



# Cicirelli files for judge's seat

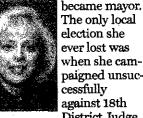
#### **BY DARRELL CLEM** STAFF WRITER

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will run unopposed in November for the 18th District Court seat being vacated by retiring Judge Gail McKnight.

Cicirelli, 54, will be poised to make history by becoming the first elected official to serve as Westland City Council member, mayor and district judge.

Moreover, she would start her six-year, \$138,272-a-year judicial job on Jan. 1 - her birthday.

"The residents have been good to me," Cicirelli said Wednesday. As a judge, "I'm going to continue to work as hard for them as I have as a council member or as mayor Westland." As Tuesday's filing deadline passed, Cicirelli emerged as the sole candidate to replace McKnight, who will leave after being a judge for nearly 22 years. "Certainly being a district court judge has been a career goal of mine for many years," Cicirelli said, during a telephone interview. "This opportunity has presented itself with the judge retiring." Cicirelli will leave after serving only one year of her second four-year mayoral term. Her salary will increase by \$42,298, jumping from \$95,974 to \$138,272. "It's bittersweet, because I have really enjoyed being the mayor of Westland and working hard for the residents," she said. "They've been good to me throughout my political career. I'll still be working for the community, just in a different capacity."



election she ever lost was when she campaigned unsuccessfully against 18th District Judge C. Charles

Cicirelli Bokos in 1994.

Cicirelli will leave her mayoral job after steering the city amid tough economic times. Westland's budget surplus is projected at \$2,3 million for the one-year spending cycle that ends June 30 - up nearly \$1 million from just a year ago.

When Cicirelli assumes her judicial post, council President William Wild will be in line to replace her as mayor, according

TOM HAWLEY I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some of the younger skaters in the Westland Figure Skating Club hold hands during a dress rehearsal to the music of Swan Lake. The annual show opens tomorrow evening at the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

## Skate club 'dances' into 2006 ice show

#### BY SUE MASON. STAFF WRITER

Hip-hop, jazz, ballet, salsa, line dancing and swing. Pick a musical style and you're bound to hear it at the Westland Figure Skating Club's annual ice revue, "Let's Dance," Friday through Sunday at the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

"Not only are we going to do our short skates, we're doing dancing on skates," said director Keri LeDuc.

Close to 100 skaters ranging in age from 3 years to adult will perform in the show, including several mothers of

skaters who plan to dance to Party All the Time.

"They got together and decided they wanted to do something," said LeDuc. "They started taking lessons to prepare for it."

The performers are enrolled in the Learn to Skate program or are competitive skaters who take private lessons at the arena. They will perform in groups, as pairs and as soloists in the show.

Three skaters - Andrea Salamay, Samantha Daugherty and Marleija Jackson - will perform as the fund-raising soloists, an honor given to skaters who raised the most money for the organization

And for the first time ever, there will be tri-soloists -Allison Brown, Allison Gutowski and Marissa Ziegler

- who will perform together. One of the skaters who tried out and was selected to be a soloists is Danielle Mika who has been skating since age 3. A veteran of the arena's ice shows, her performances will cover everything from country to hip hop to ballet.

"I'm both nervous and excited," she said. "My biggest worry is that I'll fall down. I

PLEASE SEE ICE SHOW, A4

### **'LET'S DANCE'**

What: Westland Figure Skating Club's 2006 ice revue. When: 7 p.m. Friday, May, 5, 6 p.m. Saturday, May 6, and 1 p.m. Sunday, May 7. Where: Mike Madono Ice Arena, 6210 Wildwood, north of Ford, Westland, Cost: Tickets are \$5 for children age 12 and under and senior citizens and \$6 for adults. Advance tickets are available at the ice rink.

Cicirelli served 12 years on the city council before she

to rules set forth in the city charter.

"I think the city will be left in good hands, and I pledge to Bill that I will help him or whomever would succeed me," Cicirelli said.

According to City Clerk Eileen DeHart, Wild, as council president, would become mayor until the next round of city elections in 2007, meaning he would serve at least one vear.

Cicirelli became mayor during a tumultuous era in citv politics, but she said she and the council worked to restore calm,

"I hope that my successor will continue on that path," she said Wednesday.

Cicirelli dismissed any speculation that she will be a lameduck mayor.

"I will be mayor for the rest of this year," she said. "I will work as hard as I did the first day I became mayor."

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



Sharon Konfara, secretary and 'detective,' sits at her desk in the Westland **Police Department** Detective Bureau.

## 'Detective' Sharon is 'truly an asset'

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A nameplate on her desk identifies her as "Detective" Sharon.

Never mind that she's a secretary.

Just ask the investigators in the Westland Police

Department Detective Bureau, and they'll confirm that Sharon Konfara is essentially both.

And it doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple or Columbo to figure it out. Even Barney Fife could find enough clues to prove it.

"Sharon is truly an asset to the detective bureau and would be hard to replace," said Lt. James Ridener, who heads up the bureau.

It doesn't take a magnifying glass to discover why Konfara, 47, has been named Administrative Professional of the Year in a competition by

the Westland Chamber of Commerce and Westland Shopping Center.

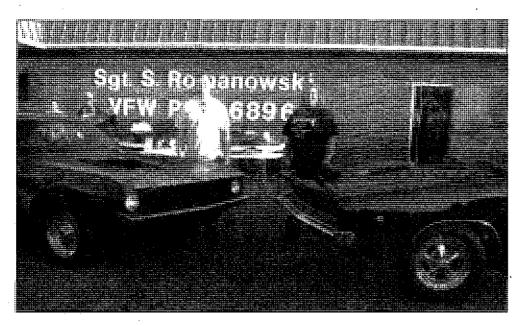
The evidence has been mounting since Konfara, a city employee since 1997, took on her current assignment three years ago.

PLEASE SEE AWARD, A4



### LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006



### **Cruisers of the Week**

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week goes to Charlie Lein (left) of Livonia with his 1970 Plymouth 'Cuda. The car has custom true flames, 383 cubic-inch engine with a 413 wedge crank, elebrock heads, compression cam and 750 holley carb. It also has a 426 hemi 4-speed transmission and 430 positraction rear end. The realistic flame paint job is on the front of the car as well as inside the engine compartment. Westside Car Club member of the week is Jane and John Currier, also of Livonia, with their all black 1968 Dodge Charger with a 440 CID engine. Their street machine puts out about 425 horsepower. The club holds car shows 5 p.m. to dusk Wednesdays at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy Road in Westland. The next show will be Wednesday, May 10.

## Co-principals excited to create new upper elementary school

#### BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public School officials are shaping the future of the district, as three upper elementary buildings begin to take form.

Next fall, students in the district will attend lower elementary schools for grades K-4, upper elementary schools for grades 5-6, then move onto middle and high schools.

The upper elementary buildings will mark new territory for the district. Cooper and Johnson elementary schools will transform into upper elementary buildings, as Riley is altered from a middle school to an upper elementary school.

"It is the most exciting thing I've ever done," said Principal Linda Minsterman, who will move from Hayes to Johnson as a co-principal. "We have a chance to think outside of the box.

The co-principals have been

stages," said Minsterman. "A lot more will come together after our professional development day.

That meeting, set for today, April 27, will allow co-principals to meet with their entire staffs for the first time.

The co-principal title differs from the principal and assistant principal relationship. Though Minsterman said they are still working out the details, she and co-principal Richard Steele will each be responsible for a group of students and a group of staff members. How those students and staff will be divided is yet to be determined.

Parents will have a primary contact, Minsterman said. But co-principals will work very closely. If one person is unavailable, the other would be as knowledgeable and capable of handling an issue.

Steele, the current Johnson principal, said he's pleased to be staying in the community

The schools will be tailored for their fifth and sixth grade students' needs.

'We're focusing in on their social as well as academic needs," said Steele. "These students are different than K-4." He said activities will reflect

the age group. Minsterman agreed. She said her primary objective is to "keep it an elementary school."

But she noted that the 5-6 concept allows educators to "address the needs of tweens."

"We will be much more able to meet their special needs," she said. "Assemblies will be much more meaningful. There will be a lot more activities."

Once the staff is in place, Minsterman said, they will be able to work together on more specific details of what the school will offer.

Steele said the challenges of creating a new school have included finding time to meet, and get staff together.

He said he's enjoyed visiting

## Hot off the press

Canton girls publish 'zine' for fun and to raise awareness about their interests

#### BY NANCY DEUTSCH CORRESPONDENT

The Canton Observer has a new rival. Well, among the 9- and 10-year-olds in the community, perhaps.

Titled the Chat Brats, the magazine was started last July by three industrious young friends from Canton, and its ninth issue has just been published.

"We used to write really, really small ones," recalled Nicolette Longuski, 11, one of the girls who started the paper. While the first issue of the monthly publication ran 14 pages, the last one was a whopping 26 pages.

The magazine contains articles written by the girls and their friends about anything and everything that interests them: friends, charitable causes, pets and school. There are joke pages, contests, surveys and puzzles. Pictures abound, too - photos those taken by the girls' mothers and themselves, as well as those taken from various Web sites, and clip art.

Chat Brats was the brainchild of Emily Sartorius, 9, twin sister of Erin Sartorius, who also writes for the paper.

Emily wanted to do a summer project, got her sister and friend interested, and they developed a magazine that took off with family and friends.

"I like to write a bunch of different articles," said Emily.

She often writes about animals and helping people, and asks readers to complete a survey, with results running in a subsequent issue. In March, they asked readers to vote on their favorite car and e-mail answers. (The kids chose the Dodge Viper.)

Erin said that when they don't get enough of a response via e-mail, they go around their classroom asking peers for their answers.

While Erin and Emily attend fourth grade at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth, Nicolette is in fifth grade at Isbister Elementary. The friends met when their brothers played on the same hockey team - the Plymouth Sharks. In the summer, they often worked together,

but more individual work is done when school is on and it's more difficult to find the time, or opportunity, to write for the magazine together.

They also ask friends to submit articles, and many comply.

While they started out with 40 copies, the trio now hand out and mail more than 100 copies of their publication. They send some to family in New York, Colorado and Missouri, Erin said. Originally the families of the two girls split the cost of printing and mailing.

"We were printing it on my printer and it was a lot," said Barbara Sartorius, the twins' mother. Now they have a family friend to thank for making copies free of charge through his company, the Performance Engineering Group in Livonia.

"As long as they keep writing it, we'll keep printing it," said Al Deal, president of the company. "You never know, when you help someone out, it may take their life in a different direc-



Twins Emily and Erin Sartorious and friend Nicollette Longuski (center) are publishers of Chat Brats, a magazine for friends and neighbors.

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#### tion."

10] The girls themselves seem interested in helping many people out, and use their publication to help raise awareness and funds for various causes and friends. They raised money for the Huron Valley Humane Society, the Guardian Angel Rescue Shelter in Livonia, a young girl named Paige Doutre with a rare blood disease, ski and for their friend Andri Hill, who had a heart transplant.

The friends raised money by selling bracelets  $\frac{1}{2}$ and lemonade, holding car washes, bottle drives and bake sales, and through various other ventures. They are now working out the details to hold a pajama party that would raise money for Paige, Emily said.

The name of the magazine is cute, but an QI.S obvious misnomer. These girls are far from brats, but Nicolette chose the name because it 17 sounded fun, and it has caught on.

"People are always saying, 'When's the Chat Brat coming out?" Nicolette said.

Emily said that people call them by that name now too. "They say, There's the chat brats."

As for the future, the good-hearted threesome plan to continue to raise awareness for causes they believe in, and to publish their popular 'zine'.

They also are all working hard at school. Erin and Nicolette are contemplating a future as teachers, but Emily thinks that journalism is more up her alley.

meeting regularly, to plan for the coming school year and configuration shift. They visited other upper elementary schools - Saline Heritage and Novi Meadows - to get a feel for what possibilities this change will bring.

"We're still in the planning

and looking forward to developing that community with its feeder schools, as well as Frost and Churchill.

And Minsterman is no stranger to Johnson territory. "Johnson is old home to me," she said. "I'm going back to a place I know.

with students from the feeder elementary schools and hearing from parents at PTA meetings.

We're excited," said Steele. "I can't wait to open the doors next year and bring in the students and staff." scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

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## Franklin's top art students join art honor society

This marks the first year of Franklin High School's National Art Honor Society. Already 34 students have earned recognition for their work in a variety of media.

"We were really looking for another way to recognize students," said Jeremy Rheault, an art teacher at the school. "The National Honor Society is more academic."

While he had heard about the National Art Honor Society, Rheault wanted to look further into it before establishing a chapter at Franklin. Last November, he made it happen.

"The art department selects students in grades 10 through 12 who have outstanding artistic ability and have developed that

artistic ability within their com-

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munity."

Students inducted into the NAHS are expected to show "strong moral character," Rheault explained. They must carry a high artistic grade point average, and are generally selected by art teachers.

Inaugural members were happy to be inducted, Rheault noted, during a ceremony held last month. Those students will receive recognition, an opportunity for scholarships and a boost on college and university applications, he added.

As a staff member, Rheault said he's "really proud of the students. They work extremely hard."

Many of them choose to take advanced art classes at Franklin. Student work has been featured at both the school's art show and the recent district-wide art festival at Livonia's Civic Center Library. Visit http:// www.livonia.k12.mi.us/schools/high/fran klin/depart/art/ARTSITE/Temp lates/honors.htm.

By Stephanie A. Casola

### **FRANKLIN'S INDUCTEES**

National Art Honor Society 2006 inductees at Franklin High School included: Sophomores: Tiffany Bigger, Paige Scarpace, Chloe Songalewski, Ryan Staniszewski and Zack Wojnar. Juniors: Nadera

Ambuamsha, Mark Baaso, Nicki Butler, Tony Calleja, Hannah Dunbar, Jessica Eskildsen, Randy Garvin, Cassie Haupt, Amber Hewitt, Tony Hope, Jessica Lomas, Rosanna Rubago and Alan Vezina. n Seniors: Beth Bailey, Olivia Byrd, Erik Cierpial, Andrea Drake, Andy Furton, Tim Gault, Ryan Gilliland, Nicole Mueller, Stephanie Sielicki, Mary Smith, Steve South, Jacklyn Trimboli, Chelsea Tucker, Shaun Walla, Michael Warren and Rebekah Zurenko.



#### Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

## Local woman takes council on aging post

#### BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Roberta "Bobbie" Pummill of Westland has been quick to learn a lesson: Slow down.

Pummill, who for eight years was the program director at the Plymouth YMCA administering programs for children, admits she'll have to slow the pace a bit to keep up with seniors in her new position as program director for the Plymouth

Community Council on Aging. "At the Y' I dealt mainly with young parents who would be in a hurry to drop off their kids before heading to work," Pummill said. "Here, people have more time to participate and enjoy the programs. They're not on such a rigid time schedule.

Pummill takes over the position held for five years by Marsha Koet of Plymouth, who left to become the coordinator of senior programs for the city of Dearborn.

"I wanted to do something to stay in Plymouth," said Pummill, a former program coordinator for the Wayne-Westland YMCA. "I'm familiar with the people and businesses, and it felt comfortable for me to stay. It's the

The city of Westland will par-

ticipate in the 13th annual

National Senior Health &

Fitness Day starting at 9 a.m.

Friday, May 19, at the senior

The event is expected to run

"This annual event brings

together many of the programs

and classes we offer senior citi-

zens every day at the city's

Friendship Center," Mayor

pared statement. "The day

The day will begin with warm-up exercises for those

planning to walk from the

Brown Central City Park and

fitness for our seniors."

Sandra Cicirelli said in a pre-

reflects our focus on health and

Friendship Center to Thomas H.

Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford.

until 1 p.m.

Seniors take walk for Health, Fitness



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland's Roberta (Bobbie) Pummill is the new program director of the **Plymouth Community Council on** Aging

same type of work, just a different group of people.

"I'll be active, getting exercise in my work day with the walking club," she added. "I'll be able to get out and do activities. That's the best way to get to know people, and I intend to do that.

Phyllis Hess, Council on Aging board member and a former director of the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, said the board was very impressed with Pummill during the search for a new program director.

"We felt she was such a good person, and had the maturity we were looking for, which is important in working with seniors," Hess said. tbruscato@hometowalife.com (734) 459-2700

back. Police officers will assist

seniors in crossing roads, and

firefighters will provide water

walk, exercises will be done

For those who can't make the

along the route.

sitting in a chair.

## **Voters put King on board**

### Morgan to remain an advocate

#### BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

Steve King proved the fourth time is the charm when it comes to running for a seat on the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

King defeated incumbent Joanne Morgan Tuesday in the school board election. He took 4,530 votes, while Morgan took 3,650 votes. The margin was 55 percent to 45 percent. "I really feel I've been validated," said King, who has run for this position consecutively

since 2003. King is a Livonia resident, father of four and leader of the band Steve King and the Dittilies. He said his initial reaction when receiving the news Tuesday night was nothing less than "elated."

'I'm mostly happy for -- not me - but the people who worked so hard," King said Wednesday morning. Many of those were people

motivated by the school boardapproved Legacy Initiative reorganization plan, aimed to cut spending and save programs by closing schools. The plan has sparked much opposition and an effort to try to set up a recall election of five other board members.

King said supporters "came out of the woodwork" this year. Residents he had never met showed up on his doorstep, created their own flyers and phone banks to promote King for trustee, he said.

According to City Clerk Val Vandersloot, 8,202 voters cast ballots in Tuesday's election. That translates to 9.54 percent of registered voters who made it out to the polls or cast absentee ballots in this election.

"If it had not been raining for nine hours straight, we would've had more than 10,000," King said. For school elections,

Vandersloot called it "the highest turnout since the 2000

millage" when more than 9,000 people voted. She noted that the Legacy Initiative motivated residents to vote.

"The highest turnout was in schools scheduled to close," said Vandersloot. Some of the district's smallest schools brought out many voters, she said. Adams Elementary, she said, had 18 percent turnout, and Hull Elementary had about 15 percent turnout.

King said he hopes to use his victory to work toward halting. the Legacy Initiative, as well as the recall effort. He supports the idea of re-creating a demographics committee that represents everyone in the district, he said, in order to look at what's best for the future of Livonia Public Schools.

And as he stated during his candidacy, King said he will be a voice for the people. "I'm so grateful to so many," he said.

With 10 years of board experience to her credit, Morgan said the results will not deter



A3

(W)

#### King

her involvement in the district.

In an e-mail message on election night, she wrote: "I truly believe that we must meet all change and challenges with hope, looking for the opportunities it presents.

"This election, while disappointing, gives me a chance to speak to the community from the other side of the board table, where I am not bound by my trusteeship. Advocacy has always been my passion, and perhaps this is a new opportunity to serve.

Morgan's term will end on June 30 and King will begin his four-year term on July 1. scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

## Weaver gets 2nd term in Wayne-Westland vote

It was a given that Frederick Weaver would win in Tuesday's Wayne-Westland school election. He was the lone candidate for the one-year term that was up for grabs.

And the lack of interest was apparent at the poll where workers had little to do during the 13-hour voting period. Weaver, the current school board president, received 2,034 in the election, a majority of which were cast by absentee voters.

In voting in Westland and portions of Dearborn Heights and Canton, Weaver received 1,520 votes. Of that number, 1,363 were by absentee ballot, leaving only 157 voters showing up at the polls.

In the city of Wayne, 298 residents voted in the election – 203 by absentee ballot and 95 at the polls. In the Inkster portion of the district, where there was a city-wide ballot issue, the clerk reported 216 votes Wayne-Westland election attracted only 216 votes.

**Fred Weaver** 

## Local man reports break-in of his backyard shed

Westland police that someone broke into a backyard shed at his home in the 1200 block of Selma between 12:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturday.

The man told police that someone removed a lock, went into the shed and took a power washer valued at \$400.

The man told police he might have a suspect, but an investigation didn't reveal any evidence against the supposed suspect.

#### **CRIME WATCH**

tal problems due to a closedhead injury 10 years ago, told

police that the woman has taken prescription drugs from his residence.

The man, who lives at Pointe West Apartments near Yale and Hunter, has asked police to investigate.

Check out our w Value Wine Rack It contains over 20 wines priced under

inside the Friendship Center. Many of them can be done while A 35-year-old man told After the walk, seniors will

participate in many classes and exercise programs available on a regular basis at the Friendship Center.

A healthy lunch will be served and prizes given away. The day will include free testing for blood pressure, bone density and diabetes. Cost is \$5 for senior center members and \$7 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased at the center. Call (734) 722-7628.

a pest-control worker also was

The man also told police that

somehow got a key to his apartment has entered it on several occasions, most recently between 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday of last

The man, who has had men-

recently in the shed. week.

Drugs taken A 49-year-old Westland man told police that a woman who



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#### М (W)

### AWARD

FROM PAGE A1

Sure, she answers the phone, files cases, looks up old investigative reports and handles an avalanche of paperwork.

But, Holy Batwoman! Consider how she has gone beyond her job duties.

When the responsibility for liquor licenses fell on the detective bureau, Konfara streamlined the process by creating new forms that would be sent to local businesses.

"Sharon became the point person for the business owners," Ridener said, in his nomination of Konfara for her award. "She collected the fees and fingerprinted anyone that the state required to be fingerprinted. By this small change, Sharon freed up the detectives so that all they had to do was the actual background investigation. This was a huge help as the detectives' caseloads were ever-increasing."

Konfara also learned the detective bureau's new computer system thoroughly, helping detectives solve cases by finding crucial addresses, pawn slips, and potential suspects. This helped detectives get

on the right track to making arrests and solving cases," Ridener said.

To improve efficiency, Konfara rearranged the detective bureau, making investigative files more accessible and creating a private work area for evidence technicians. She set aside an area where children who are victims of crimes can color or play with toys when they come in to talk with detectives.

She also handles referrals for first-time juvenile offenders to youth assistance programs in Westland, Livonia, Garden City and Wayne.

In her spare time, Konfara enjoys gardening, camping with her husband, Paul, and caring for her dog, Dziwo, a 3year-old Polish lowland sheepdog. She has a son, Jim Rowland, a granddaughter, Hannah Rowland, and a stepson, David Konfara.

Now, though, it's time to nitpick on Konfara's detective

#### skills.

She had been led to believe that it was a co-worker receiving the secretarial award during a special luncheon last Thursday. She didn't catch on even when her husband showed up.

"He sometimes picks me up for lunch, so I didn't think anything about it," she said. When her name was called, she said, "I was totally blown away. I was amazed."

Although it's Konfara's turn to receive praise, she humbly turned the spotlight on the Westland detectives during an interview about her award.

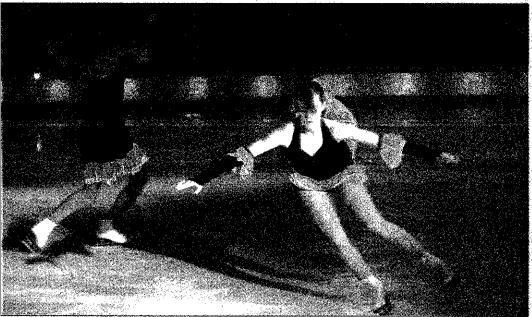
"These are good people, and they are able to solve cases that would seem almost impossible to solve," she said.

But when they get a little too demanding, Konfara performs a trick with her "Detective" Sharon nameplate. Taped to the back of it is a piece of paper that can easily be flipped over to change her title.

"Just the secretary," it reads.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alyssa Berger of Westland perform to the number Salsa Mix with other skaters for the upcoming ice show.

### **ICE SHOW** FROM PAGE A1

did last year. You just have to get back up and finish."

Fellow soloist Courtney Canada of Redford is doing two ballet and one hip-hop numbers in the show. She's also offering moral support for her younger sister Camryn, 6, whose in her first ice show.

"I've been saying, 'Skate your little heart out," she said. "She's really excited."

Courtney Canada has been skating since age 9. A member of the Westland skating club for three years, she hopes to some day be a skating coach.

Mika also hopes to parlay her training at the arena into work as a coach and as a performer in an ice show. For now, she's thrilled to be doing different things.

"I'm having fun with everything," she added. "My favorite thing about it is the ice shows and the coaching.<sup>2</sup>

According to LeDuc, planning for the show started last October when interviews were done to pick the positions of director and assistant director.

This is her first time directing after serving as an assistant director and intern. Like many of the skaters in the show, she's also a veteran performer.

"I don't feel that nervous with the way practices are going," she said. "It's going good so far."

The show's assistant director is Becky Bockstanz, with Jessica Gutkowski and Shanon Frost serving as interns.

The skaters have been practicing since



Amanda Gutowski of Livonia performs her solo during dress rehearsal Tuesday evening.

March and the past few weeks have been putting in long hours at the arena. Parents have been busy decorating the arena and building the props for the show.

Their final dress rehearsal is tonight.

"It's going to be exciting and different," LeDuc said. "Even if you don't have kids or don't have kids skating in it, it's a show that everybody can find something to like."

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### **Good stuff**

The Westland Moose Lodge and its women's chapter recently donated 'Tommy Moose' stuffed animals to the Westland police and fire departments, to be given to children who are in situations that leave them frightened or traumatized. Cindy Walker, Moose Youth Involvement Committee chairwoman, gives the stuffed animals during a ceremony with, from left, Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Wysocki, Moose Lodge Governor Ron Farmer, and Ken Kline, instructor with the police department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. In all, 12 stuffed animals went to the fire department and 12 to the police department.

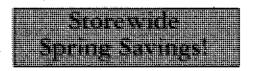
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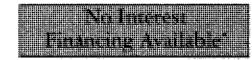


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### LOCAL NEWS

Garage Sale

Road.

a bake sale.

are participating in the

May 7, in the Parking lot

Almost 80 different vendors

Westland Community Garage

Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday,

between the Westland City and

The Westland Historical

Commission will have specialty

items for sale, while the Westlnd

Dance team will be selling pizza,

popcorn, cotton candy and have

There will a variety of items

for sale at the event, sponsored

Recreation Department, Kicks

for Kids. Westland Therapeutic

Recreation Club and Westland

Friendship Center holds an all-

you-can-eat pancake breakfast

Thursday of the month at the

center on Newburgh south of

The cost \$4 per person for

buttermilk or multi-grain pan-

cakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk,

The Dyer Senior Center at

invites you to the best Spaghetti

The dinner will be served 4-7

36745 Marquette, Westland,

p.m. Friday, May 26. Enjoy

spaghetti, salad, desert, enter-

tainment and dancing for just

\$6. For more information, call

Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Help Mother Earth

sausage and bacon. Sugar free

syrup will be available.

Spaghetti Dinner

Dinner in Westland.

by the Westland Parks and

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior

8:30-11 a.m. the second

Ford.

Youth Assistance.

Parks Advisory Board will be

selling hot dogs and the

Westland Stars Cheer and

Westland Police Station, on

Ford Road south of Wayne

## L.W. Stephens remembered for Carver sub redevelopment

Lue Walter "L.W." Stephens, former president of a nonprofit organization that spurred redevelopment efforts on Westland's southeast side, has died. He was 86.

www.hometownlife.com

Mr. Stephens, a respected Realtor and Westland resident, formerly served as president of Peoples Community Hope for Homes, which has built new homes and revitalized old ones in the city's Carver subdivision.

He also has served on the board of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association. The Rev. John Hearn knew

Mr. Stephens for more than 60 vears and recalled him as being active in church, schools and local real estate.

"He was a very admirable

Anthony Fareil (Frattarelli) Farell 73, of Canton, died April 30. June Elnora Finnegan Finnegan, 86, of Tecumseh, died April

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### LIBRARY

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FROM PAGE A1

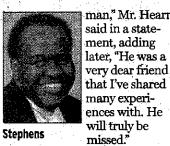
facility could accommodate new Garden City customers who choose Westland for their library services.

"I don't anticipate a flood of people coming over," he said Monday.

Paul Werhane, Garden City library board president, said his city has 13,000 card-carrying library customers.

If that decision is made,

12 . - 1 . . . .



Mr. Stephens died on April 19. He grew up on an Alabama farm and weighed cotton. He was married for 63 years to his late wife, Veola, and they traveled to such places as Hawaii, Europe and the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Stephens served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. and he worked in factories and as a bank custodian before he became a Realtor. He also was

DEATHS

Dorothy Lowe (Wensko) Lowe, 75, died April 27.

Theresa McLaughlin

man," Mr. Hearn involved in the Boy Scouts and the NAACP.

He served as Sunday School superintendent and deacon at several churches, including **Peoples Community Baptist** Church in Westland.

That church hosted services for Mr. Stephens on April 23. Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery in Canton.

Survivors include four children, Walter (Corliss) Stephens, Joyce Cassells of San Francisco, and Charles (Sharon) Stephens and Jean (Larry) Murphy of Evanston, Ill.; a sister, Lily Cunningham of Cleveland, Ohio; grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, nieces and nephews.

#### **Donald O'Keefe**

O'Keefe, of Highland Beach, Fla., died April 27.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in

Councilman Michael Kehrer said "we may as well try to get compensated for it.

McLaughlin, 73, died April 29.

0

Westland officials acknowledged that some Westland residents may be upset that they pay a 1-mill library tax not charged to outside users.

But Westland Councilman James Godbout noted that, before the city got its own library in 1996, Westland residents used facilities in Garden City and other neighboring communities.

that same tack." he said.

LeBlanc had a similar view, saying, "I guess at this point I wouldn't slam the door shut." Patane shared statistics indicating that Westland's library, within the last two years, has loaned materials to customers from 75 other communities. "We've become popular in

that sense," he said.

Some citizens who attended Monday's meeting urged Westland officials to mull over certain issues before signing any agreement with Garden City. Among those: Consider whether Garden City children would have the same access as Westland youngsters to library youth programs.

Meanwhile, Cicirelli plans to notify Garden City officials that Westland is receptive to a

## **Discovered** by **NASA Scientists**

### **AROUND WESTLAND**

clubs and preschoolers are invited to adopt a tree and plant it along the park fence between 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Friday, May 12.

Throughout the summer, adoptive "families" will be asked to tend to their trees by watering them regularly.

Participants should register by Tuesday, May 9. For more information, call Margaret Martin, Westland Parks and Recreation program supervisor, or Lesa Blackburn, deputy director, at (734) 722-7620.

#### **Eclectic Crafters**

Ever thought of trying a craft but were afraid of investing too much before you knew if you were going to like it? Ever wanted a quiet place to do your scrapbooking? Ever wonder if there are others as crazy about art and crafts as you are?

The answer to those questions could be the Eclectic Crafters which meet 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. the second and third Monday of every month and 5:30-8:30 p.m. the first Monday from at the Bailey Center in the Westland Civic Center Complex on Ford Road west of Carlson.

The program is offered in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. For \$3, participants can try out different crafts, art materials and tools or bring their own project to work on. There will be inexpensive makeand-takes available. Call (734) 620-3938.

#### 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.

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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) 467-4507 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 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.



Passages on page A20.

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### LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

## Metalfest to help humane society

Heavy metal music is going to the dogs.

Metalfest, featuring bands Stitch, Underland and Through the Glass, has been organized by the Westland Jaycees to raise money for the Michigan Humane Society.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, located on Wayne Road south of Ford. Ages 18 and over are welcome.

Tickets are \$10 and available at the door. Each of the bands will play about an hour, and a deejay will spin dance tunes in between sets, according to the Jaycees.

A post-concert party for ages 21 and over has been scheduled at U.S. 12 in Wayne, where Metalfest ticket-holders will get in for free after midnight.

The Jaycees is a local organization dedicated to training young leaders through community service.

For more information on the group, call (734) 226-0400 or visit its Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.



Named to the honor roll at the end of the first semester honor roll at John Glenn High School were:

Jessica Abner, John Abraham, Ashlev Acosta, Kyle Acuna, Ryan Acuna, Curtis Adams, Douglas Adams, Jeffrey Adkins, Asia Agnew, Shaun Alderton, Maria Alejandro, Jamie Allen, Marcus Allen, Maria Allen, Darnell Alleyne, Zaid Ammari, Tarra Anderson, Jeremy Armstrong, Tia Authier, Victoria Awosika, Lucas Backman, Elizabeth Bailey, Eduard Bane.

Kyle Barker, Sean Barone, Linda Barrett, Rebecca Barrett, Eric Barry, Shane Bartram, Dominique Battle, Sharita Battle, Marion Beattie, Jacob Bee, Daniel Beier, Caitlin Belisle, Joshua Benko, Keisey Benvin, Matthew Benyo, Bridget Berg, Kevin Bessinger, Brittany Betrus, Gregory Bevel, Samantha Bevins, Lindsay Bies, Cory Bilodeau, Chelsea Blake, Patrick Blay.

Kathleen Blight, Joseph Blouse, Kaitlyn Boczar, Timothy Boes, Brittany Bojanic, Anthony Bolen, Elizabeth Bomya, April Borda, Gregory Bosell, Kaylyn Bothell, Leslie Botts, Alisha Boucher, Natalie Bower, Sarah Bowers, Melanie Bowles, Alysha Bowman, Ariel Bowman, Stefan Bozman, Michelle Bradshaw, Dazz Bragg, James Brancheau, Alexandra Brandt.

Johanna Brandt, Laura Bratcher, Stephanie Brennan, Ashley Brewer, Kathrine Brewer, Amanda Bright, Brittany Brincat, Stacee Britt, Bethany Brokenshire, Olivia Brooks, Mallory Brosious, Emily Brothers, Brittany Brown, Christopher Brown, Tiffany Brown, Emily Browne, Elizabeth Brozek, Mary Bruce, Chantel Bryant, Sarah Buckingham, Amanda Buelow.

James Burger, Jaciyn Burgess, Jordan Burgess, Katie Burns, Kristopher Burns, Jamar Burroughs, Kathleen Butler, Virginia Butler, Heather Byram, Alexander Cabildo, Tierra Campbell, Adrienne Camunag, Cacev Canfield, Lisa Carreon, Amy Carter, Amanda Carver, Amber Carver, Cosmin Catalinoiu, Daniel Caudili, Michael Caudili, Lorraine Caulkins, Jonathan Celmer.

Justin Chadwick, Veronica Chambers, Shardae' Champagne, Brandy Chaston, Logan Chaston, Richard Chatham, James Chave, Angelica Cheeks, Mbongeni Chirunga, Diana Chokr, Jamel Chokr, Brandon

Clark, Chelsea Clark, Misty Clooten, Jessica Coatney, Karry Coats, Eriona Coka, Kailey Coleman, Holly Collings, Evan Collins, Sarah Collins, Michael Colombe.

Julie Colon, Kija Colts, James Compton, Sarah Conley, Aaron Connolly, Amanda Connolly, Esterra Contreras, Gregory Copeland, Jonathon Copland, Daniela Corbaxhi, Ashleigh Cornell, Jennifer Corney, Kimberly Costello, Robert Costello, Cameron Couch, Laura Cox, Rachelle Cox, Sabrina Cristofaro, Brandon Crooks, Sharonda Crump, Gabriel Curtidor, Richard Curylo.

Megan Daniel, Shannon Darga, Lorenc Dashi, Jonathon Daugherty, Shantel Davenport, Christopher Davis, Quentin Davis, Ouinlan Davis, Jana Dean, Jonathan Dean, Rebecca Debono, Bruce Debruhl, Andi Dede, Kevin Dee, Joslyn Degroot, Jessica Delaforce, Salina Delarosa, Nicole Delinski, Andrew Deluca, Donald Demiri, Melanie Deview, Nicole Diehl.

Chantel Doe, Justin Dorosh, Jessica Dotson, Linda Dowd, Dennis Down, Timothy Down, David Downs, Sarah Drum, Asia Dudley, Jessica Duncan, Jonathan Dunn, James Dutchak. Kristin Dutchak, George Easter, Jessica Easter, Justine Easter, Corine Eastman, Candace Eberhardt, Kathryn Eby, Tyla Echols, Amanda Eck, Corwin Edwards, Matthew Edwards.

Zachary Edwards, Jennifer Egan, Brandon Eldred, Ian Eldred, Michelle Eliswood, Amanda Elisworth, Stephanie Elsey, Victoria Elsey, Michael England, Heather Ennis, Jill Erickson, Mary Erwin, Matthew Espy, Mason Eubank, Amber Evans, Daniel Fabrey, Malorie Fairchild, Corey Farris, Amanda Femat, Tyler Femat, Hilary Fenton, Amber Fernitz, Wilbert Fields.

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Hina Gandher, Santiago Garcia, Shamir Garcia, Brittaney Gardner, Michael Gardner, Rachel Gardner, Amy Garrow, Devin Gartz, Jacob Gates, Ashley Gatesy, Joseph Gawura, Christa Genovese, Christina George, Gordon

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Danielle Haase, Maria Hall, Jennifer Halter, Jimmy Hamilton, Cory Hamlin, Kevin Hanka, Kaitiyn Hanlon, Michael Hardie, Nicole Harrington, Jessica Harris, Kathryn Harris, Jennifer Hartwig, Amanda Hatfield, Samantha Hatfield, Megan Hawk, Alexandria Hayes, Douglas Hayter, Patrick Hebron, Stephanie Hegenauer, Andrew Hein, Gretchen Heinicke. Amanda Helton, Timothy Helton,

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Martinez, Michael Masternak, James Mateas, Patrick Mateas, Jessica Maxwell, Ashley McBee, Blavre McCormick, Markiesha McCoy, September McCoy, Samantha McFails, Antoinette McGee, Tramaine McGill.

Jordan McGue, Sha'Nekia McIntosh, Sarah McLean, Kathleen McLeod. Jacqueline McMaster, James McMaster, Lauren McMichael, Andrew McMillan, Adrena McMillian, Jaimie Medel, Kyle Meister, Rebecca Meister, Jamie Mellas, Ediola Merdani, Melissa Meszaros, Jonathan Meyer, Annette Mihailovich, Micki Mihailovich, Nikole Milewsky, Adrianne Miller.

Allianna Miller, Michael Miller, Natasha Miller, Marlee Mills, Amanda Mirabitur, David Mitchell, Domonique Mitchell, Eric Mlynar, Rachel Mlynar, Brian Money, Kaiya Montague, Ashley Montgomery, Ryan Moody, Jeremiah Moore, Holly Morello, Haley Morgan, Kady Morgan, Taylor Morgan, Jacob Morris, Matthew Morrow, Shajuan Morton, Razan Mosharbash.

Hollis Moss, Shardae Moss, Malcolm Muhammad, Sauda Muhammad, Mandy Mulka, Angela Mullett, Jacob Murawski, Tyler Murch, Kimberly Murdoch, Shawn Murphy, Fiona Murphy-Fahlgren, Ashleigh Murr, Irisa Mydini, Andrew Myers, Deanna Nabors, Jacob Nabozny, Amber Nadolski, Brandon Nadolski, Asra Najam, Salam Neshewait, Brandon Nikula.

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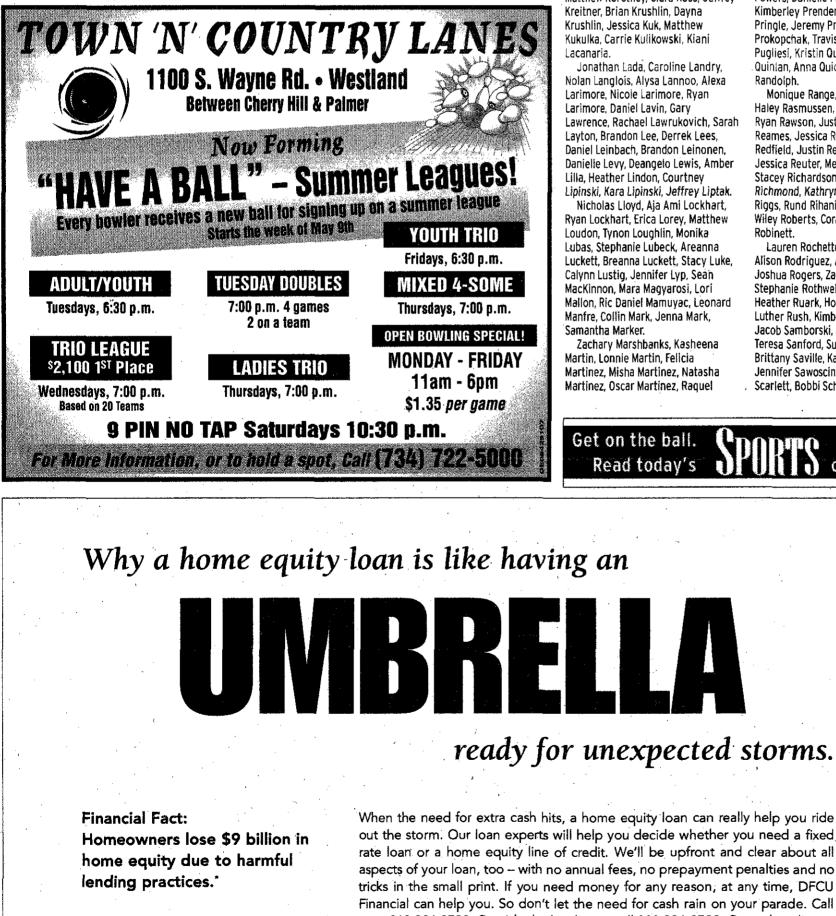
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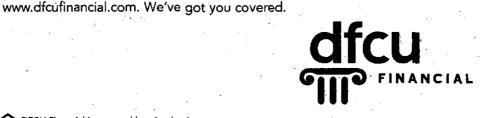
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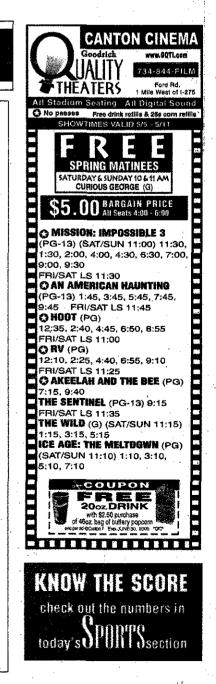
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

## "It's all about TRUST!"

- Do you trust a board of directors that has continually failed to provide information about its due diligence process to convert to a mutual savings bank?
- Do you trust a board of directors that allows senior management to incite fear among employees about their jobs, and allege that members' money is in jeopardy if the board is removed?
- Do you trust a board of directors that withdrew its application for conversion only after enough signatures had been collected to call for a Special Meeting?
- Do you trust a board of directors that has failed to provide assurance that the conversion attempt will not happen again?
- Do you trust a board of directors that spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of members' money for the conversion attempt without seeking member input first?
- Do you trust a board of directors that is now spending members' money to campaign for their own positions?
- Do you trust a board of directors that is using employees, during work time, to campaign for their positions?

## At a credit union, it's one Member, one Vote. You decide!

Member-owners of DFCU Financial have submitted written signatures to call

for a Special Meeting. In accordance with the bylaws, DFCU Financial member-owners will have the opportunity at a Special Meeting to decide whether the board should be removed. There is a formal process to be followed. The chairman of the board of directors of DFCU Financial must call a special meeting within 30 days of receipt of the written request which was submitted on April 18, 2006. Written notice of the meeting must be given to each member at least seven days before the date set for the meeting.

Each director named in the notice will be given the opportunity to be heard at this special meeting. The members present at the meeting will then vote on whether or not to remove the directors.

In the event that the entire board were to be removed, the credit union's supervisory committee would immediately become the temporary board of directors and, as such, would be required to call a special meeting of the members for the purpose of electing an interim board. Such special meeting must be held not fewer than 7 nor more than 14 days from the removal of the board after giving notice of the meeting to each member. All directors elected at the special meeting may only serve until the next annual meeting when a new board would be elected.

## Watch for Notice of the Special Meeting! www.savemycu.com

## DON'T MAKE OUR CREDIT UNION A BANK! DEARBORN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (DFCU) Ø www.SaveMycu.com Ø

### **CLUBS IN ACTION**

Listings for Clubs in Action 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.

#### **Mustang Owners Club**

**A8** 

(W)

The Mustang Owners Club of Southeastern Michigan meets the second Tuesday of the month at Angelo Brothers Restaurant, 33550 Ford, Westland. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., with dinner and socializing before the meeting. For more information, call the MOCSEM hotline at (313) 438-4174, The club was established in 1975

#### Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy

Smokemasters) teaches public speaking at the club's weekly meetings 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road, next to Westland Shopping Center, Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 noon to 8 p.m. 🔳 The Dearborn Dynamic

Toastmasters meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 N. Merriman in Westland. For information, visit www.toastmasters.org. n Toastmasters International meets 7 p.m. every first and third Monday of the month at St. John Episcopal Church, on Sheldon in Plymouth.

Hands On

Center

Guests are welcome, and there is no pressure to speak, Call (734) 459-0715. Zonta Club

#### The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club dedicated to advance the status of women, meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Sandtraps on Five Mile Road west of Idlewild Golf Course. People interested in the club can call Evelyn Shuput at (734) 416-9197.

Genealogical society The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile. Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests

#### are welcome. Hospital retirees

The Oakwood-Annapolis Retirees meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venov at Howe in Wayne, All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend. Silver Strings Dulcimer

#### Musicians and listeners are welcome

to stop by and visit a traditional music jam 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City, Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, pennywhistle, ukulele and upright bass. Call (734) 482-29D2 or check out the Web site at http://geocities.com/ssdsociety.

## Hot dog roast helps Holiday Meals program

Were you born in 1920? If you were, you would have experienced the greatest growth and the greatest prosperity this country has ever known. You could have cheered on V-E Day, held your breath as astronaut John Glenn orbited the earth and fondly remember the phrase "production line" when it meant something more than the automobiles manufactured by the Big 3.

For these older adults, and those older and some a little younger, too, many are not able to get out so easily. For those who cannot get out and drive to the store any longer, there is an organization that helps.

The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C is a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization that provides a comprehensive network of services to older adults and caregivers residing within 34 communities of southern and western

Wayne County.

In 2005, Senior Alliance served more than 2 million meals, provided more than 260,000 hours of service and assisted more than 24,000 older adults and caregivers throughout the community. In support of The Senior Alliance's work, the City of Wyandotte and its partnering communities are hosting a hot dog roast prepared by the Johnny Kolakowski. Other key members of his committee are Sam Galanis, Tom Talluto and Lori Vail.

The roast will take place 3-8 p.m. Thursday, May 11, with all proceeds will go to benefit The Senior Alliance's holiday meals program for homebound seniors. The Hot Dog Roast will be held at Copeland

Recreation, 2306 Fourth S. in Wyandotte.

Preparing the hot dogs will be Kolakowski, the "Chef of the Stars" who serves up his wild game dishes to customers in

his Fort Street restaurant, Kola's Food Factory, as well as through his catering business.

Ted Nugent, who is a big wild game hunter just like Kolakowski, personally uses Kolakowski for all his wild game food preparation.

The Hot Dog Roast began with Sam Galanis. He wanted to help homebound seniors receive meals on the holidays, so he sat down with Kolakowski and Jim Knopp of the Wyandotte Recreation Center, Wyandotte city councilman Tom Talluto former and TSA staff Bill Campbell of Resource Development and Lori Vail, the Holiday Meals coordinator. Together they came up with the idea of a Hot Dog Roast.

The Holiday Meal Program provides a hot, festive meal to homebound seniors on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays. As the Meals on Wheels program does not operate on the holidays, The

Senior Alliance and the holiday meal program takes over.

On average, The Senior Alliance serves more than 2,000 older adults with a holiday meal. Each meal delivered to the seniors cost \$5 to make. With the purchase of a \$15 ticket to the hot dog roast, not only is the contributor receiving a meal, entertainment and a chance to win raffles, but three homebound seniors receive a meal on the holidays.

'We are excited to help those who need a little assistance," said Sam Galanis, one of the event organizers. "Unfortunately, some older

adults are all alone and can't get out and drive to the store anymore. For those individuals, the holiday meals program makes sure that they are not alone and forgotten."

To contribute to this cause and for more information on how to purchase your tickets, call Bill Campbell at The Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2050.

## Bill would require life in prison for assaulting kids

Legislation allowing certain repeat sex offenders who target children to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole has been passed by the Michigan Senate, according to state Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia.

Toy, whose 6th District covers Livonia, Redford, Westland and Garden City, is the sponsor of Senate Bill 717 which would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow for the increased penalties.

When it comes to protecting our children, three strikes is too many," Toy said. "Those who would not once, but twice try to prey on our state's young people by committing such heinous crimes need to know that this will absolutely not be tolerated in

Toy's bill is the companion to Senate Bill 709 which requires repeat offenders convicted of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree to serve a life sentence without a chance of parole, if their victims were under the age of 13.

Current law provides that such offenders can be sentenced to life imprisonment or to any number of years in prison.

"Sex crimes against children are perhaps the most despicable human acts imaginable." Sen. Tov said.

"Particularly in the wake of too many tragic stories in the national media in recent memory, we need to be very serious about protecting children and punishing those who would do them harm."

Toy's bill will now go to the House of Representatives.

### Wayne Memorial teen wins Law Day contest

As her family watched, local teen Jessica Kay was honored Monday for writing the winning essay in this year's Law Day contest sponsored by the Westland city attorney's office.

Kay, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School, wrote an essay that helped her beat out some 50 other competitors in this year's contest.

Attorneys from City Attorney Angelo Plakas' office honored Kay on Monday during a Westland City Council meeting. She received a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and an engraved award.

This year's topic of the 11th annual contest: "How Does The Constitutional Separation of Powers Promote Democratic Values."

The contest is open to students in grades nine through 12 who are enrolled in social studies classes at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools.

Westland City Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt has suggested that the city attorney's office consider opening up the contest to Westland students who attend high school in other school districts, such as Livonia.

A THIGH OF RELIEF When individuals experience nation. Meralgia paresthetica is numbness or a burning sensation in often confused with other, more the mid to upper and outer thigh, it serious conditions, including nervemay be due to a relatively common related conditions that can cause nerve-related problem called merintermittent pain (peripheral neuropathies). algia paresthetica. These sensations

APhysical Arherapy

UPDATE

Presented by

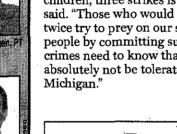
Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

result from compression of the main sensory nerve serving the outer thigh (the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve): Pregnant women, as well as overweight individuals with excess vide our patients with individual weight in their abdominal areas, often experience this problem. Left untreated, the condition can persist Intermittently for weeks. Treatment call at 455-8370. You'll find us coninvolves the elimination of whatever is resign on the nerve. This can be Street in downtown Plymouth. New ined with a thorough exami-

Symptoms of meralgia paresthetica are often confused with pain related to poor blood circulation (claudication), as well as spine problems.

At the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL, THERAPY, we restore, maintain. and promote overall fitness and health. We pro-

treatment strategies, the purpose of the strategies, and their anticipated outcome. For further information, veniently located at 650 South Main patients are welcome





### **COUNTY NEWS**

## Fore! Angela Hospice golf outing swings into action

Angela Hospice supporters and business friends will once again head to the greens for the organization's annual golf outing benefiting programs for terminally ill patients and their families. The outing moves to Western Golf and Country Club in Redford this year, for the 18th annual event to be held Monday, June 5.

The event begins with a shotgun start at 10 a.m., 18 holes of golf with carts, box lunches delivered to the carts, a dinner celebration, dessert, and mini silent auction following golf.

'We're looking forward to a great outing at Western," said Alice Barringer, Development Manager. "We have a limit of 144 golfers, so individuals who would like to attend should

## Splendor of East highlights dance

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) presents its brightest and most lively spectacle to stage, "Splendor of the East 2006" this year, starring Powerdance, a modern jazz dance company direct from the Philippines, 7 tonight at Ford **Community and Performing** Arts Center in Dearborn.

Splendor of the East is the largest performance-based celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Michigan. In its fifth year, Splendor of the East has entertained and educated guests year after year. With this year's theme "Cultural Gems of the East: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" the audience will get a taste of vibrant and lively Asian cultures.

The main attraction of the evening will be Powerdance. A wonderful blend of movement, light and emotion, Powerdance demonstrates the complex variety of modern Asian dance. Among other forms, the unique dance company is able to exemplify the magic of black light theater, a genre which is unique

make sure to register soon." Golfers can register in foursomes or as individuals at a price of \$200 per golfer. Packages for business partners and corporate sponsors are also available.

"There are many ways for individuals to show their support for this event," said Barringer. "Our volunteers are busy in the community helping to get the word out about all this event has to offer."

The popular "Winner Takes

All" Raffle is one way that volunteers are garnering enthusiasm for the event. For the price of \$20 a ticket, this raffle offers one winner the chance to win a myriad of prizes including a Tigers suite for 18, rides in helicopter and B-17 bomber, gift certificates to restaurants, malls, and more.

Volunteers are also busy signing up local businesses and individuals to sponsor hole signs on the course. Businesses can sponsor a sign

for \$150.

This event will help fund Angela Hospice programs not covered by insurance reimbursements. Since 1985, Angela Hospice has been providing home hospice services to patients throughout Southeast Michigan. Angela Hospice also offers specialized programs for terminally ill children, a prenatal hospice program, and a dedicated hospice care center, which provides a home-away-from-home

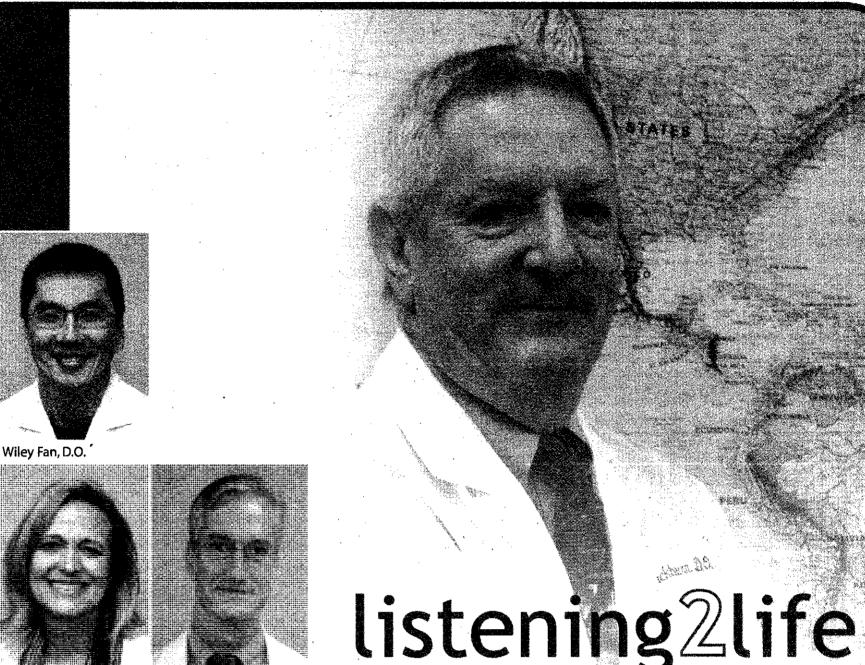
for hospice patients.

To learn more about supporting the mission of Angela Hospice and the annual golf outing, call (734) 953-6018 or log on to

www.angelahospice.org.

Volunteers George Veach of Wayne and Kevin Bullock of Canton are part of the committee helping to plan Angela Hospice's 18th Annual Golf Outing.





Botsford General Hospital's nationally-recognized medical staff brings advanced technologies and treatment options to individuals suffering from infectious diseases.

#### **Botsford's Infectious Disease Doctors:**

Diagnose and treat illnesses caused by various microorganisms or germs

in the Philippines as conceived by Douglas Nierras, Powerdance choreographer and founder.

Tickets for the event are now on sale at www.capa-mi.org or via the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center Box Office and range in price from \$20-\$30 dollars. Show time is 7pm. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more info, e-mail info@capa-mi.org.

The Ford Community and Performing Arts Center is located at 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn 48126.

### Barbershop chorus performs

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is preparing to perform their annual show around the theme of an old radio show at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia.

Tickets are \$15, \$13 for students and seniors, and available by calling (734) 453 0574, or by sending mail to Robert Schuessler, 7732 Embassy Drive, Canton, MI 48187.

The concert includes songs from the "glorious days of radio" as well as traditional barbershop tunes ranging from spirited "up tunes" to romantic, patriotic and gospel as performed by the Renaissance Chorus in four part barbershop a capella style.

Alchemy, a guest quartet, will be featured along with a young men's ensemble from Franklin High School in Livonia.

On Monday, May 22, the chorus is inviting male singers to join them for a guest night. Anvone interested in becoming a member may attend the event at 7:30 p.m. in Kirk of Our Saviour Church in Westland. Formal training is not required and prospective members do not have to sight read music. If you have an ear for music, you can sing barbershop.

For more information, call Mark Pritchard at (734) 422-7468 evenings.



Susan J. Knoll-Vlachos, D.O.

Gerald W. Blackburn, D.O.

Ì



Robert G. Smith, D.O.



www.botsford.org

- Track spread of infectious diseases as well as other medical issues of potential concern to the community
- Offer a renowned International Travel Clinic for world-wide travelers

#### What is an Infectious Disease doctor?

Infectious Disease (ID) doctors diagnose and treat conditions resulting from all types of infections. Like medical detectives, they work mostly behind the scenes. After extensively interviewing the patient, they review all available medical information including X-rays, laboratory reports, blood work and culture data, sometimes performing additional studies and sophisticated tests leading to a diagnosis and treatment of the illness.

#### What kind of illnesses do they treat?

ID physicians are asked to treat conditions resulting from various infections, including those caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. Primarily, they see hospitalized patients for illnesses ranging from pneumonia, to unexplained fevers, to HIV/AIDS.

More common illnesses also seen are bone infections, serious blood infections, infections of the heart valves, and wound infections.

ID doctors are also antibiotic specialists who, through blood tests, cultures and other data, recommend the optimal antibiotics to treat the infectious organism.

#### Should I see an Infectious **Disease physician?**

First, you should see your own doctor who can often treat many common infections. However, your doctor may refer you to an ID physician when an infection is difficult to diagnose or does not respond to treatment. Or, you may be in the hospital with a severe illness when your doctor will consult with an ID physician to help diagnose and treat your disease. Most importantly, begin your care with your own doctor.

#### What other services do Infectious Disease physicians provide?

Our ID physicians are also knowledgeable about important issues such as Avian Influenza or bird flu, West Nile Virus, antibiotic resistance, and potential bioterrorism events.

Along with Botsford's administrative personnel, they may also offer recommendations as needed to provide the greatest level of health and safety for our staff and community.

#### International Travel Medicine, tool

Many Infectious Disease practices, including Botsford's infectious Disease group, offer International Travel Clinics for people who plan to travel to foreign countries.

At Botsford's International Travel Clinic, vaccines and recommendations for healthy travel throughout the world are available to the public. Call (248) 471-8314 for more information or to arrange an appointment.

Staff will review your itinerary, destinations and planned activities. With this information, along with recommendations from governmental agencies, staff then provides customized travelrelated information and offers any required vaccinations.

#### What about the meningitis vaccine?

Meningitis vaccine is recommended for protection of students during their time at high school, college or at camps with large populations. Our clinic offers this vaccine as well; please call us to schedule an appointment.

#### Do you offer immigration vaccinations?

Yes, we offer all vaccinations required for those who need to stay up-to-date on their immigration status.

Whether it be infectious disease issues or travel medicine concerns, the Botsford Infectious Disease group is here watching out for your health needs.

For a Botsford physician, call our toll-free HealthMatch number at 1-877-442-7900. 28050 Grand River Ave. | Farmington Hills, MI 48336-5919



Thursday, May 4, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

#### www.hometownlife.com

#### **OUR VIEWS**

## May is time we honor seniors

Every month of the year, every week of the year and plenty of the days in the year are significant to some cause, some group of some person.

Take your pick of honoring presidents and great civil rights leaders, promoting such causes as breast cancer awareness and child abuse prevention, or learning about women's or black history.

May has its fair share with moms and those who died in service to their country in the forefront. But there's another group of Americans who are being recognized this month - senior citizens.

Since 1963 when President John F. Kennedy declared May as Senior Citizens Month, the time has been set aside annually to recognize the contributions of our senior citizens.

The over age 65 crowd has given us so much. There are those who gave their courage and sacrifice to defeat the Nazi tyranny and those whose ingenuity helped put a man on the moon.

And even as retirees, they continue to give as volunteers. They can be seen everywhere - at school, blood drives, hospitals, libraries, museums. They have become an important part of preserving our local history and making sure their fellow seniors have a hot daily meal.

President Kennedy was wise in his decision to set aside an entire month to honor seniors. A day or a week wouldn't be enough time to acknowledge all they have done. We encourage residents to take time this month to hand out kudos to seniors. May has just begun, so there's still plenty of time to say thank you.

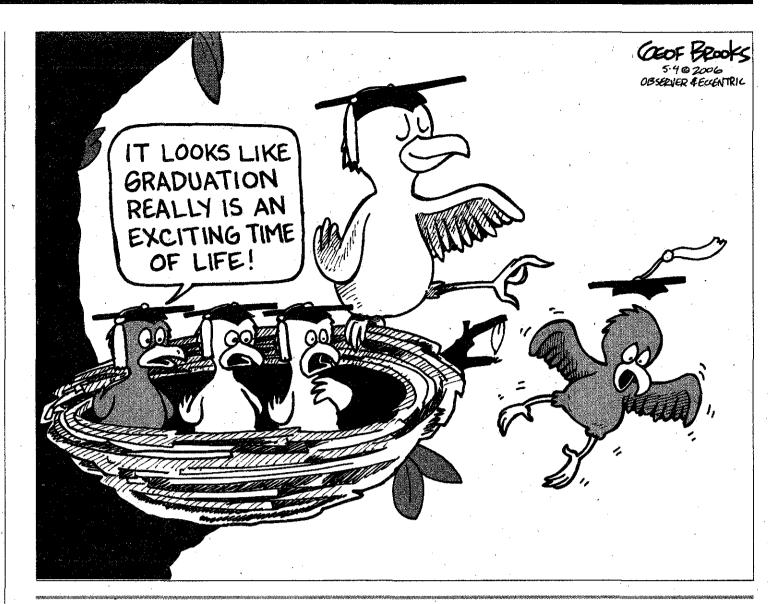
## Parents must deliver life-saving message

Parents have a lot to do when it comes to prom and graduation season now upon us. Besides making sure the cat doesn't lie on the prom dress laid out on the bed, there's making sure there's enough food for the open house after graduation.

But there's one thing that's more important than gowns, and maybe even grades. Unfortunately, what ought to be a top priority - making sure our teens stay safe during and after the festivities by not consuming alcohol — is often forgotten or tacitly ignored by parents.

The results can be tragic; no parent should have to bury Teens need to

a child. Sadly, even those children of ours who don't drink are threatened by riding in the cars of those who do. No parent can be understand what complacent about alcohol use by alcohol use does teens, an issue heightened at this time of year when time of year when parties and drinking seem commonplace. There are the legal issues. It's illegal for anyone to drink under age 21, and doing so can result in hefty fines and time off of work for parents to attend court. The experience can be emotionally draining. But it's also illegal for parents to allow alcohol consumption by teens at parties in their homes, or to rent hotel rooms for teen parties. Doing so can lead up to a \$500 fine and 93



#### Conference was worthwhile

On Monday, April 24, I was proud to participate in the first live teleconference Town Hall delivered by Congressman Thaddeus McCotter from 7 to 8 p.m.

As marketing coordinator in the Business Development Department at Westland Convalescent Center, I attend community events, chamber functions and political fund-raisers on behalf of the facility and quite often engage in conversations pertaining to political issues.

I feel this was an excellent opportunity to hear, first-hand, what Congressman McCotter's views are, relating to the economy, port/border security, immigration issues and our future. With the information I received from the live teleconference, I will be better able to articulate the issues with my fellow constituents.

The delivery of the teleconference was outstanding, including the clarity of the phone call, the organization of the questions and facilitator, the comprehensive discussion of the issues, not to mention the convenience of participating in the comfort of my own home.

### LETTERS

Initiative, and the consequence of it on my three children, me and my wife and our community. I feel as though I am speaking for most of our children, parents and community, now and in the future, when I say this.

The school plan is plain unnecessary as there are other plans available to achieve a small savings from the school budget. I am willing to accept change, but this plan is too disruptive and harmful and most definitely will reduce Livonia's populace.

Not only the parents and children, but the seniors and businesses will also feel the negative effects of it. I am hoping and praying that still, somehow, our community will not have to endure what I know will hurt us.

> Peter McCov Livonia

#### No handouts

We cannot block everyone arriving ille-

enced by every business in the state of Michigan is paid by the citizen, paid by the consumer. Every cost, every expense, every tax. The consumer pays for everything.

When General Motors sells an auto to Joe Highpockets, the income covers the company's rent, electricity, gas, office supplies, depreciation, wages, salaries, any and every expenditure one can advance.

Lions tickets, weekend sojourns with the ladies fair, everything is recovered by the manufacturing company before the profit level is attained.

And the consumer pays for it all.

What's with the new tax to be considered must not be borne by the citizens? Whatever and whichever, the consumer pays for all expenditures. Try again.

There is a growing problem in this

people who are snared by the excitement

of big winnings and, sadly, most are poor.

Hitting it big is the answer to all their

problems, while in reality empty pockets

finish their dreams. Not only are there

lives, broken homes and even suicides.

Groups like Gamblers Anonymous are

growing to help the victims of this deadly

recreation. Still casinos flourish, and the

We are told that the revenue derived

games will enrich our economy. But look

Does God bless an economy based on

at our economy now. Urban schools are

dying and industry is leaving the state.

gambling? Will we eventually see the

demise of Las Vegas, Atlantic City and

the like? I wish we could ban gambling

entrenched in our society that it would

commercials from the media, and raise

Legalized gambling, all gambling, is

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please

include your name, address and phone number

for verification. We ask that your letters be 400

words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and

Shari Borth

Redford

like the Midas touch turned to dust. No

take dynamite to release them. In the

meantime, we should ban gambling

altogether, but its roots are so

the gambling age from 18 to 21.

media blast the glamour of winning at

from the Lotto and other gambling

broken dreams, but there are broken

nation - gambling addicts. These are

**Neil Goodbred** Livonia

#### No one wins

gambling.

to a young mind. They need to know the consequences of use, and how what they do can have an impact on others.

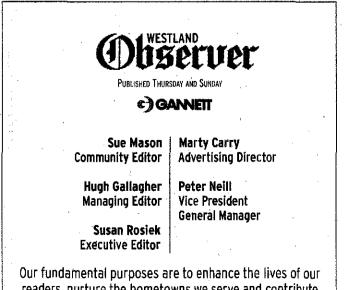
days in jail. Many community coalitions are running campaigns titled, "Parents who host lose the most."

Ultimately, however, parents have to answer the central question: Why is it so important for teens to drink? According to some experts, teens aren't social drinkers; they drink to get drunk. Parents must ask themselves why their teens think they have to get bombed out of their minds. The answer may lie in the first step to prevention: setting an example. If parents drink responsibly, i.e. not when driving, teens will understand that consuming alcohol needn't consume their lives.

That subtle deterrent is more positive and more effective than a one-shot lecture this month. But there are other things parents can do. Sheila Taylor, from the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking, asserts that alcohol use is a "right-to-know issue" for teens. It's one time that just saying no isn't enough.

Teens need to understand what alcohol use does to a young mind. They need to know the consequences of use, and how what they do can have an impact on others.

This message has been addressed to parents, because, despite your teens wanting to exert their independence, this is no time to take a back seat. So, when the tassel is flipped marking your graduate's academic accomplishment, make sure your teen has learned an important lesson about life as well this month.



readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

This experimental Town Hall teleconference was very informative and proved to be an effective means of communication using basic technology.I look forward to participating in the next one.

Judith A. Bianchi

marketing coordinator Westland Convalescent Center

#### Invest in the future

I fully support Gov. Granholm's efforts to cut "spending" first. Let's face it: The Republican willy-nilly tax scheming has done nothing for Michigan.

We have built-in structural economic problems, such as the lack of a good transit system that would get working people to jobs and embarrassingly low high school graduation rates that keep business from investing in our state.

I would go to Lansing and propose legislation that would enact a statewide transportation authority that would answer directly to the Legislature, and a medical insurance program based on what Mitt Romney and the people of Massachusetts did that ensures that all people have access to health insurance.

This simple plan spreads the risk fairly and evenly and will make the cost climate for small- and medium-sized business very attractive here in Michigan.

I would also set goals for education to be based on reading comprehension, which is the precise understanding of words and language. A population of highly skilled readers will not only attract business but, more importantly, our people will start and grow business right here in Michigan.

Let's face something else, it takes very little imagination to cut taxes, but hard, clear thinking to invest in the future. Frank Kalinski

Livonia

#### Plan's too disruptive

I am a resident of Livonia and am saddened by the new school plan, Legacy

gally by land, sea and air in this enormous country. We cannot return millions of aliens to their homelands.

Since the Mayflower, America has been the ultimate goal of those seeking a better life. Their skills, morals and dedication created this melting pot of prosperity proudly named the United States.

Return to the basics of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness and permit everyone to work. Talent and ingenuity can create jobs that did not exist.

Provide all children an education taught in English, our common language. Multiculturalism separates people by race, religion and language, making integration into the American mainstream difficult.

Permit them the same opportunity our ancestors had - not less, but not more. Free medical and welfare benefits encourage ill and unskilled people arriving for handouts.

Hank Borgman

Farmington

The enemy

On top of the growing mound of evidence that the Bush administration lied to Congress and the American people to make the case for war in Iraq, a war that cost thousands their lives and billions of dollars, is the fact that, in revealing the identity of Valerie Plame, an undercover agent for the CIA working in weapons of mass destruction and destroying her overseas operations, they gravely endangered our national security.

Gone at last is the myth of a president who is strong on national security, who will protect us from the enemy. A president who abides by no law has become the enemy.

The Lansing crowd advises that were

we to eliminate the Single Business Tax,

another tax provision to replace it must

not be borne by the citizens. The substi-

tute levy should not be at the expense of

Every cost, expense and tax experi-

QUOTABLE

Consumer pays for all

the citizenry, goes the lament.

#### Katie Jacob Birmingham

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

content.

Mail:

one really wins.

Fax: (734) 591-7279

E-mail:

smason@hometownlife.com

"The feeling is, if we didn't sell the property in the near future it's not a huge problem. It's not budgeted income. We don't want a fire sale, it could sit for awhile."

- Steven Aynes, executive director of the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority, about the incinerator property

(\*) A13

## Sheriff's Department offers free gun locks

In an effort to reduce the risk of accidental gun deaths in our community the Wayne County Sheriff's office is handing out 500 free gun locks to adults who keep guns in their home.

"Unfortunately, we know that if a child gets their hands on a weapon, the consequences can be tragic. We hope that getting these gun locks out to responsible gun owners will help prevent that kind of community heartbreak," Sheriff Warren Evans said.

This past weekend, a three-year-old Detroit boy, Joseph Link IV, was critically injured after apparently shooting himself with a family gun he found beneath a mattress. Each year in the United States dozens of children are killed by the accidental discharge of a firearm. In most cases, the child was playing with an unsecured loaded gun he or she found in their home. Although the sheer number of deaths may be relatively small, they are all preventable, according to Evans.

"These are all avoidable tragedies," said Evans."We are providing these trigger locks so families can be safe from intruders and so parents won't have to worry about their own children's natural curiosity."

Evans said his office is distributing the locks in conjunction with Project ChildSafe, a nationwide program whose purpose is to promote safe firearms handling and storage practices among all firearms owners. Project ChildSafe recently donated the gun locks to the Sheriff's Office. Starting today, the gun locks are available at the following Sheriff's Office locations: Road Patrol Office, 3100 Henry Ruff, north of Michigan Avenue in Westland, phone or (734) 721-2222; Administration Building, 1231 St. Antoine near Greektown in downtown Detroit, phone: (313) 224-2222.



A Wayne County sheriff's deputy demonstrates use of a gunlock.



### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

#### www.hometownlife.com

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.

#### FOR YOUR HEALTH

#### **Eating Disorders**

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Dariene at (734) 324-3089.

#### Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally III, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S, Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825. TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6:30-7:15 p.m., with the meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299.

#### Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

#### Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite.103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

#### AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.



### Swedish visit

Mark McCaslin, general manager of the new IKEA store coming to Canton, visited the Swedish Club of Detroit and presented two of his food managers, Martha Lugoskey (left) Rebecca Freek (second from left). McCaslin said IKEA expects 20,000 people a day to visit the new store when it opens June 7, the day after Swedish Flag Day. Plans are being made to involve the Swedish Club with the store's opening festivities. Also pictured are Swedish Club President John Fraser (center), McCaslin and Marie-Louise Capote, in charge of the Swedish Club's publicity.

#### Angeia Hospice

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

As part of its service to the community, Angela Hospice offers a variety of grief support groups free-of-charge to community residents. The groups are held at the Angela Hospice Care Center at 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, and are lead by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers who aim to provide useful coping strategies and tools to facilitate the healing process.

📓 General Grief Support Group -Open to all losses. Meets at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. 📾 Loss of a Spouse Support Group -Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in February. Women's Grief Support Group -Held each Spring and Fall. Call (734)953-6012 for dates and times. Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Call to register at (734) 464-2683. 📓 Grief Support Ouilter's Group - A new Grief Support Ouilter's Group is looking for community members interested in making a guilt in memory of a loved one. No guilting or sewing experience is necessary. Dates and times to be determined. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information. Groups by Appointment - Loss of an Adult Child, Men In Grief, Call (734)

953-6012 for more information. Programs for Children- Reservations required for all children's programs. Register by calling (734) 464-2683. E Children's Grief Support Group -For ages 6-8 and 9-12. Meets winter, spring and fall 5-6 p.m. Thursdays for eight consecutive (April 6-June 1, Sept. 14-Nov. 2).

#### 🔳 Children's Spring Workshop - 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 4.

Angela Hospice also provides one-onone grief support. For more information about Angela Hospice's grief support services, or to register for a group, call Joan Lee at (734) 953-6012. Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

#### Childbirth Association

classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered, Call (734) 459-7477. Fibromyalgia

The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS

Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

#### HISTORIC

#### **Pioneer trek**

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

#### Friends of Eloise

p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between

Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

#### Friends of Museum Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. each month except December at the Collins House,

located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road, Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

#### BINGO

#### **Maltese American**

Maltese American Benevolent Society, a non-profit organization, is holding a bingo at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Wayne Ford Civic League 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The hall opens at 4:30 p.m.

#### VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland, There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place, Call (734) 326-3323. St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren, Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

#### Shamrock Bingo Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

#### K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in. Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

#### 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 five entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 vears 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 3-3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010

#### Crochet & Knit

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.

#### Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

#### Choir

The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 a.m. Thursday. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

#### Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

#### Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

#### Travel Group.

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies. overview of day/ overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

#### **Dver Center**

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

Offer Expires 9/30/06

The Friends of Eloise group meets 7

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30

Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

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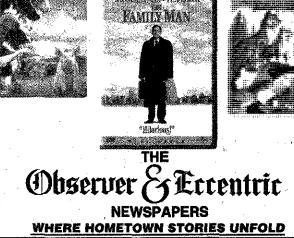
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Signature\_\_\_

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2004 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS





Administrator Kerry Walsh, R.N. keeps Oakwood's ER running smoothly. The facility celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

## 'The only game in town'

### Oakwood Canton ER treats sick, injured from all over Wayne

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

You won't find George Clooney or Noah Wylie roaming the hallways, or any of the other actors playing fictional characters on NBC's television program, ER.

No, life in Canton's only 24hour emergency room isn't so glamorous. But the staff at Oakwood Health Care Center-Canton say the scene there can be just as hectic, especially during weekend nights and on holidays. The doctors and nurses see it all — from serious head injuries and broken bones, to heart attacks and even the oceabional gunshot wound.

"We encounter just about any scenario you can think of. There's really not a typical day," said Dr. David Weaver, medical director of Oakwood Canton's Emergency Room. "One minute you have eight, nine, 10 people walk in at the same time, and then over the next hour — no one." Oakwood, which sits at the

Oakwood, which sits at the corner of Canton Center and Warren roads, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Although the facility houses many specialists, the ER is a main focus of the hospital. Not only is it Canton's only ER facility, it is the only one in outer western Wayne County, drawing in patients from Canton, Plymouth, Belleville, Romulus, Livonia and even Novi.

Weaver says the ER staff members, who work in 12 hour shifts, are fully trained and equipped to handle most scenarios. In many cases, however, Oakwood doctors and nurses stabilize patients so they can be transferred to other hospitals. In fact, Oakwood has a close relationship with University of Michigan Hospital, and even has a landing pad for the Survival Flight helicopter.

Weaver, who has been with the Oakwood system for 15 vears at various facilities, became the ER director at the Canton facility about a year ago. One of the things he brought with him from Oakwood's main hospital in Dearborn is the 30-minute guarantee, which means patients will be seen by a physician --- not just a nurse - within 30 minutes. The clock starts the minute the patient walks through the ER doors.

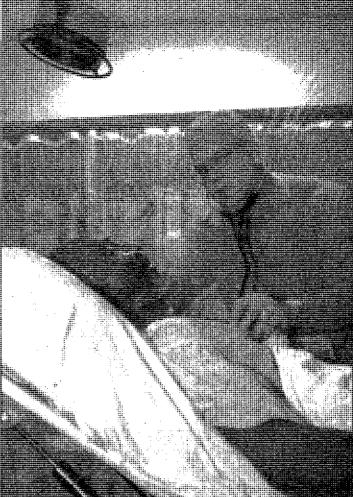
"ERs are in general known for long waits and lack of personal care. We found some patients got so frustrated they would just leave. That wasn't good for them and it wasn't good for us," Weaver said. Oakwood keeps close tabs

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

on how many people use the ER, and in 2005, some 20,000 patients walked through the door — the most in the hospital's 25 year historv.

For local residents, like Canton's Janeen Foreman, there is a certain peace of mind that comes with knowing there is an emergency facility in the community. Foreman, 40, has visited

the Oakwood ER on numerous occasions over the years. The mother of two has had to bring her son in because his elbow popped out of socket on several occasions. She also had to bring in her mother,



Dr. David Weaver, Medical Director of Oakwood Canton's Emergency Room, examines patient Anthony Wade, who recently visited ER because he was having trouble breathing.

who was visiting from Arizona, after she slipped and fell. And then, more recently, Foreman herself had to visit the ER on Christmas Eve after she became violently ill, losing 10 pounds in three days.

She has been impressed with the quality of service every time, especially on the occasion she was sick.

"When I went in on Christmas Eve, I was so cold, and this nurse kept bringing me heated blankets, which was the greatest Christmas present I could've asked for," she said.

Foreman said it is important that the community has such an ER.

"I've been in there with my children much more than I cared to," she said. "It's so close to us. It's nice having it so convenient."

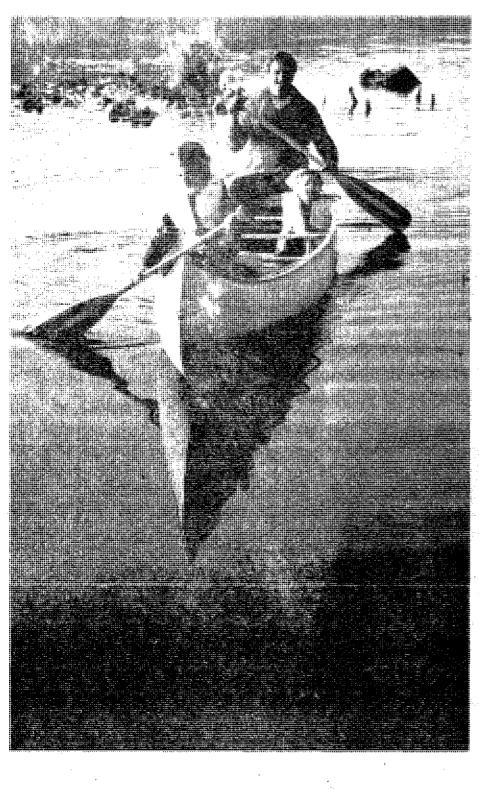
One of the main reasons the service is so good is the fact that there has been very little turnover with the nursing staff, according to nurse Corinne Boyd, a Canton resident who has been with the ER for 13 years and with Oakwood for about 30 years.

"We have a lot of old timers here. We work as a team, and help each other out," she said. "My family comes here all the time. I just believe in this place."

The Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton is located at Canton Center and Warren roads. For more information about the ER and all of Oakwood's facilities, visit the Web site www.oakwood.org.

kkuban@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700 (W) A15

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### **COUNTY NEWS**

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

## Authors, literary events at Ann Arbor Book Festival

The Third Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival, May 10 through 13, features a wide variety of events.

Hear an international cookbook author discuss her culture while you enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Go behindthe-scenes and see how books are preserved and repaired. Attend an author reception and rub elbows with your favorite writers while you

enjoy light refreshments. Reserve your spot for a Literary Symposium and learn how storytelling applies to teaching.

And, then there are the scores of authors that will be participating in this year's festival. Among them are:

Former Ann Arbor resident Charles Baxter, currently with the University of Minnesota, who will be

appearing on the Ann Arbor Anthology panel 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at Rackham Amphitheater, 915 E. Washington St. Baxter has written four novels, four collections of short stories, three collections of poems and a collection of essays on fiction.

🔳 American journalist Bob Greene, best known as an award-winning columnist for the Chicago Tribute. His new

book And You Should Be Glad: A True Story of Lifelong Friendship, is a highly personal and moving true story of memory and friendship when one of four best friends is diagnosed with a fatal disease.

parents and children.

Pulitzer Prize-winning

author Richard Russo, whose

numerous fictional works

include Mohawk, The Risk

Pool, Nobody's Fool, Straight

Man and Empire Falls. He

also wrote the screenplay for

the award-winning HBO pro-

University of Michigan

his experiences during a year

in the fantasy baseball league

nist for the Chicago Tribune,

will be interviewing folk/rock

guitarist and singer/songwriter

Bruce Cockburn. Cockburn has

recorded over 25 albums and

written songs, ranging from

folk music to jazz-influenced

rock to rock-and-roll, which

often reflected his religious

The God Factor: Inside the

Spiritual Lives of Public People, features interviews

beliefs. Falsani's recent book,

with a variety of noted personalities dissecting issues of faith,

ethics and personal spirituality.

All this, and much more, is

on tap as part of the Third

Web site often for the latest

Street Festival 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 13, cen-

tered on North University Street between State and

Fletcher streets. Numerous

Displays, readings, panel dis-

planned for the various pavil-

ions, stages and indoor venues.

cussions, presentations and other such activities are

The main pavilions are Children's, International,

Library, School, and

ed

Lifestyles, Poetry, Comics,

Body/Mind/Spirit. Several agent-author presentations

related to book publishing and

A couple of events have been scheduled leading up to the

marketing your book are slat-

festival. Mike Lupica, sports

Daily News and an ESPN com-

columnist at the New York

authors will be on hand to autograph their books.

information. www.aabookfes-

The most visible event is the

Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival May 10 to 14. Visit the

tival.org.

🔳 Cathleen Falsani, a colum-

trying to build the perfect

team.

duction of Empire Falls.

graduate and Wall Street

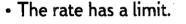
Journal columnist Sam Walker, whose new book Fantasyland tells the story of

■ Mike Leonard, from the Today Show, with his new book The Ride of Our Lives: Roadside Lessons of an American Family, a touching and hilarious account of a

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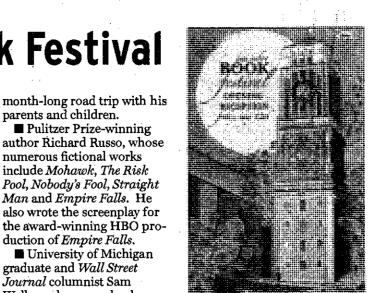
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Green St., will host tours 3:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, May 12. Attendees will see paper washing, bookbinding, and other procedures that conserve or repair valuable books. Shannon Zachary, also known as "Dr. Book," will be on hand to talk with attendees who have items they wish to conserve. There is a \$5 charge at the door.

The general public is welcome to attend the free **Opening Author Reception 7-**8:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, at the downtown Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Light refreshments will be served. The 2006 Michigan Notable Books will be featured.

The Literacy Symposium 4:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, features the Cygnus Storytellers, discussing how the storytelling process applies to teaching narratives to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. This special presentation for parents, teachers, media specialists and other professionals requires on-line pre-registration at www.aabookfestival.org, or call (734) 369-3366. The fee is \$25. Staff development credit is available for teachers of the Ann Arbor Public Schools district.

Back by popular demand this year is the Bookstore Crawl, May 1 through 13. To participate, pick up a Bookstore Crawl Passport at a participating bookstore or library in and around Ann Arbor. Visit the stores and libraries listed on the passport and receive a stamp at each location. After you visit half of the shops, turn your passport in for a small prize. Or visit all the shops on your passport to be entered in a grand prize drawing. Passports may be turned in at the Information booths at the Saturday street festival, or through Friday, May 12 at Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Road, or Shaman Drum Bookshop, 313-315 S. State St. The Ann Arbor Book Festival was created in 2003 to promote reading, writing, and literacy. The Book Festival is presented in association with the Ann Arbor District Library, The Ann Arbor News, Borders Books and Music, Edwards Brothers, The Exclamation Point. KatMalda Design, Michigan Humanities Council, Michigan Radio, Shaman Drum Bookshop, The State Street Area Association, Thomson-Shore Printers, and WEMU 89.1-FM.

A16 (\*)

been rising and you're worried that a variable Home Equity Line of Credit might end up costing you more money. Well, our Capped Rate Home Equity Line of Credit lets you borrow what you need at an attractive variable rate of Prime + 0% VAR APR while guaranteeing that the rate won't exceed 8.49% APR at any time during the draw period. So you can have the flexibility of a Home Equity Line of Credit with the peace of mind of knowing that you won't pay too much later. To learn more, visit any of our 124 Michigan branches, go to charterone.com or call 1-877-TOP-RATE.



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mentator, will appear 7 p.m. Monday, May 8, at Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Road. Lupica will be reading from his new young adult novel Heat, a coming-of-age novel about baseball.

May Bsisu, author of The Arab Table, will appear 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at the newly opened LaShish Restaurant, 2370 Carpenter. Bsisu will take diners along a warmly personal path through the exciting culinary territory of Lebanon, Sudia Arabia, Egypt and Syria. Reservations are required. Sign up online at www.aabookfestival.org or call (734) 369-3366.

The University Of Michigan Library Conservation and Preservation Lab. in Room 3202 Buhr Building, at 837



(\*) A17

An open letter to DFCU Financial

We are extremely disappointed to learn that a small group of members has submitted a petition to recall our Board of Directors, which is a reckless and irresponsible act that is **putting our credit union and our jobs at risk.** 

We, the employees of DFCU Financial, believe in and fully support our Board of Directors and management – and we say this of our own free will.

As employees who work hard each day to earn your trust and meet your financial needs, we hope you will take a moment to read how we feel about this risky and dangerous proposition. Below is just a sampling of what some of us have to say:

If our Board is recalled, our future and that of our members WILL be jeopardized. I encourage all employees and members to think long and hard before taking this drastic step. Do you want revenge, or do you want to maintain the success we are experiencing today? Save our Board! *Kelly Kidwell – 16 years* 

Life at DFCU Financial is better under the management we have now, which means employees are happier and the service we provide to the membership is greater. I can only hope that members will conclude that recalling the Board of Directors will have a profoundly negative impact on devoted, caring and happy employees like me. VOTE NO!

Steven Schulman - 14 years

We don't want our Board or our CEO to be removed from their obligations. We want to continue to grow, as we have been in the last six years, so we can offer more job opportunities and branches to serve our members in the ways in which we have grown accustomed. In my years of service, I have always been proud of DFCU Financial for their commitment to our members. That will never change because as an organization, it is what we are all about. The current leadership made this organization what it is today: a strong viable financial institution that continues to grow and prosper. I do not feel that changing the current Board is good for DFCU Financial. Nothing will be gained, and much could be lost. *Teri Golles – 12 years* 

The current strength of the credit union is based on the people who are here and the decisions made in the last five years. To see the job accomplished by our CEO and our team, all you have to do is look at where we are today. This kind of success doesn't happen by accident. To remove those responsible for this success is reckless and the results will be catastrophic.

#### Lynn Wali – 11 years

www.hometownlife.com

We're not just afraid of losing our jobs, but of destroying a great business that WE have been such a part of. We as members and employees are counting on the rest of our membership to do the right thing and take a moment to VOTE NO: NO CHANGE – NO RECALL.

Cheryl Stephenson – 22 years

#### Cheryl M. Nelson – 3 years

I am proud to be a part of such an outstanding company. I was here when our CEO started, and I can honestly say that since he has arrived, our company has taken a turn for the better and it continues. You can see it in the branches; you can hear it in the members' voices. The growth we've achieved is incredible and an accomplishment to be proud of as an individual and an organization.

Rachael Shepherd – 8 years

We aren't only employees of the credit union; we are members as well. We care deeply about the future of our jobs and our credit union.

When the time comes to vote to recall our Board of Directors, we implore you to vote NO. By doing so, you guarantee that the credit union you have come to depend on will continue to be here – and we'll still be here – to serve you and protect your money.

Most sincerely,

**DFCU Financial Employees** 

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A18 (WReG) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

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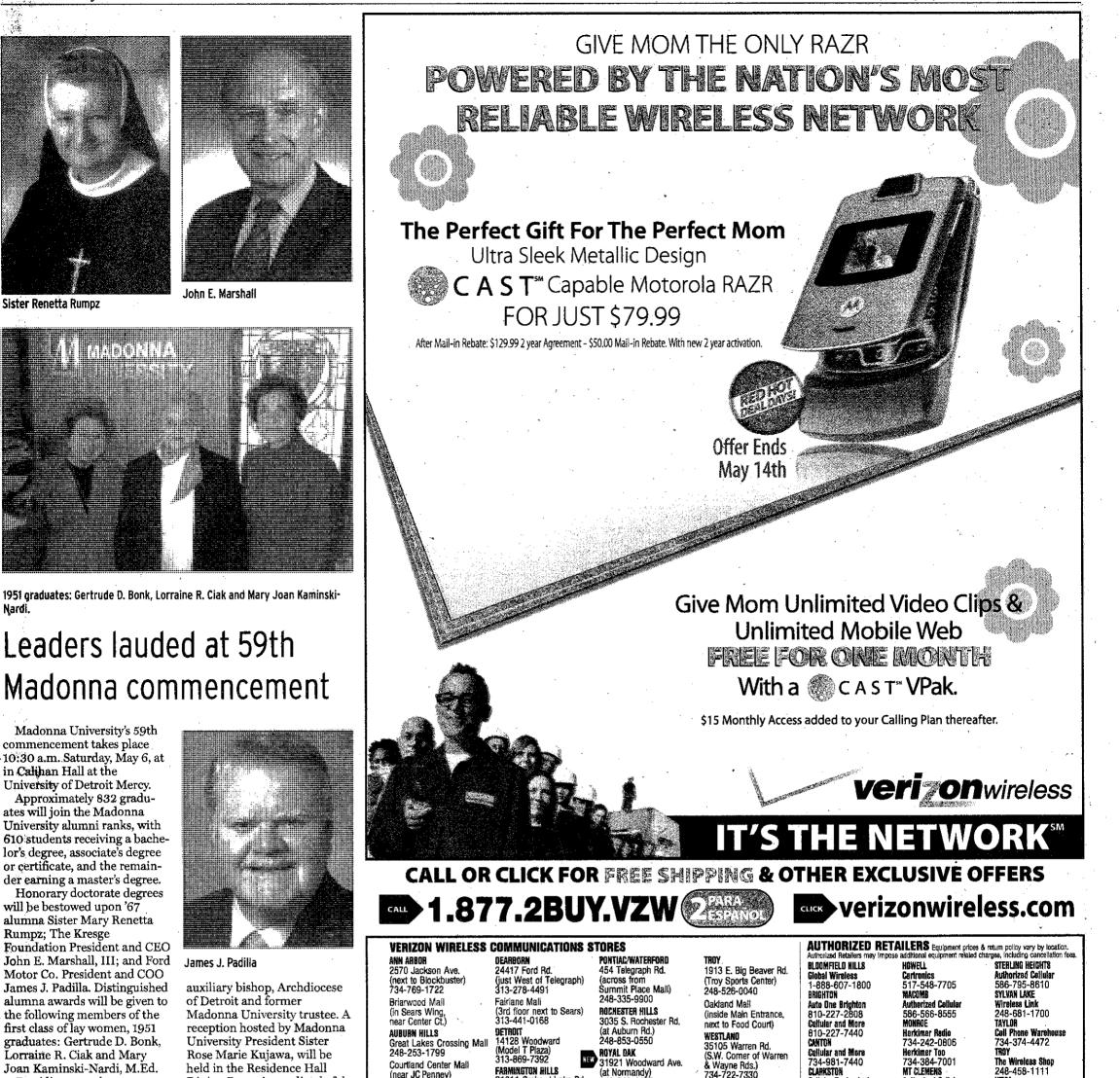
#### www.hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

(\*) A19

The Wireless Shop

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Joan Kaminski-Nardi, M.Ed. Presiding over the commencement ceremonies will be Madonna University Vice President for Academic Administration Ernest I. Nolan. The invocation will be given by Bishop John M. Quinn, auxiliary bishop, Archdiocese of Detroit and Madonna University trustee. The mace bearer will be Osvaldo Rivera, director of the office of multicultural affairs. All graduates and their families are invited to attend the Graduation Mass, which will be celebrated 7 tonight in the Presentation Chapel at the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse (36800 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia). The celebrant will be Bishop Moses B. Anderson,

Dining Room immediately fo lowing the Mass.

held in the Residence Hall

**Courtland Center Mall** 

(near JC Penney)

FARMINGTON HILLS

Madonna University offers more than 70 career-oriented majors for men and women, including innovative programs in e-commerce, fire science, forensic science, sign language studies and sport management. Twenty-two master's degree programs are available in the diverse areas of business, clinical psychology, education, health services, hospice education, liberal studies, nursing, pastoral ministry and teaching English to speakers of other languages. Madonna University's main campus is at Levan and I-96 in Livonia, with satellite campuses in Orchard Lake and Southgate.

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### ANTHONY FARELL (FRATTARELLI)

Age 73, of Canton, April 30, 2006. Beloved husband of Peggy. Dear father of Daniel (Tracy), James (Michelle) and Jeffrey (Amanda) Dear grandfather of Megan, Anthony, Esme, Alex, Adam, Eleanor and Mary. Memorial gathering of family and friends will be held at their home on May 7, 2006 from 1-4PM. Arrangements by Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI. To leave a message of condolence for the family, log on to: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com



#### DONALD O'KEEFE.

Suddenly April 27, 2006 at his Highland Beach, Florida, winter nome. Survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Shirley, and his beloved sons, Brian (Robyn), Daniel (Kathy) and Thomas (Mary). He will always be remembered by his 8 grandchil-dren, Cullen, Kieran, Quinlan, Caolinn, Jimmy, Teddy, Elise and Christina. Also survived by his brother, Kenneth (Patti) and sister Anne (David). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Thursday 3:00-8:00pm 32515 Mile) Scripture service Thursday 7:30pm Funeral Mass Friday 11:00am at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon at Woodland, Birmingham. Visitation begins at church 10:00am. Rite of Committal Pine Lake Cemetery. Memorial tributes to St. Elizabeth Briarbank Retirement Home or The American Heart Association. View obituary and share memories at vww.DesmondFuneralHome.com



**DONNA M. BOLAM** 



#### JUNE ELNORA FINNEGAN Age 86, of Tecumseh, died Monday, April 30, 2006, in her home. She was born June 14, 1919 in Richwood, Ohio, to William Noel and Carrie (Rosebrook) Yarrington. On November 12, 1938, she married John M. Finnegan, who passed away in 2003. She is survived by a brother, Robert Yarrington, and a sister, Donna Alimand; four children; Carol Lambe of Port Huron, Arlene Bettege of Tawas, Norma Cser of Centerville, Ohio, and John Finnegan of Canton;

10 grandchildren, Jennifer Lambe, Jocelyn Brumwell, Jeremy Lambe, Bettega, d Croff, n Croff, Deemer, Joseph Valerie Richard Bettega, Croff, Gerald William Norman Jonathon Finnegan; and 14 greatgrandchildren. June was honored for her 50 years in Girl Scouts. She enjoyed hiking, weaving, basket making, quilting, origami, and gardening, Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at the Tecumseh Chapel of Couture-Handler Funeral Homes. Interment will be private at Knollwood Cemetery in Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Girl Scouts in the donor's area. Condolences may be offered to the family at: www.couture-handler.com

#### LOUISE DEVOR

Age 92, May 3, 2006 of Birmingham. Mother of Catherine Devor of Birmingham and Sally Lowrey of Jayton, Ohio. Grandmother of Lisa Jasinski. Memorial Service, Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 820 E. Maple Rd., Birmingham, Saturday, May 6th at 3:00pm. Visitation after service until 6:00pm. Tributes may be mad to the Salvation Army, Attn: Bed & Bread Club

May You

Comfort in

Family Friends

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#### **RICHARD JACOB** FLIPSE, JR.

Age 64, of Plymouth, died April 30, 2006. He was born June 17, 1941, in Kalamazoo. He graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1960. He came to the Plymouth community in 1976, from Kalamazoo. On May 20, 1978, he married his beloved wife, Patricia. He worked in maintenance for the Plymouth-Canton School System. He was a member of the Elks Lodge #1780, and the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. He loved to travel and was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, his sons, John R. (Sarah) Flipse of Houston, TX; and Daniel E. (Cynthia) Flipse of Cuero, TX; his grandchildren, Lauren, Anna, Aundrea, Carlena, and Luzy; his brother, Wayne (Jill) Flipse of Kalamazoo; his sister, Karen (Orrin) Schroeder of Kalamazoo; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral from Firs Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. Plymouth, Friday 11am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10:30am Visitation at Schrader-Howeil Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Thursday 1-9pm. Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church or the Salvation Army.

#### THERESA MCLAUGHLIN,

April 29, 2006 age 73. Loving mother of Kevin (Laura), the late Maureen and Colleen (Andrew) Whisler Dearest grandmother to Meryl, Alex and Erich. Private Family Services Please celebrate Theresa's life by donating to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude's Place Memphis, TN 38105. 1-800-822-6344 or visit: www.stjude.org.

Please sign guestbook at: www.neely-turowski.com.



75, April 30, 2006, of Farmingtor Age 75, April 30, 2000, or Famma Goad, Hills. Loving mother of Herman Goad, Cherished grandmother of Shane and Jessie. Dear sister of Agnes Kneeves and Frank Linhart. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, rela-tives, and friends. Memorial service Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 2pm Heeney -Sundquist Funeral Home Heefiey 23720 Farmington Rd., between 9 and 10 Mile Rds., Farmington, 248-474 5200, or heeney-sundquist.com Family will receive friends from 1pm until time of service at 2pm.

#### WALTER A. HALL

Age 92, of Plymouth, died April 30, 2006. He was born May 6, 1913, in Knox County, Indiana. He came to the Plymouth community in 1945, from Northville. He was a pioneer of Michigan Bell, working as a repairman and service representative for the company for 40 years. He was a member of Ward Presbyterian Church He is survived by his wife, Margare E.; his son, Larry (Josephine) Hall and his grandchildren, Stephanie and Gregory Hall. A memorial service was held Wednesday, May 3, at Ward Presbyterian Church. Memorials may be made to the Ward Presbyteriar or Deacon Mission Fund Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

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.

### MAY

#### Interfaith symposium

When Strangers Become Neighbors: The Emerging Religious Landscape of Metropolitan Detroit - Implications for Workplace, Civic Arena, Educators, Media and Faith Community, guest speakers include Ralph William, professor in the English language and literature department, University of Michigan; Kurt Metzger, director of research for United Way for Southeastern Michigan 8 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 4, in the McGregor Center & Auditorium at Wayne State University, Detroit, Program begins with Metzger sharing the latest data. Williams then delivers a keynote on what this change means and how we move from tolerance to appreciation. Following an overview of William Bridges' Transition Framework workshops offer best practices and discussion of how this challenge is being dealt with in our faith communities. city government, schools, the workplace and media. The 6th Interfaith National Day of Prayer takes place immediately following the symposium in Wayne State's Gullen Mall. Cost is \$20, \$10 seniors and students. For information, call (313) 567-6225 or visit www.nccj-mi.org.

#### Rummage/bake sale

Pre-sale 5-8 p.m. Thursday, May 4 (\$2 donation for adults), Big Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 5, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 6 (no charge), at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

#### Grief recovery seminar

And support group in cooperation with Hospice of Michigan, begins 9 a.m. Sunday, April 30, and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4, continues for 13weeks, at Romulus Wesleyan Church, 37300 Goddard at Huron River Drive. No charge. For information, call (734) 941-1511 or visit www.griefshare.org. Laugh out loud

Fun with the 321 Improv Comedy team 7 p.m. Friday, May 5, at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville, Tickets 5. Free child care provided. Call (248) 374-5920.

**Choral festival** Metropolitan United Methodist Church hosts its second annual choral festival

from May 5-7, by presenting three evening concerts and a series of workshops for vocalists, conductors, and ensembles of all levels, at the church, 8000 Woodward (five blocks

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

Nine Mile, Novi. For information, call (248) 349-0565 or (248) 919-080B. Special worship service

Three graduating seniors from local high school - John Beresford, David Bernard and Matthew Landry - perform classical and sacred music on the organ, piano, trumpet, and saxophone during the Sunday Evening Worship Service at 7 p.m. on May 7, at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville. Each of them plays regularly in the Ward orchestra and each has won various prizes, awards and scholarships in solo and ensemble competitions during their high school careers. For more information, call (248) 374-5920.

#### Three-day mission

Rev. Bruce Nieli, CSP, a well-known Paulist priest and evangelist who enjoys an outstanding national reputation as an inspiring and humorous Catholic speaker and missionary, conducts a May B-10, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish located on the southwest corner of Hubbard and Plymouth roads, Livonia. Open to all interested persons. Services begin at 6 p.m. with private confession followed by 7 p.m. evening devotion and an informal reception. The focus of the mission is Responding to the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our church, and in our world. Free babysitting services provided in St. Michael's School for children 4 and older, with games, movies, and other supervised activities available.

Rev. Nieli has been deeply involved in national Catholic evangelization for more than 30 years. He has served as Director of Evangelization for the Dioceses of New York City and Austin, Texas, as well as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, A noted columnist in the Catholic press, Rev. Nieli has served as a draft writer for Papal talks on Parish Life for Pope John Paul II. For more information, call (734) 261-1455.

#### Lifeworks

Series continues with Rev. Dick Bonk talking about Creating and Recreating Relationships 7 p.m. Friday, May 12, in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Free childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

#### **Bicycling group**

10 a.m. Willow Metro Park. Single Point bike rides are geared to the tourist level rider but riders of all ability levels welcom. All riders must wear a helmet. Lunch break at your expense half way through ride. The group meets every Saturday morning at various locations. For a schedule or information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (24B) 374-5920.

#### Family game night

6-8 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman, Garden City, Cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Come and join fun and fellowship. Games and cards are provided but you are welcome to bring your own games and teach someone how to play a new dame. If you have any questions, call Linda Bodnovits at (734) 425-5653. Leadership and self-deception Lecture series with Rev. Dennis Skiles continues to May 31, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760.

Paul Lutheran Church in Northville will be studying the best selling book The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren during Lent. Small groups will meet at homes in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi and South Lyon on Wednesday evenings during Lent. All faiths are welcome. Call (248) 349-3140 for more information.

#### Senior activities

Gathering for seniors 50 years and older 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. Any guestions, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. First we enjoy a wonderful lunch together. then we fellowship with some games and stories.

#### Bible study groups

The Wednesday group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month, the Thursday group 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael's the Archangel Catholic Church, Plymouth and Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible, the Thursday group The Letters of St. Paul from Prison. Classes are small and informal and based on the Little Rock Scripture Series. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

#### **Church activities**

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Wednesday luncheon every other Wednesday at noon; Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$4 followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m., at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730.

#### Scripture from scratch

No previous Bible study required, began 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, Livonia. The units include the New Testament (April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, and Gospels (May 16, 23, 30 and June 6). Each session includes video presentation, small and large group discussions. Be one of the first 10 to receive the participant's manual for \$5. After that, the cost is \$10. To register, call (734) 425-5950.

#### Kabbalah classes

Presented by the Sara Tugman Bais Chabad Torah Center, the classes began 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5595 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The classes are open for both beginners and more advanced students. Call (248) 855-6170, ext. 1 or send e-mail to BCTC770@aol.com.

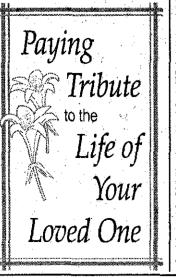
#### Eucharistic adoration

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, cornerof Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331. Worship services All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

St. Johns, MI (formerly of Brighton and Howell, MI), passed away Monday, May 1, 2006, at the age of 70. She was born March 30, 1936 in Detroit, the daughter of Julius Oliver and Lula Mae (Horney) Lowe Donna was a homemaker and her life's joy was spending time with family and friends. She was an avid reader, enjoyed sewing, playing euchre, listening to music and playing her plano taking trips to the casino, and spending time sitting in the sun. On April 15, 1955, Donna married Robert Bolam in Detroit, and he survives her. Also surviving are two daughters, Karen (Mark) Crosby of St. Johns, MI; Cindy (Gary Holmes) Bolam of Commerce Township, MI; two sons, Robert Steven (Pamela) Bolam of Howell MI; Michael William (Susan) Bolam of Hartland, MI; seven grandchildren, Christine, Michael, Tyler, Jacob, Andrew, Alex, and Amanda; two brothers, Edwin Lowe of St. Johns, MI and Nelson (Laurie Shipley) Lowe of Westland, MI. Funeral services will be held 11:00 am Friday, May 5, 2006, at Keck-Coleman Funeral Home, St. Johns, MI 989-224-4422 . Interment will follow at Mt. Rest Cemetery Memorials may be made to U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr., CCGC 6-303 Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0944.

#### DOROTHY LOWE (WENSKO)

Age 75, April 27, 2006. Beloved mother of James, Joseph and William Jr. (Elizabeth). Dear grandmother of Victoria and Nathan. Sister of Martin (Beverly) Wensko and Barbar Jones Former wife of William R. Lowe Sr. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 1:00 PM at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Road, Garden City. A special thank you to Bill and Bev Wensko and Barbara and Kari Jones Families and all the staff at Garden City Hospital for their tireless care, devotion and dedication to our beloved mother with much love and gratitude. The Lowe Family. Cremation Society of Michigan in charge of arrangements. (313) 839-4100





#### MICHAEL GEORGE PAPAY

Age 39, of Plymouth, lost his battle with esophageal cancer on April 30, 2006. He was born April 25, 1967, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a very fine Journeyman Wood Model Maker in the automotive prototype industry, as well as a wood craftsman. He is survived by his beloved wife, Robyn Papay (nee Laird); his parents, Bernard and Mary Papay; his siblings and best friends, Charles, Terrance (Gloria), Patricia (Gregory) Riley, Sarah (David) Lawien, Margaret (Richard) Gubert, and Virginia (Eric) Barringer; his nieces and nephews, Heather Gubert, Paula Papay, Jennifer Gubert, Michael Sarowski, Elizabeth Riley, Mary Barringer, Leah Barringer, and Eric Barringer, Jr.; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Funeral from Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth, Thursday 10:30am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10am. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.



#### PATRICIA ELIZABETH GILLOW

Passed away on May 2, 2006 at the age of 41. She resided Minnesota for almost 15 years, and is formerly of Birmingham, Michigan. Beloved wife of Kirk W. Clowser, they married on January 2, 1999 in Naples, Florida. Dear mother of Skylar Alexis Gillow. Loving daughter of Robert H. Gillow and Judith A. Gillow. Sister of Lynn (Lee Rosenthal) Gillow and Carol (W. G.) Gillow-Giles. In 1982, she graduated from Kingswood School Cranbrook then from DePauw University in 1986 where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She also a received a MBA from University of Michigan in 1991. She worked at Guidant Corporation in St. Paul, Minnesota for nearly 15 years, most recently, as a Compensation Manger. She was a dedicated tri-athlete and marathoner. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Christ Church Cranbrook (www.christchurchcranbrook.org) or The Little Traverse Conservancy (www.landtrust.org).

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Deadlines: Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries.received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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> For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067

866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz OE08428379

north of West Grand Blvd., Detroit, Opening night performance is 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. with Tapestry Vocal Ensemble, Detroit Concert Choir, and Metropolitan Festival Soloists and Choir. Workshops, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 6, focus on performance and vocal techniques. Amy Chivington, director of the Otterbein Children's Chorus, leads a workshop for children's choirs. Several youth choirs perform 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6, including the Southfield High School Chorus.

The final concert is 7 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at 7 p.m. and will feature Mendelssohn's beloved oratorio and testament of faith, "Elijah." Performing this much-loved choral masterwork are baritone Daniel Washington, soprano Elaine Linstedt, along with the combined choruses of Birmingham First Presbyterian, Detroit Archdiocesan, St. James Episcopal, and Metropolitan Festival Soloists and Orchestra. Tickets for each musical performance are \$15, \$35 for three-day pass. Students can get a discounted rate of

\$12 for individual performances with college identification. Workshops \$5, includes materials. Free lighted and supervised parking available. To purchase tickets or register, call (313) 875-7407 ext. 324 or visit www.metroumc.org.

#### **Quilt show**

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington, north of I-96, Livonia. Members display everything from very old quilt to guilts in the process of completion. Suggested donation is \$5. All proceeds go to Shoes for Children, an orphanage in Mongolia, and the Early Childhood Program at Christ Our Savior. For more information, call (734) 522-6830. Bicycling group

10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, meet at Nankin Mills Administrative offices parking log on Hines Drive, east of Farmington, Westland, Ride geared toward the tourist level rider but riders of all ability levels are welcome to participate. The group will ride every Saturday morning at various locations until weather turns cold again. All riders must wear a helmet. For schedule or information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

#### 25th anniversary

4 p.m. Sunday, May 7, service followed by a banquet, at Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, 41415 W.

#### Wine, cheese and theology

Evenings of conversation asking the question, is there a place for the church in the 21st century? 7 p.m. Wednesdays to May 31, at Church of Our Savior, Presbyterian U.S.A, 6655 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield. Rev. Jim Faile leads the discussions. The public is invited. The church holds worship and Sunday School 10 a.m. Sundays. For more information, call (248) 626-7606.

#### UPCOMING

#### Summer fun

Two sessions from 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. begin June 12 and continue weekly through week of Aug. 21, at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 42690 Cherry Hill, Canton. Each week children will engage in activities including the sciences, math, health, music, arts, and exercise. For ages 4-10 (children who are 3 but have been enrolled in preschool are welcome. Cost is \$60 per week and includes T-shirt, snacks and fieldtrip fees. Call (734) 981-0286. Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a'Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555. S. Lilley Road, Canton. The church is now accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

#### ONGOING

#### **School registration**

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School is accepting applications for grades PK-8 for the 2006-2007 school year, at 9600 Leverne, Redford. After school care 3-6 p.m. Call (734) 937-2233 for information. **Bible study** 

Classes 9:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. On Sunday Family Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.

#### Purpose Oriven Life

Members, friends and neighbors of St.

#### Unity of Livonia

Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays, at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760. Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

#### Bet Chaverim

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families\_ welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

#### Detroit World Outreach

A non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, hightech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, a great place for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 psm; the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service 6:15 p.m.

- Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699 3361.

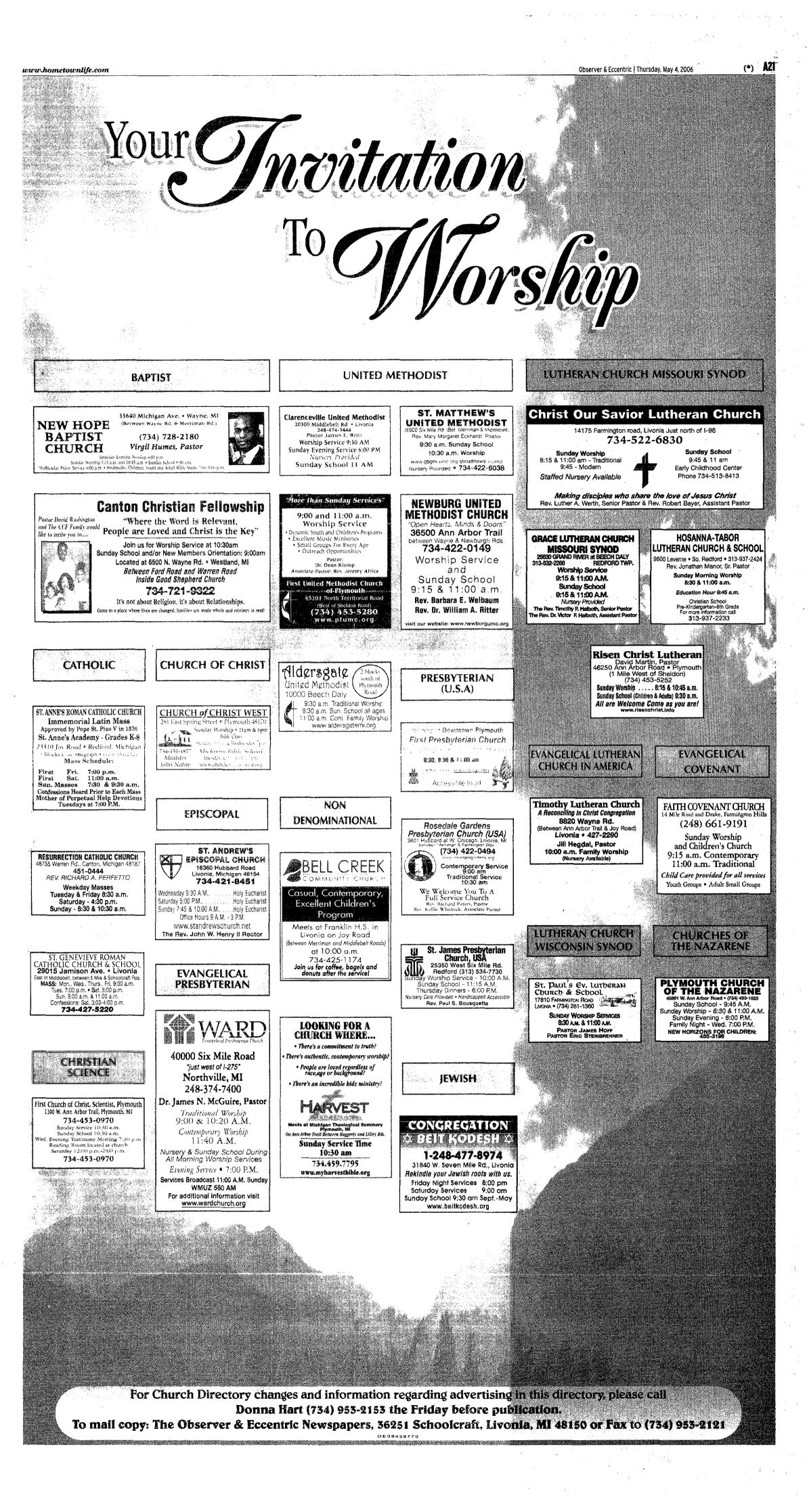
#### Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit the Web site at www.adatshalom.org.

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### COUNTY NEWS

#### Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 4, 2006

## Shopping around: Cars, cash, jewels featured in Wayne County

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#### NEED FOR SPEED

Detroit Speed Shops opened a new, state-of-the-art outlet in **Livonia** this week.

Located at 36534 Plymouth Road, the store carries a fullystocked retail and wholesale parts showroom – featuring high performance accessories from manufacturers like Edelbrock, Holley and Mr. Gasket.

The outlet boasts a newly remodeled 9,800 square foot retail showroom and warehouse. The Livonia store also features a Customer Performance corner which allows visitors to experience the latest Play Station racing games, DVD's and more.

To celebrate the grand opening of the new Livonia store, owners will host a party and car show – with more than 200 vehicles on display – in conjunction with United Street Machines. The event is set for Saturday, May and will include refreshments. It is open to all. Additional Detroit Speed Shops locations include stores in Dearborn Heights and Roseville.

Regular store hours at Livonia's Detroit Speed Shops outlet run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (888) 293-7267 or visit the Web site at www.detroitspeedshops.com.

#### GOING GREEN

After nine years of experience in the field of finance, Jason Hunter has opened a branch office of Waddell & Reed Financial Services in **Plymouth**.

Hunter's mission in this venture is "to help my clients iden-

## New Grow Zones being developed in Hines Park

In collaboration with the Wayne County Department of Environment, Wayne County Parks will develop four additional grow zones this year at selected locations throughout Hines Park

#### WHAT'S IN STORE

tify and prioritize the financial goals that are unique to their situation and recommend solutions designed to help achieve them."

As a senior financial adviser, he specializes in education funding, financial and retirement planning, insurance strategies and investment. Hunter, now a married

ht Store

**T-Bone or** 

**Porterhouse Steaks** 

Value Pack 4 Steaks or More

**USDA Select Beef Loin** 

father of three, earned histbachelor's degree in finance((from Michigan Statej]University in 1997. He hasvspent his entire professionalvcareer with Waddell & Reed.JFounded in 1937, the compa-J

ny has grown to include more than 200 offices nationwide. The newest addition to Waddell & Reed is at 580 Forest Ave., Suite 7B in Plymouth.

For more information, con-

tact Jason Hunter by phone at (734) 254-9999, by e-mail at jhunter@wradvisors.com, or visit

www.jhunter.wradvisors.com.

#### JEWEL OF REDFORD

Murray's Jewelry, located in **Redford Township**, announced last week it will soon be closing its doors for good. Owner Barry Murray has decided to retire.

For 36 years the store, locat-

ed within a Murray's Auto Parts store, has fostered a reputation as the go-to place for jewelry. Shoppers seeking out close-out deals and sale prices on watches, rings, gemstones and more can stop in, while the merchandise lasts. Murray said he anticipates the jewelry store will continue to liquidate its merchandise for the next four-to-six weeks.

Once it's gone, Murray's Discount Auto Parts will expand its operation throughout the building. Murray's Jewelry is at 27207 Plymouth Road in Redford. A second location, at 23400 Allen Road in Woodhaven, will also close.

www.hometownlife.com

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

Kwick Krisp Bacon <sup>16 oz Pkg</sup>



#### A22 (\*)



All projects are being funded in part by a grant from the Clean Michigan Initiative – Rouge Watershed Nutrient Reduction Program. The first of the four new

grow zones began work on April 29 at Nolar Bend Park, in Dearborn Heights at Inkster Road and Hines Drive. Volunteers met at the site at 9 a.m. to help construct the new grow zone with Wayne County personnel from Parks and the Department of Environment.

Grow Zones filter out excessive nutrients that come from fertilizers, goose droppings, and road debris. Grow Zones increase natural floodwater storage capacity by creating additional places for water to infiltrate into the ground.

Over 40 different species native to southeast Michigan will be planted including Eastern Red Cedar, Redbud, Big Bluestem Grass and Wild Geranium. They will be maintained and cared for by volunteers and the Wayne County Parks maintenance staff. Signs will be placed at each site to designate them as "Grow Zone" sites. These projects are part of the watershed wide effort announced by the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Council, earlier this year, to promote 2006 as The Year of the Grow Zone.

The next scheduled Grow Zone planting project will take place on May 6 at the Bennett Arboretum site in Northville Township in Hines Park. Volunteers will plant a variety of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Remaining Grow Zones include Ford Road and Outer Drive in Dearborn Heights for May 24 and Nankin Mills in Westland to be planted at a date to be determined this fall. For volunteer and/or general information, contact Noel Mullett, Wayne County Department of Environment-Watershed Management Division at

nmullett@co.wayne.mi.us or (734) 326-3936. Or contact David Robbins, Wayne County Parks,

drobbins@co.wayne.mi.us or by phone at (734) 291-1990.

### **OTHER OPINIONS**

#### Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 4, 2006

# Dithering on high gas prices won't make drop of difference

agging on high gas prices here? Try California's. I can speak from personal experience; my wife, Kathy, and I just returned from a quick trip to California where we attended a wedding. The lowest price we saw driving back from Monterey to San Francisco was \$3.27 a gallon, and in a couple of out-of-the-way places it was \$3.45.

Well, it's nice to find some reason to be grateful we live in Michigan. But gas isn't cheap anywhere and, not surprisingly, the high gas prices in



recent weeks have unleashed a blizzard of inane quick-fix ideas from a raft of politicians who should know better.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm supports, the idea of capping oil industry profits as a way to reducing gas prices. It's not clear to me exactly what the economic reasoning is behind this idea (also advocated by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow), but I can

Power

understand the reflex instinct to do something when Exxon-Mobil announces an \$8.4 billion quarterly profit, fifth largest of any public company in history.

Not to be outdone, GOP gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos wants the state to stop collecting the sales tax on gas whenever the price goes above \$1.95 a gallon. Now DeVos is a businessman who ought to know something about supply and demand. Since the underlying reason for high gas prices is that the worldwide supply is insufficient to meet rising demand, DeVos needs to explain just how artificially capping the price reduces demand.

Not only that, but his suggestion would cost the state nearly \$300 million in tax revenue. How would he make that up? Stop funding Michigan State University?

There were even more silly suggestions coming out of Washington. The Bush administration offered a "gas tax holiday," in which consumers would get a rebate check for \$100. Democrats, predictably, want to repeal some tax breaks big oil got last year and add a windfall profits tax on the oil companies.

Naturally, both parties completely failed to explain how their schemes would reduce gas prices ... mainly because they wouldn't. Sigh.

Also last week, the president asked Congress to give it authority to raise fuel economy standards for cars for the first time in 20 years. In the past, the auto companies have blasted the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards as arbitrary and counterproductive.

But it will be a topic of conversation when the CEOs of Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler meet the president May 18.

Don't expect any of them to have had a revelation. Chrysler President and CEO Tom LaSorda says gas prices will have to hover around \$4 a gallon for at least a year for consumers to change their established buying patterns. If we are serious about doing something about oil prices, first of all, the auto industry ought to endorse – and the U.S. Congress should pass – an ethanol bill that's been kicking around for years.

I have three modest reactions to all the dithering.

If we are serious about doing something about oil prices, first of all, the auto industry ought to endorse — and the U.S. Congress should pass an ethanol bill that's been kicking around for vears.

That bill would require all new cars to be engineered to run on a mixture of ethanol and gas. Brazil has been doing just fine on ethanol for a few years now, and America ought to follow suit.

Second, although everybody recognizes that America is addicted to oil, nobody's been willing to do anything about it. Around four years ago, I joined with some pretty good economists in designing a federal laboratory — to be located in Michigan — to develop alternative energy supplies.

We thought it might be named to honor Congressman John Dingell's half-century in the House of Representatives, and we solicited support from the auto industry. Needless to say, it was like jogging through molasses, and the idea died stillborn.

The baby should be revived. Michigan is the home of more smart auto engineers than any place in the world. What both our state and nation need is a long-term, Marshall Plan-style program aimed at radically reducing our dependency on oil, imported or domestic.

It would cost a lot of money over a long period of time, but imposing a \$1 per gallon "Freedom Fuel" tax would finance it.

Would the politicians go along? Don't hold your breath. One thing you can depend on is that politicians in a democracy like ours will avoid doing anything far-sighted until the crisis is hard upon us.

So we'll muddle along, awash in inanities from both the right and the left, while gas prices remain high and probably will go higher.

And if — make that when — gas hits \$4 and stays there, the people will start modifying their driving and car buying habits and we'll start doing what we should have been doing years ago.

That will be the right medicine — but it will be far more painful and cost far more than it would if we begin now. Or, as you might say, a gallon's worth of prevention is better than a barrel's cost of cure.

So think about it.

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

## The 'driving privilege' can become a tragic nightmare

ast year, a neighbor was killed in a moment of distracted attention.

As she did on most Saturdays, she went out riding with the local bicycle club. Rather than return with the group, she and a friend decided to ride on to the next town, along a usually sparsely traveled road.

She was killed when a teenager took his eyes from the road to reach for something and swerved into my neighbor.



Hugh

Gallagher

who had stopped on the side of the road. In that brief flickering second, one life was gone and another was grimly changed forever.

Over spring break, a Westland teenager was charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving a death. Authorities in Florida say Jeremy Peer, 18, a Livonia

Franklin High School senior, drove off a road and killed a 33-year-old woman as she walked with her husband on a road in Panama City Beach.

The details are still being sorted out and Peer is out on bond and back attending school.

But it is safe to say that the life of this young man will never be the same. A joyful senior trip to Florida ended in a tragic accident and a charge of making a seriously bad decision.

He is a star athlete and an excellent student with a 4.3 grade-point average and a scholarship to Adrian College. His football coach Chris Kelbert describes Peer as a model student and "outstanding leader."

But for now, his future is on hold. He faces an arraignment in Florida in May, after which a pretrial hearing will be set.

We've all had those moments. We grope to answer our cell phones or try to pop in a CD or a tape. We turn our heads to watch something along the road or we turn to tell the children to keep quiet.

We've all had a fender-bender or two or swerved just in time to avoid hitting something and breathed a sigh of relief or a silent prayer that something more serious didn't result from our inattention.

These accidents are more likely to occur to young drivers. But others are more likely to be killed in those accidents when young people are behind the wheel.

AAA Michigan reports that a new study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety finds that nationwide, young novice drivers "comprise slightly more than one-third of all fatalities in crashes in which they are involved; whereas nearly two-thirds of those killed are passengers in the novice driver's vehicle, occupants of other vehicles and pedestrians." In Michigan, AAA reports, 1,168 people

died in crashes involving a novice 15- to 17-

In Michigan, AAA reports, 1,168 people died in crashes involving a novice 15- to 17-year-old driver from 1995 to 2004. Studies find that teenagers have higher crash rates than older drivers and that the teenage drivers are more likely to be at fault in their crashes.

year-old driver from 1995 to 2004. Studies find that teenagers have higher crash rates than older drivers and that the teenage drivers are more likely to be at fault in their crashes.

AAA is providing free copies of a new DVD produced by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Young Drivers: The High-Risk Years. The DVD explains why crash rates for teen drivers are high and provides guidelines for parents. Free copies are available at AAA's 43 full-service branch offices in Michigan. A list of the offices is available online at www.aaa.com.

In addition to the DVD, AAA is also providing a parent-teen contract to help parents set limits on their teen's driving and a parent-toparent contract "to help start a dialogue with other parents on restricting teen passengers and driving during nighttime high-risk periods."

AAA is pushing to have Michigan's graduated licensing law changed to limit the number of teenage passengers riding with novice drivers.

"Regardless of what the state law says, parents should carefully consider if and when to allow their teen to transport other teens or ride with other novice teen drivers," said Richard J. Miller, manager of community safety services for AAA. "Even if it means playing 'chauffeur' for one more year."

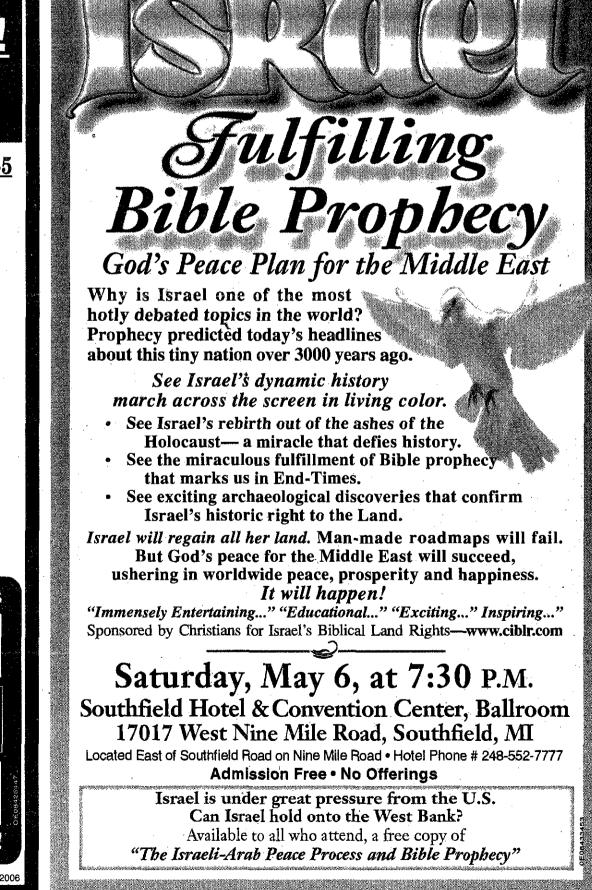
According to police, the driver in Florida was alone, but the accident occurred at 10 p.m. in an unfamiliar place, two high-risk situations, especially for a young, inexperienced driver.

Young people need to learn how to drive. In our world, the automobile is a necessity. But most parents dread the day their child begins the "privilege" of driver's training and the day he/she takes that first solo drive or, worse, that drive with friends. We wait nervously, hoping and praying that they'll be responsible and that everyone around them will be responsible.

Because we know what can happen. In a brief moment, the world can change forever.

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





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### COUNTY NEWS



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student volunteers Millie Li of Canton, Jason Baker of Westland, and Plymouth YMCA staffer Jenny Roszei pack goodie bags for the marchers.

## Walkers flood Hines Drive to aid March of Dimes

#### BY DOUG JOHNSON CORRESPONDENT

Beth and John Russell of Canton were among the 2,500 walkers who gathered Saturday at Nankin Mills recreation area in Hines Park for the March of Dimes fundraiser, WalkAmerica.

On John's shoulders was Maggie,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years old and one of the miracles of neonatal care at the University of Michigan and research funded by MOD.

The Russells are MOD ambassadors, willing spokespersons for the March of Dimes which funds research and programs for babies born too soon and/or toe small. "We walk in memory of our twins (Joshua and Julia) who were stillborn at 21 weeks, and in honor of Maggie," Beth Russell said.

Another Canton resident, UAW president Ron Gettelfinger, spoke to the crowd and led the walkers who were blessed with near perfect weather.

"I really like the March of Dimes," Gettelfinger said after finishing the walk. "This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community. Anything to help premature babies. It's great to take part in this." Gettelfinger also marched Sunday in the WalkAmerica event in Detroit at Hart Plaza. There were also walks at Metro Beach and in Troy Sunday.

The Westland WalkAmerica event stepped off promptly at 9 a.m. and many of the walkers made it for the full six miles – about three miles from Ann Arbor Trail and Hines to just past Newburgh Road (Sumac Pointe) in Livonia and back.

Another walker, Jen Alessi from Farmington Hills, was there with her two daughters, Kailey, 7, and Nicole 3, and husband Larry.

"I have walked the six miles the last two years myself. Both of our children were helped by the March of Dimes," she said.

Lisa King of Westland, who was with the Ford Customer Service Division team, had a special reason to walk.

"I was actually a preemie baby when I was born," said King, who weighed about three pounds at birth. She has a girlfriend in Ohio who participates in WalkAmerica every year.

"It was a beautiful day," King said Saturday at her first WalkAmerica. "It turned out to be a pretty awesome day."

The local walk was headed by MOD event coordinator Lesley Nadeau. She said about 100 volunteers and corporate sponsors like Ford, Pepsi, and Flagstar Bank and organizations like UAW made a smooth event possible.

"There are lots of families today and everyone is enjoying the great weather and walking for a great cause."

Among the people helping with the opening ceremony were two Grant Elementary fourth-graders, Livonia residents Ryan Deloge and Emily Crombez, who sang the national anthem a capella.

Walkers pay a fee and get pledges to raise money for the charity. It is possible to come to the event and just walk to show support.

An arc of baby pink and baby blue balloons greeted the crowd at the staging area. Lots of walkers were pushing babies in strollers or pulling them in toy wagons. Most were done with the walk by 11 a.m.



www.hometownlife.com

John and Beth Russell, with daughter Maggie, march. The Russells, a March of Dimes Ambassador family, live in Canton.

Cheryl Southern of Royal Oak, a FedEx staffer in Novi, was there with daughter Melissa, also a Royal Oak resident and nursing assistant at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. The younger Southern has worked with newborns.

"It was great," Cheryl Southern said of WalkAmerica in Hines Park. "We had a lot of fun." Some of her colleagues dressed as paparazzi for the day and others as celebrities.

She helped at a checkpoint, passing out water, snacks and Mardi Gras beads. "That always puts a smile on the kids' faces," said Southern, whose employer is among event sponsors.

"You feel good that you can help them," she said, adding that this year, her third for WalkAmerica, had the best weather.

"And the turnout was really good," Southern said. "We had good volunteers from the company. We always have fun."

Founded in 1938 under the leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to fight polio, the March of Dimes today works to prevent birth defects and premature births. About 500,000 babies are born too soon each year in the U.S., about one out of eight.

The southeastern Michigan March of Dimes headquarters is at 27600 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this story.

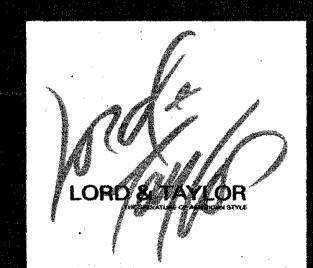


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