

Camps appeal to kids with dreams

hometownLIFE - SECTION C

Schoolcraft chefs help in design of Beaumont surgical center

HEALTH - PAGE C6

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## A golden scoop

Dairy Dan celebrates 50 years of serving ice cream in city

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Generations of ice cream lovers have fond memories of Dairy Dan — a Ford Road landmark celebrating its 50th year.

Betty and Robert Stottlemeyer, who have lived near Dairy Dan since 1959, used to take their four children there.

Just ask their son Mark, now of Atlanta. He used to hang out with the people who ran it.

"I loved it," he said. "It kind of ruined me a little bit, because that's the (ice cream) place I got used to. Other places aren't even close."

When he visits his parents, Mark Stottlemeyer returns to Dairy Dan.

"I have to stop by there," he said. "It was a wonderful experience growing up. Dairy Dan and Bray's (hamburgers) were the two big escapes for kids on bikes."

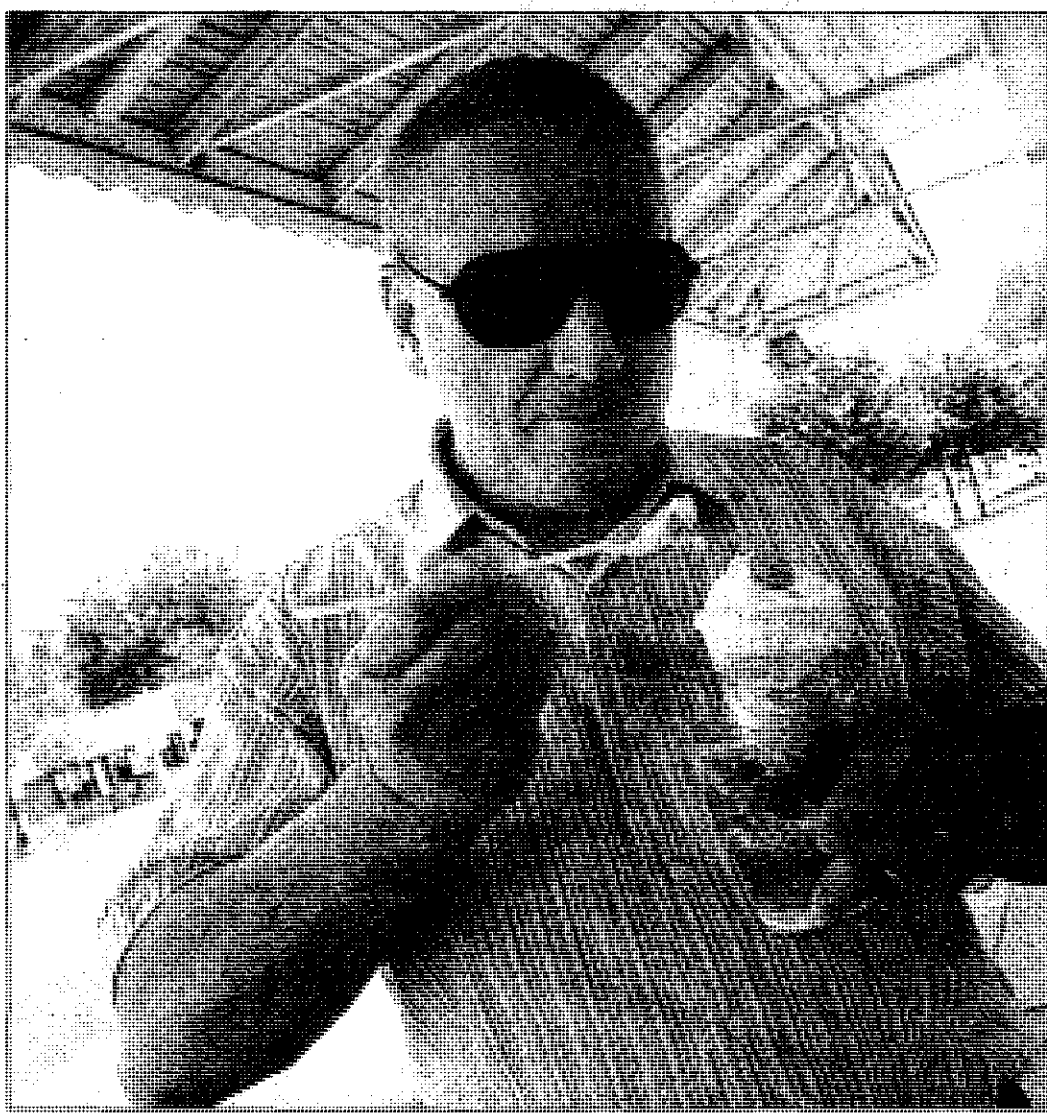
Dairy Dan opened on Ford west of Wayne Road in 1956 — 10 years before Westland even became a city. It has changed owners a few times, and Sue and Larry Traver bought it in 1999.

"Fifty years is a long time for any

PLEASE SEE DAIRY DAN, A6



Owners Sue and Larry Traver and manager Lindsay Beard of Westland are celebrating Dairy Dan's 50 years of serving ice cream to Westland residents. The Travers have been owners since 1999, and Beard has worked there for nine years.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Farmer of Wayne has been known to sneak down to Dairy Dan's from his business, Star Specialties, to get a strawberry sundae.

## County certifies recall vote

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Clerk announced Friday that the Citizens for Livonia's Future did in fact collect enough signatures to establish an election to recall five members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

But the trustees in question said they will take legal action and prove the number of signatures is not sufficient.

The CFLF, now a political action committee, formed after the board's 6-1 decision to support the Legacy Initiative — a plan that closes and reconfigures schools in an effort to save money. The group aims to halt the plan and recall trustees Rob Freeman, Dan Lessard, Cynthia Markarian, Lynda Scheel and Kevin Whitehead for supporting it.

"We are gratified that the Wayne County clerk today validated the hard work of hundreds of Livonia and Westland residents by certifying that enough signatures were collected to recall five members of the Livonia Board of Education," said Jody Hamilton, an organizer of the recall effort. In addition to Livonia, the district serves 3,645 students who live in Westland.

Board president Dan Lessard said he was "totally appalled" by Friday's recall news.

He and four other trustees impacted by the recall effort charge that the minimum number of signatures certified by the county — 8,923 — was miscounted. Lessard said Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett failed to include 14 district precincts upon calculating that minimum requirement for valid signatures.

"To me, it's illegal," he said. Board trustees challenged the number recently, suggesting the requirement should've been 11,464 signatures, based on all of the district precincts. The CFLF group collected more than 11,000 signatures per trustee within a 90-day period.

Lessard, in an e-mail Friday, asked: "Would the county clerk accept a lower number if she was being recalled?"

PLEASE SEE RECALL, A5

## Read Dick Purtan in Thursday's O&E

Radio legend and the metro area's all around funny man, Dick Purtan, brings his hometown humor and wit to the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* starting Thursday.

Look for WOMC morning host Purtan and crew — Purta's People, on the front of [hometownLIFE.com](http://hometownLIFE.com) in "Off the Air with Dick Purtan & Purta's People."

"Dick Purtan is one of metro Detroit's funniest morning personalities and the *O&E* looks forward to featuring him along with his cast — Purta's People — in our [hometownLIFE.com](http://hometownLIFE.com) section," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor.

For more than 40 years, Purtan has entertained his loyal following of listeners throughout Michigan, Ohio and Ontario with comedic commentary and topical wit. His cast of characters gives the show witty daily twists and turns, covering current events and public figures.

"Readers can expect the unexpected from one of Detroit's most colorful funny



Purtan

man," Rosiek said.

The proverbial funny-man had this say about his new column: "We're so excited about this we may have to sit down."

"It's must read radio. It will be music to your eyes," quipped Purtan.

Purtan's wit is matched only by his commitment to community service in the metro area.

Over the last 19 years, his annual Salvation Army Radiothon has raised more than \$12 million for the Salvation Army's Bed & Bread program. This past February, the 16-hour radiothon brought in a record \$1.8 million.

Purtan was inducted into the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame earlier this year in Las Vegas. He has collected many honors in his nearly four-decade career, including NAB Marconi Radio Award for "Major Market Personality of the Year,"

Purtan was inducted into the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame earlier this year in Las Vegas. He has collected many honors in his nearly four-decade career.

which he received in 1993. He has twice received the "Radio & Records Industry Achievement Award" as "Oldies Personality of the Year" and *Billboard* magazine has twice named him "Major Market Air Personality of the Year."

In September 2000, Purtan hosted the NAB Marconi Awards Dinner & Show in San Francisco, where WOMC-FM (104.3) picked up two Marconi Awards for "Major Market Station of the Year" and "Oldies Station of the Year."

In 2004, he was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame, located in Chicago.

## Hearing delayed in fatal accident

A Westland teenager's pretrial hearing on charges he fled the scene of a fatal accident in Florida was postponed Wednesday.

Jeremy Peer, 18, now faces a new pretrial date of July 5 amid allegations he drove off a Panama City Beach road and struck a Pennsylvania couple as they were walking.

Peer, a 2006 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School, is accused of fleeing the scene of a spring break accident April 17 that killed 33-year-old Colleen Martin and injured her husband, Montey.

On Thursday, Panama City Beach authorities still were awaiting toxicology results that will show whether Peer was drinking or using drugs when the accident occurred.

A not-guilty plea has been placed in Peer's court file as he awaits his next hearing in the Bay County Courthouse.

Peer, on the list of this year's Franklin graduates, had returned to school one week after the accident occurred. His parents made arrangements with a surety company for his release on bonds totaling \$175,000.

Peer is charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving a death and with leaving the scene of an accident involving an injury. If convicted as charged, he could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison.



Peer

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Number 5

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Coming Thursday in Filter

**Big but edgy**

Ann Arbor Summer Festival has Ani DiFranco, John Waters and many other cutting-edge artists coming to town.



# Firefighter union names local scholarship winners

Five young women will receive more money for their education thanks to scholarships awarded by the Westland Professional Fire Fighters Union Local 1279, union Treasurer Ed Hosmer announced.



Brittney Morgan Chelsea Provot Kara Quintal

Three of the scholarships are in honor of the late firefighter Bobby Foust, who was killed in the 1980s in a boating accident unrelated to his job.

This year, for the first time, firefighters also are giving two full scholarships to the Michigan Academy of Emergency Services, where recipients will have all tuition and books paid for paramedic and emergency medical technician courses.

Recipients of the Bobby Foust Memorial Scholarships, which are \$1,000 each, are Brittney Morgan, Chelsea Provot and Kara Quintal.

Morgan is a Livonia Churchill High School graduate who plans to attend Grand Valley State University and study in the biomedical sciences department.

She will be in the honors college, where she will prepare to attend medical school.

Provot is a Livonia Franklin High graduate who plans to attend Central Michigan University and major in communication disorders.

She plans to pursue a master's degree in speech pathology after her undergraduate studies.

Quintal is a Wayne Memorial High School graduate who plans to attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn to take pre-medical courses. She plans to attend medical school and become a doctor.

Recipients of the EMT/paramedic scholarships are Jennifer Corney and Amanda Norfleet.

The scholarships were donated by Westland firefighter Kevin Brookshire, owner of the Michigan Academy of Emergency



Jennifer Corney Amanda Norfleet

Services, or MAES.

Those scholarships are valued at \$6,000 each.

Corney is a John Glenn High School graduate who plans to attend Schoolcraft College and focus on nursing studies while attending EMT/paramedic courses at MAES. She is planning a career in nursing.

Norfleet is a Livonia Churchill High School graduate who plans to complete her EMT/paramedic training and pursue a career in public service.

She plans to continue her studies and enter the field of medicine as a firefighter/paramedic, flight nurse or doctor.

The firefighter scholarship applications are available each year in January at local high school counseling offices and at fire administration offices on Marquette.

Applicants have to be a Westland resident, and they have to submit a short essay.

Applicants are judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community involvement and the essay.

# Day Treatment Center will move

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

As Livonia Public Schools begins to downsize the number of elementary buildings it operates, an Adolescent Day Treatment Center will shift to a new location in Westland.

The Kaselemis Center, a program operated by Redford Union Schools, has most recently been housed at 36651 Ann Arbor Trail. The building, referred to as Rosedale School, is owned by Livonia Public Schools.

As the district closes seven buildings to restructure its programs under the Legacy Initiative, the school is set to reopen as a K-4 elementary.

That means a moving day is in the future for students and staff at the Kaselemis Center.

"We're moving down the road to Nankin Mills, which is four miles east on Ann Arbor Trail," said Neil Thomas, executive director of special education and early childhood programs for Redford Union School District.

Redford Union will call the building the Kaselemis Center. Even the sign is set to move. District officials are still discussing a formal lease agreement at Nankin Mills.

In the past Redford Union school officials have signed a four-year lease to house their program in the neighboring

district.

"Livonia has been very helpful in the site selection," said Thomas. "We've had a chance to go through the building beforehand. It will meet our needs very well. It's a great location in so many ways for a day treatment program."

Supt. Randy Liepa of Livonia Public Schools said the district is indeed looking into moving the program to Nankin Mills Elementary. "It's close to the (Western Wayne) Skill Center," he added.

Though Liepa said nothing has been finalized, he expects to bring the matter before the school board very soon.

In its 29 years of operation, this will mark the adolescent day treatment program's fifth relocation.

It began as the Pearson Center, moved to Volney Center, then to Rosedale School (now demolished) in Livonia and to the former Johnson Elementary School.

In 1999 Livonia Public Schools re-opened the former Lowell Junior High School as the new Johnson Elementary. That's when the former Johnson school took on the name Rosedale.

In 2004, Redford Union re-dedicated the Rosedale building as the Gus Kaselemis Center for adolescent day treatment and special education students.

Making the move to Nankin Mills will be tricky, said Thomas.

"Everyone is making the transition," he said. "They've been packing some of the boxes and moving computers and equipment over."

But Livonia Public Schools, in the middle of a major move itself, will schedule the official moving day for the program.

Thomas noted that moving students from one building to another "is really hard for everybody."

But keeping the program intact is key.

"It's a tremendous program I think," said Thomas. "It's really successful. The new location will allow us to continue to help our students."

The Kaselemis Center accommodates more than 125 high school-age students who are referred from staff members in their home school districts in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Redford Township and Northville.

Individuals with questions about the program can call Bob Dietiker, director of student services in Livonia Public Schools, at (734) 744-2615 or Neil Thomas in Redford Union Schools at (313) 742-3501. The Kaselemis Center can be reached directly at (734) 422-3717.

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## Summer Clearance Kick-off Saturday, June 24th

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### GOLF OUTINGS

D.A.R.E. Westland police have announced the 16th annual golf outing for the department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program on Tuesday, June 13. Registration will start at 7 a.m. with the event following at 8 a.m. at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse Road, east of I-275, in Wayne. Cost is \$125 per person and includes a golf cart, lunch and dinner. Businesses and others also may be a par sponsor for \$100, which includes getting a sign placed on the course and a quarter-page ad in the program; a birdie sponsor, which includes providing a cash or door prize and being recognized in the program; or an eagle sponsor for \$700, which includes four green fees, two signs placed on the course, a full-page ad in the program and a special framed certificate. There will be a hole-in-one contest sponsored by North Bros. Ford. Call D.A.R.E. instructor Ken Kline at (734) 722-3273.

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### Garden City Hospital

The Garden City Hospital Foundation's annual golf outing Monday, June 26, at Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon. Registration will be at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Call (734) 458-4331 for more information.

### CORRECTIONS

Fred Shell, vice president of DTE Energy, was incorrectly identified in second reference as Fred Small in a story in Thursday's *Observer*.

The caption for a photo on the front of the Westland sports section Thursday should have identified Matt Dykla of Livonia Churchill making the tag on Redford Union's Jon Macek during a Division I pre-district baseball game

### WESTLAND Observer

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Wayne Memorial High School graduating seniors Andrew Hermatz (from left), Mengyu Shi and James Capraro turn their tassels to make their graduation official during the commencement ceremony at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center in Ypsilanti.



The graduation excitement took its toll on Churchill graduate Jeremy Larabell as he sat down to take a quick rest before the start of graduation ceremonies Tuesday night of last week at the Compuware Sports Arena.

## 7 valedictorians lead WMHS Class of '06

It was a reason to celebrate as the Wayne Memorial High School Class of 2006 gathered together one last time at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center June 3.

The commencement ceremony drew tears and cheers as the graduates listened to this year's Distinguished Alumni, the Rev. Monsignor Jeffrey

Marc Monforton.

Leading the class were seven seniors who were selected to serve as the valedictorians. There was only one salutatorian.

Serving as the valedictorians of were:

■ Jeremy Ferack, the son of Anthony and Ruth Ferack, who had a career 4.177 grade

point average. He will be attending the Lawrence Technological University to major in electrical engineering.

■ Jennifer Greenshields, the daughter of April Greenshields, who had a career 4.072 grade point average. She will be attending the University of Michigan- Dearborn to major in pre-law.

■ Andrew Hermatz, the son of Dennis and Patricia Hermatz, who had a career 4.093 grade point average. He will be attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to major in business/marketing

■ Sara Michael, the daughter of Beate Michael, who had a career 4.156 grade point

average. She will be attending Wayne State University to major in business management.

■ Mengyu Shi, the son of Guo Chun and Meirung Shi, who had a career 4.012 grade point average. He will be attending Michigan State University to major in accounting.

■ Wendy Turner who had a career 4.072 grade point average. She will be attending Valparaiso University to major in music performance/teach-

ing. ■ Sara Weimert, the daughter of William and Denise Weimert, who had a career 4.062 grade point average. She will be attending the University of Michigan- Dearborn to study psychology.

The salutatorian was James Capraro, the son of Anthony and Andrea Capraro. He had a career 3.979 grade point average. He will be attending the University of Michigan-

PLEASE SEE GRADS, A6

## Monforton named Wayne Distinguished Alumnus

Selected to receive the 2006 Wayne Memorial High School Distinguished Alumni Award was Monsignor Jeffrey Marc Monforton.

Born on May 5, 1963 in Detroit to Marc Louise Monforton and Virginia Rose Monforton, he is the eldest of three sons.

As a student, he attended Tinkham Elementary School and Marshall Junior High School before graduating from Wayne Memorial High School.

Following graduation, he attended Wayne State University, then entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary where he graduated with a bachelor of arts in philosophy. As a seminarian at the North American College in Rome, Italy, Monforton received a bachelor's and a Licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Later, as a priest, he was awarded a doctorate in sacred theology from the

Pontifical Gregorian University.

On June 25, 1994, Monforton was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit by then Archbishop Adam Maida. Following ordination, he served in the Archdiocese of Detroit as associate pastor of The National Shrine of the Little Flower from 1994 through 1996. He also served on the faculty at the parish high school for two academic years in the

Department of Religion.

Monforton also served as personal priest secretary to Adam Cardinal Maida from 1998 to 2005, and has been a member of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary Faculty since 2002.

Weekend assistant assignments have included St. Paul on the Lake in Grosse Pointe from 1998-2003 and St. Jane Frances de Chantal in Sterling Heights from 2002-2005.

In April of 2005, Monforton trav-

eled with Cardinal Maida to the Vatican, and remained there for three weeks from the funeral Mass of Pope John Paul II through the conclave and the election of Pope Benedict XVI. Monforton became pastor of St. Therese of Lisieux Church in Shelby Township on July 1, 2005, and in the same year Pope Benedict XVI conferred the title of monsignor on Monforton.

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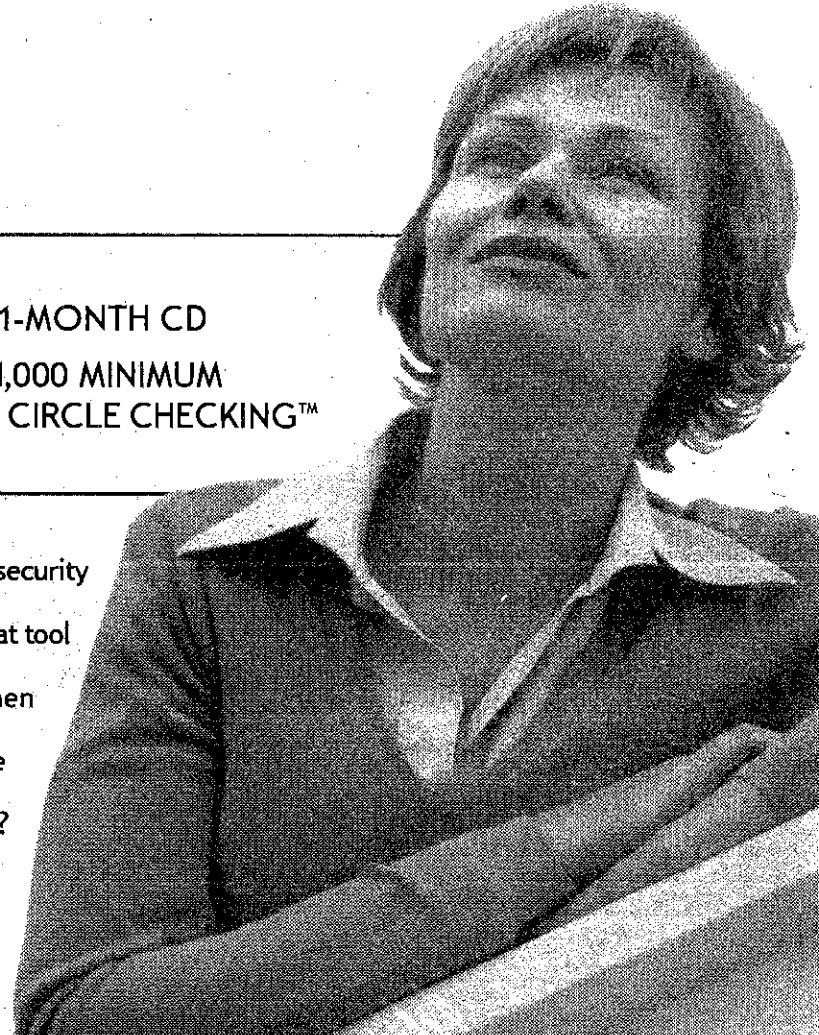
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# Readers share memories of now-closed elementary schools

In a time of change, Livonia Public Schools community members are recalling their personal memories of years passed in the district. When the final school bells sounded on June 8, students and staff at Adams, Hull, McKinley, Nankin Mills, Taylor, Tyler and Washington elementary schools said goodbye to their familiar, neighborhood buildings. And the district officially began transforming Cooper and Johnson schools from elementary to upper elementary buildings. They will house fifth- and sixth-graders next fall.

After we put out a request, residents with ties to the closing and changing school communities submitted the following recollections.

■ **Gordon W. Draper**, Livonia resident and former administrator, had this to say about Nankin Mills Elementary.

"When I was principal at Nankin Mills in the 1970s, we kept the audio-visual equipment in a locked room. A teacher would send a student to the office to get the key and then take the equipment to the classroom."

"One day a young man came into the office and said, 'Gimme the AV key!' Hoping to teach a few manners, I said, 'There are some magic words that would get you that key a little faster.' He looked at me with a very puzzled expression until his face lit up. He broke into a broad smile and said: 'Open Sesame!'"

■ **Garnetta Vaughn**, a retired Livonia Public Schools teacher and longtime resident shared her thoughts about fellow staff members at Washington Elementary, where she taught from 1957-1958 and in the 1960s. Three of her children attended the school.

"Washington Elementary School opened in 1957 and Ruth DeCamp recalls she had gone early to set up her room and look over materials. A gentleman came to her door and asked how she liked the building. I

like it fine but the skylights are for the birds," she said. He said he was the architect.

"Miss DeCamp retired in 1975 and delights in hearing about her former fifth- and sixth-graders. She'll be 96 in July.

"Principal William Stafford (1965-1970) wanted children to be safe as they crossed Hix and Ann Arbor Road. He got flares from the bus driver and would swing them to stop traffic. Winter days were dark. School began early and no traffic lights existed."

■ **Bonnie L. Allen**, a Livonia resident and retired early childhood paraprofessional shared her thoughts about Adams Elementary School:

"The Adams building will close. The loving family of Adams will live on in its parents, children and staff."

"I was an early childhood parapro for 16 years. There are too many memories to list. They will always live in my heart for the love they showed when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The cards, meals for my family, and the gift baskets just kept coming. One of the best was \$1.19 in change and a note that said 'use for medicine' from a second-grader. So rejoice families at Roosevelt, the wonderful Adams Family is coming to a building near you."

■ **Selin Cetin**, a first-grader at Tyler Elementary in Livonia shared her favorite experience of the year.

"My favorite moment at Tyler Elementary School is the first grade musical *How Does Your Garden Grow?* We practiced almost everyday since Easter. Sometimes the weeds and the flowers practiced alone. I was a flower. We practiced dancing and singing."

"Finally it was the day for the show. First, we practiced the play once and then it was the big time! We sang six songs. The students were dressed as a farmer, a child, weeds, flowers, a scarecrow, plants, vegetables, a groundhog, a rabbit, a frog, a sprinkler, a gazing ball, and a

birdbath. The next day, we celebrated our hard work by having a party. We had cake, cookies, doughnuts, juice, and ice cream. We were able to dance while we ate. They were silly songs that we danced to. I will miss Tyler Elementary School."

■ **Catherine Cordon**, a Livonia mother of two, shared the following about her neighborhood school, Tyler. First, she sent a poem:

"As our last days at Tyler Elementary approach our mood is sad. We have so many memories that we will never forget."

We must all move on because next year everything will be new.

But our children will survive and we will guide them through."

Cordon also sent this letter: "My children's school, Tyler Elementary, is closing. As we move onto the next school year with all of its changes I know that we have all struggled with the acceptance of what will come to be. I just want to thank all of the Tyler staff for their dedication. I know that leaving their school has been a very difficult process."

"A very special thank you to the Tyler PTA. They took our last year here in our school to the next level with all of this year's activities. Thank you to all of you. Best of luck 2006."

■ **Terry Godfroid-Marecki**, Livonia city council member, recalled her own elementary days. "I was the oldest of five siblings who attended Adams. My favorite teacher was Mr. Cowden who taught sixth grade. Students participated in an all district field day then, and the events were quite competitive."

"Mr. Cowden took four of us (girls) in the class and trained us for months to participate in the longest event - the 600-yard run. In the first weeks of practice, I could barely finish because I was so out of breath. On the final day of the race the four of us finished first through fourth (I was second) in the city. What an honor!"

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

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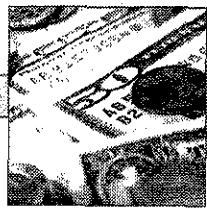
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# Schools close on last day in Livonia

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Thursday marked the final day of school in Livonia Public Schools, and closing day for Adams, Hull, McKinley, Nankin Mills, Taylor, Tyler and Washington.

Amid the mix of hugs, tears and cheers that accompany any elementary end-of-year celebration, moments became particularly emotional this time around.

"How do you say good-bye?" said Terry Taylor, McKinley principal. He called June 8 "a day we've dreaded and dreaded and it's here."

Taylor said it's McKinley's community he'll miss the most — the way teachers and parents alike pitch in to help, all aiming "to make this work for the kids."

But Taylor called the somber mood a "good kind of sad." He said the end of every school year brings a sadness as staff watch the children leave. But the things that have made McKinley special will also make Grant and Cooper special, he noted.

Cathy Wise was near tears Thursday afternoon as she stood outside of Hull School awaiting her son Ryan's last moments as a sixth-grader. The entire school community gathered outside to pay tribute to Hull, and its students and staff. The school children formed a human maze and, beginning with sixth grade, students ran through clapping and cheering through the sea of schoolmates.

Called a "clap-out," Principal



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hull Elementary second-grader Lindsay Hickox claps for her classmates as the students on the last day of school Thursday. Hull will close under the Legacy Initiative.

Colette Ivey got the idea from a colleague at Kennedy who uses the celebration to bid farewell to sixth-graders every year. She said she thought it was an appropriate way to celebrate the last day of school at Hull.

Adams Elementary students and staff also cheered their way out of school. They released smiling yellow balloons simultaneously into the sky. "We will miss our Adams building, but the spirit and happy memories will go with us to Roosevelt," parent Shelly Robinet said. To commemorate their time at the school, each student received a DVD of photographs from the past school year, and a framed picture of themselves in front of the school sign.

Wise remembered her first look at Hull, a school she and her husband happened upon when they were still dating.

"We rode our bikes by the

school and looked in one of the kindergarten rooms," Wise said. She remembered thinking it looked like a nice place to raise children. Once they married, they moved to the area specifically because of its school community. And she's glad to see Hull close.

"I think I'm going to miss that old-fashioned walk to school," she said.

Pam Regulski, Hull secretary, was herself a student at the school. But she won't say good-bye, she'll say "see you soon." As a Livonia resident, she's sure she'll run into Hull students and staff around town, and at Cooper where she'll work in the fall.

"It's a day of a lot of smiles and excitement," she said.

Former Hull students, now seventh-graders at Frost, also returned to see their teachers and say good-bye to their alma mater. Shelby Cowen, Allison

Gutowski and Maria Paul stood outside the school waiting for the "clap-out" celebration. They agreed the best things about Hull were "all the teachers and the students, and Larry the custodian," Allison said.

The scene at McKinley Elementary teetered between excitement and somberness. Children cleaned out their desks, ran through baseball skills for the last time in physical education class, and talked about the changes to come.

A sign in the gymnasium read: "We saved the best for last, Class of 2006."

Teacher Doreen Byrne led her first-graders through an exercise listing what they most look forward to doing next fall, at Grant Elementary. The list included the basics, like "have a desk" and "look at books" and reflected change with items like "make new friends" and "have a funny teacher like you."

"You guys learned a lot this year," Byrne said to her students. "Just wait until you get to second grade."

Pat Griffin, a kindergarten teacher, noted that she'll miss the supportive staff and parents she's worked with at McKinley for 10 years. While she said the change — a part of the district's Legacy Initiative to close and consolidate schools to save money — will be a good one, she will miss McKinley. Grant staff and students have been welcoming, she added.

"There's been a real effort on both parts to make this as easy a transition as possible," Griffin said.

## RECALL

FROM PAGE A1

Garrett and other employees at the Wayne County Clerk's office did not immediately return calls on Friday.

"I just don't understand it," Lessard said. "I'm sure I know the next step. We're gonna call our attorney."

Hamilton said she's not concerned about a potential lawsuit between the board and the Wayne County clerk.

"We put our trust in the system and met the requirement given us by Cathy Garrett," she said. "We met and exceeded the minimum number asked of us."

Cheryl Hudzik, also a CFLF member, said she was "absolutely elated" that the group's hard work has culminated in an elec-

tion. She said community members spoke out in opposition to the plan in an effort "to preserve the neighborhood schools that our community was founded on."

In a press release issued Friday, Brad Wolkan, chair of the CFLF committee, said the effort will continue.

"Our neighbors worked day and night to collect signatures," said Wolkan. "Now we challenge our neighbors once again to work day and night to return accountability and trust back to our school board by voting to remove five board members on Aug. 8."

Since the plan passed in December, the group has worked to stop the Legacy Initiative or alter it in some way. scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

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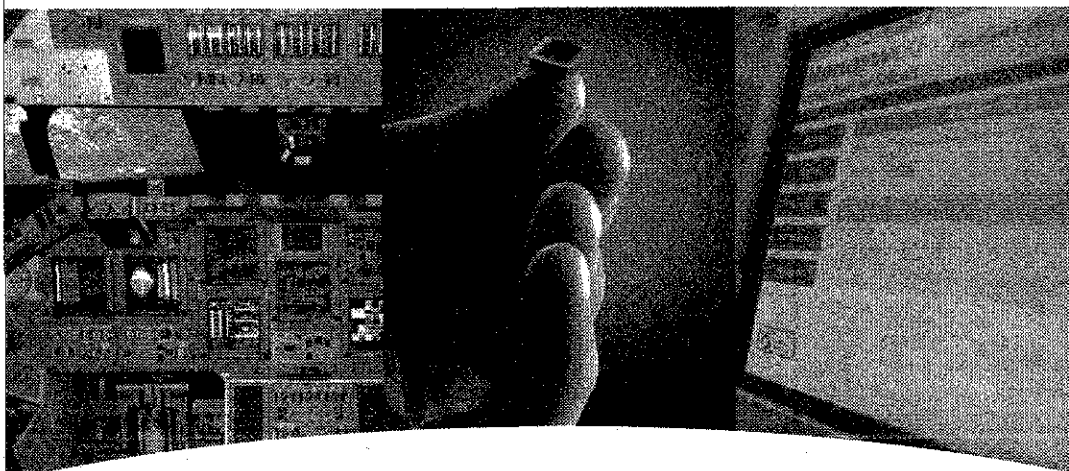
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**DAIRY DAN**

FROM PAGE A1  
 business," Sue Traver, 56, said. "I think a lot of the success has to do with the location being on Ford Road, and it's a family owned business."  
 Three generations of the Stottlemeyer family have enjoyed Dairy Dan, eagerly awaiting its spring opening and dreading its fall closing.  
 "All of our children liked going there, and it has just followed through with the grandchildren," said Betty Stottlemeyer, whose husband serves on the Westland City Council.  
 Their daughter Donna Beaupre not only has taken her sons Joshua, 14, and Brandon, 19, to Dairy Dan, but the family dog, too.  
 "They serve doggie cones there," Betty Stottlemeyer said. Dairy Dan opened when Ford Road had only two lanes and the area wasn't nearly as built up.  
 The business serves 24 flavors, available in soft-serve, yogurt and custard.  
 "German chocolate is a big seller, and so is the lemon and cheesecake," Sue Traver said.  
 The waffle cone sundaes also are popular.  
 "We make our own waffle cones," she said. "We make them into a bowl, so you can

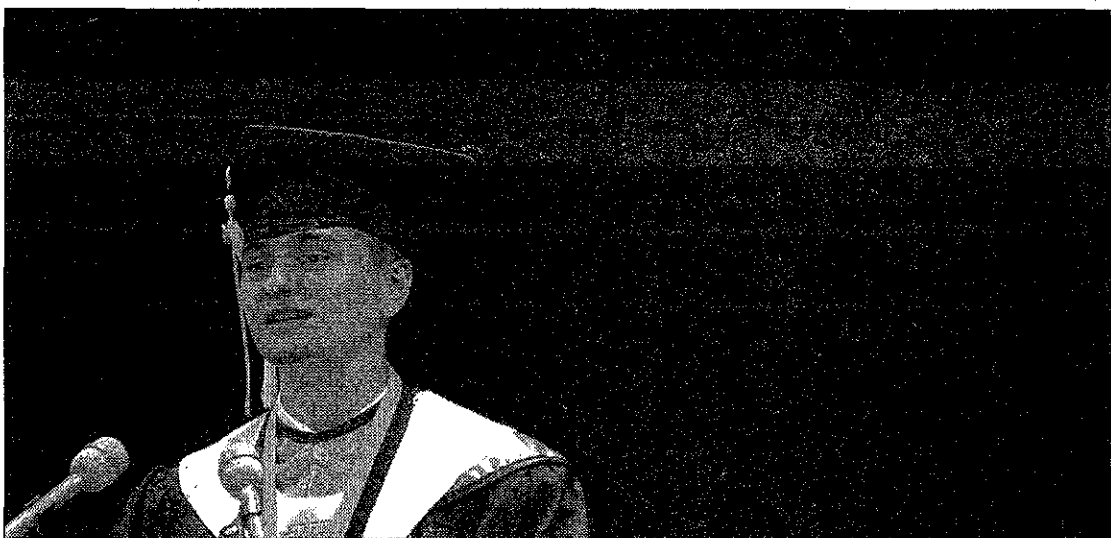
have whatever sundae you want in it."  
 For customers watching their sugar intake, Dairy Dan offers butter pecan, peanut butter fudge and vanilla.  
 "Our sugar-free Boston coolers are very popular among diabetics," Sue Traver said.  
 Dairy Dan succeeds with help from 13 teenaged workers who each year donate 50 percent of their tips to the Karmanos Cancer Institute to help with breast cancer research.  
 The Travers also are involved in the Westland Summer Festival and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, and Sue Traver serves on the city's Downtown Development Authority, dedicated to boosting the economic health of Ford and Wayne roads.  
 Among the teenaged workers are the Travers' two grandsons, Joshua Fowler, 16, and his 14-year-old brother, Jeremy.  
 Whether they or other family members will carry on the family business remains to be seen.  
 "They're learning it right now," Sue Traver said. "The future will tell."

**If you go.** Dairy Dan is open from noon to 10 p.m. while school is in session. It's open an hour later during the summer break.

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**GRADS**

FROM PAGE A3  
 Dearborn to major in science. Receiving diplomas during the commencement ceremony were:  
 Justin Alexander Ables, Endri Afeslari, Zohaib Ahmad, Abigail Alejandro, De'Angelo Allen, Lamar DeShaun Anderson, Allison Areeda, Mark Arnold, Kimberly Artuso, Heather Baker, James Robert Banks, Marques Banks, Michael Beach, Jenese Bean, Melanie Beard, Crystal Beaver, Monica Anna Beeson, Nikolay Belinoy, Wade Bell Jr., Boch'Jenne Benjamin.  
 David Benson, Roland Berry Jr., Adam Beyer, Ryan Bies, Stefayne Ann Bliven, Jakob Scott Boertje, Lisa Booterbaugh, Jenna Bossio, Jasmine Sherell Bowles, Joshua Boyce, Bruce Brewer, Michelle Brewer, James Britton II, Daniel Brooks, Joshua Brown, Katie Brumfield, James Bryant, Megan Bugaiski, Corisa Deshon Butjer, Rena Butler, Casey Cahill, Elizabeth Campbell.  
 Ashley Candy, James Capraro, Shane Caruso, Benjamin Paul Chalupka, Nicholas Chilson, Teal Christoffersen, John Cipolletti, Robin L. Clarke, Varney Clarke, Garmary Lakeyia Cochran, Jamie Coleman, Justin Collop, Karen Contreras, Chelsea Cooney, Amy Cottenham, Sarah Craven, Michael Crill, Terry Curtis, Frank D'Agnillo, Stephen D'Annunzio.  
 Laura D'Arcy, Kayla Daniels, LaTosha Marie Davenport, Holley Scott Davidson, David Davis, John Davis,



Class president Justin Girouard sings a song of farewell to his fellow students during the graduation ceremony.

Maria Davis, Oriana Renee Davis, Marcus Dawson, Amber Day, Jaclyn Dest, Amritpal Dhillon, Desart Dinkollari, Bryan Dixon, Kelly Doerr, Logan Drennan, Raymond Driver, Eric Durham, Lisa Eichholzer, Ashton Ephraim, Sylvonnah Epps, Kyle Erdmann.  
 Beonica Evans, William Fallow, Jessica Lynn Fellows, Jeremy Ferack, John Russell Fisher Jr., Kevin Fleming, Celso Ramon Flores III, Cody Flores, Kevin Folster, Amanda Marie Ford, Elizabeth Ford, Dustin Franklin, Nicole Franklin, Danny Frantjeskos, Mary Freeman, Stedman Lamar Frye, Daniel Fyfe, Allison Gardiner, Melia Garris, Daniel Gill, Justin Girouard.  
 Baby Angel Michele Glaspie, Eric Gobie, Jonathan Goldsmith, Jessica Gonzales, Nicholas Gotts, Jamie Green, Mason Green, Mika Iesha Green, Gary Greene, Jennifer Greenshields, Kieve Grimes, Ellen Grutta, Cierra Monique Guest, Jennifer Guthrie, Megan Hahn, Michael Hajduk, Rebecca Hammel, Hollie Hanna, Alysia Harnos, DeMitra LaToya Harris, Kyle Harris.  
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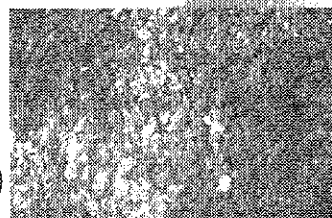


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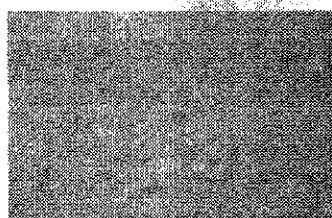
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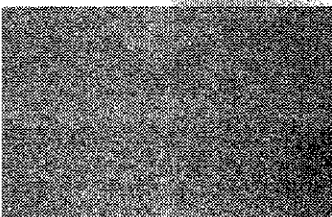
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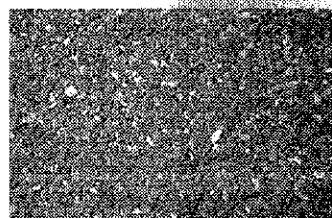
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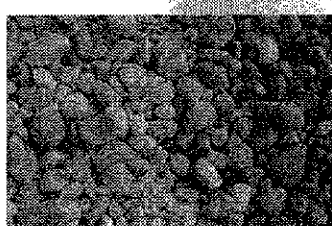
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# Pledge not to raise taxes makes poor public policy

Nobody likes paying taxes.

The *National Review* recently cited George Harrison's *Taxman* as a great example of a conservative rock song (No. 2 behind the Who's *Won't Get Fooled Again*). Harrison was flush with lots and lots of cash for the first time in his life and didn't appreciate the Labour government of 1960s Britain taking so much of his hard-earned rock superstar money.

It's a good song, sardonically funny with an appropriately droning beat. It was sure to hit a chord with many Brits who felt themselves overburdened by taxes while unable to meet their own personal needs.

Of course, in the wave of British rock success, many rockers became expatriates and took up Swiss citizenship, where the tax burden was less.

An organization called Americans for Tax Reform asks candidates for office to sign a pledge "to oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes." Any and all is pretty sweeping. They claim President Bush, 46 senators, 223 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, six governors, several other state administrators and 1,300 state legislators have signed the Pledge (their capital).

The president's father got in trouble with anti-tax conservatives by going back on his "read my lips" declaration to not raise taxes. He did work with Congress on a tax increase. Some economists credit that tax increase with finally pulling the country out of a recession.

Tax increases, tax cuts, government spending and private spending are all used to correct and adjust the nation's economic fortunes. John Kennedy was credited, even by conservatives, with stimulating the economy by pushing a tax cut through Congress in the early '60s. Reagan also pushed through a tax cut working with a Democratic Congress. It also stimulated the economy, but raised the deficit and the national debt to record figures.

The usual cliché is about spendthrift Democrats and frugal Republicans. The current reality, pledges aside, is that both parties have their particular constituencies. Both parties have their own special interest groups to whom they funnel money. At the federal level, earmarking for local projects is a time-honored (or dishonored) practice. Some of these projects, groups and ear-marked items are a good use of public money, others are a shameful misuse of public money (bridges to nowhere, programs that do nothing).

We currently have an escalating deficit, after a short period when the budget was in surplus (which was actually a mirage given the nation's

**The problem with the Pledge is that it attempts to tie the hands of legislators on both the state and federal levels from doing the right thing, whatever it might be**

debt load, but a move in the right direction). An increase in some domestic projects, a war on terror, a war in Iraq, a couple of seasons of intense weather and, some would say, an ill-advised series of tax cuts have put us back into deficit. The economy has generally improved, though real wages have declined and some segments of the economy seem resistant to stimulation.

The problem with the Pledge is that it attempts to tie the hands of legislators on both the state and federal levels from doing the right thing, whatever it might be. Sometimes it might be a tax cut, to stimulate both investment and spending. Sometimes it might mean a tax increase to pay for needed government programs, to cover social programs that even conservatives won't speak against, to adequately pay for a war (if that is deemed necessary) and to provide for the long-term care of those who fight that war or to pay to rebuild when a major devastation occurs like a hurricane or an earthquake.

By the standards of other countries, most Americans are not overburdened by taxes, but they certainly have an expectation that the money raised will be spent wisely. A pledge not to abuse the taxing power or misuse the revenues raised would be an honest pledge, but wouldn't satisfy the "no taxes, no, nay, never" folks.

The ATR sent around a list of those who have signed the Pledge. State Reps. Leon Drolet and Robert Gosselin are no surprise. They are pretty standard knee-jerk conservatives (to use a phrase often hurled at liberals). They don't seem to think too deeply about the consequences of public policy decisions.

What is troubling is that the ATR list also includes Attorney General Mike Cox, state Sen. Wayne Kuipers and several other Republicans who gain nothing by signing such a meaningless pledge except to put themselves among those who have aligned themselves with bad public policy.

The ATR may be waiting to play "gotcha" on those who renege on their pledge, but wiser people will take the time to ask why, for what and for how long.

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

## LETTERS

### Addiction can be treated

I am writing in response to the series of articles on the recent opiate overdoses in Wayne County. The most troubling aspect of this story has been exemplified by the coverage — there has been almost no mention of treatment.

More than 600 scientific papers have concluded that treatment for drug addiction works. Relapse rates for addiction treatment are lower than treatment for asthma and hypertension, and equivalent to type 2 diabetes. Patient compliance rates for addiction treatment are better than patient compliance rates in the treatment of asthma and hypertension. Treatment is also cost effective. Studies by the RAND Corporation and UCLA both found that every \$1 spent on addiction treatment saves \$7 in other costs like medical, human service and criminal justice system costs.

Unfortunately, there's a treatment shortage in Detroit and the rest of the metro area. Addicts seeking help are routinely provided with inadequate treatment. People who are homeless and have several complicating problems are offered treatment that is not intense enough, does not help them with basic shelter needs, and too short in duration.

The result is not unlike treating a bacterial infection with three days of antibiotics when the patient needs 10 days. Undertreated patients end up more sick than they were before treatment, they become more difficult to treat, the patient becomes more hopeless, and the community reaches the conclusion that treatment doesn't work and that these people are a waste of resources. In addition to all of this, untreated addiction destroys the lives of the addicts, does incalculable harm to families and children, and costs the community huge sums of money.

I am amazed and appalled that this crisis has not prompted a highly visible effort to offer treatment and the hope of recovery to opiate addicts in the community. There have been numerous mentions of education efforts in response to this spate of overdoses, but no push for treatment and recovery. Budgets are tight and treatment budgets have not been increased in more than 15 years in some communities, but we can't afford not to respond to this crisis in a meaningful way. Recovery is a reality. There are thousands of recovering people in the Detroit metro area, many of whom once seemed hopeless. Given the proper help and support, most addicted people will recover and start contributing to community life.

How many people will have to die before we increase treatment funding and pass addiction treatment parity legislation? If we are judged by the way we treat our neighbors, we will be judged harshly for the way we are treating our suffering addicted brothers and sisters.

Jason Schwartz  
Livonia

### Simcox stepped to the plate

I was appalled to read Hugh Gallagher's attack on Chris Simcox.

I attended that meeting. I was utterly impressed that Chris was clear thinking, logical and finally an American who will stand up against a corrupt government that continues to refuse to take care of American citizens in favor of corporations, special interests, and Hispanic hate groups (LaRaza, Mecha). He has challenged an American president whose allegiance seems to be to Mexico, not the citizens of the United States. All he has asked is that our government enforce our laws. That is what I want, too.

I saw nothing of what you claimed to be xenophobia, political opportunism and cowboy bravado. Chris simply wants to save his country from anarchy. He stepped up to the plate and did the job the president wasn't willing to do—execute his oath of office by stopping an invasion of this country.

There are millions of Americans who have lost jobs to illegal immigrants. (Millions have also lost their jobs to legal immigrants, but that is another story). Last year, we spent \$87 billion dollars in benefits to illegals, including birthing their anchor babies. They have deteriorated the education of American citizens. At least 100 hospitals in the southwest have had to close because they could no longer absorb the cost of free care for illegals. Diseases, document fraud, theft of citizens' identities, and gang violence have increased with this invasion. Twenty-five percent of our jail space holds illegal aliens. They send \$20 billion back home to Mexico each year, yet force American taxpayers to foot the bill for their medical care. Does this sound fair?

Contrary to the president's opinion, Mexico is not our friend. They are using us as their welfare system. They have the responsibility to care for their citizens. Stop putting the blame for their plight on United States citizens. The blame falls directly on the shoulders of the Mexican government.

I think Chris Simcox should be given a medal and be recognized by Congress as a person who cares deeply about the United States and the rule of law. Your article painted such a horrible image of such a wonderful, patriotic American. I wish that you would have attended the meeting to see for yourself.

I'd suggest an apology to Chris. Thanks for listening to a fellow American — one that wants us to remain America.

Peggy Robichaud  
Canton

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