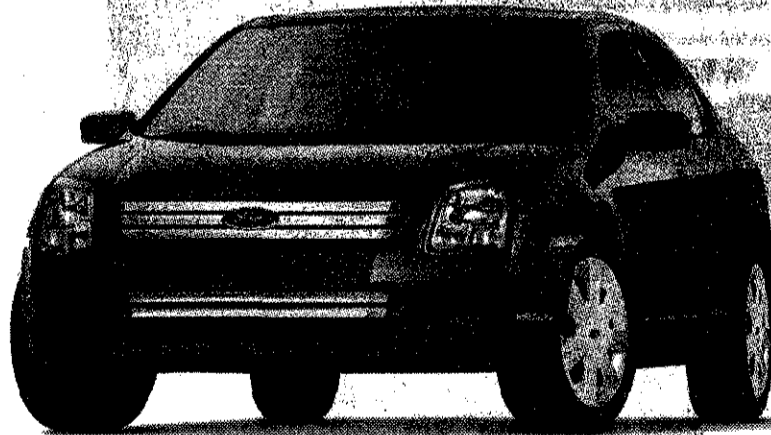


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Believing in miracles

Guild, Capuchin brothers remember priest Solanus Casey, work on cause for sainthood

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Helen Gleeson remembers the day her brother was miraculously healed in Detroit by a Capuchin priest whom many would like to see named a saint.

While she was growing up in Detroit in a family of nine children, Gleeson's older brother Charles, 12, contracted polio.

"The doctors gave up hope on Chuck, because he was paralyzed," she said.

Her Catholic parents were very religious, and so her father went to see the Rev. Solanus Casey, a priest in the Capuchin order at St. Bonaventure Monastery on Mt. Elliott in Detroit. He knew that healings had been attributed to the priest's prayers of intercession.

"Father told him, there will be a decided change within a day," said Gleeson, still showing the amazement and happiness in her voice after so many years. "That day, Chuck walked down the steps to my mother and father."

Her late brother grew up to have a happy life and a large family. His story was also told on the television program, *Unsolved Mysteries*.

As for Gleeson, Father Solanus made a lasting impact on her life. "My father used to take us to see him. Father Solanus used to sit at his desk, and there were people gathered around the room wanting to talk to him. He was so pious, and took time for every one."

PRAYERFUL GUILD

Father Solanus Casey died in July 1957 and is buried at St.

Bonaventure. Three years later, the Father Solanus Casey Guild was formed to keep alive his memory and spirit, and further his cause for canonization as a saint. Today members are all over the world.

Gleeson, now of Bloomfield Hills, formed a local circle of the guild in her home. Thirty years later, the circle continues to meet, at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills. Members pray and listen to new stories of healing attributed to prayers to Father Solanus for intercession.

While such healings as her brother experienced can only be proclaimed a miracle if Father Solanus is canonized, or declared a saint, Gleeson has no doubt that is what happened.

"The doctors felt like when

Chuck walked, well, there is a miracle there. This is something they could not explain."

Brother Richard Merling of St. Bonaventure is guild director. Brother Richard came to the friary a few months before Solanus died. He also remembers a visit with him as a child. Father Solanus prophetically told his mother his brother would be okay after an auto accident and talked about what it was like when he entered the monastery — something Brother Richard recalled later when he himself felt called to service.

REMEMBERING

"When those who had been healed came back to thank him, sometimes tears would come out of his eyes and he would say, 'don't thank me, thank the Lord,'" he said of Father Solanus.

He was a happy person, Brother Richard added, who enjoyed playing the violin.

"One of Father Solanus' emphasis was when people came and asked for blessings, he would often say to them OK, if you are asking some-

thing of God, be willing to do something for him."

Perhaps that's why when the Capuchin Soup Kitchen was established during the Depression there was never a lack of food or help. His concern for the hungry inspired the soup kitchen, and many people helped provide for it. "If Father Solanus asked for something people just responded so well."

Brother Richard works with Brother Leo Wollenweber, vice-postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Father Solanus Casey, to research his life and candidacy for sainthood.

Brother Leo, now 89, lived with him from 1940 to 1945. "He was a very kind of quiet, humble, very human man with a good sense of humor. He had a wonderful faith and trust in God, a goodness that he shared."

With the intercession of Father Solanus, "medical conditions just seemed to be cured overnight. Many doctors were quite surprised."

If Father Solanus is named a saint, he would be the first American-born male saint, he said.

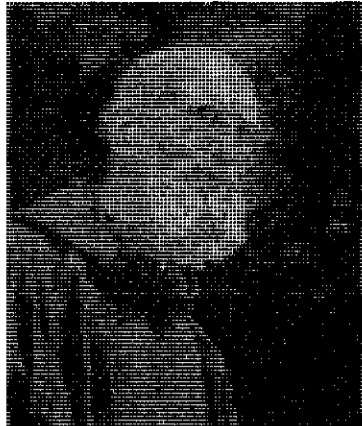
A big step was taken in July 1995, when he was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II. A saint must also be beatified and canonized by the church in Rome.

NEW REPORTS

Unusual healings before and after death must be attributed to a candidate for sainthood.

Today, reports are still being made, he said. "Many people come to pray at his tomb. They send us reports."

"What we have to do is collect enough medical information," said Brother Leo. "That is very difficult to get with all the privacy issues, and sometimes doctors are reluctant to speak out, and so on."



This oil painting of Solanus Casey is available as a reproduction at the Father Solanus Casey Guild headquarters in Detroit.

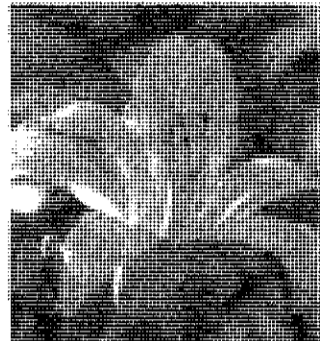
But, "it's at a point where we are investigating a case that might bring positive news for us. There is no intervention through medical means, and there is a healing."

"We don't want to say anything that would anticipate the decision of the Congress for Causes of Saints," he added. "We do hope that the Vatican will consider all the evidence that we send them."

For Rachel Lent of Bloomfield Township, having Father Solanus declared a saint would be wonderful news. She saw a television program on him, and contacted the guild to see if she could help in the effort. But she'd be just as happy if more people knew about him.

"We need it right now. We need something to hang on to," she said. "There are so many wonderful things that happen and we just don't know about them. It's the kind of thing that gives you a little hope."

The Father Solanus Guild is located at 1780 Mt. Elliott Ave., Detroit. The phone number is (313) 579-2100. The guild has a Web site at www.solanuscasy.org.



ANN KRYSA SIMS

Age 83 died April 15, 2006 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac from a long illness. She was born September 9, 1922 in Morrisville, Pennsylvania and was currently a resident of Bloomfield Hills since 1956. Wife of the late H.G. Sims who was an Executive with General Motors Corp.; he died in 1999. She was a graduate of Morrisville High School in Pennsylvania and a graduate of Comptroller School in New Jersey. Ann was an adamant bridge player and belonged to the Neighborhood Bridge Club. Ann is survived by two daughters: Cynthia Ann Sims of Bloomfield Hills and Eileen (Robert) Seale of Huntington Beach, California. Grandmother of John and Michael. Also survived by 7 Brothers and Sisters including the two living in this area: Lynne Eichinger of W. Bloomfield and Marjorie Habel of Chesterton, Indiana. Memorial Service at The Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 820 E. Maple, Birmingham on Saturday April 22, 2006 at 11:00 A.M. Pastor Jim Ackerman of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of Bloomfield Hills officiating.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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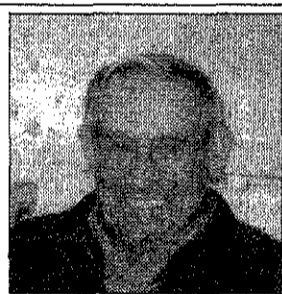


BERTHA LOUISE FUQUA

Age 69, previously of Bloomfield Hills, MI, died Nov. 14, 2005, in Scottsdale, AZ. She was the wife of William Fuqua for 47 years. They most recently resided in Brewster, MA. Born in Birmingham, AL, Mrs. Fuqua attended the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where she gained Certification in Church Business Administration. She was a member of the United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators and a Fellow of the National Association of Church Business Administration. In Michigan she was a member of Kiwanis and in Brewster, "Queen Bee" of her local Red Hat Society. A medical secretary for many years, she later worked at her church, starting as a volunteer and eventually becoming Church Business Administrator at the First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, MI. She retired in 1995. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, known for her generosity and hospitality. Her retirement years were focused especially on her family. Besides her husband, survivors include a son, Bradley Fuqua of Scottsdale, AZ; three daughters: Elizabeth Ouellette of Tallahassee, FL; Patricia Wilson of Boca Raton, FL; and Martha Lemondes of Fairfax, VA; 3 brothers, a sister and 10 grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI, on Saturday, April 22, 2006, at 2:00 P.M.

HELEN W. HEFFERNAN

April 17, 2006 Age 81 of Bloomfield Hills. Wife of the late Harold J. Dear mother of Colleen M. Weiss (Edward) and Michael P. (Denise). Grandmother of William and Jennifer. Funeral service Thursday, April 20, 10am at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile). Interment White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial tributes to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 1169 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48108. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com



THADEUS EDWARD DANAJ

Age 78, of Petoskey, died peacefully April 9, 2006, with his family at his side. He was born February 29, 1928, in Lark's Lake, the son of Paul and Agnes (Krzysztofczyk) Danaj. Ted was a Merchant Marine at 17 and served during WW II in Italy. He enlisted in the US Army on August 19, 1946. He married Bertha Elaine McDonough on June 29, 1952, and they made their home in Detroit and later Westland. He drove a double tanker truck delivering petroleum in the Detroit area until he retired and took up golf—his passion. In recent years, the couple returned to northern Michigan and made their home in Petoskey. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Petoskey, and the American Legion Post #32 in Westland, MI. Ted is survived by his wife, Bertha of Petoskey; sons, Lawrence (Becky) of Livonia; Timothy (Lorraine) of Alpharetta, Georgia; daughters, Pamela (Gary) Malo of Livonia; Susan (Bill) Wright of Lake Leelanau; Beth (Tom) Burke of Petoskey; 20 grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters. He was preceded in death by granddaughter Brandee, five sisters, and two brothers. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery in Charlevoix. Memorial Contributions may be made to Hospice of Little Traverse Bay.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

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or toll free
866-818-7853
ask for Char or Liz



CHERYL L. CARAM

Age 67, April 13, 2006. Beloved wife of Edward, Dearest Mother of Lisa (Raymond) Lindenmuth, Jeffrey and Tony Caram. Loving Grandmother of Brittany and Connor Lindenmuth. Sister of Donna Dunn and the late Wayne Aldrich. Services Sunday April 23, 2006 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI, with visitation at 1:30 p.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 4:30 p.m. Pastor Walt Dickenson officiating. Memorial Contributions to the Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Livonia or Angela Hospice would be greatly appreciated.

ELIZABETH FURBACHER

Of Westland, age 99, April 15, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Peter Furbacher Sr. Dear mother of Irma (the late John) Tiano, Peter (Herta) Furbacher, Edward (Mary) Furbacher, Donald (Shirley) Furbacher, Wilma (Hank) Rochette and the late Elizabeth Valcke and Joseph Furbacher. Dearest Grandmother of 25 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren. Visitation was Monday at the Ziomek Funeral Home in Livonia. Funeral was held Tuesday Instate 11 AM at St. Theodore Catholic Church, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Burial at St. Hedwig Cemetery.

ANNA "ANN" MAE BRECHT

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of Ann on April 17, 2006 at age 90. Ann was a good friend to many and lived a full and active life. She was a member of the Canton Sounds and the Nardineers of Farmington and was a Sears retiree. She enjoyed travel, golf, square dancing, bowling, bingo, cards and spending time with her family and friends. Beloved wife of the late Julius. Loving mother of Shirley Casler and Donald (Betty). Dearest sister to 5 brothers and 3 sisters. Loving grandmother to 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Funeral Saturday 11 a.m. from the chapel of the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Rd. (W. of Lilley Rd.). The family will receive visitors Friday 4 - 9 p.m.

ARLEEN MARIE DEBOZY

Age 84, of Westland, formerly of New Boston. Died April 15, 2006. Mrs. Debozy was born July 14, 1921 in Huron Township to Ernst and Esther (Schuessler) Gumtow. She married Andrew B. Debozy, May 26, 1940 in New Boston Michigan. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and St. Pauls Ladies Aid. Preceded in death by her husband, 1 grandson, 2 brothers and 1 sister. Survived by her children: Sons: Allan Debozy of Westland, Alvin (Margaret) Debozy of New Boston, Terry (Marty) Debozy of Hemlock, MI., Daughters: Andrea (Harold) Owens of Harrison, Tennessee, Sandy Heath of Westland. Grandchildren: Eleven, Great Grandchildren: Sixteen. Funeral services were held April 19, 2006 at 11:00am. St. Paul Lutheran Church, New Boston, MI. Visitation was held at Arthur Bobcean Funeral Home, Inc., Flar Rock, MI. Interment, Michigan Memorial Park, Huron Township, MI. Donations can be made to: St. Paul Lutheran Church Elevator Fund.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



A photograph of the Rev. Solanus Casey shows him in prayer at the Capuchin monastery in Detroit.

A holy life: Solanus Casey memories

Father Solanus Casey was born Bernard Francis Casey to Irish immigrant parents on Nov. 25, 1870. He grew up on a farm in Wisconsin, the sixth of 16 children. He worked at other jobs for economic reasons before beginning studies for the priesthood.

He entered St. Francis Seminary High School in Milwaukee, Wis., at age 21. He then joined the Capuchin Franciscans, a Roman Catholic religious order inspired by the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, who lived simply and served the poor. He received the religious name of Solanus.

After his ordination in 1904, Father Solanus served in various appointments in New York. Because of low academic rankings as a student, his priestly duties were restricted. But while fulfilling humble duties such as doorkeeper, he became known for his great charity toward others and as a model of religious observance.

In 1924, he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. Serving as porter, he

again became known for his ministry to others, especially the sick and troubled.

His concern for the poor inspired the Detroit Capuchins to establish their charitable Soup Kitchen, which continues today. And, many reports of cures from maladies, conversions of fallen away churchgoers and favorable resolutions to problems were attributed to his prayers of intercession.

In 1946, superiors sent him to a friary in Indiana, desiring to give him a well-earned retirement. There he received about 200 letters a day. He attempted to answer them all, but in his 80s and infirm, the friars had a rubber stamp made of his signature. He was diagnosed with skin cancer and sent back to Detroit in 1956 to be near expert medical care.

Father Solanus died at the age of 86 on July 31, 1957, at the same day and hour of his first Holy Mass 53 years earlier. He is buried at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit.

RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

APRIL

Garage sale

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 21, at St. Alexander's Church, 27835 Shiawassee, between Middlebelt and Inker, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 474-5748.

Just for kids

Looking for something for your kids to do during Spring Break? Kids from 5 to 18 years old are invited to make Candy Animal Crafts 1-3 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Please let us know if your child will attend by calling (734) 464-0990. You are welcome to drop off your child and return back at the end of the session because there will be adult supervision during the time.

Garage sale

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 21, \$2 bag sale at 4 p.m., all large items go for \$2 at the bag sale, at SS Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Call (734) 722-1343.

Lazer tag

Meet at the Zap Zone, 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 21, at 41953 Ford, Canton. Ticket \$18, includes pizza, pop and lazer tag. For more information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Divine Mercy weekend

St. Michael Catholic Church of Livonia celebrate its first Divine Mercy Weekend April 22-23, with several special services and devotions to which all area Catholics are cordially invited.

A Healing Mass will be offered 1 p.m. Saturday, in the church at the corner of Hubbard and Plymouth in Livonia. This Mass offers special prayers and anointing for Catholics recovering from serious illness, facing surgery, or suffering from a chronic health condition and asks for the relief of suffering and the restoration of health, both physical and spiritual. Those interested in participating should call (734) 261-1455 to register. The church and its facilities are wheelchair accessible. On Mercy Sunday, April 23, the Parish holds its first formal celebration of the Divine Mercy, as instituted by Pope John Paul II and based on Christ's revelations to St. Faustina Kowalska about humanity's need for His Divine Mercy. The day begins with a noon Mass, followed by a 1 p.m. Polish luncheon featuring stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, sauerkraut, and other traditional Polish fare, by reservation only and priced at \$6 for adults, \$3 children ages 4-12, free for children 3 and under. Reservations must be placed by calling (734) 261-1455 no later than Tuesday, April 18.

The Divine Mercy Devotion begins at 3 p.m., traditionally the hour of "greatest mercy" commemorating the hour of Christ's death, and will include the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and close with Benediction. All area Catholics are welcome to participate in as many of the weekend activities as they choose. The luncheon is reserved only by those planning to participate in the Divine Mercy devotion.

Conference

25th Annual Pax Christi Michigan State Conference - The Road Ahead: Hope & Vision for Future of Peace 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Gesu Church, 17180 Oak Drive in Detroit. Keynote speaker is Rev. John Dear, a 46-year old Jesuit priest, pastor,

peacemaker, retreat leader, and author. Fee is \$40 (includes conference, continental breakfast & lunch). For information on registration, workshops, etc., call (517) 482-2558 or send e-mail to TirakPaxMI@aol.com, or visit www.paxchristimi.org, or call Carol Jachim, (313) 839-0249.

Concert

Dave and Barb Anderson with Keyboard artist Dale Pust perform a Concert of Praise and Encouragement 6 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at St. Michael Lutheran Church and School, Hannag at Glenwood, Wayne. Call (734) 728-1950.

Youth talent program

Starts 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, for ages 6-14, and continues Tuesdays until the Talent Show 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 1, with Livonia Theater Arts Teacher George Wilson and Unity youth director Lin Wilson, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. No charge. It is hoped that the program leads to the formation of a community theater group for children. Call (734) 421-7160.

Celebrate spring

Celebrate Life, an event to create awareness about First Step, a representative will talk about the nonprofit organization's services for abused women and children, and sexual assault victims 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. No charge but call (734) 421-7249 to reserve a spot. Event includes music, desserts, and a handmade quilt raffle to benefit First Step. Tickets \$1 each, \$5 for six.

Lecture

Life and Death: Joy and Reality by Sister Ann Stamm, doctorate of ministry, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Your Invitation To Worship

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If you've got junk, they'll haul it away

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Got junk?

Brian and Jill Vanderziel of Canton had a half a garage full Friday — old carpet, plaster-board, wires, fencing, cardboard boxes and a toilet. They called 1-800-GOT-JUNK.

Brothers Tom and George Todoroff and George's wife Susan are betting that a lot of other people have junk they want or need to unload. In November they purchased a franchise of 1-800-GOT-JUNK that puts a new spin on the fabled junkman.

The Todoroffs franchise covers southern Oakland County and western Wayne County with an office in Farmington Hills.

"Our thought was that we could do better with the franchise and the man was ready to sell," said George Todoroff. "This showed so much potential with an aging population and cities cutting back on services. The time was right."

Todoroff had been operating a low-voltage electronics firm in Dearborn, but with the declining economy, he saw a brighter future in other people's junk.

"Basically we've taken a junk removal service and taken it to professional level," said Susan Todoroff. "We have clean shiny trucks, uniformed drivers. We provide same-day service. We're always on time and we give upfront rates. We don't start removing until the customer has a price."

Brian and Jill Vanderziel and their baby daughter, Hailey, now 9 months old, moved into their home in December. It had been a foreclosure and needed work.

"We did some remodeling to the house, updates, some construction, we tore up carpeting," Brian said. "We were looking at getting a dumpster because regular trash wouldn't take it. But the price of the dumpster and having them remove it was about the same. And we don't have to do the labor and we won't have the dumpster sitting there for a couple days."

When potential customers dial 1-800-GOT-JUNK, they're actually connecting to the franchiser's Vancouver call center. The information is then relayed by computer to the Farmington Hills office, where four trucks are ready to pick up that same day.

"We actually go in the house," Susan said. "We'll go into a basement or attic. We clear the junk, we clean up and leave space looking better than it was. Then we determine where it will go, so that if we can donate or recycle anything we look to do that first. Then to a landfill."

On Friday, co-owner George Todoroff was joined by driver Matt Remy of Canton.

On the theory that one man's



Homeowners Brian (holding daughter Hailey) and Jill Vanderziel started remodeling their home even before they moved in last year. They had half of a two-car garage full of debris from the project.



George Todoroff and Matt Remy load the truck with debris.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

junk is another man's treasure, employees are given the option of keeping anything that they want.

"Everything in our office from the desks, the file cabinets, the couch, the table is reclaimed from someone's home or business," Susan said.

Remy said the construction materials at the Vanderziel house weren't a typical run. He said he's gone to several houses where they were throwing out old furniture in good condition to make way for new.

"A lot of times it's nice, because we get to donate to charities like St. Vincent de Paul," he said.

Customers have disposed of rare record collections, old

turntables, heavy pianos and refrigerators and even a motorized wheelchair.

"You see some pretty strange things, from the horror stories of houses where there is only a path from the front door to each room and you can't deviate off the path," George said. "We've done commercial removals where I didn't know why they were getting rid of the things."

Business has been picking up and the Todoroffs are looking to increase their current six person staff.

"Spring motivates people, but we do it year round," George said. "You don't have to

think spring to do that."

On Friday Remy said the job would take less than a half hour and Jill Vanderziel would have use of her garage again.

"We're really fast," he said. "We make it quick and painless for the customer."

The company has a couple restrictions. Two people have to be able to lift the item with a utility cart. The company won't handle certain hazardous waste, including paint and flammable materials.

Rates range from \$98 to \$498 based on volume. A full truck carries 15 cubic yards for \$498.

Brunch brings together heroes

Don't miss your chance to join the Michigan Humane Society as it honors local two-legged and four-legged heroes at the 17th annual Bow Wow Champagne Brunch 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 23, at the Ritz-Carlton, 300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. Tickets are available for the event which will spotlight stories of heroism, including accounts of those who helped rescue animals affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The brunch begins with a

silent auction reception followed by a gourmet brunch and live auction. Highlights include a meet and greet with championship golfer Tiger Woods and a ride-along with the cruelty investigators.

Tickets to the Bow Wow Champagne Brunch begin at \$200. To reserve your tickets, call (866) MHUMANE (648-6263), Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or buy tickets online at www.michiganhumane.org.

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S5584 N82 | CMS Approval: xx/xxxx

McCotter schedules teleconference

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is inviting constituents of the 11th Congressional District to take part in a live teleconference Town Hall 7-8 p.m. Monday, April 24.

The Town Hall, which will also be Web cast live (audio only) on the Internet, will cover several topics, including port/border security, immigration and the economy. Participants can register online by clicking on the registration page at www.mccotter.house.gov or by phone at (734) 632-0314. Participants can also submit a question for the congressman during phone registration or by email at thaddeus.mccotter@mail.house.gov. Questions not answered during the Town Hall will be answered by mail. The deadline for registration is 5 p.m. Friday, April 21.

Webcast system requirements: Internet Explorer version 5 or later, Windows Media Player 8 or greater, and an Internet connection of 28.8 Kbps or greater (dial up speed), plus speakers or soundcard with built-in speaker.