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HEALTH - PAGE C8



**SUNDAY April 30, 2006** 

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Adrena McMillian, a student at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, takes a measurement for a piece of siding for the Octagon House.

# City and schools partner to repair Octagon House

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

De A group of Wayne-Westland students don't need Bob Vila's help to fix up this old

Construction technology students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center worked tirelessly Friday to repair the 1800s-era Octagon House, in Westland's emerging historic village on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

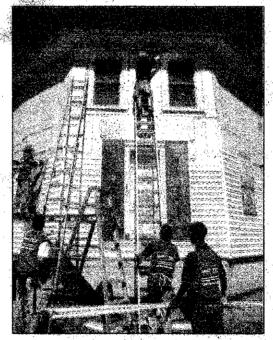
With ladders, hammers and tape measgres in hand, students from instructor John Warra's class installed new vinyl siding on

the once eight-sided house that's flanked by two additions.

"I like being involved in this because it gets us involved in the community," 11thgrader April Borda, 17, said, as she steadied a ladder for a classmate. "The house will look nicer, and it will bring people to the city.

This month, Warra's students started a project that will give them hands-on experience and provide free labor for the city, which is trying to restore its historic buildings despite a budget crunch.

PLEASE SEE OCTAGON, A6



Wayne-Westland students and workers from Nail Tite Construction Co. work on the Octagon House, one of Westland's historic houses.

## Prosecutors add 3rd charge in assault case

STAFF WRITER

A Westland man now faces an assault with intent to murder charge for allegations he went into a 67-year-old man's apartment, hit film on the head and robbed him.

Brandon Dickerson's problems escalated Thursday after prosecutors added the charge against him during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

Dickerson, 20, who already had been charged with armed robbery and felonious assault, now faces trial in Wayne County

Circuit Court on three charges. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in

Dickerson's charges stem from an incident that police said happened about 2 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, at Country Court, an apartment complex on Wildwood north of Ford.

According to Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch, the 67-year-old man was sitting in his living room with the door open when an attacker came in and clubbed him on the head with what the victim believed was a hammer.

The assailant then took the man's money

and hit him over the head with a cane that he uses to get around, Borisch has said.

The victim suffered injuries to his head but wasn't critically hurt.

Dickerson was arrested after the victim's neighbor saw him fleeing from the injured man and began a chase that ended at nearby Edison Elementary School, Borisch said.

In court Thursday, Dickerson's bond was doubled to \$100,000 cash or surety. A notguilty plea has been entered in his court file as he awaits trial.

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

# Election Day is Tuesday

School board seats on ballot in Wayne-Westland, Livonia

BY DARRELL CLEM

Don't blame Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart for running a Wayne-Westland school board election even though incumbent Frederick Weaver faces no opposition Tuesday.

"It's state law," DeHart said. DeHart's office has to have a school board election, regardless of whether an incumbent has a challenger.

DeHart confirmed Thursday that she has had some complaints from voters who criticized the election as wasteful spending.

The good news - for the city, at least -- is that Wayne-Westland Community Schools will have to reimburse the city for most election

The amount reimbursed during the last school election was \$20,701 Deputy Clerk Nancy Bonaparte said. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday. Voters who live in the Livonia school district in Westland's north

end will have a choice Tuesday incumbent Joanne Morgan or challenger Steve King. Morgan is a 10-year board veteran and current vice president. King has said he hopes to bring a new per-

spective to the board. Morgan and King are competing for a four-year term. Likewise, Weaver in Wayne-Westland is up for

a four-year term. He has served one four-year term and is the current board president.

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

## Program helps prepare teens for employment

With jobs already hard to find, youngsters need all the help they can get.

To that end, a workforce preparedness seminar has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17 sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce

and the Westland Youth Assistance Program. The event will be hosted by the Westland senior citizen Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of

The first portion will involve sessions on how to dress for an interview; how youngsters should conduct themselves during an interview; whom to use as a reference; how to properly fill out a job application; and a discussion of work ethic.

The second part will feature business representatives conducting mock interviews with the young-

To register, call the Westland Youth Assistance Program office at (734) 467-7904.

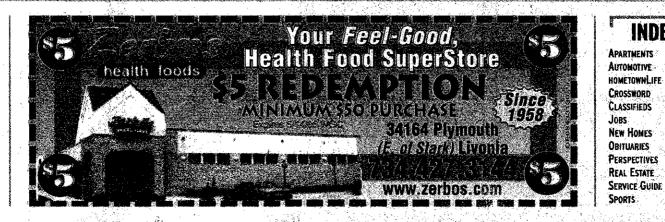
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> Volume 41 Number 97







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# Toy seeks re-election to 6th District Senate seat

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 30, 2006

State Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-6th District, will seek re-election to the state Senate representing the communities of Garden City, Livonia, Redford and Westland.

"I look forward to continuing to serve the great residents of the 6th Senate District," Toy said. "I have the experience necessary to make sure that the economy, job growth and education are the state's top priorities. I am dedicated to fighting for the people I represent in the Michigan Senate."

Improving Michigan's economy will be Toy's top priority.

"As a small business owner myself, I know that small companies create the most jobs in Michigan," she said. "Now is the time to act. In the Senate I helped craft a fund that will help diversify Michigan's economy and create good-paying jobs. I also helped enact legislation that provides \$600 million in relief to our state's struggling manufacturing industry."

Fairness in rate setting process at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is another goal for Sen. Toy. Garden City residents were

just hit with a 19.3 percent increase in wholesale water rates, while Livonia, Redford Township, and Westland experienced increases as well.

"I have sponsored two comprehensive bills to create accountability for all ratepayers. The department continues to be plagued by rate increases and questionable contracting practices," she said. "This is unacceptable. The governor has ignored the will of the people and we will continue to seek fairness in this system for all the residents of southeast Michigan, not just city of



Detroit residents."

Toy has represented the district in the Senate since 2003. Since entering office, Sen. Toy has seen 15 of the bills she has sponsored signed into law by the governor.

# DeVos drives to connect with voters

Dick DeVos' mission to be omnipresent brought him to Westland on Thursday to speak at the annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner for the 11th Congressional District-Wayne County Republican

The Republican candidate for governor used the friendly audience at Hawthorne Valley to build more support in his bid to unseat Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm in

Committee.

November. Two recent polls have DeVos and Granholm in a statistical dead heat, including an April 21 poll by Strategic' Vision that gave Granholm a 43-42 advantage, with 15 percent of respondents remaining undecided.

In an effort to acquaint himself with Michigan voters, the Devos campaign is in the midst of a television advertising campaign and visiting as many destinations as quickly as possible. For example, before his Thursday appearance in

Westland, he was at an event in Plymouth. Then afterwards, he made a late appearance in a Grand Rapids event before he called it a night.

He said he hopes voters come to know him as a businessman who's led a successful turnaround, a community builder, a hard worker and someone who's not a politician. His goal as governor is to spark job growth by creating an environment in Michigan that promotes business investment and

expansion.

"I think it's more important that someone with business experience become governor of Michigan at this time," DeVos said. "Michigan needs to become more effective in the global market place. I have that

DeVos is the former head of Alticor, formerly known as Amway, a business his father founded. The gubernatorial candidate is credited with leading the Grand Rapids-based company through a \$5 billion



expansion. The company's success has made DeVos and his family wealthy, but he said he can still relate to Michigan's blue-collar families strug-

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gling in today's economic conmade connections to a number of Michiganders during his one-on-one meetings in recent "I went to a public school  $\frac{\pi s}{sH}$ 

and grew up with a regular family as my father tried to build a small business," DeVos said. "I worked summer jobs and all those experiences gave me great perspective into the W various choices and lifestyles v for people in this state."

He said he will distinguish himself from Granholm in this campaign with his experience and determination as a leader. He said he would rather accomplish tasks than get into finger-pointing games.

'That's one of my most important messages," he said and "Don't complain and criticize," let's do something about the  $\alpha$ problem and get on with the

Last week, DeVos said the state shouldn't benefit from the 'windfall" in additional sales taxes collected with the escalating gas prices that have approached \$3 a gallon. He called on lawmakers to cap the collection of the state's 6 percent sales on gasoline prices up to \$1.95 a gallon. Such a rule would save motorists about 5 cents on a gallon of gas, based on last week's prices.

"Lansing can do something & to help families," DeVos said. " am advocating an end to the windfall tax gouging of Michigan families.'

Meanwhile, Granholm is calling on lawmakers for a resolution that endorses some efforts in Washington to investigate oil companies and explore windfall taxes on their multibillion-dollar profits.

## Fest features Pistons-Shock hoops clinic

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

With a basketball in hand in some Westland school gymnasium, the next Chauncey Billups or Swin Cash may be emerging for the Detroit Pistons or the Detroit Shock.

With that in mind, the Westland Summer Festival committee has added a Pistons-Shock basketball clinic to its roster of events.

Festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl announced Wednesday

in Central City Park, where basketball goals will be erected on the tennis courts.

A session for children in grades two through five has been set for 11 a.m. to 12:15

A session for youths in grades six through 10 has been scheduled for 12:30-1:45

The cost: \$10 per child. Anyone who wants an application should contact Mehl at (734) 261-5955.

Neither the Pistons nor the

clinic, Mehl said.

The event has become the latest for a summer festival that will coincide with Westland's 40th anniversary as a city.

"I think we're going to have more things going on this year than we've ever had," Mehl said.

The festival will start Thursday, June 29, and conclude Tuesday, July 4, in Central City Park and the area around the Westland government complex, on Ford Road

In other developments, Mehl has asked anyone interested in getting involved in the festival to contact the following people:

- To participate in a June 29 parade that will kick off the festival, call Jeanie Cox at (734) 722-6979.
- To get involved in the arts and crafts area, call Gale Armstrong at (734) 994-0450.
- To become part of food concessions, call Sue

that the hoops clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, July 1,	Shock has confirmed who will be involved in the basketball	east of Newburgh. The last night will include a fireworks	Haslacker at (734) 237-4158. dciem@hometownlife.com   (734) 953-2110
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LONGHORN 5999			TOMATOES \$ 149
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#### CITY OF GARDEN CITY **MICHIGAN**

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY that sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, MI 48135 (Telephone: (313) 525-8814), on or before 10:00 A.M., Monday, May 15, 2006, for the following work according to plans and specifications prepared by George J. Hartman Architects, P.C.:

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

Project: FIRE STATION SHOWER ROOM RENOVATION

Renovation of Bathroom Facility to Meet Accessibility Standards

Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished in the Specification Book in a sealed envelope, endorsed with the name of the item(s) bid. Plans and specifications are available after 9:00 A.M., Monday, May 1st, 2006 from the Purchasing Department of Garden City. There is a recommended Walk-Through scheduled for 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at the Garden City Fire Station, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan.

This project is partially funded by the Federal Block Grant Funds. Contractors must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act for Federally funded projects and all Federal Prevailing Wage Requirements. A contract for this work will also obligate the Contractors and subcontractors not to discriminate in employment practices based on race, color, sex, religion, natural origin or age in compliance with the President's Executive Order 11246, "and that it will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants and employees are treated during employment" without regard to these factors.

The Bid and Contract security requirements will include the following, as further described in the Supplementary Conditions of the Specifications for this project:

- 1. Bid Bond of 5% of the total bid.
- Performance Bond of at least 100% of the contract.
- Labor and Material bond of at least 100% of the contract.
- Workman's Compensation Insurance
- Contractor's Public Liability Insurance and Property Damage Insurance.
- Subcontractor's Public Liability Insurance and Property Damage Insurance.
- 7. Project / completed Operations Liability Insurance.

Liquidation damages may be assessed if the project is not completed in the alloted time period. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to

waive any informalities when deemed in the best interest of the

ALLYSON BETTIS, City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: April 30, 2006

#### GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN SECTION 00010 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - Garden City High School Remodeling Project will be received until 1:30 p.m. local time on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at the Garden City Public School's Board of Education office, 1333 Radcliff, Garden City, Michigan, 48135. Bids received after this time and date will be returned

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

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

<u>Bid Division Description</u> 102 Site Utilities/Asphalt Paving/Exterior Concrete 103 Selective Demolition

- 114 Aluminum Entrances, Hardware, Glazing
- 118 Carpet & Resilient Flooring 119 Terrazzo Restoration
- 120 Painting
- 133 Pool Equipment **142 HVAC**
- 143 Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates will be available for public inspection on Monday, May 1, 2006, at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction Reports Plan Room,

Bidders may obtain a set of bidding documents beginning Monday, May 1, 2006, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. (Note: Bidders are issued 1/2 size plans for bidding purposes. Plan scales are to be adjusted accordingly.) Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 353-2950. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. The bid division(s) being bid is (are) to be identified on the outside

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting held on May 4, 2006, at 9 a.m. at the Garden City High School Auditorium located at 6500 Middlebelt, Garden City, MI 48135. All bidders are encouraged to

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

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

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Garden City Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate. Publish: April 30, 2006

# Murder, robbery leave family shattered, looking for answers

Sandy Webb and her family are hoping a lot of the questions they have will be answered in some way Tuesday in Judge Laura Mack's court-

That's when three teens will appear for a preliminary hearing on charges that they robbed and beat to death her brother Steven Dingman the evening of April 17.



Steven Dingman

"I plan to be there to speak for the family, the Westland resident said. We want them to face us and make them realize what they have

in a quieter time done." 15 years ago. Dingman was beaten and

robbed of \$3 by three teens around 9:14 p.m. the day after Easter in the intersection of Clark and Park streets in

According to Wayne Police Sgt. Mike Ciucci, the teens – Christopher Copeland, 17, William Tedders, 17, and his brother Carlos, 16 — apparently followed Dingman and tried to get him to go behind a büilding.

"When he refused, they started to assault him, and when he was down, they went through his pockets and took his \$3," he said. "We don't know if it started as a robbery, but it ended as one.

Following the attack, Dingman was rushed to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. A coroner's report said Ké had sustained a broken neck, broken ribs, ruptured spleen and had bleeding on his

The three teens are being tried as adults. All are charged with first-degree premeditated

murder and felony murder. The hearing Tuesday will determine if they will be bound over for trial on the charges, both punishable by sentences of life in prison.

Carlos Tedders is being held in the Juvenile Hall of Justice, while his brother and Copeland are in the Wayne County Jail.

#### 'A SAFE AREA'

Dingman had lived in Westland until three years ago, when he moved into a basement apartment at Elizabeth and Michigan Avenue in Wayne. One of four children, he was stricken with paranoid schizophrenia at age 15 and had stayed with his mother Christine. When she could no longer care for him, his family found the apartment for him.

"We picked it because we thought it was a safe area," Webb said.

Webb described her brother as very intelligent. He was good in mathematics in school and a talented musician. When he was 13, he took two guitar lessons, then taught himself how to play. He also loved to restore old cars and worked in a tool and die business.

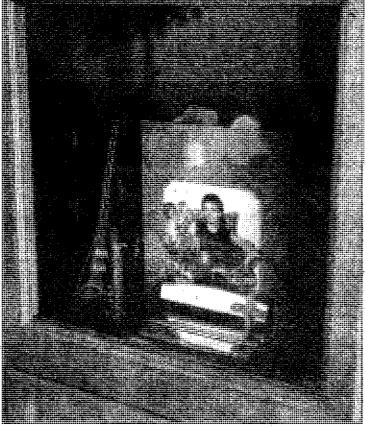
But as the years passed, the illness "weakened" him, so that by the time he was killed he did have the appearance of a homeless person as he was first described by the media.

"If you said you were his friend, he'd follow you," she said. "He was very naive."

Family members would check on him every week. If he went out for a walk, he would put a sign in the window, "Be back in 10 minutes," just in case someone came.

The sign was in the window the night of his death.

Dingman was known around the neighborhood. His supplemental income check covered his rent, but left little extra money, so he would collect returnable bottles and cans.



over there," Webb said.

about Steven."

"Everyone said Steven was nice

and polite. The people at the

barbershop (Sheer Brilliance)

Police believe robbery was

the motive for the attack, but

Webb and her family aren't so

Bernalden et et bibliog som

sure. They wonder why the

teens would have wanted to

told us so many nice things

A miniature quitar, a small frog and photograph mark the grave of Steven Dingman who died April 17 after being beaten and robbed.

One of the places he'd stop at was the Sheer Brilliance Unisex Salon on Elizabeth, about a block south of his apartment.

#### 'A GOOD GUY'

"He came in here all the time asking for a dime, a quarter or empty bottles," Jimmy Mordada said. "He'd come in and take the empty bottles and take my garbage out."

Mordada knew Dingman about three years and recalled how he could make him laugh even in bad times.

"When he'd come in, he'd say hi and ask how business was, I'd tell him not so good and he'd make me laugh," Mordada said. "He was a good guy. He'd never hurt nobody."

"He did have good friends

ties to make ends meet. They think the reason is more sinister, pointing to comments Dingman made in the weeks before his death.

rob a man who collected emp-

Two weeks earlier, he told his sister Denise Murphy that everyday he asked God to forgive his sins, then told her that if you murdered someone, you go to prison.

On Easter, he told his mother he had to go pay a man the \$3 he owed him and that, if he lived long enough, he would pay back the money he owed

"He wouldn't say anymore," Webb said. "We thought it was his illness. He'd said things like that before over the years. Now we wonder if maybe he'd been threatened.

"I think they were waiting for him to come by," she added. "It's hard to believe that it was robbery."

The murder is even harder to comprehend because Dingman was the kind of person who "wouldn't swat a fly," Webb said. Even as a child, he would bring home injured animals and birds and nurse them back to health before setting them free.

"He wouldn't even let vou step on a bug in his apartment because he didn't want you to kill it," she added.

#### **SPECIAL THINGS**

There are things the family wants people to know about Dingman, things like his favorite color -- blue -- and

his collections of frogs, rocks and funeral crosses that he found in the garbage. Webb has a piece of rose quartz, a round-shaped rock and a small frog that she took from his apartment to remember her

brother. Like other death scenes, a small makeshift memorial has been set up on one corner of the intersection. The family has included a grave cross and is asking people to place more

crosses at the site. "It was important to him," Webb said.

Even though the family is shattered by what has happened, they know their brother is at peace. Webb said her mother and siblings have forgiven his attackers and while they grieve their loss, they also feel for the families of Dingman's attackers.

"You never think this will happen in your family," she said. "There's nothing he could have done to deserve this. The family doesn't want revenge, we want justice. Steven deserves it."

Friends and family members gathered April 21 at Cadillac Memorial Garden West in Westland for a memorial service with Pastor Nelson Pierson with the Walking in the Light Ministries officiating.

Steven Dingman is survived by his mother, Christine Dingman; sisters Sandy Webb, Denise Murphy and Pamela Dingman: brother, Michael; and two nieces. smason@hometowniife.com | (734) 953-2112

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# LPS urged to 'Save Our Strings'

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 30, 2006

STAFF WRITER

A group of about 20 parents and music professionals have begun to organize in an effort to protect and promote early exposure to string instruments in Livonia Public Schools.

They're sending out an S.O.S. to the district, calling the effort Save Our Strings.

With the onset of new upper elementary schools next fall, students will choose vocal or instrumental music classes in fifth and sixth grades - but neither of those classes currently incorporates string instrument training.

Livonia parent Cindy Celano knows firsthand the positive impact early strings instruction had on her son, Joe. He took up violin in fifth grade and fell in love with it, she said. Now, he's a member of Livonia Youth Philharmonic of

Celano said she's disappointed that it seems his sister, a fifth-grader, won't have the same opportunities. "We were devastated to find out there was no longer a program at McKinley," said Celano.

Sheila Alles, director of academic services, noted that the district has not offered string instruction in fifth grade for the past seven years. The program was reduced due to a combination of budget reductions and waning student interest. Currently, sixth-graders can take an exploratory instrumental music class. Once a week for 10 weeks, they learn introductory violin techniques. That will change next fall.

We are exploring some options to maintain it at the elementary level," said Alles.

She was planning to meet last week to discuss those options with district music teachers. Alles said it may be possible to "maintain the current strings program as part of the vocal performance music class." Another possibility involves offering strings as an after-school activity at the elementary level.

Due to the type of instruction it requires, string training cannot be included in the instrumental music course planned for next year's upper elementary schools, she said.

Livonia parent Connie Sielicki said her son, Anthony, got just the jump start he needed by taking violin in fifth grade.

"It's just been so beneficial," she said. "I would like every other child to have the same opportu-

Now attending Franklin High School, Anthony Sielicki is preparing to perform in Europe this summer with Blue Lake Fine Arts

"I'll be playing some of the finest (music halls) in the world," he said. "I would never be in this position without having started in fifth grade." Anthony said Livonia Public Schools' music program has "meant so much for me" and he

intends to continue performing in college. Like other parents, Celano said she fears orchestra classes will cease to exist in the disLivonia parent Cindy Celano knows firsthand the positive impact early strings instruction had on her son, Joe. He took up violin in fifth grade and fell in love with it, she said. Now, he's a member of Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan.

trict. "My concern is too, if they're doing away with strings at the elementary, what's next? The middle school? And after that the high school?" she asked. "There is not going to be anybody coming in with prior experience."

Alles said string instrument instruction will be maintained at the middle and high school

Holmes Middle School currently offers one orchestra class, but not enough students have shown interest in strings to offer a full class next year. As a result, Alles said she's looking into the possibility of transporting Holmes students interested in taking orchestra - to Frost Middle School for perhaps the first class of the day.

Kathy Bilger, president of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, shared her concerns about the potential lack of elementary training in strings.

"Stringed instruments take more time to learn than most other instruments," said Bilger. "Many of my best students have been playing since kindergarten or first grade. It is not uncommon to find children as young as 3 in the Suzuki violin method."

Waiting until middle school reduces the chances that a student will take up an instrument, Bilger added.

Alles reiterated the difficulty of learning stringed instruments. Some elementary students who chose strings instruction in the past also dropped that class due to the challenge, she

When orchestra was offered as an option in fifth grade, about 25 percent of instrumental music students chose orchestra, while 75 percent chose band instruments. The findings matched national statistics, Alles added.

Still, Celano called string instruction a confidence-builder, and an activity that offers "a good support system" for her son. She said her son's participation in orchestra has taught him teamwork, as well as how to strive for individual

"Orchestra serves a real need within the school population that has gone unrecognized for many years," Bilger said.

Save Our Strings has established P.O. Box 51901, Livonia, MI 48151 and is accepting requests at that address for a petition to support the group's effort.

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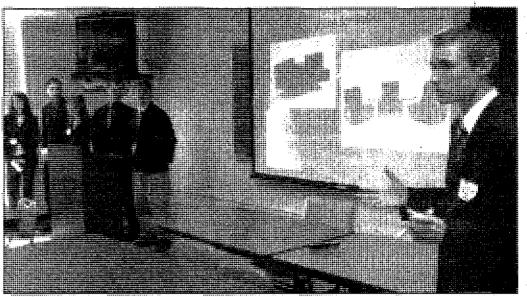
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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill student Mark Zehner, along with his partners from Team Japan, shares a presentation with judges during Livonia Public Schools Global Business Seminar Wednesday.

## Students get global view at business exercise

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools high school students converged at Madonna University this week to hone their business and marketing skills - and view the work world on a global

Twenty students from each of the district's three high schools were handpicked and invited to participate in the district's annual Global Business Seminar.

Taking place over two days, the students were divided into groups of six and assigned one of 10 countries to research. Each group was given a Michigan-made product, and challenged to market that product for sale and use in the designated coun-

Donna McDowell, business/education partnership coordinator for the district, organized the event.

She said students would investigate the culture of their designated country, work with other students they might not have met before, and complete a power-point presentation to be critiqued by judges.

This marked the second year of participation for Franklin High student Keely Mog.

She said she liked learning about the laws that govern international business. "You get more of an understanding of the global world," said Mog, who is taking Marketing 2, Marketing 3 and an independent study in the sub-

Mog and teammate Phil Wendecker, a Churchill sophomore, was attempting to market Dow Chemical products in Poland. They said they enjoyed the hands-on experience the program offers.

Wendecker said he imagined the project mirrors what it might be like to work for a large company. Much more goes into the



Members of Team Brazil, including students David King, Tifany Routhier, middle, and Steve Kurant, right, explain the feasibility of opening up business for a soap company in Brazil. It was all part of a two-day Livonia Public Schools business seminar held at Madonna University.

business than people generally see, he said, naming export laws and labor issues. But there's a social side of it, too.

'It's nice to meet new people," he said. Since students from all three high schools participate, many begin the program as strangers - or simply sports rivals.

To aid participants in their task, student groups met with international mentors Tuesday afternoon to learn about their country, and the chances of selling their designated product in that country.

Mentors came from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Japanese Consulate, Wayne State University, Ford Motor Co. and more. All were either born in the country they represented, or had experience living and working there.

"I think it's a great opportunity for (students) to meet international business people and learn firsthand, from them what it's like in their home country," said Gary Harper, a business teacher at Churchill High School.

He said students will take into account the culture, demographics, currency exchange and more when planning their international business transactions.

Students asked questions

about language barriers and cultural hierarchies. They determined what their target market would look like within the country they were assigned to reach.

Tim Gabel, global education teacher at Stevenson High School, said the meetings with international mentors would allow students to determine how their product may be received, and whether it would be a profitable venture, in a foreign country.

"It gives them a chance to interact with adults who aren't teachers," he added.

The program brings social studies, marketing, accounting and global education students together for a common goal.

"It shows the upside to the global economy," Gabel said.

While they aren't graded on the project, Gabel said, the experience is a valuable

"It's a great opportunity," he said, comparing the program to a second- or thirdyear college marketing

class assignment. On Wednesday, students shared their final presentations before a group of judges, who work as professionals in the area and deal

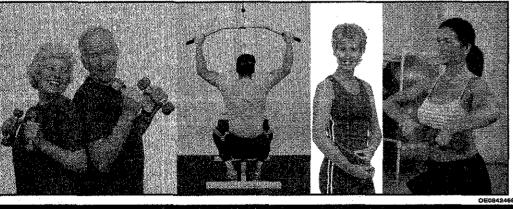
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# Cashing in 401(k) could mean big hit on tax return

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

As if the economy weren't a big enough concern, Canton resident Doug Walter is worried about taxes. More specifically, he's worried about what happens to taxpayers who will take a big hit on their tax returns because they cashed in 401(k) accounts after being downsized.

"So many people here in lower Michigan are getting laid off, it's unbelievable," Walter said. "And these are good jobs with good salaries – like \$60,000 to \$70,000."

Though he hasn't been downsized from his job as a project manager for an automotive prototyping company, he's worried about those who have been.

"They've been pulling their money out of their 401(k) accounts, and a lot of companies don't pull taxes out when you cash in your account," he

On top of that, there is usually a 10-percent penalty for cashing in the account early, and the withdrawal may put the taxpayer in a higher tax

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bracket, which further impacts the tax bill.

The bottom line is a lot of these people are getting whacked and had no idea this was coming," he said.

Walter is right, Farmington Hills CPA Ron Silberstein said.

"Basically you need professional advice before you do anything," Silberstein said. It's a mistake that's fairly

common with Silberstein's

new clients, he said. "My existing clients contact me first, but that doesn't mean they don't cash in their accounts. If you need the money to pay the mortgage, you need it. It's just that

and the taxes," he said. Some companies will allow account holders to borrow money against their 401(k) accounts, he said. You usually have a limited time to pay it back, but you can avoid the fees and it doesn't count as

they're prepared for the fees

income, Silberstein said. "In effect, you're just borrowing the money instead of taking a distribution, so when you pay it back, you're just paying yourself back," he said.

But if you land another job quickly, you may need to be prepared to pay back the loan immediately or it could wind up qualifying as a distribution, which means you would have to ultimately pay the fee and the tax penalty, he cautioned.

Often, the penalty is worth the price, though, particularly if a job loss has led to oppor-

"A lot of times when people lose their jobs, they decide to open their own businesses or buy a franchise," Silberstein said. "So people take a buyout, and then use the money from the 401(k) account to do that, and that's fine. Just be sure to talk to someone before you take your money out.'

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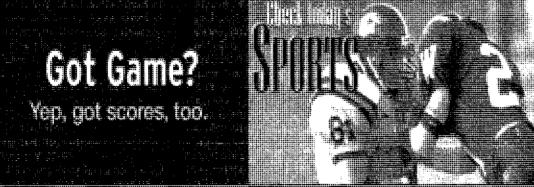


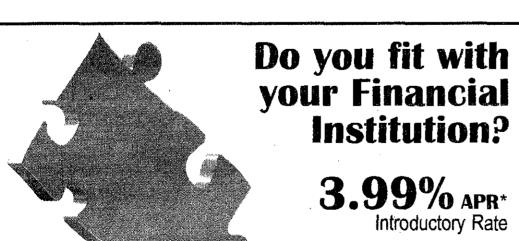
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#### **ACHIEVERS**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 30, 2006

Kaylene D. Wright, 12, of Westland has been named a semifinalist in the 2006 search for Huggable Heroes.

The recognition award program honors kids 18 years old and younger for their efforts to make the world a better place. Three years ago, Build-A-Bear Workshop launched Huggable Heroes to encourage and recognize volunteerism and community service among youth.

Kaylene is being recognized for her work with Youth Making a Difference. She collected used children and young adult books for the children's wing at Beaumont Hospital, donating almost 1,000 books.

As a semifinalist, Kaylene received a special certificate along with a Bear Bucks gift card. Ultimately, 12 will be hamed Huggable Heroes and honored this summer in Los Angeles. They will be featured in the 2007 Huggable Heroes calendar and will each receive a \$2,500 donation for their favorite cause.

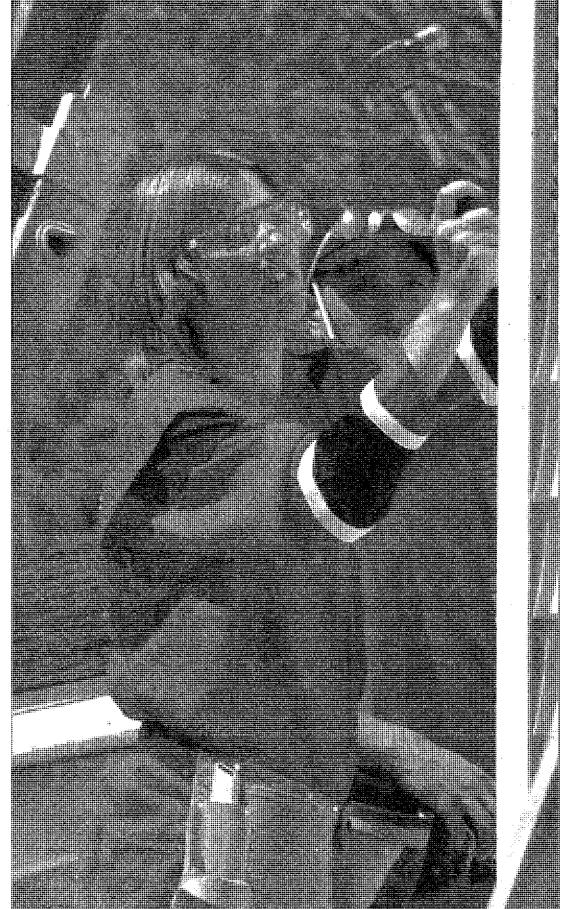
Bob Cosnowski of Dynamic Automotive in Westland is serving as past chairman of the Board of Directors of the Michigan **Automotive Parts** 

Association for 2006. He assumed the position at the association's recent quarterly meeting.

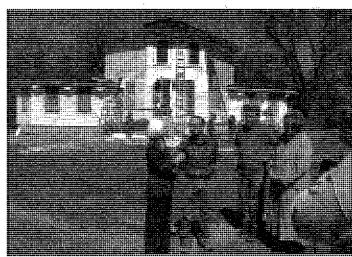
Jessica Clark of Westland played the role of Peter Quince in the Adrian College theatre department's recent presentation of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Clark is a junior, majoring in theatre and Japanese studies at Adrian. She is a graduate of John Glenn High School.

Jeffrey Hayton and Vaishali Mehta of Westland were honored at the recent Eastern Michigan University College of Business's 57th annual Honors Banquet after being named to the Dean's List.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli interviews instructor John Warra for the city's cable station, WLND. To Warra's right are John O'Leary of Nail Tite Construction Co. and Ginny Kowalski, principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. In the background, Warra's students and O'Leary's workers help fix up the historic Octagon House. Filming for WLND is Dave Monak.

#### OCTAGON

FROM PAGE A1

The students come from John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, Redford Union, Romulus and Melvindale high schools. They will working on the project for the remainder of the school

"It's good for them to get the hands-on work experience," Warra said.

He estimated that their labor would amount to \$10,000, if the city had to pay for it.

"This is important because it's a good partnership," Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said, glancing toward the Octagon House as students worked diligently. "Our budget is tight, so by partnering together it helps us renovate our historic buildings much sooner. This is a win-win situation for the schools and the city."

John O'Leary, a 1976 graduate of the Wayne-Westland building trades program who now owns Nail Tite Construction Co. in Wayne, brought in his employees to oversee the students' work and to offer advice.

"We're here to answer

their questions and get them going," he said. "It's a team effort, but the kids are doing the work."

Westland Housing/Community Development Director James Gilbert credited local historians with raising most of the \$5,000 needed to buy the vinyl siding. With help from students, he said, the city hopes to finish repairing the Octagon House within a

couple of years. Jo Johnson, who chairs the Westland Historical Commission, said local historians appreciate the help from students.

"I'm really happy that we're getting the outside work done," she said. "We're hoping they'll do the inside in the fall."

Warra confirmed that his students will likely help with indoor repairs, too.

The Octagon House originally stood in the area of Newburgh south of Joy, then it was moved to Warren west of Hix. Some historians had feared it would be torn down, but it was rescued by being moved a few years ago to the Westland Historic Village Park site.

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Brad Noyes, a junior at John Glenn High School, nails siding onto the house.

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## INFORMATION CENTRAL

Contrary to popular belief, the library does contain materials that are representative of modern popular culture. We have managed to part with various archaic collections of century old newspapers and printing presses to make room for more than 200 shiny new magazine subscriptions.

Incorporate spring into all areas of your life with the rejuvenating articles and ideas various magazines have to

The birds in the air and warming weather that comes with spring often awakens the long-hibernating urge in us to get into shape. Magazines, such as Muscle and Fitness and Shape, are for serious fitness-freaks, or at least body-builder wannabes, and if the articles fail to inspire, the pictures definitely will.

For information about living a healthy lifestyle in a general sense. browse through Men's Health or Health, which contain recipes, exercises, and an overall look at health in general.

Or, if you're sick of the boring exercise routine and are in the mood for something new, flip through Yoga

gear with alternative exercise meth-Of course, with your brand new

body shape on the horizon, new duds are a necessity, and spring is the perfect time to overhaul your wardrobe. To assist you in your efforts, we have In Style magazine, as well as the evertrendy Vogue and Glamour, or Modern Bride, if you have more exciting summer plans than the rest of us.

Don't worry, men, you are not forgotten. GO graces our shelves as well, offering the latest spring fashions and the season's hottest finds for men.

It isn't called spring cleaning for nothing. Whether you feel like it or not, this season is perfect for getting your house and yard straightened up as-well.

Let the hammering and painting begin with Family Handyman, if your house is in need of a new look, or dress up the house and yard with hints from home-economics guru Martha Stewart in Martha Stewart Living.

Can't wait to get your hands in the dirt? Pick up Horticulture or Qrganic

Gardening in time for the growing season and let the planning begin.

If any of these titles seem interesting to you (or even if they don't - we have more!), come to the library and check out our magazine collection to begin the transition between winter and spring. The newest issues are for library use only, but everything else can be checked out for one week. Call (734)326-6123, if you have any gues-

Duct Tape for Teens: 2 p.m. April 30 Hey, teens, get stuck on duct tape. Master the art of tape creations with duct tape maestro extraordinary William Beacom. Who needs Gucci or Coach when you have duct tape?

Microsoft Word for Beginners: 7 p.m. May 1.

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets users create a variety of documents. including letters and resumes. **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-



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#### **Bowling benefit**

The Westland Jaycees will be hosting a Bowl-a-Thon Sunday, May 21, to raise funds to purchase a Thermal Imager for the City of Westland Fire

Department. The fund-raiser will be held at Town and Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale. Registration begins at 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and includes three games, shoes, pizza and a pop, mystery games and door prizes. Or get in free with \$40 in donations.

For more information or to confirm a spot, call the Westland Jaycees hotline at (734) 26-0400 and leave a message or Bryan Lakotas at (734) 326-7380.

#### Baby shower

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital's Childbirth and Maternal Services Department will have a Community Baby Shower 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 18, in the second floor conference room of the hospital, 33155 Annapolis at Venoy in Wayne.

All pregnant and perspective couples are invited to attend the evening of fun, information and prizes. Child birth educators, pediatric nurses, car seat specialists and physicians will be on hand to answer questions. Formula representatives also will have information available.

Registration is preferred and women and couples interested in attending can call the Maternal Services Department at (734) 467-457- or (734) 457-5588 or by e-mail at gerakd@oakwood.org.

#### Summer camp

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registration for 2006 Summer Day Camp at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne. Registration will be accepted in person 4-6 p.m. May 2, 4, 9, 11, 23, 25 and June 6, 8, 12 and 13. For an appointment, call (734) 721-7400, Ext. 1306.

Day Camp begins June 14 and runs through Aug. 25. It will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday for children ages 5-13. Daily, weekly and full season rates are available.

Daily activities include vimming, ice skating (A only), arts and crafts, sports and board games, wallyball, outdoor play and more. There also will be field trips every

#### week and special events. Sneak preview

Wayne-Westland's Class of 2019 will get a sneak peek at what is waiting for them in kindergarten.

From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 12, incoming kindergarten students at Lincoln Elementary School, 33800 Grand Traverse, Westland, are invited to spend some time in their future classroom with current students and teachers.

While the students are busy in the classroom the parents will meet with the principal and receive a welcome.

For more information, call the school at (734) 419-2700.

#### **DEATHS**

Robert Anthony Babiarz Babiarz, 54, formerly of Rochester Hills, died April 26.

**Bessie Farmer** Farmer, 103, formerly of Farmington

Hills, died April 26.

Peggy Grunewald Grunewald, 78, of Plymouth, died April

Ward James Haidle Haidle, 45, formerly of Royal Oak, died

Maureen Theresa O'Connor O'Connor, 64, of Plymouth, died April 23.

Robert A. Schuele

Schuele, 41, of Birmingham, died April 20. **Ann Burbank Taylor** 

Taylor, 78, of Plymouth, died April 21, **Geraldine Thomas** Thomas, 74, of Westland, died April 23. Audrey Virginia Tucker

Tucker, 70, of Wayne, died April 26.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C4.

#### **AROUND WESTLAND**

#### MHS program Mother's Day benefit

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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.

#### Flower sale

The John Glenn High School Instrumental Music Parent Booster Program will be holding a flower Mother's Day weekend in front of Harlow Tires on Wayne Road just south of Ford.

The sale will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, and will feature hanging baskets for \$15 each.

#### 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.

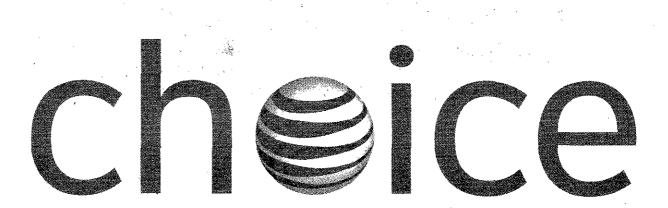
Michael Carluccio as Frank Sinatra and former Westland

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-

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# Feikens warns that disputes over water rates must end

STAFF WRITER

Warning that political squabbles over water and sewer rates could severely damage efforts to maintain the region's aging water infrastructure, federal District Judge John Feikens urged area political leaders to end their bickering and cooper-

Feikens, who was appointed in 1977 to oversee the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's compliance with the federal Clean Water Act, was the keynote speaker Thursday at an all-day forum on water issues co-sponsored by DWSD and the Southeast Michigan Conference of

Governments. "I foresee that if Detroit and the suburbs stay in this stalemate, the financing that is needed for repair and maintenance of the infrastructure will disappear," he said.

Feikens said Detroit's dramatic growth following World War II and the sprawling suburban development that followed the interstate highway system in the late 1950s has created enormous pressures on a water and sewer system that now serves almost half of the state's population. Feikens' role in overseeing compliance with the Clean Water Act has expanded into every aspect of DWSD operations, including the ongoing disputes over rates charged to suburban communities and the handling of con-

tracts by the department. State Sen. Laura Toy, R- Livonia, has twice sponsored bills to create an oversight authority to give suburbs more input on rates and contracts. Both times the measures were vetoed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Feikens said he believes the racial tensions between the city and suburbs have been a contributing factor.

"My work with the Civil Rights Commission made me aware of tensions in that area," he said. "In recent decisions, the DWSD system, vital as it is, has received challenges from suburban communities who have no say in its ownership. This will not be solved by legislation or litigation, but only by cooperation."

Feikens said Detroit needs a governing system "worthy of this gift," the area's rich water resource.

"Suburbs and city need each other. This long-running dispute over water rates must end," he said.

Feikens called for a bipartisan approach. He praised the leadership of William Ford Jr. and Tim O'Brien of Ford Motor Co. in their work with the Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality. He also praised former Republican Gov. William Milliken, a member of committee to recommend ways to end the city-suburban disputes, as a model of bipartisan leadership.

"Keep your powder dry and think of ways we can assure the

region's future together,' Feikens said. "By the end of September, I expect a report and recommendations. They will work in ways that are con-

structive and cooperative." Feikens also praised the current management of DWSD under the direction of Victor Mercado.

Feikens' concerns about the water system's infrastructure were echoed by lunchtime speaker Jack Hoffbuhr, executive director of the American Water Works Association. He warned that most pipes in the water system will soon be wearing out.

He said money has been pumped into governmentmandated treatment programs, which have changed over time to meet changing health and safety concerns. Meanwhile, not enough money has been invested in replacing piping.

"We should have been talking what was happening to their equity," he said.

He said water rates are too low. He said the rates don't reflect adequate funding for repairs and rehabilitation. He added that rates will have to go up to "support sustainable delivery of reliable service.

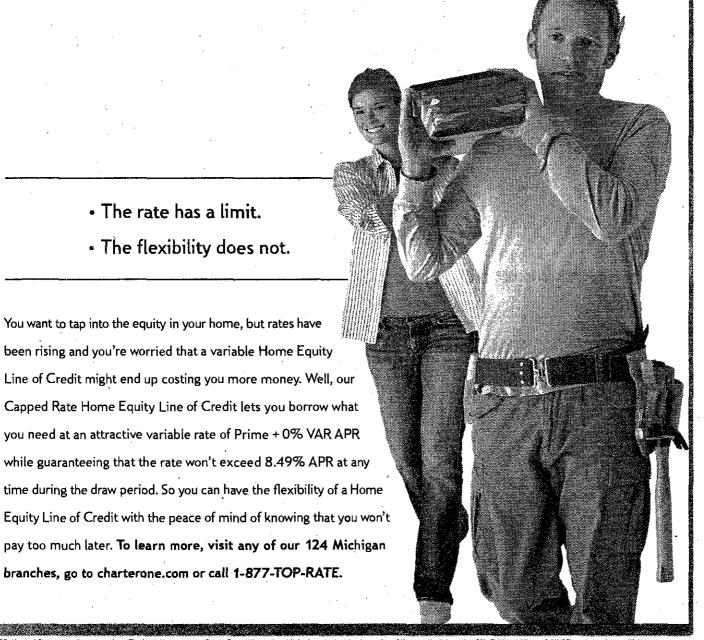
The Partnering for the Future forum was held at the Ford Conference and Event Center in Dearborn. Concurrent sessions covered security issues, developments in operations and regional collaboration.

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#### **Arthritis Today**

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**ANOTHER LOOK AT FOOT PAIN** 

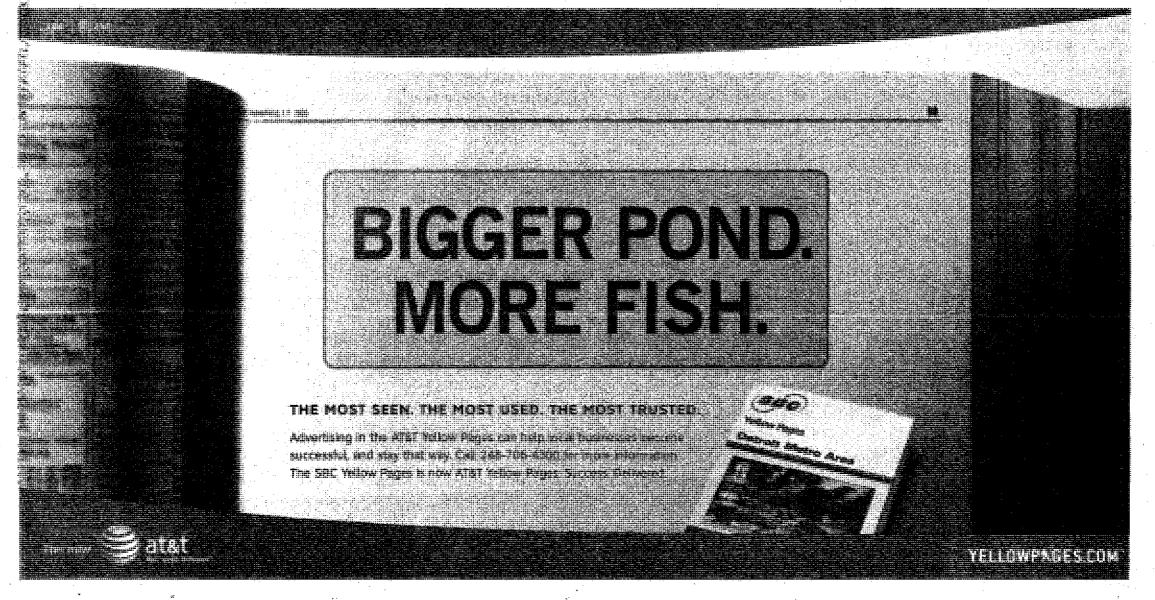
A painful foot gets your attention immediately. Being unable to walk is a nuisance at best and a catastrophe at worse; you don't put off seeking out a specialist. Howeve there is much about the pain that allows you to gain an idea of what is happening, and even take measures, on you own, to alleviate the problem.

The first question to ask yourself is "where is the pain coming from"? If the pain starts on the inside of the first toe, on top of the foot, or on the outside and back of the foot, consider your shoes as the source. Feet only grow wider as you grow older. The shoe you wear may not have adjusted to your age; your pain comes from pressure on the foot. The next question to ask is: What is the state of your health? If you are a diabetic your pain may be a reflection of diabetic neuropathy. If you have poor circulation your foot

pain could represent difficulty in the blood supply to the foot area. Other problems including gout, types of arthritis like psoriatic or rheumatoid, or problems in the bottom of the feet such as plantar fasciitis need evaluation by a physician

Often, your pain will not need medication or a procedure. Rather, use of supports, in the profession called orthotics. Will provide the foundation your feet need. Generally, the medical community can care for foot problems. In part the reason is that feet are vital to function, and a foot problem gets prompt attention. In turn, immediate care is the best way to prevent later complications and impairment.

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# It's Election Day; get out and vote

On Tuesday, Westland voters will go to the polls to fill positions on the Wayne-Westland and Livonia school boards.

In Wayne-Westland, incumbent trustee Frederick Weaver is a shoo-in for the one seat up for grabs in the election. He is the only candidate for a second four-year term on the school board.

Weaver has shown strong leadership and innovation as a member of the school board. During his time as president, the board has stage Project 180 Can Do! aimed at helping families and instituted the Lighthouse Education Award for top achieving schools in the district. But the lack of competition doesn't mean voters should stay away from the polls on Election Day. Weaver has accepted the challenges of serving on the board, and a vote Tuesday will tell him how well he is doing.

We urge resident to take the few minutes needed to cast their vote for Frederick Weaver for school board.

In the Livonia Public Schools, Steve King is challenging incumbent Joanne Morgan for a four-year term on the school board.

Morgan has been an articulate, respected leader on the school board and a strong advocate for educational funding.

But considering the controversy that has enveloped the district almost since the unveiling of the Legacy Initiative, we believe it's

almost since the unveiling of the Legacy Initiative, we believe its time for a new perspective.

As a candidate for the board before, King has shown he's not a one-issue candidate. He knows the community and its history as

both a student and parent. He proposes to bring a needed new level of transparency to the board, something that is certainly important in this time of conflict.

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.

We urge Westland residents living in the Livonia school district

to go to the polls Tuesday and vote for **Steve King**.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

# Trout fishing opener is filled with promise

For thousands of Michigan anglers, the weekend in April has special significance. It is the traditional opener for trout fishing for most of the streams in the state.

In particular, fly fishermen (and a growing number of fisherwomen) are returning to familiar streams in search of rainbows and browns, as well as the beautiful brook trout, the state fish and a living symbol of Michigan's wilderness past.

What draws anglers out of their winter slumbers are the many rivers and streams that cut across our state. Michigan literally has thousands of miles of top-quality trout streams, some 36,000 miles of which are navigable by canoe or small boat. They run cold and clear, and travel through some of the most idyllic wilderness landscapes our state has to offer. There is a reason a number of them have been designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Many anglers will attest there are few things more peaceful than stepping into a trout stream on a warm spring day, with a hatch of insects drawing the surface strikes from trout lurking in the river's shadows. Wildlife sightings are common along such rivers, and the sounds of the modern world are seemingly a million miles away.

And if you haven't previously had the opportunity to fish a trout stream, it really is a great way to enjoy Michigan's natural side.

#### **LETTERS**

numbers.

#### Vote King – time for a change

I am writing to comment on the upcoming Livonia school board election and its candidates. The Livonia school board has not listened to the community in passing the Legacy Initiative. With over 8,000 signatures on the petitions, it seems clear that the community does not approve of this change to our schools.

The current BOE member, up for re-election, clearly has not worked with the community regarding this plan. She was on the Demographics Committee, which developed, decided upon and voted to approve this plan — a clear conflict of interest in my mind. She has, in fact, ignored the comments many of us who oppose this Legacy Initiative have submitted to her. That is why I feel it is time for a change.

My vote will be for Steve King! He is committed to this community and will not be a "rubber stamper" for the LPS administration. Steve King has innovative ideas for budget cuts. Steve King will help to implement plans that really do improve student learning, rather than hurt it as the Legacy Initiative does. Please get out to vote May 2 — let your voice be heard.

Yvonne Evans Livonia

#### Use your head: Vote Morgan

I am writing to encourage voters to look beyond the Legacy Initiative when casting their vote for Livonia school board trustee May 2.

The Board of Education made a decision that it believes is fiscally responsible and in the best interest of preserving quality education for the children of the Livonia Public Schools. Whether you agree with this decision or not, please vote with your head and not with your heart.

Look at the qualifications of both candidates, watch the replays of the debates between the candidates, and decide who has put in the time and effort to understand the issues facing schools today. Who has been involved in our schools? Who has been proactive in legislating for our kids? Who has kept up to date on changes in education? The answer to these questions is clearly Joanne Morgan.

On May 2, come out and cast your vote for the candidate who has the experience to lead our district into the next decade — join me in voting for Joanne Morgan.

Vicki Wysocki Livonia

#### Supporting new ideas, King

Joanne Morgan might have decades of experience, but her ideas seem to be old ideas. Steve King is expressing very new ideas; they might even be too new for the LPS "old boy network." He is challenging a seat on the LPS board, and I support him. I disagree with the Legacy Initiative, and I've had my say about it. Normally, I'd refrain from further argument, but Peter Heikkinen wrote a few things in his April 13 letter that I won't ignore.

Mr. Heikkinen, you obviously intended to deride the "redcamp" as you call them and, to that end, you dubbed Steve King the "red-camp poster boy." I'm disabled, and I'm offended by that. The term "poster-boy" does — for you I guess evoke pathetic images meant to gain sympathy for hopeless causes.

You mentioned declining enrollment. As far as I know, no one is accusing the LPS board of being responsible for a decline in enrollment. I think the point of contention is over the interpretation of a trend in enrollment statistics. The tail end of the baby boom began to graduate in the '80s, and LPS

suffered its lowest tide of students by 1994-95. However, from 1994-95 to 2004-05, student enrollment rose by over 1,100 students. When the board uses declining enrollment to support its decision, it only discusses the whole decline — which we have operated under for 10 years without a total redesign of our school system — and it ignores the growing

CLF, on the other hand, feels the upward trend in enrollment and — LESS DRASTIC — cost cutting will work better than the Legacy Initiative.

Also, Lincoln said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." That quote seems to support "The Red-Camp" when they want more proof that the fiscal sky is suddenly falling. However, you are right when you say, "It seems children handle necessary change on a level less complicated than their parents." Except this issue is too complicated for children to decide, and many adults are not convinced this change is necessary.

E. Garbus Livonia

#### Morgan's worked tirelessly

Declining school enrollment and uncertainty of funding make this a challenging time in public education for Livonia. It is critical that we elect a school board member who is experienced and understands the problems we are facing and how to work positively to resolve them.

Joanne Morgan is a proven asset to the Livonia Board of Education. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of everyone in our community. Jo is a team player who has done an excellent job. She cares about kids and she cares about their quality of education. We are lucky that she agreed to run for reelection in these contentious times. She deserves your vote, because the kids need her.

Pat Tancili Livonia

#### Vote conscience – King

The Legacy Initiative — Cliff's Notes:

A) Is a plan to close 23 percent of our schools to save less

A) is a plan to close 23 percent of our schools to save less than 1 percent of the LPS budget.

B) Increases busing by over 40 percent.

C) Increases risk of injury or fatality to your children while busing since there was no formal study as to how to accommodate all the increased busing.
D) Decreases community involvement by spreading our

children all over the city and beyond city limits.

E) Has caused a bitterly divided city with red and blue

signs, but is mainly the LPS administration vs. families with children.

F) May have significant negative impact on property values

(approximately \$20,000 per household) by repelling young families from moving to Livonia due to the changes to the school system.

G) Creates havoc with children's extracurricular activities due to the multiple layer busing schedules.
H) Trades your home equity values to the land developers.

I) Creates large schools with multiple transitions.

J) Gambles with your child's educational future with radical changes to a successful school system.

K) Violates the concept of neighborhood schools that Livonia was based on.

Steve King opposes the Legacy Initiative. Please listen to your conscience and vote for Steve King May 2.

Mark Wojcik Livonia

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