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Officials: Festival stabbing 'isolated incident'

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 19-year-old woman attending the Westland Summer Festival was attacked and stabbed Tuesday night just as the Fourth of July fireworks started exploding over Central City Park.

City and festival officials called it a disturbing incident that occurred during an otherwise successful event that drew record crowds.

"It certainly was an unfortunate incident," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said.

The victim was stabbed in the head, back and hand after she accidentally bumped into another woman about 10:17 p.m. near a concession stand in the Bailey Recreation Center parking lot, police Sgt. Steve Borisch confirmed.

"It happened about the time the first rocket went off (for the fireworks)," he said.

The victim was taken to Garden City Hospital, where Borisch said she was listed in fair condition.

Her attacker escaped through the festival crowd. Cicirelli and police strongly urge anyone with information to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600 or make an anonymous tip for a \$1,000 reward to Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP.

The victim and her boyfriend had walked to the festival from The Landings apartment complex, and they were trying to maneuver through a huge crowd of people when the woman accidentally bumped into another woman and her sister, Borisch said.

"An argument ensued, and that led to a fight, and one of the girls produced a knife and stabbed the victim three times," he said.

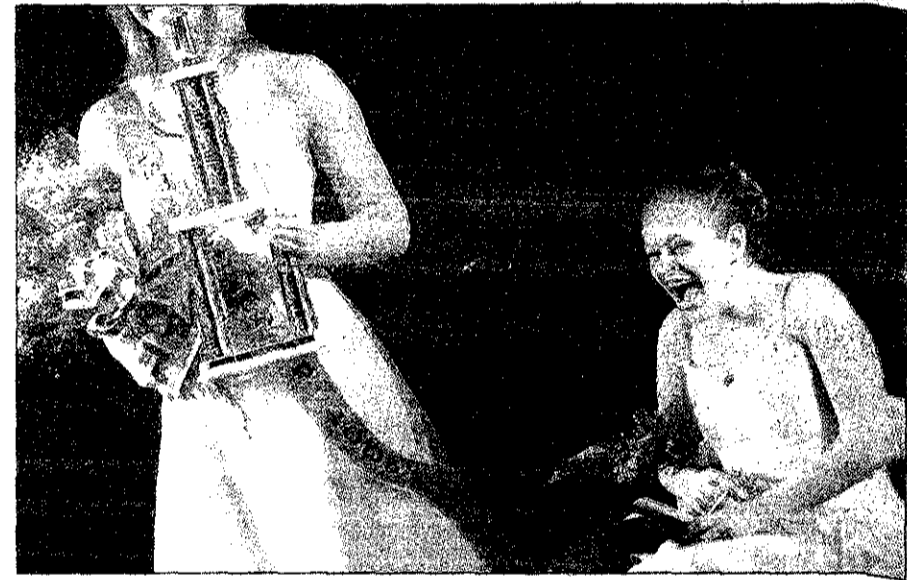
The victim's boyfriend tried to intervene, but others in the crowd held him and kept him from joining the fracas, Borisch said.



First time on a roller coaster, Casidy Thomason, 4 (left) of Wayne, Sierra Plozai, 9, and Alan Thomason, 9, enjoy the Wacky Worm at the Westland Summer Festival.



Jimmy McMahon, 3, of Westland was all smiles after competing in the festival's pie eating contest. Behind him is his mother, Shelly.



Joy Jano (right) reacts after she was named Miss Westland during the pageant held opening night of the Summer Festival. Nichole Pierson (left) was the first runner-up. For more festival photos, see Page A4.

PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL, A4

Frontier renewal

**Supporters,
council revisit
park proposal**

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland citizens group remains hopeful of garnering political support — and of convincing voters to increase local taxes — for a huge recreation complex near Central City Park.

Citizens for Frontier Park hopes to develop 30 acres with baseball fields, soccer fields, a two-sheet ice center, basketball courts, walking trails and a special-needs playing field, among other amenities.

The complex would be situated between Central City Park to the east, Marquette to the south, Newburgh to the west and Ford Road to the north.

CFP Chairman Mark

Rodriguez said his group will renew talks with city leaders during a study session scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, July 10 at Westland City Hall.

CFP leaders have had preliminary discussions with the county about using county-owned land for Frontier Park, but they've been told the project would need the city's official support.

"We've gone basically as far as we can go as a group. Now we have to have the city ask the county about the possibility of developing the land," Rodriguez said. "The county can't tell a citizens group that it can have the land."

While city leaders have applauded CFP for its vision, they have indicated that the timing may be wrong to ask voters for a tax increase.

"I'm going to go into the meeting (Monday) with an open mind," council President William Wild said, but he added that city leaders may not be receptive to endorsing a tax

increase. "I don't think they (CFP leaders) are going to have support for that," he said. "I think they're going to have to come up with another idea."

No specific tax proposal has been locked in, either for serious discussion or for putting on a ballot.

On Monday, Rodriguez estimated that building Frontier Park would cost \$41 million, although some city leaders have mentioned higher projections.

Moreover, city officials question whether the recreation complex, even with user fees, could be self-sufficient.

After Monday's meeting, Wild said, "I think we'll find out what kind of commitment there is on the city's part. ... We're really going to find out how realistic this proposal is."

Earlier, CFP leaders had hoped to get a tax proposal on the ballot this year for voters to consider. Now, they have pushed back their plans.

LeBlanc says his experience, accessibility matter to voters

Three candidates will compete in the Aug. 8 primary to become the Democratic nominee in the 18th District state House race. This is the second in a three-part series about them. Glenn Anderson, the incumbent, couldn't run due to term limits.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Richard LeBlanc cited his experience and his accessibility to residents as reasons why voters should elect him to the state House.

"I have a great deal of experience," he said, "and my experiences are relevant and recent."

LeBlanc, 47, is in his ninth year on the Westland City Council. Before that, he served on the Wayne-Westland school board, and he has been involved in such organizations as the local cable commission, library board, Democratic club, Youth Assistance Program and historical commission.

LeBlanc, a part submission warrant coordinator for Ford Motor Co., also pointed to his experience as a Canton reserve police officer and a driver education instructor as adding to the

broad expertise that he said will be needed in Lansing.

LeBlanc will face Councilman James Godbout and former state Rep. Vince Pettipren in the Aug. 8 primary. The winner will compete against lone Republican candidate Sam Durante in the

**WESTLAND
SECTION
2006**

Nov. 7 general election. The seat comes with a two-year term and pays \$79,650 a year.

In discussing his issues and his candidacy with the *Observer*, LeBlanc said Michigan's economic problems will require the state to become more diverse. He mentioned biofuels and life sciences research as areas that could boost the economy.

"We already have the engineering talent here," he said.

LeBlanc said it's inevitable that the state will see an end to the single business tax, and he said business taxes should be revamped and made more broad-based to make them more equitable.

He said he is worried that losing revenue from the single business tax will force cuts in other services, because the tax brings in nearly \$2 bil-

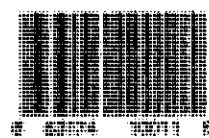
PLEASE SEE LEBLANC, A5

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Coming Sunday
in Health



It's summer, time to
take precautions
against insect bites.

Much more than a diploma

Graduates recognized more than 6 decades later

BY BRAD KADRIC
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks ago, Ann-Nora Hiramani watched the seniors from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, where she's a social studies teacher, collect their diplomas.

Tonight (Thursday), she gets to watch two more seniors do the same thing.

The twist? These "seniors" are senior citizens Soichiro "Pat" Hiramani and Akira Hiramani, Ann-Nora's father and uncle, respectively.

The brothers have been denied their diplomas for more than 60 years after being removed from public schools in California after then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered all people of Japanese ancestry on the west coast into internment camps in the aftermath of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. (Ann-Nora hates the term "internment," preferring to call them what she believes they were: concentration camps).

But because of a California law allowing school districts to issue such diplomas retroactively, the Hiramani family is in California, where the brothers will accept their diplomas during the commencement ceremony for North Hollywood High School, where they attended school before being interned.

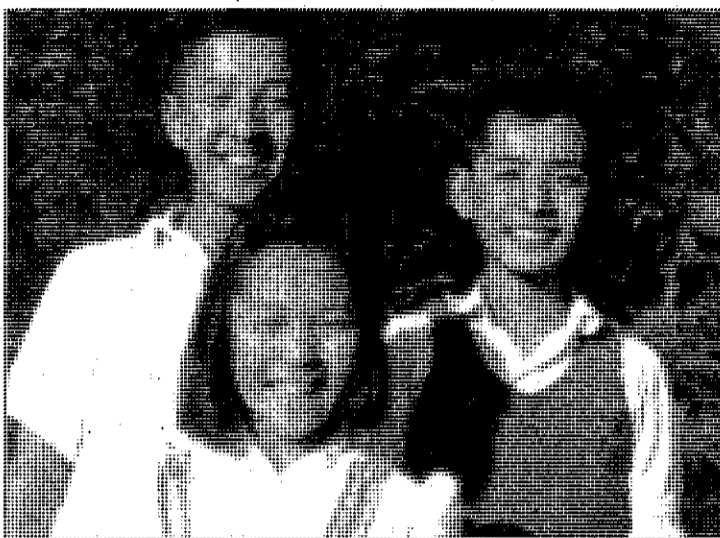
"I hadn't thought about the diploma; life moves on and I just never thought about it," said Pat Hiramani, a Livonia resident. "This is an event that's kind of unusual. It doesn't happen all the time."

If the story ended right there, it'd have a fairy-tale ending, the 80-year-old Pat Hiramani and his 79-year-old brother, who lives in Denver, getting their diplomas. But it doesn't end there. In fact, that's just where it gets started.

To get the diplomas, the brothers had to fill out an application. Ann-Nora took care of that. During the course of that process, she had several conversations with Angela Hewlett-Bloch, an assistant principal at North Hollywood High. Ann-



Brothers Soichiro 'Pat' Hiramani of Livonia and Akira Hiramani of Denver get their diplomas from North Hollywood High School in California tonight (Thursday), more than 60 years after they were removed from the school by the U.S. government. Soichiro's daughter is Plymouth-Canton teacher Ann-Nora Hiramani.



Brothers Soichiro and Akira Hiramani mug for the camera with sister Mary in an undated photo family members believe was taken not long before the family was sent to Camp Manzanar in California.

Nora just wanted to make sure she was following the right requirements, and making sure her dad's name was spelled correctly.

During one such phone call, Hewlett-Bloch asked if the family was coming to the ceremony. Ann-Nora and her mother, Cynthia, decided to make the trip. Then came yet another bombshell: Hewlett-Bloch asked Ann-Nora to deliver the commencement address.

"To talk about them as high school students when I'm a high school teacher is overwhelming me," said Ann-Nora, who will

deliver the speech to some 600 graduates. "I can't imagine what they were like as the kids I teach now. I don't know if I'm going to cry or laugh more, (but) I know it's going to be an extremely emotional day."

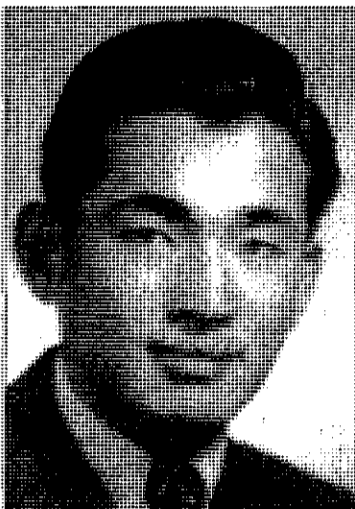
"My grandparents will be looking down through a hole in the clouds from above," she added. "I want to deliver a winner in this address. I feel very inspired."

Like many Japanese-American families in the early 1940s, life ended as they knew it for the Hiramani family after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Students in public school, Soichiro and Akira Hiramani, sister Mary and their parents Kiyoyoshi and Yazuno Hiramani were whisked into Camp Manzanar.

Upon their release, the family had to start over. Kiyoyoshi was denied citizenship until 1957. Yazuno was never granted the right to vote before she died in 1952, when her death certificate listed her citizenship as



Soichiro 'Pat' Hiramani, father of Plymouth-Canton teacher Ann-Nora Hiramani, in his school photo from Camp Manzanar.



Akira Hiramani, who now lives in Denver, in his school picture from Camp Manzanar in California.

"unknown." Soichiro got the nickname "Pat" from a teacher "who never bothered to learn how to pronounce his name," Cynthia Hiramani said. The family hopes to bury a little of the pain with a visit to Camp Manzanar during the trip. Soichiro has never been back, and Cynthia has never been there. Ann-Nora was there, with her sister Eileen, 16 years ago when the camp had been dismantled. Now it's been rebuilt and the family plans to return.

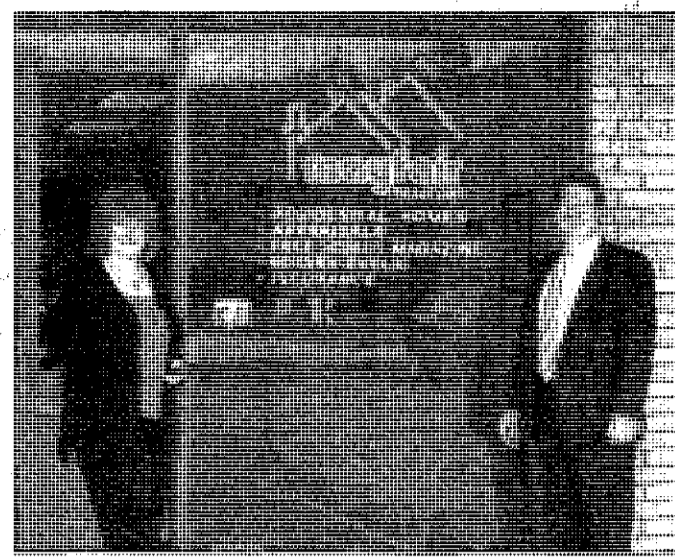
"Pat has never had any desire to go back," Cynthia Hiramani said. "Now that this opportunity has come, I'm very glad to go back and see what's there. He's never talked about it, so I have a lot of questions. I don't know that I'll get any answers, but I'm still glad I'm going."

Soichiro spends little time thinking of such things — "Part of my cultural background is 'accept what you have to if you can't change it,'" he said — but they mean a lot to his daughter. Ann-Nora remembers driving up to the camp in 1990.

"Everything had been dismantled at that point, (but) it was very emotional for me," she recalled. "On the drive with my sister, I remember thinking, 'How did it feel for them on that bus?'"

She'll be thinking such thoughts when she makes her speech. She burns more openly than her father at the indignities suffered by her ancestors — "It's the Irish part of me," she said, smiling — but will try to put that aside in her address to the graduates.

"Forgiveness is the legacy of my dad's life for me," Ann-Nora said.



Wendy Kozma and Dale Moser are two of the managing partners of Mayfair Realty, which celebrated 50 years in business recently. The third partner is Abe Ayoub.

Area realty firm looks beyond its 50th anniversary

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Mayfair Realtors has played a role in the growth of Livonia and other suburban communities over the past 50 years.

The Livonia-based independent office of real estate agents has closed some 40,000 property sales over the past five decades — primarily in Livonia, Redford, Westland and Farmington Hills. Partner Dale Moser said he hopes Mayfair grows in the future by pushing into more southeastern Michigan markets as home buyers become more computer savvy.

"Computers are allowing us to reach home buyers in Livingston and Washtenaw counties," Moser said. "That's something we never thought about doing 10 years ago."

Moser's father, Marvin Moser, along with partners Bill Willis and Bill McClay, established Mayfair Realtors on McNichols near Southfield in June 1956. The trio did not stay in Detroit for long and kept moving west on Six Mile Road to keep up with the growing demand for new housing in Detroit's western and northern suburbs.

The moved into an office on Six Mile near Beech Daly in Redford in the 1960s before shifting to its present-day Livonia office on Middlebelt near Six Mile in the early-1970s.

Shortly after its move to Livonia, Mayfair Realtors saw its busiest times, trying to keep up with the furious demand by those looking for homes in Western Wayne and Oakland counties during the heart of the region's urban sprawl.

A new generation of managing partners took over the company in 1996 with the trio of Dale Moser, Wendy Kozma and Abe Ayoub. (Marvin Moser, a longtime Livonia resident, died in 2003.)

'Computers are allowing us to reach home buyers in Livingston and Washtenaw counties.'

Dale Moser

The new trio oversaw market changes in the 1990s as interest rates declined and computer technology flourished. Those factors enabled Mayfair to help past clients move again, this time to areas like Brighton, South Lyon and Milford.

"In the past, you would have to have an office in those areas to get the business on properties out there," Kozma said.

The partners said they acknowledge that business has slowed over the past five years as a result of the region's economic struggles, but they remain hopeful that business will pick up as the job market improves.

Kozma boasts that Mayfair Realtors is one of the largest independent real estate operations in metro Detroit, which means Mayfair clients are free of transaction fees that are creeping into franchise real estate operations.

"Because these fees don't exist for our clients or agents, we have been able to keep our agents here for a long time," Kozma said. "This creates a family-oriented atmosphere in the office and great personal service for our clients."

She notes six of Mayfair's 22 real estate agents have worked for the company for 20 years or more, including Willis, one of the original partners, who is in his 52nd year as a real estate agent.

The office staff and visitors plan gather Friday celebrate the company's 50th anniversary.

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From farm equipment to lawnmowers

Hermatzes stress service at Wayne Lawn and Garden

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Ever since he was 10 years old, Dennis Hermatz's life has been about small engines and his family's business. Over the years, he has swept floors, dusted equipment, sharpened mowers and done mechanical work, building up to his big break - sales.

But there was a time, when Hermatz decided the grass was greener on the other side and left the family business ... for three days.

"I worked at a gas station in January when it was cold and I realized that this wasn't such a bad job after all," said Dennis. "Dad thought it was real funny. He found more humor in it than I did."

Hermatz and his wife, Pat, are the proprietors of Wayne Lawn and Garden, a cement block building on Wayne Road that at this time of the year is packed with lawnmowers and lawn tractors, weed whips and rototillers.

CHANGING TIMES

A lot has changed since it was founded in 1948 by Hermatz's parents, Nicholas and Leona. They opened Wayne Farm Equipment after Nicholas lost his job designing rototillers for Kaiser Frasier. They sold tractors and rototillers to Nankin Township farmers, but within six years changed the name of the store, reflecting the popularity of the power lawnmower and the postwar growth of the suburbs.

By 1969, Hermatz was running the business with his mother, following his father's death. He recalls his attorney, Matt Tinkham, telling that the business would never survive. It was a challenge Hermatz accepted.

"That isn't the case," Hermatz said. "I've survived one day at a time and I earn my wings everyday."

Pat also faced a challenge when her mother-in-law in 1975 announced that she was retiring. Like Leona, Pat is a nurse and had just graduated from Madonna University when her mother-in-law decided to give up the bookkeeping work.

"I just looked at her," said Pat, who works part time as a prepared childbirth educator at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne. "I told her I'm a nurse not a bookkeeper. I had to learn a whole new field."

She's learned well and with her husband has built up the store's reputation for parts and service and standing by its motto of "We service what we sell."

"Box stores sell things in a box; the customer tries to put it together," Hermatz said. "Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't, so they come here to us."

"We've found signs in those stores telling customers to take the equipment to us to service," added Pat. "We tell them that's not going to fly. We'll take care of them, but we'll take care of our customers first."

PART OF FAMILY

In the back of the building, the rows of lawnmowers in need of repairs look never-ending. Mechanic Randy Whitehouse whose worked for the Hermatzes for 16 years says his job is mostly "fast-paced."

"It's always something different, the job is never the same," he said. "I'll probably stay until I retire. They're good people to work for, the pay's pretty good and I guess they kind of made me part of the family."

Their family also includes



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pat and Dennis Hermatz find that their customers come from far and near because of Wayne Lawn and Garden's commitment to service.

four children - Nicole, an English teacher in San Jose, Calif., Erica, a lawyer, also in San Jose, Dennis, a sophomore studying business at Wayne State University, and Andrew, who will attend the University of Michigan this fall to study business marketing.

They have all worked at the store, mainly in parts during summer vacations, although Dennis has learned the ropes and now does sales, according to Pat.

Customers range from residents to business to municipalities and school districts. The customer list includes Romulus, Dearborn, Troy, Garden City, Wayne, Westland, Riverview and Allen Park, and according to Hermatz, having

the parts and the equipment is the big reason they come to the store.

"We have parts that are probably 20 years old," he said. The showroom is packed with mowers by Ahrens, Toro and Gravely, some of the oldest manufacturers of outdoor power equipment. They even carry products by Stihl, which invented the chainsaw.

According to Hermatz, in

order to survive a business needs to do things other businesses don't do. In Wayne Lawn and Garden's case, it's putting in gas and oil, making sure the equipment runs and covering the warranty.

"You have to add value to the service," Hermatz said.

And that added value has paid off. While Wayne Lawn and Garden started out servicing Nankin Township, its cus-

tomers came from all over and many of their sons and daughters are coming into the shop.

"We have people from up North call for parts," Hermatz said. "We have people who move out of the area but still gravitate back here. We have people who say it's easier to shop local than wait until they get home."

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FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE A1

Police need help getting a thorough description of a suspect. She was identified only as a thin, white woman, possibly 19 or 20 years old, with a brightly colored tattoo in the middle of her chest. It wasn't known what kind of tattoo.

"I think it's an isolated incident," festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl said. "I know for a fact that there was a police presence at the festival, but they can't be everywhere at the same time."

Cicirelli agreed that "we had a really good police presence."

Other than the stabbing, police broke up some lesser fights and investigated a couple of minor traffic accidents during the six-day festival that ended Tuesday night, police Officer Jack McIntosh said.

This year's festival coincided with the city's 40th anniversary and included a visit by The Moving Wall - a smaller replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"Overall, I think it was a very successful festival," Cicirelli said. "I think we had record attendance every day."

City officials didn't have any way of estimating the number of

This year's festival coincided with the city's 40th anniversary and included a visit by The Moving Wall - a smaller replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

people who attended, but Cicirelli described it as "wall-to-wall people," particularly for the "spectacular fireworks" display that capped the festival.

Cicirelli also speculated that this year's crowds could have been larger because some people stayed home, rather than travel out of town, to avoid paying high gasoline prices.

"(Tuesday) you could barely move," the mayor said.

Mehl said festival-goers seemed to enjoy the entertainers, games, carnival rides and a Sunday afternoon ice cream social in Central City Park to honor the city's 40th anniversary. He also said pig races - yes, with real pigs - were a big draw.

"The festival in general was really good," Mehl said Wednesday, hours after The Moving Wall had been dismantled and moved on to another city. "And the fireworks were just phenomenal."

Local officials had projected that tens of thousands of visitors would come to Westland's festival, partly to see the names of relatives or friends on the wall.

"It was just a continuous flow of people," Mehl said.



Magician Jacob Wolnowski, 13, of Canton entertains the crowd during the intermission of the Miss Westland Summer Festival Pageant.



Gabriella Cvetanovski, 3, of Wayne (right) waves the flag as the veterans march by at the Westland Summer Festival parade. Joining her were her brother Robert, 5, and Olivia Smith, 5.



Blaire Saranas, 10, of Westland took part in the pie eating contest at the festival.



Teressa Hendricks was second runner-up in the pageant.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Sydney Cioroch, 5, of Westland tries flips on the power jump at the festival for the first time.



Viktoria O'Brien, 8, of Westland went on to win her age group in the Hula Hoop contest.

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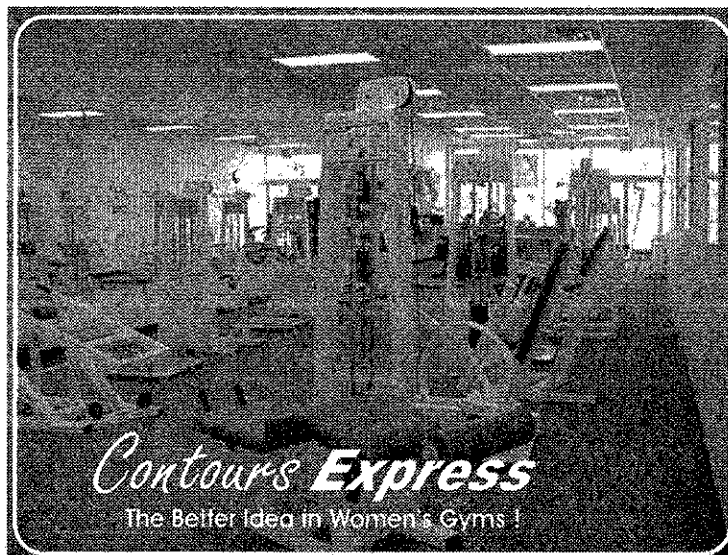
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Concert features Chautauqua Express

Guy Louis is billed as a musical performer whose act appeals to an audience ranging from toddlers to senior citizens.

Louis, known for his act billed as the Chautauqua Express, is scheduled to appear at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Westland public library pavilion, off of Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford roads.

It's part of the 2006 summer concert series promoted by the Westland Cultural Society.

"It's a program that's great for the whole family, but it's really good for kids," said Ernie Johnson, who is involved in scheduling the concert series.

The concert series usually appears to adult audiences, but planners this year decided to sponsor one concert that also appeals to a younger crowd.

Louis' performance is a fast-paced, interactive program that involves the audience in his music.

Those attending Sunday's concert are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs.

LEBLANC

FROM PAGE A1

lion a year. However, he said he wouldn't support any plan such as raising the state sales tax to offset the losses.

On education, LeBlanc said hopes the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future will be defeated, regardless of whether the Legislature or voters address the issue.

The plan would guarantee that school districts receive additional money each year to at least compensate for inflation, but LeBlanc said services in other areas will suffer.

Some organizations, such as the Michigan State Police, already have taken more than their share of funding cuts, he said.

"Everyone likes kids," LeBlanc said of the K-16 funding plan, "but this proposal comes with really restrictive language."

Talking about his campaign, he said he has some experience, such as serving as a reserve police officer, that the other candidates don't have. He also said he has served effectively as a liaison between the council and local residents.

"My accessibility has not ever been questioned," LeBlanc said. "I think that is a huge bonus."

Godbout, in an earlier interview, called himself more capable of reaching a political consensus, but LeBlanc disagreed.

LeBlanc said he has been involved in many council decisions that required a consensus. But he said he also has maintained his independence and hasn't been afraid to ask the tough questions that may make him appear, at times, confrontational.

"I've never enjoyed the benefit of being in the (council) majority when elected," he said. "Trying to build a compromise is very difficult when you're not in the majority."

At times, LeBlanc said, other council members and the administration have excluded him rather than trying to work with him.

LeBlanc received his bachelor of arts degree at Concordia College, and he has had additional training related to the auto industry. He also was a former committeeman and bargaining representative for the United Auto Workers Local 157. He still is a UAW member.

LeBlanc and his wife, Cheryl, have two adults sons. LeBlanc also has been involved with such groups as Friends of the Westland Public Library, 11th District Democratic Club, Holliday Nature Preserve Association, Westland Civitans and Goodfellows.

Past felonies not held against 2 school employees

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the state's Department of Education released a list of 450 school employees who had been convicted of felony offenses. Two of those named are from Livonia Public Schools.

According to Supt. Randy Liepa, there is no cause for concern in the district.

The list for Livonia Public School employees included one maintenance worker and one

teacher. The maintenance worker was convicted in 1993 for delivery or manufacturing drugs; the teacher was convicted in 1989 of false pretenses and in 1992 of installing an eavesdropping device.

Neither employee will face consequences in the district for their prior record. Liepa said he had no reason to believe the information should impact their jobs.

"They have good employee records with us," he said. "We have no reason to believe that

won't continue." The law was created to protect schools and day care facilities by preventing anyone with a history of criminal sexual conduct from working in those institutions. In February, the district received an initial list of names of employees who had misdemeanor or felony offenses under the School Safety Initiative. Neither list showed an individual with a record of criminal sexual conduct, which under the law would mean cause for immedi-

ate dismissal. "The intent of the law is something that is understandable," said Liepa. "Certainly there are issues when we would not want people with certain backgrounds (in the district). That's understandable in regards to sex crimes."

It's quite different to have an employee who "paid their dues for something they did when they were young," he said.

In both cases, the crimes mentioned were committed more than 13 years ago.

"At the same point in time, we have to make sure we're employing people who are good to be working with students," said Liepa.

A third name appeared on Livonia's list, but Liepa said it was sent in error and that record had been expunged.

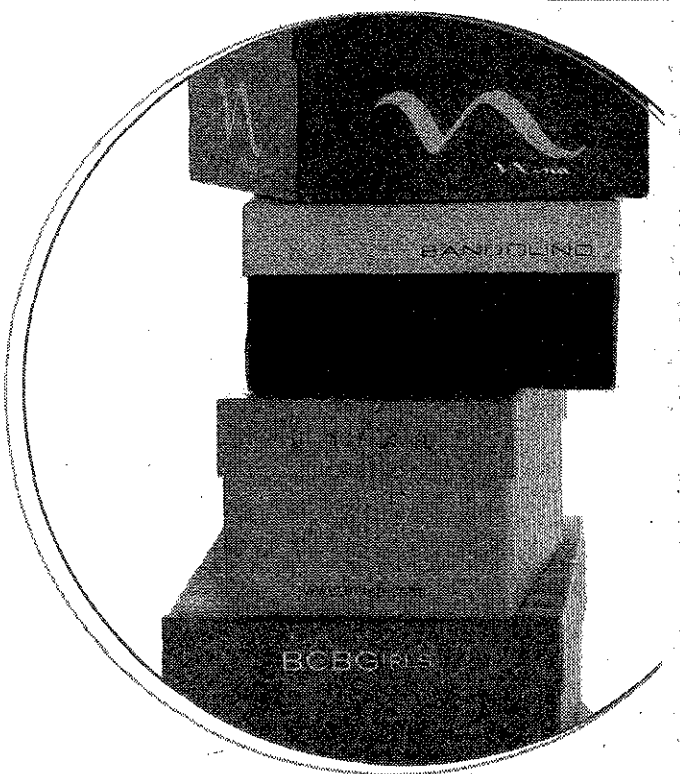
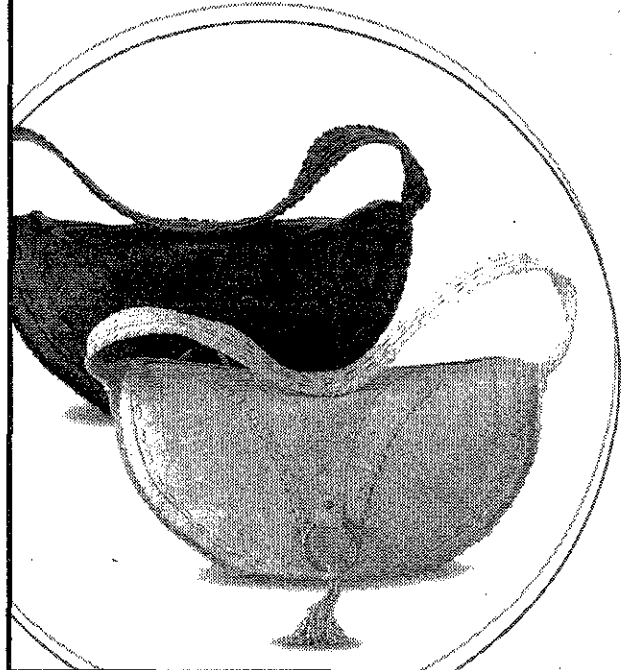
As for the other two men, Liepa said, "we're very comfortable with who they are and what they do for us."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Theatre workshop
Aspiring actors and actresses entering grades seven through nine can conquer stage fright, learn audition techniques, make-up techniques, dance moves, and be coached in acting, diction, and singing at the Youth Musical Theatre Workshop hosted by the Madonna University Lyric Theatre Program. Workshop participants will perform for family and friends in the evening on the last day of the workshop. The workshop will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 26-30, with a finale performance at 7 p.m. Friday, June 30. It will be held at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan in Livonia. Registration is \$375 and includes a light breakfast, lunch and a snack each day. Applications can be obtained by contacting Barbara Willsie at (734) 432-5715, or by e-mail at bwillsie@madonna.edu.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

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

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

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

Menopause & More

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

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

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

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

- **General Grief Support Group** - Open to all losses. Meets at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
 - **Loss of a Spouse Support Group** - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in February.
 - **Women's Grief Support Group** - Held each Spring and Fall. Call (734) 953-6012 for dates and times.
 - **Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child** - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Call to register at (734) 464-2683.
 - **Grief Support Quilter's Group** - A new Grief Support Quilter's Group is looking for community members interested in making a quilt in memory of a loved one. No quilting or sewing experience is necessary. Dates and times to be determined. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information.
 - **Groups by Appointment** - Loss of an Adult Child, Men In Grief. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information.
- Angela Hospice also provides one-on-one grief support. For more information about Angela Hospice's grief support services, or to register for a group, call Joan Lee at (734) 953-6012.

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

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

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

HISTORIC

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

Friends of Eloise
The Friends of Eloise group meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

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

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

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

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

FOR SENIORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters
The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Vietnam Vets
The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony
The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol
Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes

ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capilbertors/.

Habitat help
The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

Veteran's Haven
Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

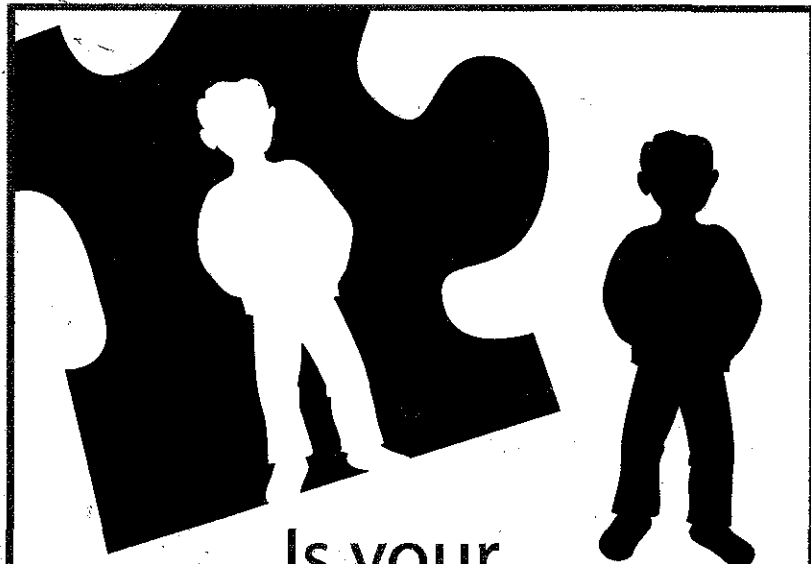
Pet-A-Pet
The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

Zonta Club
The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920.

Franklin PTSA
The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

Tutorial program
A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

M.O.M.S.
M.O.M.S. Club of Canton/ Westland is a nonprofit support group for stay-at-home mothers. There are weekly events, Mom's Night Out, age-oriented play groups and more. For information, call Wendy, (734) 398-6957.



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Let's dance

Studio's new owner dances on her own two feet

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When Kristie Wyler was a young dancer, her mother used to tell her that she would work for her when she grew up to own her own dance studio.

Young Kristie used to scoff, dismissing her mother's remarks with a "Yeah, right Mom."

When Wyler walked through the door June 1 after buying Metro Dance in Plymouth, with her mother at the front desk, it proved one thing for sure.

Mommies know everything.

"She was excited, and I love it," said Wyler, who works full time as a market center administrator at the Keller Williams real estate office in Royal Oak. "I am an organizer and a planner, and I love to teach. It's kind of the best of both worlds for me."

Studio ownership seems like the next logical step for Wyler, who has been dancing since she was 4 or 5. She was on the first dance team as a junior at Wayne Memorial High School

So Wyler, a Plymouth resident for two years after living in Canton for about 18 months, sent letters to dance studios in the area, looking for a job. Metro Dance owners Gerilynn Feasle and Stephanie Plansker responded, and Wyler started teaching in July 2005. A few months later, Feasle and Plansker approached her about buying the studio.

and later coached the team. Her first year dancing, there were maybe seven girls on the team; when she coached it, there were 30.

She went to New York two years ago and tried out for the traveling Rockettes, but didn't get the gig. She was planning to go back, but this opportunity came along.

"My plan was to go when I went (two years ago), try out and see what it was about," she recalled. "Then I was going to go again last year, but then this just kind of happened."

She started the dance program for the City of Wayne's Parks and Recreation Department. She gave it all up

when she got pregnant with her second daughter, Addison. By the time her eldest daughter, Anna, was ready to start dance, at 3-1/2, Wyler discovered she missed it herself.

So Wyler, a Plymouth resident for two years after living in Canton for about 18 months, sent letters to dance studios in the area, looking for a job. Metro Dance owners Gerilynn Feasle and Stephanie Plansker responded, and Wyler started teaching in July 2005. A few months later, Feasle and Plansker approached her about buying the studio.

"It was nice coming here, not having to worry about management stuff and just be able

to teach," Wyler said. "(But) I was ecstatic when they approached me. The chance to own your own studio is always something you think of when you're teaching. A chance to own one that's already successful makes it even better."

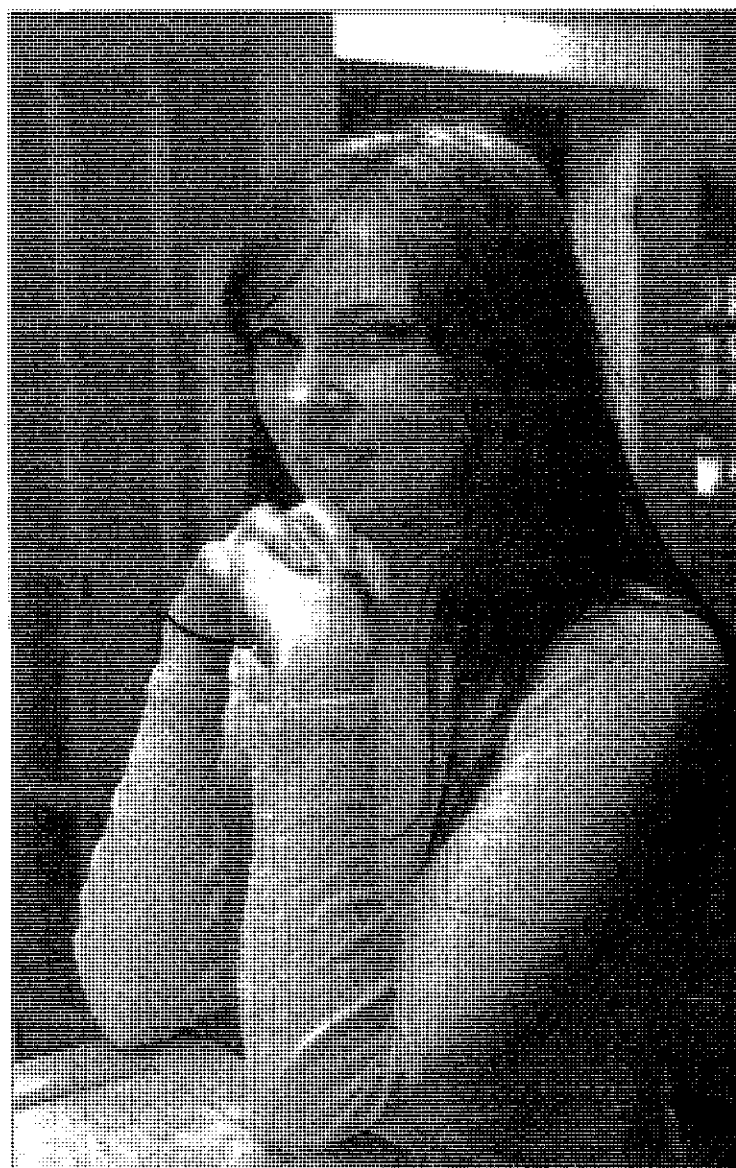
For their part, Feasle and Plansker saw professionalism - and potential - in Wyler. Plansker was looking to spend more time with her new son, Ian, now 2.

"I wanted to spend more time with my family," said Plansker, a Grosse Pointe resident. "Kristie has been very professional at our school. She seems more connected to the community because she lives here."

Wyler's experience leaves her qualified to teach jazz, tap, lyrical, hip-hop and ballet, the last being one of the strengths at Metro Dance. She plans on maintaining the existing curriculum and adding to it, with classes such as ballroom dance.

She's looking forward to the opportunity, because it will lead to her favorite thing about teaching.

"I love when the kids 'get it,'" she said. "When you teach, you're with them 9-10 months and they're like your family. You watch them on stage and you tear up like it's your own daughter."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After teaching at the studio for nearly a year, Kristie Wyler became the owner of Metro Dance in Plymouth on June 1.

AROUND WESTLAND

Preschool Fair

Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center, 34801 Marquette, Westland, will hold its preschool registration fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 12.

Parents can register their child for the Head Start preschool program. Preschoolers will receive free books and there will be facepainting, story telling, games, crafts and refreshments.

For more information, call Maureen Reddy at (734) 419-2635.

New address

Westwood Community Church has moved to 9600 Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. Praise and worship is at 10 a.m. Sunday. There also is a children's church and nursery, and doughnuts and coffee are also served. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

Bible school

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will have a vacation Bible school 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 10-14, at the church, 37775 Palmer west of Newburgh.

The cost is \$15 per child and \$30 per family. Each family will receive a sing and play CD which includes songs learned at the Bible school.

To register or for more information, call (734) 722-1735.

Blood Drive

Contours Express will host an American Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, July 7, at the studio 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.

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.

Flea Market

Vendors are needed for a flea market 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Space is available at \$20 per space. Applications are available by calling Ray or Jackie Gagnon at (734) 722-7225.

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.

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.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford.

The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

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ACHIEVERS

Named to the honor roll for the final marking period at Tinkham Alternative High School in Westland were **Desiree Clark, Brandon Docusen, Jahemella Foster-Moore, Brandon Gardner, Larry George, Taylor Gipson, Mary Jo Howell, Brittany Jackson, Laura Lambert, Robert Lambert, Anthony Marez, Kristen Persh, Asheana Staley, Amanda Sweet, Markeisha Thurman and Amanda Wood.**

received a doctorate degree in pharmacy.

A graduate of Henry Ford High School, Muhammad was active in the A.W.A.R.E. Drug Education Team at Ohio Northern.

Alysa Henning of Wayne-Wayne Memorial Senior High School and **Andrew Galuszka** of John Glenn Senior High School are among 50 graduates from the area to receive a \$1,000 Sam Walton Community Scholarship.

In order to qualify for a scholarship, a student must be a high school senior, a U.S. citizen and meet minimum grade point average requirements. An independent panel of judges from Scholarship Program Administrators selects recipients on the basis of financial need, academic record, ACT/SAT test scores,

and school and community involvement.

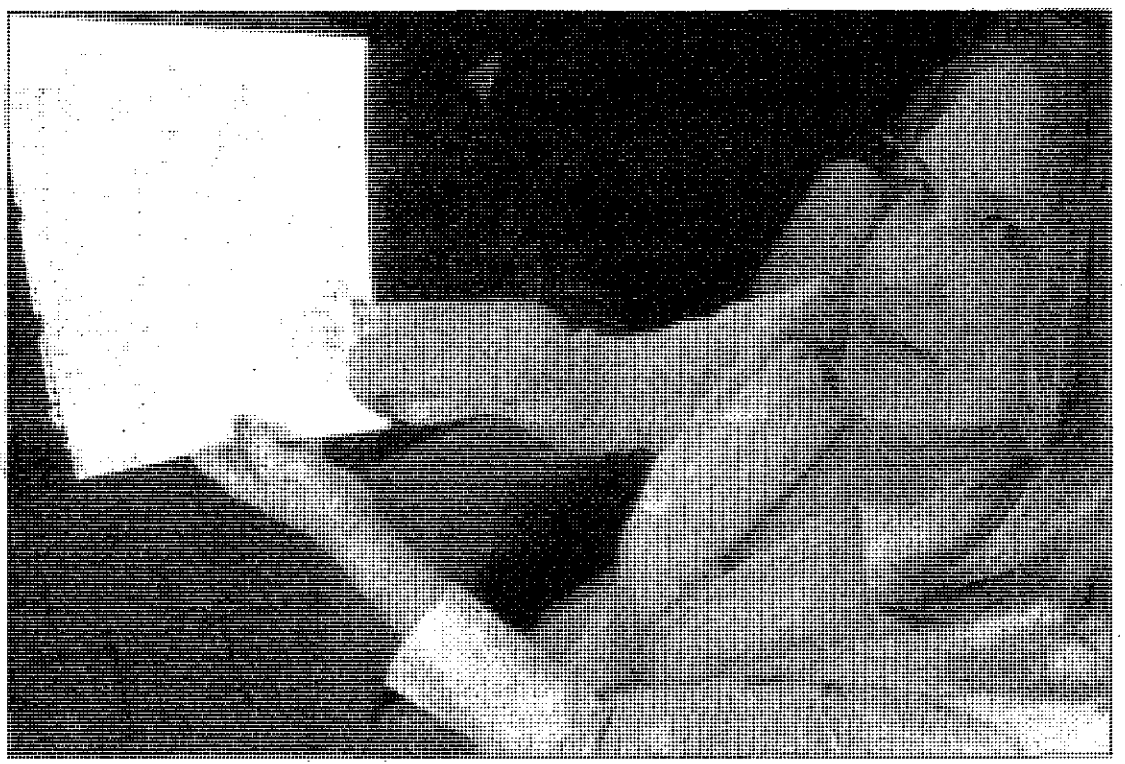
Mackenzey McFall has been chosen as a semi-finalist in the National American Miss Michigan Pageant which will be held July 29 in Troy.

The winner of the pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash award and the chance to compete in the national pageant at Disneyland in California.

Mackenzey has participated in an Exercise Jamboree with Broadway Steps. She also takes gymnastics at the Academy of Gymnastics in Westland.



McFall



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Handwriting analyst Karen Elly-Trapani points out certain traits she finds in a handwriting sample.



Muhammad

The write touch

Local handwriting analyst can read into you

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

There's a whole world of discovery found in every stroke of a pen — from forensic evidence to personality traits and even health conditions.

Just ask Karen Elly-Trapani, a certified forensic handwriting examiner and a certified handwriting analyst.

A "loopy" letter "y" in handwriting means the writer is creative. An open, loose, letter "e" means the writer is a good listener.

Even a particular mood can be displayed in handwriting, said Elly-Trapani, of Farmington Hills.

"When you're happy or sad, it shows in your handwriting," she said.

When analyzing someone's penmanship, she considers the formation of the letters, the slant, the pressure on the paper and the use of the margins on the paper.

"Handwriting analysis can even help you hire the right person for the job," she said, noting there are strokes that reveal loyalty, sincerity, honesty and personality traits. A double loop on the top of the cursive letter "o," for example, often shows the writer is a liar.

Elly-Trapani has sought higher certifications to recognize more advanced traits. She has taken classes on the Internet and has been studying under Karen Weinberg, in New Mexico, who certified Elly-Trapani in forensic handwriting analysis. She is also a member of

the Coalition of Handwriting Analysts International.

She has performed her expertise for the Southfield Police Department, by analyzing handwriting in a forgery case.

Handwriting analysis is not linked to psychic abilities, she added. It does not foretell the future or recall the past.

"It's a science and it's held up in a court of law," she said. "Hand movements are moved by the brain."

Elly-Trapani works for the city of Southfield, in the budget and finance department, but her true passion is analyzing handwriting. She lectures and holds classes. For entertainment purposes, she often finds herself analyzing handwriting at parties and small gatherings. She will take her talent to the high seas later this summer, when she boards a cruise ship bound for Bermuda and the Bahamas for seven days. She was hired as an entertainer.

"It's just for fun for the guests," she said.

Elly-Trapani's business is called Analysis in Motion, which she established in 2002. She hopes, someday, to make it a full-time job.

"I enjoy helping people with their health, helping them overcome fears and problems and finding out if there is an issue of forgery," she said. "I really enjoy enriching lives."

Contact Analysis in Motion by phone at (248) 495-3182, in the Web at www.analysisinmotion.net; or via e-mail at analysisinmotion@hotmail.com.

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County welcomes Italian sweets, money management

SISTERS IN BAKING

Last fall two sisters - Monica Ingles and Bertha Ferguson - began a little baking business in Ingles' Farmington Hills home. When orders for the sweet stuff began pouring in around the holidays, they decided the time had quickly come to open their own bakery.

Ingles and Ferguson, a Westland resident, picked a middle ground and bought the former Pat-A-Cake bakery location on Five Mile Road in Livonia. They opened the doors as Sorellas Homemade Baked Goods last March, appropriately using the Italian word for sisters.

"We grew up baking and cooking in a big Italian family," said Ingles.

Sorellas specializes in wedding cakes, Italian desserts like ricotta-filled canoli, bumpy cakes, New York-style cheesecakes and chocolate fountains.

To set themselves apart from the sticky-sweet competition, Sorellas offers all homemade treats. "Everything is made from scratch," said Ingles. "It helps us stand out."

Both sisters intend to create a friendly Old World atmosphere at the bakery. Ingles said she hopes their customers feel comfortable enough to stop in for a cappuccino, a slice of cheesecake and to share some conversation in a relaxing environment.

"We're having a good time," Ingles said. "We want our customers to have a good time."

WHAT'S IN STORE

Customer service is a priority at the sweet shop. Stop in any Saturday afternoon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. when the chocolate fountain is running. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sorellas is at 31236 Five Mile Road at Merriman in Livonia. For more information, visit www.sorellashomemade.com or call (734) 525-5544.

MONEY MATTERS

Senior citizens and their families are the focus of a full-service certified public accounting firm which recently opened in Livonia.

Criss, Wilmarth & Parr, CPAs created a new division called Senior Money Managers. Denise Wilmarth, CPA and partner, described the venture as a banking, book-keeping and tax service designed to provide seniors and their families with the trusted financial management of that is customized to meet their individual needs.

"We are not an investment firm," said Wilmarth. "What we do is design a personal money management plan with each client. Our goal is to eliminate the ongoing burden of routine financial tasks like managing bank accounts, processing estimated taxes, monitoring expenditures and, of course, completing tax returns." The process begins with a



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sisters, and owners of Sorellas, Bertha Ferguson (left) and Monica Ingles stand with an assortment of individual cakes and bite-sized goodies.

comprehensive financial assessment used to create "customized cash flow plan," according to Gayl Parr, partner and CPA. "When the plan is in place, we provide the services on a yearly basis with regular reports to the client."

Senior Money Managers offers everything from routine banking to fiduciary planning.

For more information call (734) 432-2500.

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

Hendrix leads Red Cross

Freman Hendrix, president and CEO of Advanced Security & Investigative Solutions, is the new chair of a mostly new board for the American Red Cross-Southeastern Michigan Chapter.

New Red Cross chapter board officers are vice chair Melanie D. Davis of Sterling Heights and Art Espey of Detroit. Returning officers are secretary Susan D. Nine and treasurer John W. Hebert, both of Bloomfield Hills. Davis is president of The Macomb Chamber, Espey is COO of Power Process Piping Inc. in Plymouth, Nine is office manager at Nine & Groulex P.C. and president of Spruce Cos. Inc. and Hebert is a partner at Plante & Moran in Southfield. Each will serve a one-year term.

Joining the Red Cross chapter board as directors are Bettye V. Arrington of Bloomfield Hills and Charles R. Frizzell of Grosse

Ile. Arrington is managing director of Martin, Arrington & Hasse P.C. of Bingham Farms and Frizzell is president and CEO of Fraza Forklifts in Roseville.

Outgoing Red Cross board chair Neil G. Bristol of Grosse Pointe will now serve as governance chair. He is a partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers in Detroit. Dr. William A. Conway of Birmingham, Elizabeth A. DuMouchelle of Bloomfield Hills and N. Brewster Broder of Farmington Hills have stepped forward and are actively engaged in providing new opportunities and direction for the Trustee Advisory Council. Conway in senior vice president of clinical affairs at Henry Ford Health System, DuMouchelle is senior attorney at Butzel Long P.C. in Detroit and Broder is investment advisor at Financial Advisory Associates in Southfield.

Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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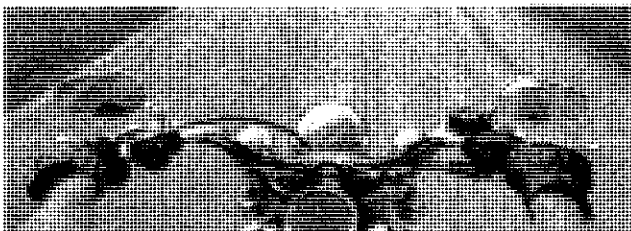
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OUR VIEWS

Wetland decision muddies waters

A recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on two Michigan cases involving the development of wetlands only muddies the water about what constitutes a protected wetland.

The court ruled June 19 that the federal Clean Water Act doesn't necessarily allow federal and state regulators to stop developers from building on wetlands that are not directly adjacent to navigable waterways. The case involved two Michigan developers, including Midland's John Rapanos, who argued he was prevented from building a shopping center on his land even though it was 20 miles away from the nearest river dumping into Lake Huron.

Four of the justices, led by Antonin Scalia and John Roberts, ruled federal law only allows the government to regulate wetlands adjacent to navigable, flowing bodies of water. However, Justice Anthony Kennedy was joined by four other justices in arguing that the Clean Water Act was intended to protect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of all the nation's waters.

The court did agree to send the two cases back to the lower courts, where they will be treated on a case-by-case basis. That decision pleased neither environmentalists nor pro-development groups, because it left vague just what exactly wetland protections are lawful and which are not.

The court could have solidified federal water protections, but instead chose to leave that up to individual courts and judges, which may prove to be inconsistent.

Biologists will tell you that wetlands are really the lifeblood of any river system. To destroy a watershed's wetlands is akin to cutting off the roots of a tree, despite how far it is from the main body of water. All those "ditches" and "drains" that some developers like Rapanos say shouldn't be protected are what feed larger waterways downstream.

Some developers say wetland protections are akin to the seizure of private property. Yet, it doesn't seem to bother them that they degrade the properties of those who live downstream from their developments.

Wetlands are vital because they collect and slowly filter stormwater into a river system. When they are filled with impervious surfaces like parking lots and buildings, stormwater picks up pollutants, such as the motor oil that leaks from our cars, and is sent directly to creeks and rivers. The rush of stormwater also scars a river system with erosion. To see an example of this, look no further than our very own Rouge River, which is polluted every time it rains.

The Clean Water Act was implemented to "improve water quality by maintaining and restoring the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." When a river system's wetlands are destroyed, that is an impossible task. The Supreme Court should have recognized this.

Tigers are red hot as summer sizzles

Can this really be happening? Our beloved but long-beleaguered Detroit Tigers own the best record in the major leagues?

There is a very good chance that the Bengals' reign soon might be overtaken by the just-as-hot Chicago White Sox. But that shouldn't take away from an incredible turnaround by a team that once routinely captivated a town - only to lapse into a competitive coma about 15 years ago.

This season's Tigers are wide awake, thanks to new manager Jim Leyland, hotshot rookie pitchers Justin Verlander and Joel Zumaya and a teamwide commitment to doing things right. Of course, fired manager Alan Trammell regularly spouted out his philosophy that "sloppy baseball stinks." But nobody in his dugout listened.

Just one year later, the no-nonsense, chain-smoking Leyland is batting .1000 in getting his very similar philosophy through to the Pudges, Guillens and other holdovers from the so-so Trammell era.

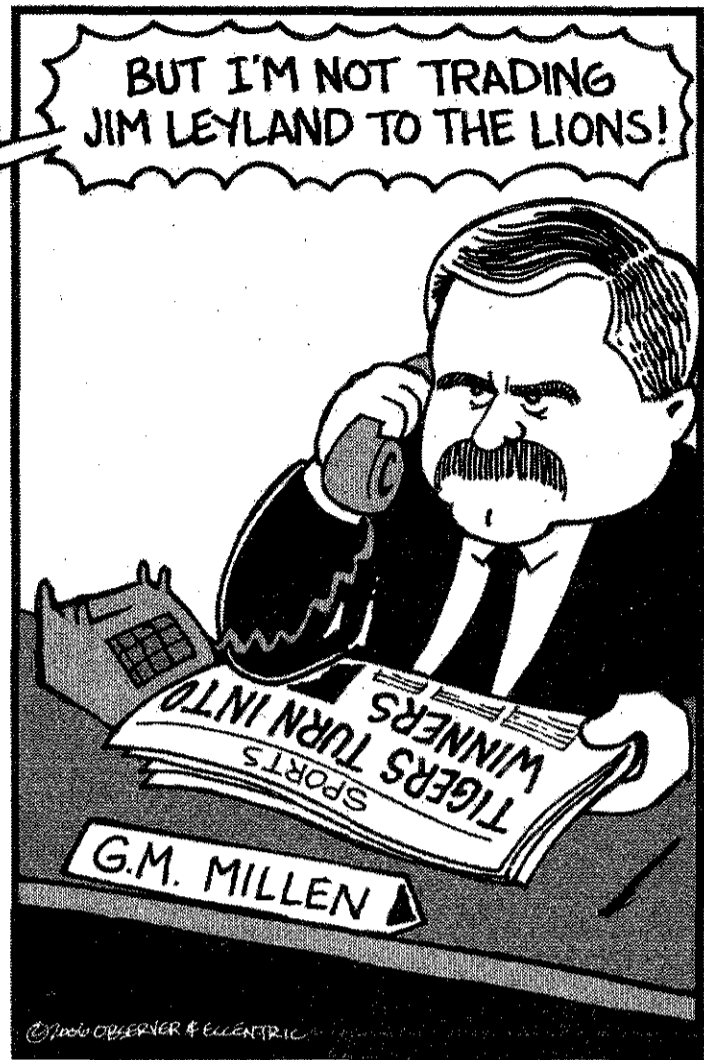
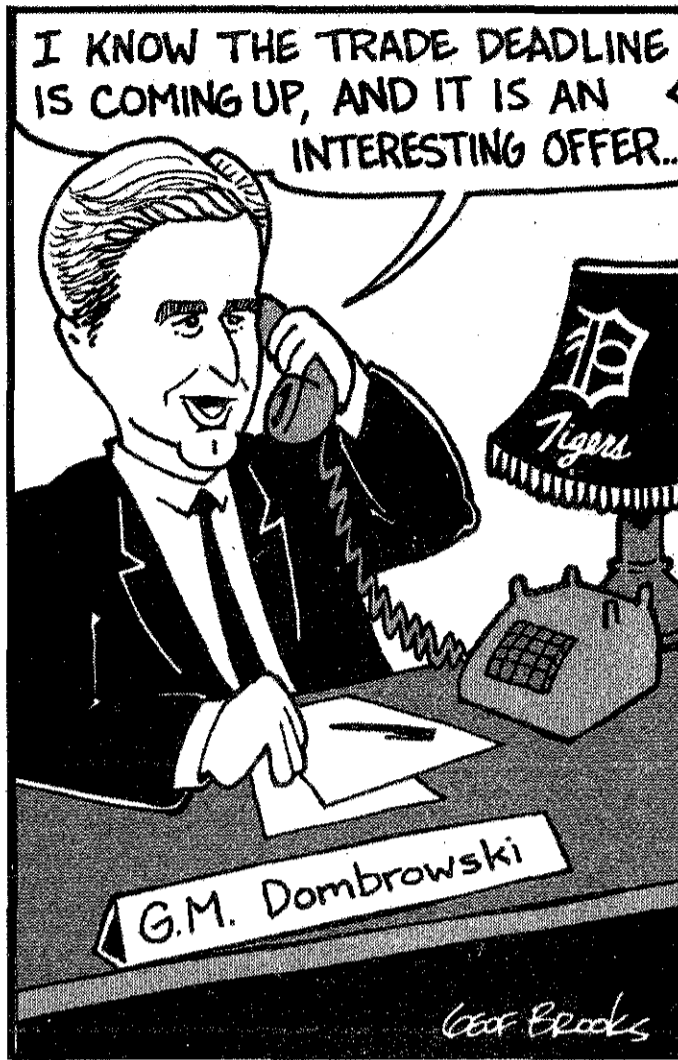
National magazines such as *Sports Illustrated* are going ga-ga over the Tigers and Leyland recently was featured on an installment of the ESPN nightly program *Outside the Lines*.

But that's just icing on the cake. What should really matter around here is the fact Comerica Park hosted a string of sellouts June 23-25 against St. Louis with big crowds following with Houston in town last week.

There is talk of the Tigers setting a franchise attendance record. That would trigger a huge economic boost to the region. And if the team stays in the hunt for the rest of the season, it could very well return Detroit to the top of the local sports mountain.

That would be quite a turnaround from how the Tigers were fourth fiddles to the Lions, Pistons and "Hockeytown" Red Wings.

Provided Leyland doesn't lose his cigarette lighter or his ability to light a fire under his players in the next few months, it again will be like 1968 and 1984 around here.



LETTERS

Glad to have inspections

My name is Margie Stambaugh. I live in Norwayne and I am very glad to see this (rental inspection) program being introduced to our neighborhood. I don't feel it is a violation! We are looking at an inspection once (every three years). This is well-needed and deserved. Many landlords in my area do not care and far too many residents don't care either! I think this will help weed through the good and the bad!

I don't like the \$150 fee that comes with it (who likes to pay more money?), but I will be happy to pay it as long as this does some good for the community.

I am 30 years old with two children. I have lived in Norwayne almost all my life. As a renter, I have lived in a few real bad places. I now have a landlord who is absolutely wonderful and I think that maybe we should give the landlords that do care some recognition. I believe that the city could come up with a way to do some type of "thank you" to those who try to keep the neighborhood up and not allow it to be destroyed. This could be an "incentive" to those few to keep up the good work and kick-start those who haven't done enough.

I really needed to comment on this and I thank you for your time.

Margie Stambaugh
happy renter/concerned neighbor
Westland

Inspections are needed

City of Westland, thank your office very much for going through with the rental inspections. Without a doubt those who do not want it need to hide their vices before the inspections begin, BUT look at the advantages of having a safe, secure and livable environment.

Usually those who cannot afford better living conditions end up living within an environment that is really not very livable. And the landlords only do what is sometimes required for them to do.

As a young adult, we lived in Norwayne, or "Shacktown" as we called it, and my father's landlord only came by twice in 10 years. He came once for late rent and once to bring a can of white paint because my father wanted to paint the place. (My father was a single man raising five children on Social Security.)

The landlord came in and said, "Here you go, paint what you want. If you want color buy it." He did not take the money off the rent for "any" of the repairs my father made there over the years.

My father has been dead now 28 years, and just in the last five years my father's old rental home has finally been repaired and redone on the outside. As for the inside, your guess is as good as mine.

I live where they have city inspections for rental and we have inspections once a year. Thank God I do not have to hide whatever I think they are going to find.

I think if you asked most mature, stable and productive renters you would find out they are waiting for someone to come notice what they have been putting up with. Most renters are afraid to even mention damage for fear they will be asked or forced to move.

And as for the landlords, let's face it, they can write off the repairs on their

business taxes and begin to charge renters more. To me that means the rich still get richer, but the renter gets a nice, warm place to live and lay their head. Sounds like a win/win to me.

Now the question I would think of is not be how to hide my vices BUT will the landlords repair the damage found from the inspection or label it damage from the renter?

Danielle Richards
Westland

Sad state of city affairs

The city council meeting of June 19, in our opinion, turned out to be one of the saddest meetings in recent history.

As many of us know, there was a plea by renters and owners of rental properties to reconsider the passage of a new ordinance which will require the inspection of all rental properties.

Of course, the city has an obligation to remove blight. If all of the cited blighted properties, and apparently there are more, are not being cleaned up, then how will the city handle all the hundreds of additional inspections? If we cannot clean up the city without going through the courts, then what will change under the new ordinance?

It was stated that if the renter refuses the inspection to take place, a warrant will be issued for entry against the wishes of the renter. Now, it was clearly stated at this meeting that there would be no forced entry. What then do you call an entry permitted by use of a warrant and not by renter's consent?

So this was being discussed apparently for three years. Well, where was the urgency at this time? Why couldn't the council agree to a postponement for a few weeks? Where was the pressure coming from? There was a definite impression left with some of us that this was already a "done deal." And in no way would some council members back down even when some of the owners suggested that the owners and the city council sit down and revisit the entire issue.

The unwillingness of five of our council members to negotiate is one of the issues at hand. Our society today has become so callous and insensitive. What harm would there be in revisiting the issue at hand with a hope that perhaps at this time something could be worked out? Failure to negotiate leaves another distinct impression that it was a "done deal" and that perhaps there was a hidden agenda. The sadness isn't only a result of failure to negotiate, but also a failure to vote on behalf of so many concerned citizens and business owners.

Where are all the independent council members? Remember when they were running for re-election that a question of being independent was raised? Remember how the candidates responded?

Aside from the self-righteous impressions left with some of us, why didn't these same council members fight to clean up the blight? It is indeed shameful that with the knowledge of some of the existing properties that the city was remiss in cleaning them up. And, if indeed these properties are being addressed, then let the people of

Westland know. The question still remains: How will the city handle so many additional inspections and address possible additional problems when the city apparently is struggling to address the existing problems?

We want to thank the two council members who we feel primarily best represent the citizens for being open to revisiting the rental inspection issue. Thank you, Mrs. Graunstadt and Mr. LeBlanc. Your positions on the council are not easy, but rest assured, they are well-noted and for this we are grateful.

Jim and Mary Murphy
Westland

It's about teaching, learning

In the May 2005 regular school election, (in which I ran for Trustee), we had nearly 6 percent voter turn out. This past May we increased participation to over 9 percent and in some precincts over 12 percent voted. I am amazed and offended by the attitude of Mr. Lessard and the school board that they feel this recall effort is illegal.

We will now have a school election during a regular primary which should tell educators and administrators statewide what the voter/taxpayer thinks about how our schools are run. Then the vote in November to replace the former Trustees will be a historic one in which 50 or 60 percent of the electorate will vote. This could be the turning point we need to reverse the deterioration of education across the state.

I have been an advocate along with city and county clerks to hold school elections in the odd year November elections. My suggestion would be a separate ballot for school trustees where voters could also vote for local school ballot questions directly. A separate ballot would enhance the voter's experience and reduce the level of complexity.

No matter how you vote in the August Primary, you will be demonstrating to participatory Democracy to our children. And isn't this what teaching and learning are all about?

Frank Kalinski
Livonia

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"This wall is a way to bring closure for those families who have not been able to see the names of their loved ones on the wall in Washington.

Joseph Tebor, post commander of the VFW Bova Post 9885, about The Moving Wall's visit to Westland.

WESTLAND
Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

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

Ideological idiocy frustrates stem cell research progress

You might say that Michigan is in a state of depression these days — psychologically speaking. What's more, it is clear that our elected masters are responsible for a good share of the blame.

The evidence is clear. A new round of polls has found that more Michiganders than ever before believe our state is headed in the wrong direction and are alarmed at the poor state of the economy. What's more, they don't have any confidence things are going to get much better any time soon.

There are lots of reasons for this. But one big one is the seeming total inability of our elected legislators to do something — anything — competent. As proof, consider how ideological idiocy in Lansing is frustrating progress in a promising area for our economy, not to mention the human race: Stem cell research.

Stem cells are generic cells capable of developing into various kinds of more specialized cells. Stem cells taken from very early human embryos can quickly differentiate into various types of tissue, such as blood, skin or nerves. Virtually every scientist in the country agrees that research using stem cells could produce breakthroughs in treating so far untreatable ailments such as Parkinson's Disease.

Lots of states are vigorously pursuing research into embryonic stem cells. California, for example, recently passed a state ballot proposal allocating \$3 billion to stem cell research.

Not surprisingly, this has led lots of very able scientists to move to California to pursue this work.

Wouldn't it make sense for Michigan, with our network of excellent hospitals and research universities, to do the same?

Apparently, that's hard to understand if you are in Lansing. Back in 1978, the Michigan legislature passed a law banning research on live fetuses and embryos. That was understandable then. Fertility clinics were then in their infancy, and nobody had any idea there would be any such thing as stem cell research.

But that law is now being used today to prevent scientists in our state from taking part in some of the most important research in history — work which could also be an economic bonanza.

The justification for the law is that it protects human embryos. Maybe that's the intent, but it just doesn't fit the facts. Here's something we all need to understand. Nobody is proposing to do this research on embryos from abortion clinics. There is no threat that more abortions will happen so stem cells can be harvested, which is what a lot of anti-abortion folks worry about.

These are stem cells from nearly microscopic embryos from fertility clinics. If they aren't used for potentially life-saving research, they are washed down the drain. According to University of Michigan professor and stem cell biologist Sean Morrison points out, fertility clinics discard unused tiny human embryos all the time.

"It's legal in Michigan to discard human embryos,"

Professor Morrison, who heads stem cell research in this state, told me, "but it's illegal to use them for medical research to help cure disease."

The cost to all of us is steep. Morrison pointed out that Michigan is losing out on research projects because funders are scared of our laws. "The state of Illinois is funding research projects there that we would go to jail for trying here in Michigan."

"Our laws are some of the most restrictive in the world, far tighter than federal law and equaled only by South Dakota."

The silliness of the present law is compounded by the negative effect all this is having on our economic future. According to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), more than \$2 billion is invested annually in life sciences research and development in Michigan. The industry produces \$4.8 billion in sales and is one of the few rapidly growing sectors in our economy.

Indeed, the MEDC says the State of Michigan has over the last four years invested \$178 million in growing the Life Sciences Corridor running from Wayne State University through the U-M and Michigan State University to the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids.

So on the one hand we have a rapidly developing scientific field that is terribly important for the health of every citizen, one in which there is great talent at our research universities and has proven to be one of the few bright spots in our economy.

And on the other hand we are suffering under a disco-era law that prohibits exactly the kind of research that needs to be done.

No wonder people in this state are pessimistic. Various attempts have been made to resolve this Catch 22 in the legislature, most notably by Rep. Andy Meisner, D-Ferndale.

Given the ideological stranglehold Michigan Right To Life has on the legislature, is it any surprise that his measure has been bottled up in committee for the past two years?

But the idiocy of our present situation is beginning to be felt, even by legislators. Early last month, some House Republicans held a press conference endorsing "an innovative network of umbilical cord banks." Well, they may be starting to get it — but Morrison calls this idea "misguided." Trouble is, umbilical cord blood cells simply cannot replace embryonic stem cells for research. (Last time I looked, the proposal has yet to be introduced.)

Even in a city as gripped by partisan deadlock as Lansing, don't we have the right to expect our lawmakers to break free of ideology and find a common-sense way to allow our scientists to do the kind of research that an overwhelming majority of people want and need? Especially, that is, when that research would also be a shot in the arm for our troubled economy.

If our legislature doesn't step up to the task, it may be time for all of us to move beyond pessimism ... to outright anger.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

LETTERS

Ordinance is unconstitutional

We live in a constitutionally limited republic, indeed a representative form of republican government.

We do not elect "leaders" or people to decode what is "good for us." Rather they are elected as representatives of the people, not as dictators. In keeping with our Constitution (the supreme law of the United States of America), they are therefore destined to represent the people who place them in this position of public service.

Every council member prior to taking office was required to take an oath of office. In that oath, they swore to "PRESERVE and DEFEND" the Constitution of the United States of America.

Having said that, this letter is in regards to the inspection ordinance which is being considered by the people of Westland.

The passing of this ordinance is not unlawful and our elected representatives are doing exactly what their job description dictates. However, new ordinances cannot be imposed on existing property (buildings) because the grandfather clause protects existing property (buildings). Any new property (buildings) beginning after the adoption of the new ordinance, however, will have to comply, if they chose to build in Westland.

(Article 1-Section 9)

The Constitution of the United States strictly prohibits the passing of the ex post facto law.

An ex post facto law is defined as a law which, assuming to regulate civil rights and remedies only, in effect imposes a penalty or the deprivation of a right which when done, was lawful; a law which deprives persons accused of a crime of some lawful protection to which they have become entitled, every law which, in relation to the offense or its consequences, alters the situation of a person to his disadvantage.

U.S. Supreme Court Decisions:

"All laws which are repugnant of the Constitution are null and void."

Marbury vs. Madison, 5 U.S.(2 Cranch) 137 (1803).

"Where rights secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rulemaking or legislation which would abrogate them."

Key no. 73, Miranda vs. State of Arizona, 86 S. Ct. 1602 (1966)

"An unconstitutional statute though having the form and name of law, is in reality no law, but is wholly null and void and ineffective for any purpose. It imposes no duty, confers no rights, creates no office, bestows no power or authority on anyone, affords no

protection and justifies no acts performed under it. No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional statute and no courts are bound to enforce it."

16 Am Jur, 2nd Sec. 177
I say again, the ordinance will be perfectly legal, but will not be applicable to any existing property (buildings) and that law may never apply to any property (buildings) existing prior to the new ordinance, regardless of ownership. The ex post facto law goes with the property, not the owner(s) or the property (buildings).

At the close of the Constitutional Convention, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what type of government the Constitution was bringing into existence, to which Franklin replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

E.R. Young
Westland

Reject recall, negativity

As citizens who for three decades have poured our hearts into the hard work of providing an outstanding education for our children and the children of our entire community, we cannot remain silent in the face of a threatened recall of the Livonia school board.

The Livonia School District has been a shining asset for our town, the reason why people buy houses here and pay substantial prices for them. Livonia's reputation as a lighthouse school district is known statewide and nationally. The recall would, in our opinion, seriously threaten our community's reputation for excellence, and compromise the very reason people move here and live here.

As school board members, PTA members and local school volunteers, we worked too hard to turn our district's future over to negative thinking and lower educational standards. The present school board has acted wisely and courageously to increase such programs as foreign language instruction and physical education in the upper elementary grades, while keeping to a minimum the cost of building upkeep and utilities.

Educational excellence must be our highest priority. This is the priority the present school board has fought for. We urge all Livonia school district voters and residents to join us in fighting to preserve that priority by supporting our schools and rejecting the recall.

Nancy Gormley, Carol Strom, Pat Tancill
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Father of invention

Troy man sees through the problem to find a solution

BY MEGAN PENNEFATHER
STAFF WRITER

The key to this story is found in something lost.

Namely, Craig Richardson's glasses, without which he can't read or see much of anything.

One night, not so long ago, the Troy resident wanted to listen to a particular CD, but couldn't find his glasses to search the stacks of plastic cases.

It took a while, but he eventually found it. And, while peering through squinted eyes at the small-print on the CD case spine, he uttered the phrase that's likely launched countless inventions throughout history:

"There has to be a better way."

There was. Soon after his late-night brainstorm, he got to work trying to find a new type of CD case, one that let even visually impaired people read the normally small print on CD case spines.

"One of the issues all of us face is retrieving the content from the case," Richardson said.

That's where Richardson's new invention comes in: the Easy See Case.

"It increases the area of content identification by approximately three times the current spine label area with no change at all to the dimensions of the case," Richardson said.

As far as specifics, that's about all the inventor will allow. With a patent pending gadget that could bring money and success to its creator, Richardson is careful about opening the door for those less-than-ethical rivals.

Instead, he said he's received nothing but praise from music companies like Sony, BMG and Warner Bros., which are indicating they're interested in offering a more user-friendly CD case.

"They said this case is going to totally revolutionize the entertainment landscape," Richardson said of the music representatives he's contacted about the Easy See Case.

The invention already has a fan in Patrick Cannon, state director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind.

Cannon said the larger spine area will allow for Braille labels to be placed on CD cases, a feature that will make it easier for blind and visually impaired people to file and find CDs.

"It's one of those inventions you look at and you see how simple it is and you think it's so simple I'm surprised nobody's thought of it before," said Cannon, who got a first-hand demonstration of the new case.

"It's definitely going to be much easier for a blind person to put a Braille label" on a CD.

It's not the first invention for Richardson, but it may turn out to be his most lucrative. Or, at least, it's poised to be more successful than his very first invention.

When he was 13, he came up with the idea for a collapsible fishing pole that was easier to carry and pack. He drew it out, thought up a plan, and decided to ask his uncle, who was also an inventor, for advice.

His uncle looked at the plan and told the young Richardson, "Forget get-rich schemes. Dedicate your life to work and maybe in 40 years you'll have something to show for it."

And that wasn't even the worst part: "Ten years later they came out with my idea," Richardson said.

Still, it's probably a good thing he didn't end up taking his uncle's advice. After a career as manager of a transportation company in Cadillac, he was laid off unexpectedly. He was rehired by the same company, which transferred him to Troy a few years ago, only to be laid off a second time.

But Richardson is something of an optimist, and saw his misfortune as a type of opportunity.

"It was like this big plan was set in motion, because it gave me time to do this," he said.

He's taken advantage of that extra time. For the last few years, he's spent long days and nights not only developing the Easy See Case, but making the myriad business contacts.

"I get up at 6 in the morning and I'll work 'til 10 or 11 at

night," he said.

As it turns out, having the idea for his invention was the easy part. Now comes the hard part — manufacturing and marketing the Easy See Case.

Richardson said that while he's gotten nothing but interest from big media companies and retail outlets, he can't find a manufacturing facility that can

make that many plastic CD cases.

So far, he's been concentrating his facility search to Michigan, and hasn't given up hope he'll eventually find one. "That's the goal, trying to make my small contribution to the state of Michigan economy," he said.

He hopes to have the some

cases made and out to stores as early as 2007.

Then, he hopes to be able to let everyone else understand a product he already thinks is a success.

Troy resident Craig Richardson has spent the last few years developing the Easy See Cases, which make reading CD spines and cases easier.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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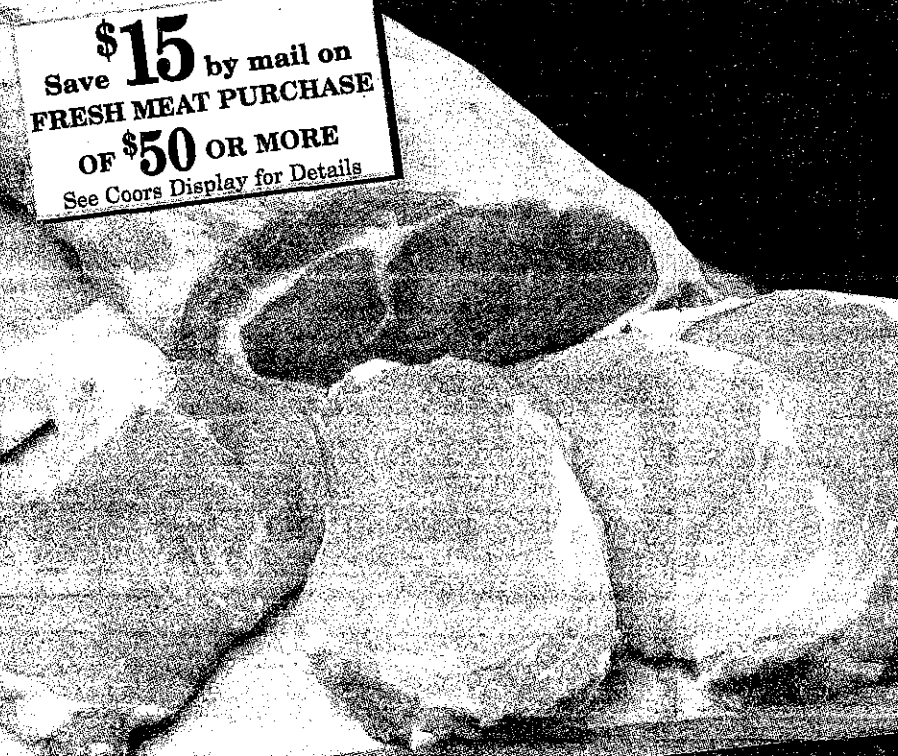
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Infant well-being declines in Michigan

Adolescent measures such as high school dropout rate improved in Michigan between 2000 and 2003, according to the annual Kids Count state-by-state report released last week by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In the area of maternal and infant well-being, however, state progress stalled, and economic security weakened. The state's overall ranking placed Michigan 27th among the 50 states (No. 1 is the best ranking) based on 10 key measures. "Michigan's progress in the area of adolescent health and development reflects the state and community commitment to programs that have improved the lives of youth," said Jane Zehnder-Merrell, senior research associate at the Michigan League of Human Services and director of the Kids Count in Michigan project. "We now need that same level of dedication to improving maternal and infant health and blunting the impact on children of the state economic downturn."

In the area of maternal and infant mortality rate at 8.5 deaths per 1,000 births earned the state its worst ranking, 43rd among the 50 states, dropping from 39th in 2000. The state rate was well above the national average of 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. State data show the infant mortality rate for African-American infants (17.4 deaths per 1,000) was 2-1/2 times that of the state's white infants (6.7).

"This disparity in infant mortality rates is driven by differences in access to health care, good jobs, safe housing and transportation services," said Michele Corey, director of Community Advocacy at Michigan's Children. Another troubling trend was the erosion of economic security among Michigan families reflected in the 29 percent

Kids Count in Michigan, a collaborative effort project of the Michigan League for Human Services and Michigan's Children, is part of a broad national effort to measure the well-being of children at state and local levels. The project regularly collects and publishes such information to enlighten public policy and community action.

increase in child poverty between 2000 and 2004, compared to only a 6 percent increase nationwide. By 2004 child poverty in the state had climbed to 18 percent of children, matching the national average. Children in families with income below the poverty level (\$19,311 for a family of four in 2004) suffer a higher risk of hunger, health problems, low academic achievement and behavior problems. "Michigan families are not unscathed by the state's economic difficulties, and many parents either do not have or are losing access to decent jobs with adequate wages and benefits. Erosion in the public programs that supplement the basic needs of children and their families during economic hard times will compromise the future potential of these children as students, workers, citizens and parents," said Zehnder-Merrell.

All the positive trends for the state in the national Kids Count report reflected better outcomes for Michigan youth. Compared to 2000, the 2004 percentage of the state's youth who dropped out of high school declined by 30 percent, those who were neither working nor attending school decreased by 11 percent. Teens were also more likely to postpone parenthood in 2003; births to teens, ages 15-19, dropped by 15 percent - from 40 of every 1,000 female teens giving birth in 2000 to 34 in 2003.

The state earned its best rank, 10th among the 50 states, for its teen death rate, which dropped from 64 to 55 deaths per 100,000 youth between 2000 and 2003, compared to a national average of 66 deaths. The 14 percent improvement in this measure over the trend period countered national trends that showed only 1 percent improvement. State data showed the most likely cause of death to a teen, ages 15-19, was motor vehicle accident, representing more than one-third of all deaths (36 percent) to this age group.

"Policy makers and community leaders should be inspired by the results of their efforts for youth, and take responsibility in making sure more of our youngest children have a healthy start in our communities," said Corey.

Kids Count in Michigan, a collaborative effort project of the Michigan League for Human Services and Michigan's Children, is part of a broad national effort to measure the well-being of children at state and local levels. The project regularly collects and publishes such information to enlighten public policy and community action.

The state project is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, MD.; the Detroit-based Skillman Foundation; as well as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and the Michigan Association of United Way.

Education efforts to reduce deaths

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Despite the fact that there are nearly a dozen first-rate hospitals in Michigan, the state has the seventh highest infant mortality rate in the nation.

Michigan Department of Community Health Director of Communications T.J. Bucholz said there are a lot of reasons why the state's infant mortality rate is as high as it is. They're much the same reasons that the U.S. rate is higher than other western nations.

"Women aren't seeking appropriate pre- or post-natal care," he said. "They don't always understand the proper care of an infant."

That lack of knowledge, combined with the less-tangible causes like low birth weight and a higher rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) are making Michigan's numbers poor.

The state is working on a parcel of programs aimed at preventing unwanted pregnancies and educating people on the proper care and maintenance of children.

The first program, "Talk Early, Talk Often" is geared toward teaching parents how to talk to their middle school-aged kids about sex and preventing pregnancy.

The second program, "Plan First," just got kicked off this month.

The economics of the program, he said, work out. The cost of preventative contraception runs between \$200 and \$300 a year where the cost of a Medicare-funded birth costs on average \$11,000.

"The state had a Medicare program to extend family planning to women at 100 percent of the poverty level," Bucholz said. "For a family of four, that's \$38,000 a year. With the new waiver the state has, it's been extended to families at 185 percent of the poverty level."

The economics of the program, he said, work out. The cost of preventative contraception runs between \$200 and \$300 a year where the cost of a Medicare-funded birth costs on average \$11,000.

"The program saves money and makes sure that every child is a wanted child," he said. "That's what the governor is shooting for."

alundberg@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2536

SINGLES

Single Point Ministries

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road, the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty, in Northville.

Sunday Fellowship
Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. For more information, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

- Bible Studies-Prayer Nights
- Learner's Bible Study - 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101.
- Praying Together - 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church.
- Men's Bible Study - 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Single Adult Ministries office.

Tennis, Anyone?

The nets are up at Rotary Park on Six Mile between Merriman and Farmington in Livonia and you will find players there weekdays 4-7 p.m. anytime the weather is above 45 degrees. Saturday and Sunday play is 1-5 p.m. For more information, contact the SPM office at Ward Church at (248) 374-5920.

Single Place

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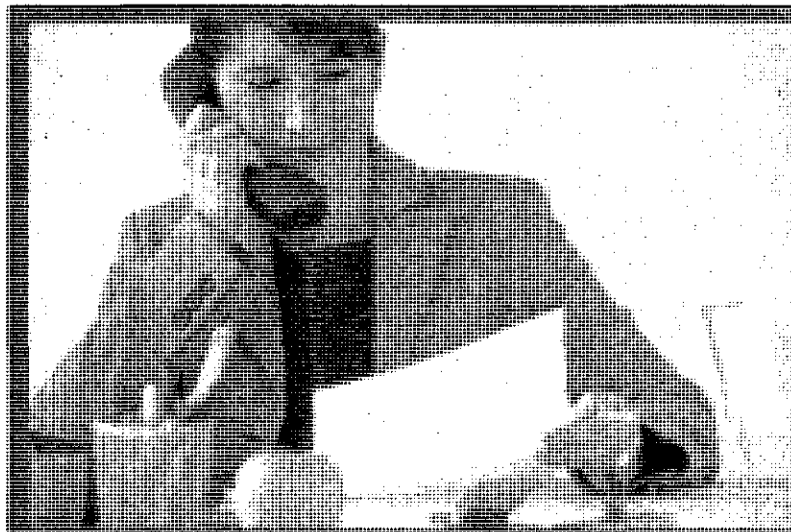
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Working dogs

Employers say allowing canines in the office hikes productivity, commitment

Bill Hansen and Shawnee have gone to work together every day since the 12-year-old dog was a pup.

"People have been bringing dogs to work here probably for 50 years or more," said Hansen, CEO for the past 18 years at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills.

Shawnee and her fellow canine office workers, including Rusty, June Bug, Bridget, Jasmine, Honey Bear, Sully and Kita, are personal pets of the school's administrative staff.

They aren't confined to the kennel building, where Leader Dogs in training stay when they're not out pounding the pavement with a trainer. These dogs spend their days in the corridors, cubicles and hallways in the organization's main offices.

"They all seem to know their space and they all get along," Hansen said. "We don't have the luxury of letting all staff let their personal dogs wander. That's a benefit of the administrative staff because of the

nature of the building."

Staff members who don't work in an office setting may bring their dogs to work and leave them in the school kennel on a space-available basis.

Hansen views the dog-friendly office environment as "good sense."

"People value family and people value their pets," he said. "If your environment allows you to help make those things easier, then people work better. You have a better staff, a more committed staff."

Hansen said visitors like seeing dogs in the office because they aren't allowed to pet working Leader Dogs.

"So it's kind of a neat thing that people come in here and they see a dog and get to pet it," he said. "I have to say, I've gotten some real PR value from it."

As radical as it may seem to some employers, Leader Dogs is far from alone in running a dog-friendly office.

According to The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA), nearly

DogFriendly.com began listing dog-friendly employers in 2000, based on submissions from its 1.5 million annual Web site users.

one in five U.S. companies allows pets at work. The organization polled American workers, age 18 and over, nationwide and found that a majority believe pets benefit the workplace. They cited reduced stress, improved co-worker relationships, a happier workforce and work environment.

The poll also found:
 ■ 55 million Americans believe pets at work leads to a more creative environment.
 ■ 53 million said workplace pets reduce employee absenteeism.
 ■ 36 million say pets create a more productive work environment.

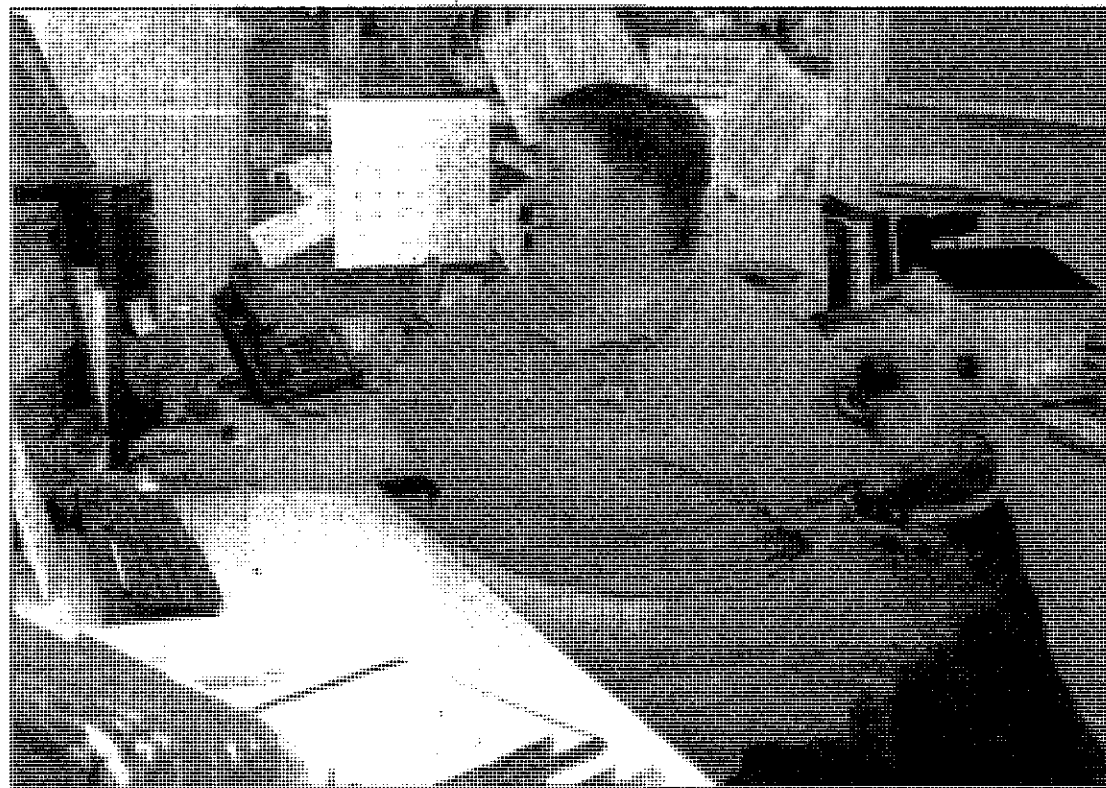
■ 46 million people who bring their pets to work say they work longer hours.

SPENDING MORE TIME

Sam Ziegenmeyer identifies with at least a few of those reasons. With an hour-long commute home from Leader Dogs, Ziegenmeyer, one of the school's puppy development staffers, says she's willing to spend more time in the office and take on extra projects because Rugby, her 4-year-old airedale, and Jamie, 9, a wire fox terrier, come to work with her.

"If I knew they were home, I'm out the door at 4 p.m., because they've already been at home alone 10 hours by the time I make it home," Ziegenmeyer said.

She suggests that employers who are interested in creating a dogs-allowed policy start out slowly, with employees bringing pets for partial days until both staff and animals are used



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rugby, Sam Ziegenmeyer's 4-year-old Airedale, is poised to help out in the puppy development office at Leader Dogs for the Blind.

to the idea.

"As long as everyone uses common sense, it can be a wonderful thing. We have stressed staff who come in and say, 'I need a dog hug.' They just need to spend a moment," she said.

Stress relief is just one of the purported health benefits of pets. The APPMA Web site lists several health studies on pet ownership, including State University of New York research that found hypertensive pet owners had lower blood pressure reading than non-owners.

Len Kain, vice president of marketing for California-based DogFriendly.com, suspects that companies experience more health risks from "the guy who's coming in sick with the flu" than a dog snoozing on the floor three cubicles away.

"Being allergic to dogs is probably an overstated excuse,"

he said, citing reasons why some employers prohibit dogs in the workplace. "If I own a dog and go to work, I've got dog hair on me anyway, whether the dog comes with me or not."

He said dog bites in the workplace are rare and more of a "psychological" problem than physical reality.

"People who bring dogs to work aren't bringing in guard dogs from the yard," he said. But he also pointed out that some companies may have to take a second look at their insurance policies and leases before introducing dogs to the workplace.

KEEPING TRACK

DogFriendly.com began listing dog-friendly employers in 2000, based on submissions from its 1.5 million annual Web site users. Kain said most dog-friendly employers are

small companies, retailers not located in malls, professional offices — such as lawyers, doctors and creative firms — and technology giants, such as Google and Autodesk. Some large companies allow dogs in certain settings, such as offices, but not others, like manufacturing plants. Some allow dogs at all times and others on an occasional basis.

"You have to keep in mind the realities of life," Kain said. "You have to look at the environment. Do you really want your dog to lick stuff off the floor in a print shop?"

He suspects the number of dog-friendly employers has remained consistent since 2000 for the nation's 70 million dog owners.

"These perks mean a lot," he said. "People send us e-mails saying, 'I'll work somewhere else for less money if I can bring my dog with me.'"



Dr. Laura Fisher and Dr. David Smith check out X-rays in the veterinary clinic at Leader Dogs for the Blind, as Fisher's two dogs, Dundee, 6, a beagle mix, and Annie, 7, a golden retriever, sniff around the lab.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

JULY

Movie Night Presented by Ward Presbyterian Church's Single Point Ministries Friday, July 7, bus leaves parking lot F (40000 Six Mile in Northville) at 6:45 p.m. for the Historical Redford Theater, pipe organ mini concert at 7:30 p.m. before film It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, World begins. Call (248) 374-5920.

Classic car show Livonia Church of Christ will hold its 5th Annual Classic Car Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 8, rain or shine. Classic car enthusiasts are invited to attend this event benefiting Angela Hospice in Livonia, with programs serving terminally ill patients and their families.

Arctic Edge Adventures in Courage Vacation Bible School 6:30-9 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 10-14, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, second block south of Ford, Garden City. All ages welcome, preschoolers must have an adult stay on site. Call (734) 421-0472 for more information.

Bicycling group 10 a.m. Saturday, July 8, at Nankin Mills Administration Office parking lot, Hines Drive, east of Farmington Road,

Westland. Single Point bike rides are geared to the tourist level rider but riders of all ability levels are welcome. All riders must wear a helmet. For more information, call Ward Presbyterian Church (248) 374-5920.

Blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, July 10, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Call Carolyn Libeau to make an appointment at (734) 455-5395, or just drop in.

Fiesta Vacation Bible School 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 10-14, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, west of Newburgh, Westland. Cost is \$15 per child, \$30 family maximum. Scholarships available. Each participating family will receive a Sing & Play Ole CD which includes all of the songs learned during VBS. Call (734) 722-1735 to register.

Vacation Bible school Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills invites all children ages 3 through grade five to join in at SonTreasure Island VBS 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 10-14, at 35415 W. 14 Mile at Drake. For more information or to pre-register, visit www.4fcc.org or call (248) 661-9191.

Meditation classes Begins 7-9 p.m. Monday, July 10, and continues to Aug. 7. Elizabeth

Clelland will lead the class on various meditation practices at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration necessary. A freewill offering will be taken at each class. For more information, call (586) 353-2300, or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Farmington Women Aglow Meets 5-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. For more information, call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.

Concert Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization for divorced and separated of all faiths, gathers to hear Air Margaritaville 6 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Heritage Park, 1010 S. Canton Center Road, Canton. Call (734) 519479.

Breakfast meeting For Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian denominations, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 15, at Leon's, 30149 Ford, across from Kmart, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

Detroit River Cruise Bethany Suburban West is supporting First Presbyterian Church of Northville's Single Place Hawaiian-Portafino Cruise Saturday, July 15, 8 p.m. to midnight on the Detroit River. All aboard is 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 and includes pizza and dancing. Call (248) 349-0911.

Blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 16, at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins welcome. Call (734) 464-1222, Ext. 309.

Polish American picnic Join us for mass with Polonaise Chorale at 11 a.m., rain or shine, live music at picnic, at Historic St.

Albertus, 4231 St. Aubin, corner of East Canfield, Detroit. Cost is \$8 per plate for polish dinner and dessert, includes beverages. If you ever attended St. Albertus School, come and see your classmates and have fun. For information, call Emelie at (586) 294-5245.

Family Bible school Family Vacation Bible School for age 4 to 14-year-olds plus their parents 7-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, July 17-20, enjoy music, crafts, games, snacks and bible lessons. This is an enjoyable activity for you to do with your children at First United Methodist Church, 6448 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 421-8628.

Vacation Bible School Fiesta: Where kids are fired up about Jesus 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 17-21, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$18 for first child, \$15 each additional child. A CD of the week's music may be purchased for \$6. Call (734) 464-0211.

Bible and playtime For moms and tots 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays beginning July 19, at Vineyard Church of Farmington Hills 29200 Shilohssee (by Middlebelt and Nine Mile). No charge. For information, call (248) 766-0143.

Free event For students entering fifth through seventh grade, meet new friends, bring old friends, games, ice cream, make no-sew blankets for charity 7-10 p.m. Friday, July 21, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. RSVP to (734) 425-9333.

Rummage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 21, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 23300 W. Chicago, Redford. Call (313) 538-1142.

Christian writer workshops Taught by Donna Clark Goodrich of Arizona, author of 19 books and 700 published fiction and non-fiction pieces, Friday-Saturday, July 21-22 at Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, 120 East Main, Spring Arbor, and Saturday, July 29, at Via Dolorosa Gospel Tabernacle, 8300 Fenkel, Detroit. For information about Spring Arbor workshop, contact Linda Galaway at (517) 547-6261 or send e-mail to lgalaway@dmci.net, for Detroit contact Wanda Burnside at (313) 491-3504 or send e-mail to wtvl-sion@hotmail.com.

Feast day service 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at S.S. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-1343 or send e-mail to em2bott@att.net.

RiverStone worship service Presented by Calvary Baptist Church in Canton 10:45 a.m. Sunday, July 23, at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022. Take a vacation from over-commitment and enjoy some family-time. At RiverStone worship service you'll find friendly people who care about building relationships, raising strong families and staying connected to the community. During the service your children will enjoy our kid-sized fun events.

UPCOMING

Church tour Did you know that less than a half hour's drive are three relics of 19th century Catholic imprint on Detroit? Would you like to visit them and learn about their history? These three Tributes to a working-class society's Faith - St. Joseph, St. Joseph and Sweetest Heart of Mary, are all unique to the ethnic neighborhoods they reside in.

Vacation Bible School For ages 4-12, kids travel to Mexico, Brazil, Poland, China and Kenya to trade places with children from other countries and learn about biblical heroes who traded one place in life for another 6:30-9 p.m. Monday-Friday, Aug. 7-11, at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth and West Chicago. Call (313) 937-3170 to pre-register.

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

ONGOING

Scripture studies 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level

of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

Fall registration Spiritus Sanctus Academy is accepting registration for fall for its academics in Plymouth and Ann Arbor. The private, Catholic schools grades K-8, are run by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist at 10450 Joy, Plymouth, call (734) 414-8430, and 4101 E. Joy, Ann Arbor, call (734) 996-3855.

Worship schedule New schedule continues to Sept. 3, 10:30 a.m. Sunday summer worship, coffee hour follows in Fellowship Hall. Sunday school has been cancelled for the summer, nursery is still available for infant through 2-years old, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038.

TOPS Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m. We are a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

Learner's Bible study 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service Loving God by loving people, meets 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

Bible study Two classes meet 10 a.m. to noon the first and third Wednesdays, and 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, on Plymouth at Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible. The Thursday session is reading the Letters of St. Paul from prison. Based on Little Rock Scripture Series. Call (734) 261-1455.

School registration Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School is accepting applications for grades PK-8 for the 2006-07 school year, at 9600 Leverage, Redford. After school care 3-6 p.m. Call (734) 937-2233 for information.

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

Senior activities Gathering for seniors 50 years and older 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. Any questions, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

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

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

Eucharistic adoration The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Worship services All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour for all ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

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

Shabbat services The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call

(248) 477-8974. Bet Chaverim Chavers are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

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

Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service 6:15 p.m. - Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

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

English classes Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Scripture from scratch If you've always wanted to learn about the Bible from square one, here's square one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950 to register.

Sunday school Congregation Beit Kodesh (31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia) is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks 4 p.m. Sundays, at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

Worship services All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Gap A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, storytelling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterword. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

Worship services 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour 9:30-10:40 a.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735.

Passages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

DALE A. NYHUS Age 69, of Gladwin, formerly of Canton passed away July 1, 2006. Loving father of Lori (Kurt) Cassidy, Tina (Steven) Provot, Renee (Lee) Cochran and Ronnie Horvath. Grandfather of ten and great grandfather of one. Dear brother of Becky (Frank) Tillotson-Krohn and Kitty (Perry) Tillotson-Smallwood. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by brother Ron and by long time companion Dolores Horvath. Funeral service Thursday 11:00 a.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth. Visitation Thursday 9 a.m. until time of service. www.schrader-howell.com

DOROTHY CONLEY (LEEDER) Age 85 of Dayton, formerly of Birmingham, MI, passed away Friday, June 9, 2006 at Walnut Creek Suites in Dayton, OH. She was preceded in death by her husband Edward C. Conley. She is survived by her daughter Mary and husband Brian Kosmal of Dayton and her son John and wife Lois Conley of Atlanta, GA; grandchildren Rachel Kosmal McCart and Ryan Conley. Dorothy attended Stephens College in Columbia, MO and Michigan State University. She was very active in St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham, MI. Interment at Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, MI. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Stephens College Alumnae Scholarship Fund 1200 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65215, in Dorothy's memory. To send a special message to the family, visit: www.NewcomerFamily.com.

MARY STEWART COATSWORTH Died July 4, 2006 at Wm. Beaumont Hospital at the age of 83. She was born in Pontiac, Michigan, November 14, 1922. She grew up in Huntington Woods and attended St. Mary's School of Royal Oak. After high school, Mary went on the Michigan State University and then transferred to Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin to earn her Bachelors of Science Degree where she was a member of the Tri Delta sorority. Over the last 42 years she has been a resident of Beverly Hills. Mary is survived by her loving husband William. Dear mother of Greg, Sandy (Michael) Burke, Mary Sue Coatsworth, and preceded in death by her son William "Skip" Coatsworth. She is the proud grandmother of Brittany and Christopher. Funeral from St. Ives Church, 29400 Lahser Road, Southfield, Friday 10 a.m. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Roads), Thursday 2-8 p.m. Prayers Thursday 7 p.m. Memorials to the Church or Lions Club of Rochester appreciated.

PAUL H. BINNS The Memorial Service for Mr. Binns, who died June 28, 2006, will be held Sunday, July 9, 2006 at 2:00 PM from the Birmingham Unitarian Universalist Church. Friends may meet the family one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorial contributions may be given to the charity of your choice.



KATHERINE BRUK PEARCE

Age 66, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan died Sunday, July 2, 2006 at her home. Katherine was born October 28, 1939 to Paul and Mary Bruk in Greenwich, Connecticut. She grew up in Greenwich and graduated from Greenwich High School in 1957. In 1961 she graduated from Central Connecticut State College and taught elementary school for five years in Greenwich. She then traveled to Japan and taught in the U. S. Armed Forces school system for one year. She returned to Chicago, Illinois in 1966 and taught school in Glenview, a Chicago suburb. The following year she married Lieutenant Harry J. Pearce. They moved to Chanute AFB where Harry was a JAG officer and Kathy taught elementary school in Gifford, Illinois. The following two years they lived in England and Holland where their first child was born. After Harry's service they moved to Bismarck, North Dakota where they raised their three children, Shannon, Susan, and Harry Mark. In 1986 Harry and Kathy and family moved to Bloomfield Hills, Michigan where Harry worked as a General Motors executive, retiring as Vice Chairman in 2001. In 1998 Kathy became her husband's primary care giver through a long tough battle with leukemia. Kathy was a long time member of Goodwill and past president of Quilters. She enjoyed decorating her homes with fine antique furniture and designing beautiful flower gardens. She was a skilled knitter and an avid reader of English history. She also enjoyed boating with her family on Gulf Lake in Minnesota and the Great Lakes. However, most importantly Kathy was a kind and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Her family was her reason for being. She gave more to her family than could ever be recounted. Her cheerful giving spirit befriended all who met her. She was truly an extraordinary lady loved by all. Kathy is survived by her husband Harry J. Pearce; daughters, Shannon Paula (George) Baker and Drs. Susan Pearce (Robert) Pikal; son, Harry Mark (Katie) Pearce; three grandchildren: Hal, Pearce, and Jack Baker. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Mary Bruk and her brother, Paul Bruk Jr. Funeral from First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham, Saturday 11 a.m. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Rd. (Between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Friday 3-9 p.m. Interment in Acadia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills. Memorials appreciated to The University of Michigan Cancer Center, 301 E. Liberty, Ste. 400, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

PHYLLIS GLEE BOUFFARD On June, 30 2006 with her son Tom by her side, in her 81st year, our dear mother and grandmother passed away. Of classic grace and beauty, she laughed, loved, gave, played, gave more, danced, forgave, trusted, judged not; was rightly stubborn, loyal, strong, proper, compassionate and witty. She knew struggle and was a survivor. Memories of her dancing to the music of Tony Bennett and Al Hibler, of her incomparable spaghetti sauce, of her dear friends and love of Oakville, of shelling on the beach, of her joy in living simple pleasures, these and so much more all live on. In her life she left much more than she took. Thanks Mom for always being there- Peter, Tom, Barb, Liane and Betsy. She also left 9 grandchildren: Brandon, Joe, Crystal, Jamie, Matt, John, Andy, Rick, Siobhan, and Shannon and 2 great-grandchildren: Mia and Caden. Memorial service will be held in Westland, Michigan, Friday, July 7th.

SARAH JANE EVERY Age 87, July 1, 2006. Wife of Peter Dear mother of Pauline Hina and Jacqueline Gillahan. Dear sister of Peter Cummings. Dearest grandmother of 4 & great grandmother of 4. Services were held R.G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home (734-422-6720) in charge of arrangements.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

OBITUARY POLICY The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.) Deadlines: Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue. e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2087 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz OE06082378

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Summer is a great season to visit Cranbrook

The trees are in bloom, the smell of freshly cut grass fills the air and the kids are antsy. Summer is here. And that makes it a perfect time to visit Cranbrook.

Founded in 1904 by George and Ellen Booth, Cranbrook's 319-acre campus has been called "the most enchanted and enchanting setting in America." The National Historic Landmark community is home to groundbreaking architecture by the century's leading practitioners of design including Eliel Saarinen, Albert Kahn, Rafael Moneo and Steven Holl, and in 2004 was named one of 12-must-visit architectural wonders of the world by MSNBC.

With new science and art exhibits, astronomy events, historic home tours and garden strolls, there's plenty to see and do at Cranbrook. Following are some highlights: n Cranbrook Art Museum. Call (248) 645-3320; www.cranbrookart.edu/museum; \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors (65-plus) and students; free for members and children 12 and under. Wednesday - Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fourth Fridays open until 9 p.m.

Exhibit: "When Philip Met Isabella: Philip Treacy's Hats for Isabella Blow," Through Aug. 27.

Organized by London's Design Museum, "When Philip Met Isabella: Philip Treacy's Hats for Isabella Blow" reveals why Treacy is known as the master of modern hat making. The exhibit features Blow's personal collection of Treacy hats including the Ship - a replica of an 18th-century French ship with full rigging - and Gilbert and George, a fantastic concoction of pink and green lacquered ostrich feathers named after two of the most influential contemporary British photographers. Free with museum admission.

Exhibit: "2006 Graduate Summer Exhibition of Cranbrook Academy of Art," through Aug. 27.

Cranbrook Academy of Art

is a "living studio of artistic invention," as envisioned by its founder, philanthropist George Booth. The exhibit showcases highlights of the creative work of the Academy's Graduate Degree Exhibition and provides a window on the future of contemporary art, architecture and design in America. Free with museum admission.

Exhibit: "Think Again! Presence of the Past in Contemporary Art," through Sept. 17.

Drawing from the collections of Cranbrook art Museum, "Think Again!" highlights works that look both to the past and to the present. Inspired by earlier artistic tradition as well as their own time, the works on display are rich with layers of historical reference. Through these works, artists ranging from Eliel Saarinen to Ed Rossbach demonstrate the vitality of the traditions that inspired them, while their own works continue to resonate for 21st century viewers. Free with museum admission.

Exhibit: "Critical Mass: Metalsmithing at Cranbrook under Gary Griffin," through Oct. 15.

Celebrate the remarkable career of Gary Griffin, Academy of Art metalsmith-in-residence for 22 years, as he prepares to leave his post at the Academy. Critical Mass chronicles the careers of 121 students who studied under Griffin from 1985 through 2005, showcasing the influence of this master metalsmith on the young artists he led. Free with museum admission.

Saarinen House tours, through October: Thursday and Friday - 1 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday - 1 and 3 p.m.; Fourth Friday 6:30 p.m.

Architecture, Art Deco design, lighting, furniture, rugs and nature work in perfect harmony in this showplace 1930 home - a total work of art. Saarinen House is the restored home and studio of former Cranbrook architect Eliel Saarinen and his wife, Loja, a revolutionary fiber artist. The two-story Saarinen

House with its hand-crafted décor and exquisite furnishings has been open to the public since its restoration in the early 1990s. \$8/adults, \$6/seniors and full-time students, free for members and children 12 and under.

Also at Cranbrook Art Museum:

"Serious Moonlight," July 15, 8 p.m. Enjoy fabulous food, great music, dancing and a silent auction of original artwork from alumni and distinguished designers at one of metro Detroit's most popular summer parties. Proceeds support the programs of Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum. Tickets are \$175 per person for patrons. Friends tickets are \$85 per person through July 10 and \$100 per person after July 11.

For more information, call (248) 645-3312 or visit www.cranbrookart.edu/moonlight/.

Cranbrook Institute of Science, (248) 645-3200; science.cranbrook.edu. \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 2-12 and seniors (65 plus); free for members and children under 2.

Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays open until 10 p.m.

Exhibit: "Playing with Time," through Sept. 4.

Go on a journey to the unseen world of natural change and see events that happen too fast or too slow for humans to perceive. This imaginative exhibit invites visitors to examine invisible dynamics using high-speed photography, time-lapse videos and animations to effectively turn the world's speed up and

down. Playful hands-on stations mixed with natural objects and stunning displays let visitors experience natural phenomena occurring over vast timescales - from billions of seconds to billions of years. Free with museum admission.

Also at Cranbrook Institute of Science:

■ Digistar Planetarium and Lasera shows. Tickets required in addition to museum admission.

■ The Bat Zone and special bat programs. Tickets required in addition to museum admission.

■ Base Camp. Daily noon to 4 p.m.; free with museum admission.

■ Observatory, 8:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday; free with museum admission. Cranbrook House & Gardens, (248) 645-3147.

■ Cranbrook Gardens tours. Stroll more than 40 acres of

lush, sculpture-filled gardens filled with roses, wildflowers and hundreds of other breathtaking greenery. Self-guided tours are available Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Labor Day. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors.

■ Cranbrook House tours.

Visit metro Detroit's oldest manor home, built in the English Arts and Crafts style. See beautiful furnishings, tapestries, paintings and works by some of the early 20th century's top artisans. Tours are available June through September, Sundays at 3 p.m., Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Lunch is available on Thursdays at noon for an additional \$15. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors.

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