



Teen night at the pool

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland firefighters Matt Brach and Jeff Milas get their gear ready for training for the "burn tank."

Training is firefighters' lifesaving drill

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER



Fire crawls along the roof of the trailer as it approaches flashover.

It's called a flashover, and it's the most dangerous - and deadly - moment of a fire. It's the time when conditions are perfect for a room to suddenly burst into flames. "This is what generally kills a lot of firefighters," Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. In a potentially life-saving drill, Westland's 78 firefighters this month learned firsthand when a flashover is imminent

and, more important, how to respond. With help from Oakland Community College's Fire Academy, firefighters received training inside a semi-trailer that, frightening as it may seem, was converted into what Reddy called a "burn tank." The semi-trailer was hauled onto the old Sam's Club site on Central City Parkway for three days of training. "It was the first time in 20 to 25 years that we've done a live burn like this," Reddy said.

Deputy Chief Kevin Riley experienced several half-hour episodes inside the burn tank to increase his knowledge of flashovers. "It was exciting, but it was under such controlled circumstances that it wasn't scary," he said. "It was absolutely useful on a lot of different fronts. We don't have a lot of big fires compared to Detroit, but this exposed our guys to a situation that hopefully they will never

PLEASE SEE DRILL, A6

'Very lucky'

Toddler who rolled his bike into road faces long recovery

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER



Hunter Campbell

A 3-year-old Canton boy is facing a long recovery after rolling a four-wheel bike into traffic June 15 in Westland, his father said Thursday.

Hunter Campbell, who was hit on Joy Road east of Middlebelt while visiting a Westland family with his father Steve, remains in critical condition at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. "He has made it through the toughest part," Steve Campbell said. "He's still critical, but he is improving." Hunter rolled the bike into traffic about 10 p.m. June 15 as his father was about to get him and take him home. Campbell said his son somehow got out of the back yard where he had been playing with other children. Hunter was struck by a Chevrolet Prizm driven by a 75-year-old Westland woman who, according to Westland police Sgt. Rob Collier, isn't expected to face charges. "My son has quite a few injuries, but he's very, very lucky that he survived," Campbell said.

Doctors have told Campbell that his son has no major head injuries, although he had lacerations to his liver and his spleen and he had multiple broken bones. He also had abrasions from hitting the road. "He's still on a ventilator, but he is opening his eyes," Campbell said Thursday. "When you call his name, he opens his eyes."

Doctors put Hunter on anti-seizure medication, and the boy has been fighting off a case of pneumonia that he developed Monday, the father said. Campbell, who works on an emergency medical technician transport team for Detroit-based Children's Hospital of Michigan, said his training helped him not to panic as much as another parent might have when the accident occurred. "Still, it was the darkest day of my life, and I don't wish that on anybody ever," he said. Campbell makes about \$10 an hour, and he said Hunter's medical expenses are mounting rapidly. Another family has established a medical fund for the boy, according to a LaSalle Bank employee in Canton. To help, stop by any LaSalle branch in Michigan and indicate to a teller that a donation is being made to a special fund set up for Hunter Campbell.

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

Plans finalized for wall's visit

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

When a smaller version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial arrives Thursday in Westland for the city's summer festival, it will be a solemn tribute, during an otherwise cheerful event, to soldiers who died. Known as The Moving Wall, it will stand for six days June 29 through July 4 on the east lawn of Westland City Hall, on Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh. Many who view the wall call it a profound experience, and Kenneth Mehl, festival chairman and decorated Vietnam veteran, expects thousands of visitors from outside Westland. "This is a really big deal for Westland," Mehl has said. The Moving Wall will be erected June 29 in time for a 4 p.m. opening ceremony that's open to the public. It will be available for viewing 24 hours a day through the morning of July 5.

"There will be a high military opening ceremony," Mehl said. The wall will be protected with barricades, and the first people allowed inside for viewing will be the Westland survivors of soldiers who died in the Vietnam War, Mehl said. The 252-foot-long wall will be guarded day and night by volunteers - many of them veterans. The site also will be decorated with numerous flagpoles and flowers, Mehl said. The wall will come to Westland from its last stop in Harrod, Ohio, and from here it will go to Illinois. It comes to town as Westland celebrates its 40th anniversary as a city. The Moving Wall is a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The original wall was dedicated Nov. 13, 1982, to honor all Vietnam veterans. The Moving Wall emerged from the efforts of Vietnam veterans John Devitt, Gerry Haver and Norris Shears. Haver recently died, and this year's

tour across America is dedicated to him. The Moving Wall was first displayed in Tyler, Texas, in October 1984, and it has since traveled to more than 1,000 communities. It also has been to Guam, Saipan, Marina Island, Puerto Rico and Canada, Mehl said. The wall is dedicated to the 2.7 million men and women who served in Vietnam. As of Jan. 1, there were 58,248 names listed on the memorial, including some 1,300 soldiers still unaccounted for as prisoners of war or as missing in action. The Moving Wall - like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington - was built with contributions from the public. It is composed of 74 separate frames, each containing two silk-screened panels. Devitt decided that silk-screening was the best way to replicate the names. The tallest panels of the wall contain 137 lines of names; the shortest panels at each end of the wall include just one line.



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Visitors to the Moving Wall leave wreaths, flowers, messages and mementos like this one left while it was on display in Hinesville, Ga.

Council changes dates of its meetings in July

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

The Moving Wall's visit to Westland will change the way city officials do business. Due to potential traffic gridlock near City Hall, where the wall will stand June 29 through July 4, the Westland City Council will change its meeting schedule. Rather than meeting on the first and third Mondays of the month - the usual schedule - council sessions will be shifted to the second and fourth Mondays for July, only. "The reason is because the Vietnam Moving Wall is going to be in town, and we're expecting a large turnout," Council President William Wild said. "Parking is going to really be at a premium." Council sessions start at 7 p.m., and city officials expect large crowds when The Moving

Wall stands on the east lawn of City Hall during this year's summer festival, which runs June 29 through the Fourth of July. "It's going to be tough for citizens to get in and out," Wild said. "With the overflow this time, we thought it would be best to change the meetings." Moreover, the city will provide shuttles to the City Hall area during the six-day period, festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl has said. Shuttles will run every 15-20 minutes to the City Hall area from parking lots at John Glenn High School, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and the Westland Public Services Department - all located on Marquette. Other shuttles will run from the senior citizen Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford, and from the Westland public library, on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

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Coming Thursday in Filter
Plymouth Art in the Park
Michigan's second largest art fair, slated for July 7-9, features 400 artists, music and food.



Royal contest

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship Program is again hosting its Junior Prince and Princess Contest as part of the Westland Summer Festival, starting Thursday at the civic center complex and Central City Park on Ford west of Wayne Road. Boys and girls ages 3-5 who are residents of Westland are eligible to enter. Forms are available at the Bailey Recreation Center and Wayne Lawn and Garden Center, 2103 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Posing with current Junior Prince and Princesses - Melissa Cox (from left), Jacob Peltier and Alison McConnell - is 2006 Wayne-Westland 2006 Junior Miss Kim Rutkowski.

AROUND WESTLAND

Charity Car Show

Don Nicholson's Charity Car Show to benefit the Western Wayne Skill Center will be held the evening of Monday, June 26, at the skill center, on Ann Arbor Trail, west of Merriman. AAA will be bringing both the Mark Martin No. 6 Ford Fusion and the full-size No. 6 AAA Ford simulator. Don Nicholson, (734) 658-5296 or e-mail CarShow@DonNicholson.net.

Yard sale

The YWCA Western Wayne County will host a Yard Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 21, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22.

Office supplies, office furniture, children's toys and other items will be on sale. The Yard Sale will be held at the YWCA Administrative Offices, 26279 Michigan Ave., and proceeds from the sale will benefit the families served by the YWCA.

The YWCA also is looking for volunteers from the community to help organize items to be sold, and help work the day of the sale. For more information, call the YWCA Western Wayne County at (313) 561-4110 Ext. 18.

Outreach clinic

The Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the Westland Senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

Attendees are asked to register before 10:30 a.m. A Legal Aid attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time.

For further information, call Gina Polley, director of community relations and governmental affairs, at (313) 964-4111, Ext. 6440 or (877) 964-5310, or by e-mail at gpolley@ladetroit.org.

Blood Drive

Contours Express will host an American Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, July 7, at the salon at 31509 Cherry Hill, Westland. The blood drive is a joint event of Contours Express's two Westland locations and Contours Express Canton.

Club members, their families and friends and the public are invited to participate. Donors will receive a free 2 week pass good at any of the three locations. To register to donate, call (734) 326-SLIM.

Craft Show

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 Wayne Road, Westland.

Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

Summer camp

Registration is being accepted for the YWCA Western Wayne County's 2006 Summer Day Camp. Spend the summer having fun, making new friends, going on cool field trips and playing games!

Each week of camp will have a different theme.

Kids will spend a week showing their support for the United States, discovering the great outdoors, learning about different countries, exploring outer space and more.

Camp activities include swimming, basketball, games, scavenger hunts, science experiments, movies, arts and crafts, pizza parties, field trips, a talent show and so much more.

Camp is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26 and ends Aug. 18. Before and after care is available. You can sign your child up for the entire eight-week camp, or on a weekly or daily basis. Sibling discounts available.

The YWCA also has a special offer for youth ages 11-15. They can sign up to participate in the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program and learn the basics of camp counseling. Teenagers will receive American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Certifications.

For more information or to register, call the YWCA Western Wayne County Camp Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 17.

Enrollment offered

St. Damian Catholic School is accepting enrollment for fall. It offers preschool for children ages 3 and 4, kindergarten either three full days or five full days, and classes for students in grades one through eight. The school is located at 29891 Joy Road in Westland. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call (734) 421-6130.

Antiques appraisals

The Westland senior Friendship Center will host its fifth annual Newburgh Road Show, an antiques appraisal, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 28.

Admission will be \$1. Col. Thomas Moody of Blue Willow Antiques will be doing the appraisals. He specializes in glass, pottery, furniture, radios, kitchenware, war memorabilia, quilts, dolls and toys.

There will be a charge of \$3 per item appraised, with a limit of three appraisals. Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Police raid leads to 7 drug arrests

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Seven men were arrested on drug charges after police raided an apartment at the River Bend Apartments in Westland Tuesday night.

Members of the Garden City Special Investigations Unit made the arrests after a plainclothes officer purchased marijuana from the apartment tenant, said SIU Lt. David White.

Skolarus made a controlled buy of some very high quality marijuana from the tenant," said White. "After the tenant was taken into custody, we had to wait for the search warrant."

As officers waited at the apartment, White said the tenant's cell phone kept ringing with calls from customers.

"We told them he (the tenant) was out in the parking lot talking to someone but to come over - we'd take care of them," said White.

Police ended up arresting six of 15 people who turned up at the apartment. The customers came from Westland, Northville, Plymouth, Dearborn Heights, Canton and Whitmore Lake.

The 20-year-old tenant was later arraigned in 21st District Court on charges of possession with intent to deliver and delivery of a controlled substance.

Officers seized about two pounds of marijuana from the apartment. Bond was set at \$25,000/10 percent.

Two of the customers, from Northville and Dearborn Heights, were charged with possession with intent to deliver.

"One guy had a certain type of marijuana and wanted to trade that for marijuana (from the tenant)," said White. "The other guy had shrooms - psilocybe - that he wanted to trade."

Four other customers were arrested and released with citations for loitering at a drug house.

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To all persons interested in the meetings of the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals:

PLACE:	Westland City Hall 36601 Ford Road Westland, MI 48185
TIME:	7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING DATE	DEADLINE:
January 18, 2006	January 3, 2006
February 15, 2006	January 27, 2006
March 15, 2006	February 24, 2006
April 19, 2006	March 31, 2006
May 17, 2006	April 28, 2006
June 21, 2006	June 2, 2006
July 19, 2006	June 23, 2006
August 16, 2006	July 21, 2006
September 20, 2006	August 21, 2006
October 18, 2006	September 22, 2006
November 15, 2006	October 20, 2006
December 13, 2006	November 17, 2006

The minutes of each meeting of the regular meetings listed above will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the City Clerk's Office of the City of Westland not more than eight (8) business days after the date of said meeting.

Approved minutes of each meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five (5) business days after the meeting at which the minutes of the meeting are approved.

This notice is given in compliance with Act No. 167 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1976.

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Teens get own night at pool

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Teens can drop in, cool off and have fun at the Bailey Recreation Center's outdoor pool Tuesday evenings this summer.

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department is again offering Teen Night 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays, except the Fourth of July, through Aug. 8.

"It's just something special for the teens to come out and have fun without their parents around," said Jennie Marchand, aquatic supervisor.

The pool will be open to youths ages 11-16. The cost is \$2 and includes swimming, pizza and music.

"We'll turn on the radio and crank it up," said Marchand, adding that each night will have a theme. "It'll depend on what kind of mood the guards are in."

The themes include a Hawaiian luau night, sports night where kids can wear their favorite jersey or team shirt, a cowboy western theme and Mardi Gras.

"We did that last year and it turned out good," Marchand said. "We'll have water balls, bring the Hula Hoops out. The guards will do a lot of things with them."

Marchand is hoping to attract 20-25 kids each week. The program is open to residents and non-residents with no increase in the \$2 charge.

In cases of inclement weather, Teen Night will be canceled, she added.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emily Fox, 12, of Westland tries out the water slide at the Bailey Recreation Center's outdoor pool which is hosting Teen Nights on Tuesdays this summer.

The next Teen Night will be Tuesday, June 27, at the pool, located at the rear of the Bailey Recreation Center, behind Westland City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road.

For more information, call the recreation center at (734) 722-7620.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

If recalls succeed: Next steps depend...

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Since the Wayne County Clerk's office certified petitions earlier this month to hold a recall election determining the fate of five Livonia Public School trustees, voters have been left wondering about the next steps.

Board president Dan Lessard and trustees Rob Freeman, Cynthia Markarian, Lynda Scheel and Kevin Whitehead are scheduled to be on ballots Aug. 8 for a recall election.

The five trustees are challenging Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett's decision. Their attorney, David Gillman, filed suit in Wayne County Circuit Court Wednesday afternoon. They contend that the minimum number of signatures required, per board member, by the county was incorrect, claiming the Clerk's office miscounted the number of precincts in the district when they calculated the required totals for signatures on recall petitions.

In the event that any or all five current trustees should be recalled by voters Aug. 8, interim board members would be appointed to fill those vacant seats until an election could be held, which would allow voters to choose who serves in those positions.

Who appoints the interim board members depends, according to Bruce Barrett, deputy superintendent of Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

"If one or more board members are recalled but a majority remains, as a result, that majority would (make appointments to) fill those seats until the next election," he said.

Should a majority of the board be recalled, though, the responsibility of appointing individuals to temporarily fill board vacancies would fall on RESA, as the intermediate school district.

Barrett said: "Recalls are rare. In other circumstances, the ISD can appoint (members) but it is usually handled locally."

He said he can't "think of a time in recent history when this ISD board was put in a position to appoint anyone. There are no processes in place."

Barrett said he did not wish to speculate on how RESA would connect with potential appointees, should a recall situation arise. "We would have to look at the facts and the (RESA) board would make a decision at that time," he said.

Brad Banasik, legal counsel for Michigan Association of School Boards, said recall elections aren't all that rare — particularly now that school districts are facing serious financial challenges.

"A lot of board members are being subjected to recalls for making difficult decisions," he said, such as closing elementary schools or renewing a superintendent's contract.

Banasik said in the event of a recall, the interim positions cannot be filled by any of the trustees who are being recalled. Once votes from a special recall election are certified, interim trustees would fill the positions of any recalled trustee.

Due to the elections consolidation law, an election to vote in new board members — to replace the interim members — would likely be set for November.

Candidates would file for specific remaining board terms and the ballots in that election would show which candidates are running for which specific board terms, Banasik said. The law prohibits recalled trustees from running for their own positions, but does not prevent them from running for someone else's term, Banasik said.

Again, once votes are certified, board trustees would take office and finish out the balance of those school board terms.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

DEATHS

K
Dustin Favian Kaercher
Kaercher, 18, of Livonia, died June 21.

Roy N. Nelson
Nelson, 92, formerly of Livonia, died April 26.

L
Robert A. Lander
Lander, 78, of Howell, died June 21.

R
Warren William Rysberg
Rysberg, 70, formerly of Plymouth, died June 19.

M
Charlotte E. Spencer McKay
McKay, 89, formerly of Birmingham, died June 18.

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

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STEVENSON MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the marking period at Stevenson Middle School were:

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Jack Begley, Jeffrey Benson, Andrew Benyo, Andrea Bessinger, Caylyn Best, Courtney Billings, Brandon Bleau, Halley Blevins, Chekootah Bobee, Ryan Boczar, Christina Bowman, Joshua Bradford, Shelby Bray, Abbie Brewer, Jessica Brown, Natalie Brown, Codie Buege, Allison Bulson, Kenndra Burke, Courtney Burns, Erica Burzlaff, Brenna Bush, Norman Butler.

Elena Button, Avery Byrom, Aaron Candela, Adrian Carey, Alexander Carey, Ashley Carey, Kari Carter, Kendall Carter, Donaji Castro, Evi Cenolli, Anthony Chandler, Jacob Charron, Quintin Cheek, Anthony Chenevert, Ashley Christensen, Ashley Cimino, Brittany Cobb, Jordyn Coniam, Shelbi Coniam, Ashley Conley, Amanda Cook, Dylan Cook, Jamey Cosby.

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Fall 'busers' get to try out ride

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

Big yellow school buses ran about the community Tuesday, long after school let out for summer break.

Those buses were filled by parents and children who will be new to the Livonia Public Schools bus routes come fall, under the Legacy Initiative plan that closed seven elementary schools and added thousands of pupils to buses. Trial rides were part of the district's Bus Roundup orientation Tuesday.

Crissy Ranoni brought her son, Anthony, to Bus Roundup - to help him become a "buser" in the fall. She's no stranger to the rules of riding - and driving - a school bus. Ranoni drives a bus for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

"I just brought him to see if the policies are the same as where I work," she said. "I drive a bus to school. Now that my kid's going to be riding one, I just want to make sure he's gonna be safe."

Steve Woodworth, transportation

Anthony Ranoni, soon-to-be a first-grader at Cleveland Elementary, said he's "excited" about riding the bus. He's been on one before - during an orientation on his first day of kindergarten. But he's never taken one to school and back.

supervisor, assured all that the school bus is the safest way to transport students. He explained why a bus's interior design - high-backed, thickly padded seating - makes it safe for children to ride without seat belts.

And he explained the rules of bus riding. "We consider the bus an extension of the classroom," he told the crowd.

Anthony Ranoni, soon-to-be a first-grader at Cleveland Elementary, said he's "excited" about riding the

bus. He's been on one before - during an orientation on his first day of kindergarten. But he's never taken one to school and back. His mom, Crissy Ranoni, appreciated the program, where she could ask questions.

The event, organized by Donna McDowell of the District Transition Team, was split into three sessions on Tuesday, and held at the three high schools. More than 300 people registered for it.

McDowell said the Bus Roundup turned out to be a good way to relay safety information and answer questions for those new to busing.

"It's kind of fun for parents to be able to be with their children," McDowell said. "It's a shared orientation."

The district has created an information center hotline for questions about bus stops and assignments for the coming school year. From 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 28 to Sept. 8, parents can call (734) 744-2500, Ext. 42184 or Ext. 42185.

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LPS shift moves sex ed to 4th grade

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

As of next year, Livonia Public Schools' Sex Education Advisory Committee will have to rework the grade levels in which the district teaches sexual education and curriculum dealing with sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS.

Due to a state law passed in July 2004, Public Acts 165 and 166, school districts are required to teach sexual education in one grade at each district level. Currently it is taught in grades 5 and 6 at the elementary level; grade 7 in middle schools and grade 10 in high schools throughout Livonia Public Schools.

With the change under the Legacy Initiative to create lower elementary buildings for grades K-4, the district will likely begin to teach sex education in fourth grade.

"We'll be making decisions on content instruction for fourth-graders," said Sheila Alles, director of academic services.

Gary Cieniuch, an administrator on the Sex Education Advisory Committee, said the state does sup-

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ply units of study for grades K-4. Alles noted that fourth grade would be the logical place to offer that curriculum.

"I'm sure it will be age-appropriate," said Trustee Rob Freeman. The advisory board is made up of parents, teachers from all levels of education, administrators, health professionals and clergy.

Since January 2005, all of the dis-

trict's physical education teachers have been certified for instruction on HIV/AIDS, Alles said.

Currently, the fifth-grade lessons allow boys and girls to be taught separately. Sixth grade is the first year students learn in a coed environment, and they cover topics such as the birthing process and the myths and facts of HIV and AIDS.

Parents are and will continue to be notified in writing before any such instruction begins. They may review the instructional materials and decide whether it is appropriate for their children to participate in the abstinence-based curriculum.

"Parents do have a legal right to not have their children attend," said Cieniuch. "It varies from building to building."

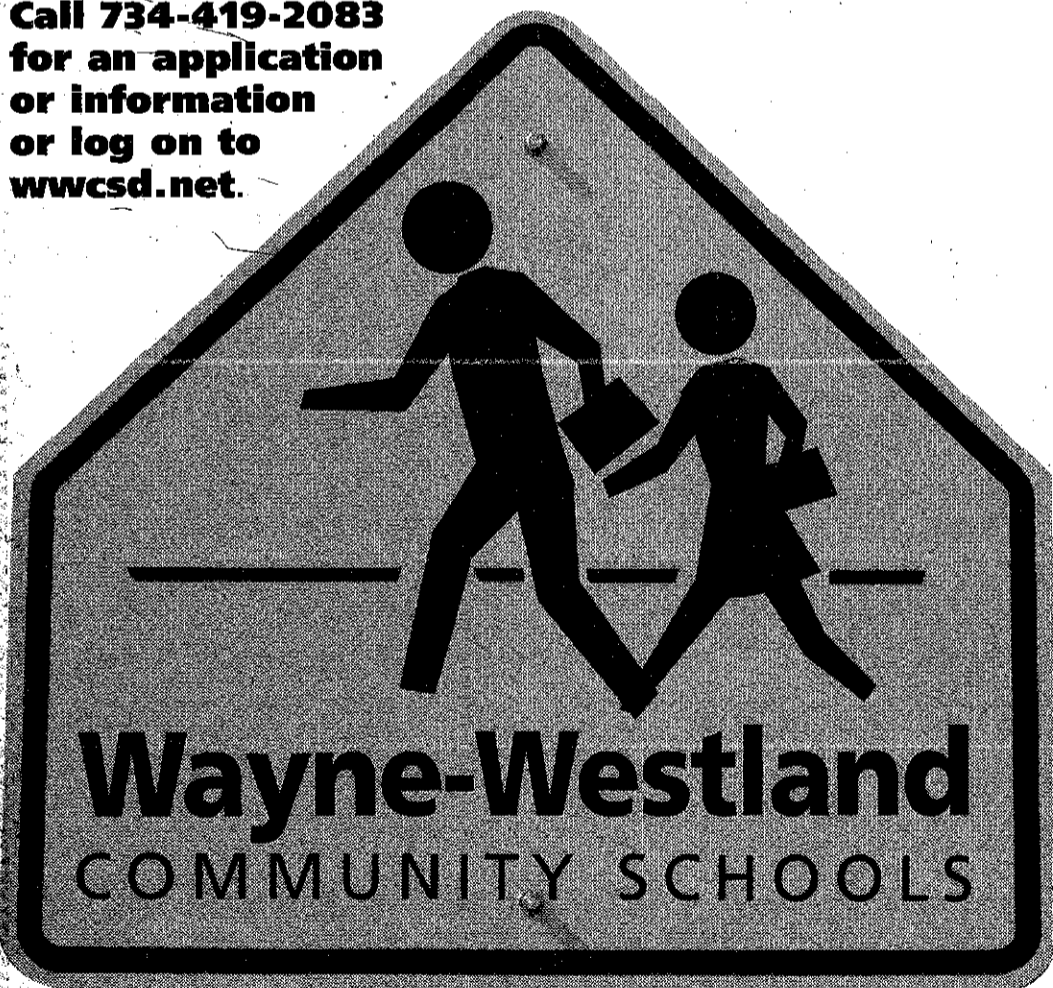
Currently, at the elementary level, parents must sign an "opt-in" form to allow their children to participate. At the middle and high school levels, parents have the option to sign an "opt-out" form if they prefer their children do not participate in the instruction.

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ACHIEVERS

Brittney Morgan of Westland has received one of four \$500 scholarships awarded by the Frost Middle School PTSA.

Established in 1996, the Frost PTSA Volunteer Scholarship recognizes and rewards those students whose volunteer service to our community makes them deserving.

A Livonia Churchill High School graduate, she has been accepted into the Honors College at Grand Valley State University. Her volunteer service has included working at the PTSA craft show and student council activities.

Livonia high school seniors who spent two years at Frost Middle School and are active volunteers are invited to apply for the scholarship which is funded through the Frost PTSA Annual Holiday Craft Show.

Receiving their degrees at the end of the past term at Madonna University in Livonia were Westland residents **Amanda Aalderink**, Sign Language Studies; **Mitchell Andries**, Criminal Justice; **Carrie Boven**, English; **Erin Brockert**, Psychology; **Lacey Catarino**, Business Administration; **Lindsay Cecil**, Nursing; **Gregory Conklin**, Criminal Justice; **Jeremy Francois**; Sociology; **Jennifer Grantham**, Psychology - Mental Health; **Katherine Korol**, Journalism/Public Relations; **Ashley Lada**, Nursing; **Jennie Lechel**, Criminal Justice; **Melissa Parraghi**, Nursing; **Tammy Watkins**, Social Work -

Addiction Studies; **Jill Whitehead**, Fine Arts; **Jennene Wright**, Criminal Justice, and **Seung-Bok Yi**, Hospice Education.

Amy Beatty, a first-grade teacher at Patchin Elementary School in Westland, recently was honored as the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for the Canton Wal-Mart store.

Beatty received a plaque as well as \$1,000 for the school and \$100 gift card from Wal-Mart to use for her classroom.

She also is eligible for the Wal-Mart Michigan Teacher of the Year contest. Beatty was nominated by a parent of one of her students.

Margaret Harlow was recently honored at the state Capitol Thursday for the 2006 Women's Bipartisan Bicameral Entrepreneurship Action Day. State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, who served as co-chair of the event for the Senate, nominated Harlow for the award.

"Margaret Harlow is an upstanding citizen and has given a great deal to her community," Toy said. "Her business, which is in the process of expanding, represents a strong commitment and investment in the city of Westland and its people."

Harlow owns Harlow Tire & Service in Westland which has been in business for more than 40 years. Westland's first ATHENA Award winner, Harlow has served the community as president of the Westland Rotary Club and as a member of the Westland Downtown Development Authority.

Darcie R. Cook of Westland has been named to the Dean's List for winter 2006 semester at Northern Michigan University. Students must maintain a 3.25 grade point average or better to be named to the list.

Two John Glenn High School graduates were recently

honored at Adrian College's annual honors awards ceremony in April.

Jennifer Gillies was named to the Scholarship Cup an Alpha Chi outstanding Scholar, and all-college honor. She also received scholastic honors for maintaining between a 3.75 and 4.0 grade point average. She also received the Wilbur S. and Lucielle H. Miller Rautio scholarship.

Gillies is a member of the Alpha Chi National Scholarship Honorary as well as Phi Alpha Theta International History Honorary, the Phi Eta Sigma National Freshman Honorary Society and Sigma Tau Delta International English Honorary Society.

Tanya Wildt also was named to the Scholarship Cup in addition to receiving scholastic honors for maintaining between a 3.75 and 4.0 grade point average. She also earned the Henry M. Seldon Scholarship.

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DRILL

FROM PAGE A1

come across - but they may." Wearing full gear inside the closed-up, 220-degree burn tank, firefighters watched as flames reached the point of a flashover. The semi-trailer had special wood in the ceiling and walls to help simulate such an incident.

"It generates a lot of heat and smoke very quickly," Reddy said. "The firefighters get on their bellies, and they have hose lines in there. They allow the smoke and heat to build up to flashover conditions, when the entire room will start burning at once."

"It teaches them how to recognize when this is beginning and how to put the right amount of water in short bursts to cool the layer of smoke and get out," he said.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neil arranged the training program, Reddy said, and fire-



Oakland Community College Flashover Unit training coordinator Bill Cockerline and Dave Goff watch as the fire burns inside the trailer during the exercises.

fighters from several other communities, including Garden City, Wayne, Huron Township and Allen Park, also participated.

Firefighters need to learn not to use excessive water during a real flashover, or they could risk death to themselves and fire victims.

"Too much water and you'll steam yourself and your crew," Reddy said. "This exercise was a huge success. This was putting firefighters inside fire conditions that they normally might not see, and it teaches them how to get out alive."

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Following the training exercise, firefighters look over the inside of the trailer.

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Brightest and best

Local students recognized by WXYZ-TV as the Brightest and Best among the class of 2006 included Westland resident Jessica Erlingis (left), who graduated from Livonia Ladywood High School, Benjamin Yourchock from Garden City High School and Annette Mihailovich of Westland John Glenn High School. The students are shown with WXYZ-TV reporter Mary Conway.

Westland resident Sara Brady, a graduating senior at Baptist Park School, was among students recognized by WXYZ-TV in the annual Brightest and Best program. She posed with Carolyn Clifford, WXYZ-TV anchor.

Seminar focuses on osteoporosis

Learn more about osteoporosis and bone health through the Better Bones, Brighter Futures program.

The program will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 30, at the Westland Friendship Center on Newburgh, just south of Ford. Residents of Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township and Westland are invited to attend.

"Osteoporosis and other bone diseases are becoming alarmingly prevalent in our state, particularly among our senior population, and they have serious

health consequences," said state Sen. Laura Toy, (R-Livonia). "Yet osteoporosis is largely preventable. That is why education is so important."

Toy is hosting the program in conjunction with the Michigan Public Health Institute.

"This is an opportunity for people to learn about the risk factors for osteoporosis as well as the steps they can take to promote healthy bones," Toy said. "I want to thank the Michigan Public Health Institute and Dr. David Bauer

and his team at bone density specialists for helping to bring the Better Bones, Brighter Futures presentation to our community."

It is estimated that more than 250,000 women and more than 80,000 men in Michigan suffer from osteoporosis, a degenerative bone disease.

Bone screenings also will take place starting at 9 a.m. Westland residents interested in scheduling a screening should inquire at the Friendship Center.

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Long ago summer of 1967 continues to haunt community

In the summer of 1967, I spent three months in Oakwood Hospital.

The previous winter I had been in the hospital for two weeks being treated for a collapsed lung. In July, walking home from the doctor's office after an all-clear checkup, a lung collapsed again.

Throughout that summer, numerous attempts to inflate both lungs failed. Eventually, I had to have major surgery on both lungs.

On July 23, a police raid on a blind pig on 12th Street in Detroit set off a deadly race riot that made similar confrontations in Watts and Newark seem like prologues. The riot left 43 dead, more than 1,000 injured and an estimated \$45 million in property damage. It also accelerated white flight from the city, creating what some have called the most segregated urban area in the United States.

We are living still in the shadow of that event 39 years later. Needless to say, the riot was Topic No. 1 in the hospital and everywhere else in metro Detroit that summer. Rumors flew quickly that somehow the rioting would spread into the suburbs.

I shared my room over that long, sometimes woozy, summer with a wide assortment of mates.

One older man enjoyed listening to the mellow sounds of WJR all day long, while I would have preferred CKLW or WABX (except on Tiger game days). Another was a constant complainer for whom the nurses and long-suffering nurse's aides could never do anything right and for whom the least little ache was a searing pain. (I imagine there was a celebration when he left.)

My favorite roommate was a Dearborn firefighter, injured when he fell from a ladder while joining others from his department in helping to put out the fires in Detroit. He was also subject to some random gunfire from those whose homes he was helping to save.

I would hear the "n" word many times over that summer, but never from the firefighter. He was angry, bewildered but also concerned about what he'd seen in the city before and during the riots.

I admired his cool demeanor, his courage and his ability to separate the terrible situation he had just been through and racial prejudices.

He was a Dearborn firefighter. Dearborn police had a reputation in both the black and white communities at the time for using some strong measures to steer blacks away from the city on Detroit's western border. "Keep Dearborn Clean" was often interpreted to mean keep Dearborn white.

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The firefighter defied all those easy generalizations about Dearborn, just as he failed to make easy generalizations about Detroit. His anger was tempered.

When I finally returned to Wayne State University, one of my professors showed his 8mm films of his rooftop view of the fires, looting and confrontations with police and National Guard. He set this angry urban ballet to the fierce music of Nina Simone. He was politically radical, but it was hard to ascertain what point his little movie actually made about the riots, though he did catch a few good shots of some whites making away with televisions and other loot. But they were also clearly outnumbered.

What was most different was that Wayne State's already uptight, racially separated campus was even more uptight and separated. And so was metro Detroit.

On July 27, 2007, Stevie Wonder will headline a commemorative concert at Ford Field, organized by civic leaders and organizations with some hope that people will be LOWD (Love Others Without Discretion). This was the message at recent meeting at the Salvation Army's Southfield office.

Mike Fezzey, president and general manager of the still mellow WJR, told the gathered media and "We've had enough. We've seen enough." He read from a piece his father had written shortly after the riot that described the Detroit metro area as a community divided that needed to take strong measures to come together.

For a brief, illusory moment, the following summer the community did come together over the success of the Detroit Tigers on their way to winning the 1968 World Series. But neither concerts nor winning sports teams can "bring a city together."

We need more people like the firefighter who wanted to channel his anger into something better.

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Hugh Gallagher

Steroid tests shouldn't just be for pro athletes

Personally, I don't care whether Barry Bonds took steroids or not.

But we all should care whether our high school athletes are ingesting steroids, human growth hormones or other performance-enhancing drugs.

And, with few exceptions, that's a story which hasn't been told even in our steroid-soaked sports pages.

Do high school athletes in Michigan — in our local schools — take these illegal muscle-enhancing substances?

We don't know with any certainty. That's because we don't test. No state does.

But New Jersey, to its credit, recently announced plans to start.

The New Jersey plan would test athletes competing in next year's state championship contests. Our own high school athletic association, our scholastic sports conferences and our school boards would do well to take notice — especially as this year's crop of high school athletes complete their own tournament games.

It's a good first step, though it could go a lot further. Already there's been some griping about the program's potential cost.

The New Jersey plan was announced last week but almost immediately overshadowed by revelations that a supply of human growth hormones had been found in a raid at the home of Jason Grimsley, a heretofore obscure major league baseball player.

Reports that Bonds, baseball's record-setting home run hitter, and other big league stars may have also used such substances have also made ongoing headlines throughout the past year or so.

Yet, there's a difference.

Those players are professionals, competing against other professionals. That's not to condone what they did, if they did it.

A steroid-enhanced high school athlete isn't just a danger to himself or herself — though steroid use is dangerous and can be deadly — they are also a danger to the athletes they compete against.

But the issue of steroid abuse among scholastic athletes is far more serious. For starters, those athletes are generally minors.

More importantly, their bodies are still developing, even as late as high school.

A steroid-enhanced high school athlete isn't just a danger to himself or herself — though steroid use is dangerous and can be deadly — they are also a danger to the athletes they compete against.

It's not just an issue of whether one athlete holds an unfair advantage over another athlete in terms of their ability to score touchdowns and gather scholarships, though that's important.

In contact sports especially, it's an issue of whether one athlete, artificially strong beyond their years, could seriously hurt a fellow athlete who plays by the rules.

Few of our local athletes will ever become professional, or even highly-placed amateur athletes, but thousands of kids play interscholastic sports in this state every year.

If you're a parent, chances are fairly good that your son or daughter either is, has been, or will be among them.

That's why Michigan should adopt its own testing standards. Our kids need it and, as parents, we should demand it.



Wayne Peal

Wayne Peal is editor of the Southfield Eccentric. You can write him at 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009, send him an e-mail at wpeal@hometownlife.com or send him a fax at (248) 644-1314.

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Cable, telephone companies battle over franchising bills

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Bob McCann, president of Bright House Network's Michigan Division, said his company would welcome competition in the lucrative cable television field if everything was "fair and level."

Traditional cable television providers and telecommunications companies, including giants AT&T and Verizon, are locked in a battle over how cable television will be franchised in the future. The telecommunications companies are pushing at the state and federal levels to have franchising removed from local community control. The cable providers, with support in Michigan from the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Townships Association, are opposing the changes.

A bill was passed July 8 in the U.S. House that would turn franchising over to the Federal Communications Commission. That bill is currently moving its way through the U.S. Senate. In Michigan, the state House is holding hearings on a bill, sponsored by Rep. Jack Hoogendyk (R-Kalamazoo) that would transfer franchising authority to the Secretary of State's office.

"Our position is if they want to com-

pete with us, they have to play by the same rules we have to play by. As long as it's level and as long as it's fair, we have no problem," McCann said. Bright House operates cable service in Redford, Livonia, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Michael Marker, a spokesman for AT&T Michigan (formerly SBC), counters that cable companies have enjoyed an unfair advantage. He said when the cable companies began offering telephone service, they weren't required to comply with the same rules as the established companies.

"We're a new entrant into the video business and they are saying, 'Whoa, wait a minute.' They are being disingenuous at best," Marker said. "We're interested in bringing out a new product, internet protocol television that's different from cable. It's a big win for consumers."

TELEPHONE SERVICE

McCann said the digital telephone service offered by Bright House is not the same as that offered by AT&T and Verizon. He said the phone companies haven't kept up with technology.

"The basic thing I can tell you about digital telephone is that it rings like your

old conventional telephone, it works like your old conventional telephone and it just costs less money," he said.

Bright House launched its digital phone service last fall.

"We've expanded into a broad band fiber networks and all these things we have been able to do in our industry and as a result of these deployments we came out with something called voice over Internet protocol digital phone. Now we're taking their customers away and they're reacting," McCann said.

McCann argues that AT&T or any other cable provider has an opportunity under current local franchise legislation to get quick approval from local governments, but that they have walked away from those opportunities. He said Livonia and other cities are willing to give approval to AT&T.

"They have told AT&T, if you want to do business here, here's a CD with our franchise agreement on it, change the name Bright House to AT&T and we'll have it done for you in 30 days. AT&T doesn't want that, they want something else," McCann said.

Marker said that what AT&T wants is national franchising or at least statewide franchising so that it doesn't

have to negotiate contracts with each individual community.

"Some states have passed this legislation and moved ahead on investment," Marker said. "Similar legislation to that which Michigan is considering has been passed in Texas, Kansas and Indiana. AT&T and Verizon has come out with investments; \$250 million was invested in Indiana."

He said Michigan has an opportunity to act before the federal government passes legislation that would override a state plan.

SERVICE CONCERNS

Joe Fivas of the Michigan Municipal League called the state House bill "terrible public policy" and unnecessary.

"All cable law is federal law, the Legislature should wait to see what Congress wants to do," he said. "Whatever they do would be pre-empted by federal law."

The Municipal League is opposing the House bill because of concerns about cutting service to some rural and urban customers and lack of local input on services provided. He said AT&T's Lightspeed program would serve 90 percent of high-value customers, but only 10 percent of low-value customers,

those using less than \$110 a month in services.

"If you live in Livonia, everyone gets the same services, the same upgrades, there's equity," he said. "When Bright House's contract with the city runs out, they could pick and choose who they serve. High-values areas would get better service. Other areas don't get service."

Marker said AT&T is committed to providing service to 50 percent of households by 2008. He said the company is also committed to providing service to 5.5 million low-income households.

McCann said the state legislation gives an advantage to AT&T by specifically prohibiting cable companies with existing local franchising agreements from switching to state authorization until their current local contracts expire. He said the new state franchised competitor wouldn't be bound by the restrictions on the already existing providers.

McCann said he heard a speech recently by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) that he wants to have a Senate bill by the end of the year.

"If I were a betting man, I would think there will be national legislation," McCann said. "Congress would rather have one law rather than 50 different ones."

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