

Beware of health dangers that lurk in the summer

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Dance groups keep Polish culture vibrant

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City golf titles at stake in Fellows Creek tournament

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Pair accused of taking \$145,000 from league

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A now-divorced couple stole at least \$145,000 from a nonprofit Westland organization that sponsored bingo games, carnivals and other fund-raisers to support youth baseball and senior citizen programs, authorities said.

Civic League.
Neal Greenfield of Westland served as league president and Shari Greenfield of Livonia as vice president prior to an internal shakeup that ousted them from their positions.
In court Thursday, special Wayne County Prosecutor Abed Hammoud accused Shari Greenfield of stealing \$113,000 and Neal Greenfield of taking \$32,000 from 1999 to 2004.
The league, on Wayne Road south of Ford, once brought in gross revenues of \$1 million a year yet showed financial losses, police Sgt. Chris Benson confirmed Friday.

The league has since come under new leadership by officials who are trying to repair its image as a once-respected organization.
In court Thursday morning, Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos arraigned the Greenfields on charges of embezzling more than \$20,000. He ordered them jailed on \$25,000 cash or surety bonds, which had been posted for them by day's end.
Bokos scheduled an Aug. 17 preliminary examination that will determine whether the pair should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court, but a

defense attorney has indicated the hearing will be delayed to give him more time to review the case.
Outside the courtroom, Hammoud didn't elaborate much on the case against the Greenfields.
"When we go in to court, we will do what we can to prove our charges," he said.
Neal Greenfield has told the *Observer* that he didn't steal any money from the league. An earlier larceny charge against him was dropped last year after he agreed to plead guilty to cocaine possession, which resulted in a probationary sen-

tence.
Police found cocaine in Greenfield's house when they executed a search warrant as part of their criminal investigation.
Shari Greenfield's attorney, Paul Bricker, denied her guilt in court Thursday, saying the allegations "will be shown to be false."
On Friday, Benson said the league's financial records indicated that money was spent on such activities as Special Olympics, although he said checks were made out to the

PLEASE SEE LEAGUE, A4

'Gift from God'

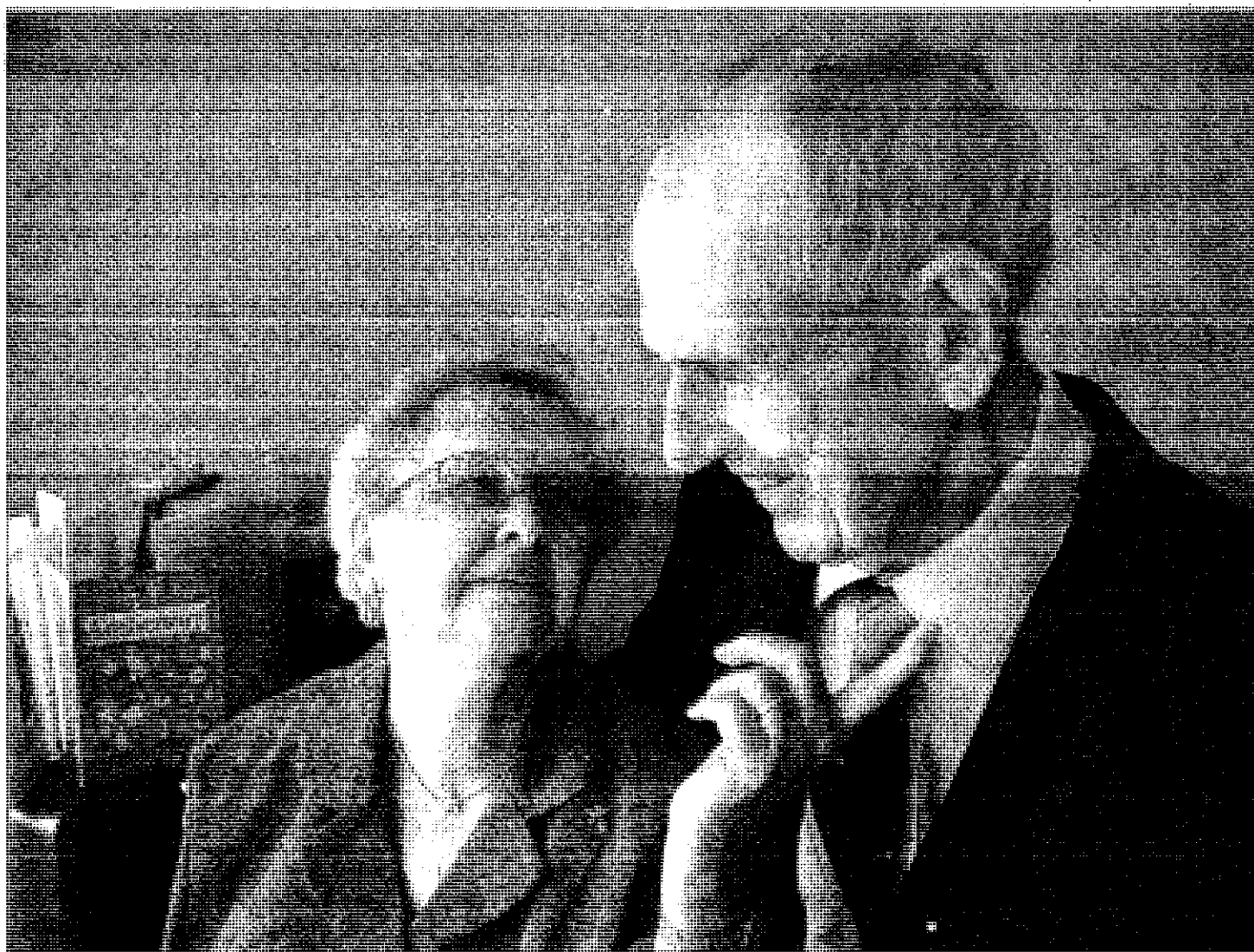
Couple celebrates 70th wedding anniversary with togetherness

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Ask Roy and Bertha Large about the secret to wedded bliss and they'll cite four requirements: Be congenial, love each other, be compassionate and help each other.
"You've got to love each other to make a marriage last," Roy said matter-of-factly.
There's a lot of truth in what they say. The Westland couple quietly celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Saturday.
"The pastor of my church wanted to do something, I hope I talked him out of it," said Bertha, who admits she did think about them doing their vows again, but shelved the idea because "I knew he wouldn't approve."
The Larges grew up on farms in southwest Georgia and married during the Great Depression. They met when Roy would walk across the field to her parents' farm to see her brother. According to Roy, the boys would be in the yard talk-

ing and Bertha "would slip out and walk around."
"I had a brother his age, he'd come to see him and ended up with me," Bertha said. "I kind of liked his looks. He was good-looking."
"And I kind of liked her looks," Roy said.
The courtship would last five years and Bertha admits that when it came to the marriage proposal, she might have given Roy a little nudge.
"It may have come up in a conversation or maybe I proposed to him," Bertha said. "We went together for five years. I got tired of waiting."
Roy said the delay was a money thing.
"I probably didn't have the money to marry, it was \$2 for the license," he said. "We were married in '36 and money didn't grow on trees then."
Within a few weeks of the proposal, Roy got the license. They were married in the house of a pastor Bertha liked and left

PLEASE SEE ANNIVERSARY, A6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roy and Bertha Large say helping each other is an important part of a marriage that lasts. They should know. The Larges celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Saturday.

MHS camp pairs up kids, pets

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Anna Ringuette is matter-of-fact about it.
"I'm nuts about animals," she said, cuddling Gracie the ferret. "I want to be a vet when I grow up."
The West Bloomfield resident wasn't alone. Most of the 10 children in the room had the same idea, except Danielle Chesney of Northville.
"I want to be an *Animal Cop*," she

PLEASE SEE CAMP, A3



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chad Collins, 11, of Garden City had the chance to play with and pet one of the kittens up for adoption at the Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland as part of the Michigan Humane Society's Summer Tails Day Camp.

Ontario woman dies in crash

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 19-year-old Windsor woman was killed in Westland early Thursday when her car was broadsided by a Chevy Blazer as she failed to stop at a flashing red light, police Sgt. Rob Collier said.
The accident happened just before 5:30 a.m. at the Ford-Hix intersection on the city's west side.
Police don't believe that alcohol was a factor in the two-car crash, Collier said.
The Windsor woman was driving her 1995 Chevy Beretta southbound on Hix when it was struck by a 2002 Chevy Blazer driven by a 36-year-old Westland man, Collier said.
The Blazer was being driven westbound on Ford by the local man who, according to Collier, was on his way to work. He wasn't seriously injured.
He isn't expected to face criminal charges, although the Wayne County Prosecutor's office is reviewing the accident.

"I don't think he had a chance to stop," Collier said. "She was at fault."
Authorities didn't release the names of either driver. Both of them were alone in their respective vehicles, Collier said.
Another vehicle traveling westbound on Ford managed to stop before the woman ran through the flashing red light. But the Blazer driver was on the inside lane, and his view of the southbound Beretta was likely blocked, Collier said.
Numerous witnesses told investigators that the Windsor woman failed to stop at the flashing light, the sergeant said.
The weather was clear and didn't play a role in the accident, he said.
The Ford-Hix intersection isn't considered one of the city's most dangerous. Collier confirmed that 31 accidents occurred in the intersection in 2005, ranking it 13th for the most accidents. The Wayne-Ford and Ford-Newburgh intersections tied in 2005 for the most accidents, at 53 each, Collier said.

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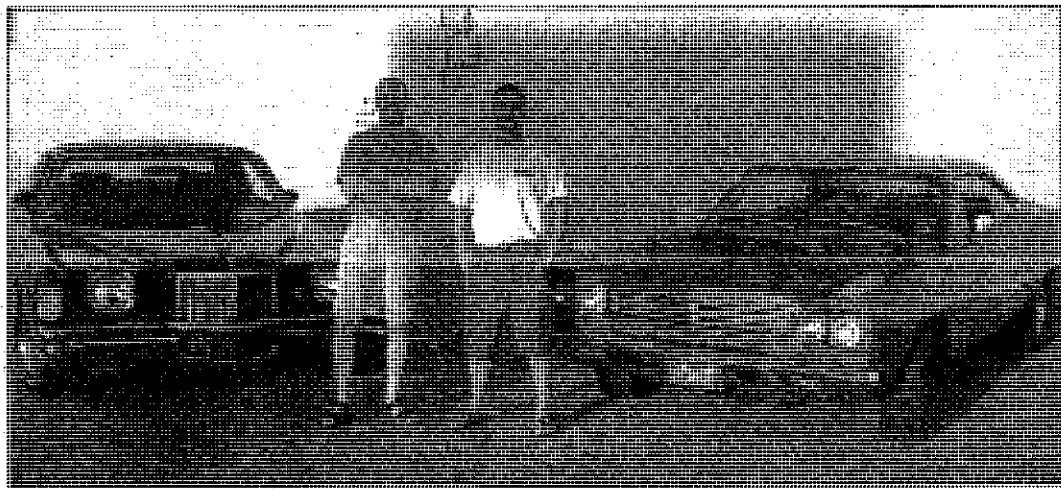
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Coming Thursday in Filter



Anything and everything you need to know about the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise is in Thursday's Filter.

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week for Aug. 2 goes to Robert Menard with his all-original black 1972 Pontiac Grand Prix Model J.



Cruisers of the Week

Salvation Army block party attracts a crowd

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of people packed a Wayne-Westland Salvation Army block party earlier this month, making it one of the year's premier events in the low-income Norway subdivision.

carnival games, enjoyed hot dogs and cotton candy, and won such prizes as bicycles. Attendance increased substantially from last year's block party - an indication that many people returned and brought along more family members and friends.

The Salvation Army provides such services as food for the needy, after-school tutoring for students and summer day camps for children who otherwise couldn't afford such activities.

Boston. The alcohol-free event was open to anybody, and O'Neil said the party went off without any problems despite the large crowd. The Salvation Army provides such services as food for the needy, after-school tutoring for

Frontier Park supporters ask officials 'not to be against us'

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A citizens group will continue to push for a 30-acre recreation complex, despite a cool reception from city leaders who say residents can't afford it amid an economic slump. Ultimately, Citizens for Frontier Park may initiate a petition drive asking city residents to support a ballot proposal to raise taxes for the plan.

year in taxes. He estimated that residents would pay far less.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli told Rodriguez and another CFP leader, Todd Kangas, that the city may try to acquire the county land, but she reiterated that residents can't afford Frontier Park until their economic conditions improve.

"We'll do what's necessary to get this on the ballot when the time comes," CFP President Mark Rodriguez told elected leaders Monday during a Westland City Council meeting.

Kangas told city leaders, "It's never the wrong time to do the right thing for a kid." CFP leaders - members of the Westland Youth Athletic Association - have said Westland sorely lacks the recreational facilities needed for local children.

Cicirelli called their plan "a great goal" but said the city can't provide a financial boost for it. Still, she urged the group not to disband and to consider trying to gradually phase in their plans.

CFP wants the city to acquire county-owned land near Central City Park for a recreation complex with baseball diamonds, soccer fields, an indoor pool, a two-sheet ice arena, picnic pavilions, basketball courts, walking trails, a special-needs playing field and other amenities.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt worried aloud that to place a Frontier Park tax proposal on the ballot would give the mistaken impression that city officials support it.

Frontier Park would be built north of Marquette, east of Newburgh, south of Ford and west of Central City Park. Rodriguez said city leaders inflated costs, such as a \$40 million price tag that would cost the owner of a \$150,000 house an additional \$213 a

Some elected leaders have said there has been no widespread public demand for Frontier Park, but officials don't want CFP leaders to simply give up their vision, altogether.

"I do not want it to go away," Councilman Charles Pickering said.

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CAMP

FROM PAGE A1

said, referring to the popular Animal Planet cable show which has a Detroit version featuring Michigan Humane Society employees.

Welcome to MHS' Summer Tails Day Camp, a week-long program that has been introducing youngsters to animals and animal care and the work being done by the organization.

"When we started this, we didn't know if we would fill the camp. Now we have a waiting list of 25 kids and all the kids in the camp want to come back next year," said Kim Korona, an MHS humane educator. This is the first time the MHS has ever offered a summer camp and its success has organizers considering expanding it next year. The four one-week sessions were offered at the Berman Center for Animal Care and are attracting youngsters from around the metropolitan area.

Korona and fellow humane educator Ron Blauet put together the program at the

suggestion of Kerry Mullin, the MHS director of animal welfare.

The camp schedule was a mixture of work with animals at the shelter with presentations by members of the Midwest Ferret Fellowship and a trip to the Michigan State University Veterinary School to see large breed surgery and learn about Canter Michigan's rescue of former race horses.

Blauet also doubled as presenter, bringing in his dogs Chip and Gromit to talk about their care.

"I really believe independent education is a preventer of animal abuse and a promoter of humane values," Korona said.

The campers also learned how to train animals using a clicker, practicing first with each other than with dogs in the shelter, and made kitten forts that provide stimulation for cats up for adoption. The forts are given to families to take home with their new pet.

They've made journals and spent time writing about their experiences, which include meeting four rescued ferrets Dee Gage brought from her home in Grand Rapids.

The campers came armed with disposable cameras and obligingly took pictures of each holding the ferrets and mingling with the cats in the adoption rooms.

Gage was there to talk about the animals, but found herself being upstaged by her four furry friends who played in pens set up on the floor of the Berman Center's pet education room.

"I've come three times already, but it's important to be here," Gage said. "There's too much misinformation out there."

With the help of Ferretone, a mixture of olive oil and "a bunch of other stuff," Gage got the ferrets to shower the youngsters with licks.

"I've never been licked by a ferret," said Alyssa Hanley of Garden City, calling the ferret she was holding a cutie. "I wish you could kiss," she told it as it licked the Ferretone off her cheek.

Maura Kraemer of Plymouth was among the group with aspirations of being a veterinarian. That and a love of animals brought her to the summer camp.

"My mom told me I'd get to hold some animals, but she didn't say a ferret," the 9-year-old said.

The campers came armed with disposable cameras and obligingly took pictures of each holding the ferrets and mingling with the cats in the adoption rooms.

"I'm saving two shots for the kitty cats," said Chad Collins, who'd already used three shots by midday of the first day of camp.

Like his fellow campers, he, too, likes animals, and has a cat named Patches. While the Garden City resident wants to be a vet, he also would like to own a zoo.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kayla Jackel, 10, of Garden City gets instructions on how to hold a cat from Kim Korona, coordinator of the camp.

"Zoos are cool," he said. "They've got the big animals."

Korona is pleased with how well the camp has gone and encouraged by the kids' comments. Many have talked about adopting some of the animals and others have talked about becoming foster volunteers.

"By the end of the first week, they all said they wanted to

work or volunteer at the shelter," she said. "You have to be 14 and work with a mentor."

As for the youngsters, their first day in camp ended with writing in their journal about their experiences. For Maura, her favorite part of the day was seeing the dogs and ferrets.

"I want to take them all home, I love dogs," she said.

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Alyssa Hanley, 10, of Garden City gets a kiss from a ferret at the Summer Tails Day Camp.

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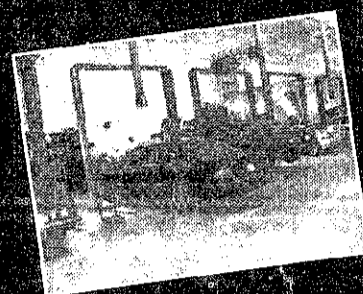
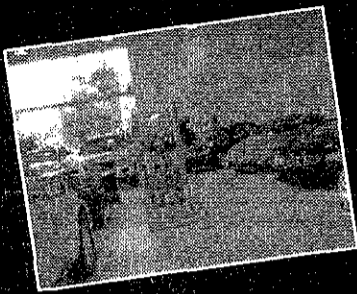
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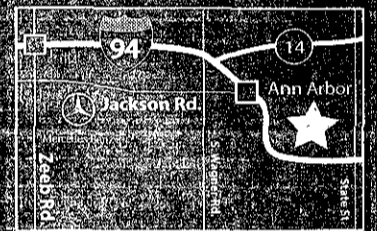
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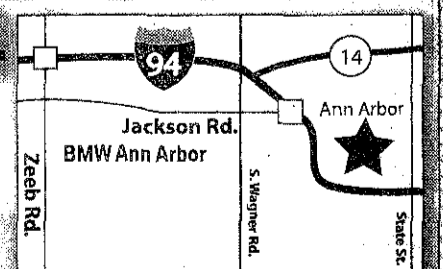
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Surplus food

The city of Westland will distribute surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey east of

Venoy and south of Palmer. That distribution will be for residents who live north of Michigan Avenue. Residents south of the avenue should pick up their commodities on July 17 at St.

James United Methodist Church, located at 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt roads. Senior citizens in Taylor Towers should call their manager about their distribution.

For August, surplus federal food will include dry split peas, spaghetti pasta, spaghetti sauce and sweet potatoes. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Investigators Night

Mystiques West Westland is hosting a Ghost Hunters and Paranormal Investigators Night called "We Ain't Afraid of No Ghosts" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15. The public will have an opportunity to meet real ghost busters and see pictures, videos, and taped voices of actual ghosts. Mystiques - West is at 36356 Ford, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 729-8019.

Business Expo

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Health & Business Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at Westland Shopping Center. Participants are being sought for the event; tables are \$125 for members, \$175 for non-members, and \$75 for nonprofit groups. To reserve a spot, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Young 'newlyweds'

Actually, cousins Victoria Kassab, 5, and Ethan Junk, 6, of Westland, didn't get married. Ethan's mother, Lisa Junk, brought them to Cherry Hill Village on Monday to shoot some photos. Lisa was taking Ethan's portrait for his sixth birthday and wanted to do something a little different.

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ANNIVERSARY

FROM PAGE A1

the next day for a two-week honeymoon in Michigan. It turned into a six-week stay after Bertha took sick and needed an operation. The Larges went back home and took care of Roy's father's farm. Not able to make a living at it, the family came back to Michigan in 1942 so Roy could take a job at Garwood making gun carriages and winches for the war effort. After 2 1/2 years, they went back home, only to make one final trip back to Michigan in 1955. Roy's brother-in-law found him a job at a shop at Fifth and Grand River, where he repaired hydraulic equipment.

The Larges owned a home in northwest Detroit, but gave it up and moved 23 years ago to the Willow Creek Apartments. At age 94, Roy still gardens, although he missed planting season this year because of a bout of double pneumonia. It was so serious that doctors didn't expect him to live, which leads Roy to believe being around to celebrate his 70th wedding anniversary is a gift from God. Legally blind, he has had to give up driving, but he helps Bertha with the vacuuming and laundry. "He's helped me a lot," Bertha said. "I can't do much because I had a double heart attack. He's my mainstay." Berth does volunteer work, helping distribute food at the Dorsey Community Center,

and "when not helping him, I do a lot of crafts." The Larges have two sons, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Both in their 90s — he's 94, she's 91 — they are the last surviving members of their respective families. They credit their longevity to growing up on farms and a simple life. Dates would be going to friend's house to play cards, but mostly it was sitting at home, talking. "We never did have anything, so we just enjoyed each other," Bertha said. And after 70 years of marriage, they are still enjoying their life together.

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Developer says 'airport city' will transform SE Michigan

Finally! It's been a long time coming, but at long last there seems to be serious movement toward what could be Michigan's largest single economic development opportunity in the coming decade: the Airport City ("aerotropolis") between Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports.

Troy-based real estate expert Stuart Frankel has announced an agreement to develop 150 acres of land in the Pinnacle Aeropark, an office and warehouse project south of Detroit Metro and east of the I-275/Sibley interchange. That should be just the beginning.

The Airport City project, Frankel told me recently, is "potentially the most transformative project for southeastern Michigan ever attempted. We want to make it such."

Emphasize the "we." A joint memo supporting the Airport City project has been signed by Wayne and Washtenaw counties, the various local government units around both airports and the Wayne

Phil Power

County Airport Authority. This week, it will be delivered to Jim Epolito, the CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., or MEDC. (Full disclosure: I am the outfit's unpaid vice chair.)

With that goes a cover letter to Gov. Jennifer Granholm, suggesting "the state of Michigan needs to be an active participant and partner in this exciting economic development undertaking."

There is plenty of evidence to show that the potential is vast. A University of Michigan-Deerborn study shows that Detroit Metro Airport has a \$7.6 billion impact on the state's economy, including \$4 billion in airline tickets, hotel rooms and parking, plus \$2 billion in sales to Michigan companies.

The Airport City project has long been a gleam in the eyes of those visionaries who can see past next Tuesday. Now, at last, it might actually be getting some traction.

For years, experts have known that the area's combination of assets makes the site potentially one of the world's best. Those riches include what is now a first-class passenger facility (Detroit Metro), a good freight airport (Willow Run), easy access to road, rail and international water transport and 25,000 acres of largely undeveloped land in between.

Similar airport developments in Amsterdam, Hong Kong and Bangkok are producing hundreds of thousands of jobs. Here, this agreement to develop the Pinnacle site may finally be what breaks up the logjam of inertia. That Frankel, one of Michigan's

The Airport City project has long been a gleam in the eyes of those visionaries who can see past next Tuesday. Now, at last, it might actually be getting some traction.

most respected — and shrewdest — developers, is prepared to ante up millions of his own funds suggests the dreams aren't pie in the sky.

That's important, because the Pinnacle project has been dragging on since the late Ed McNamara, then Wayne County executive, launched the idea back in 1999. Now this developer intends to cut the ribbon by building 50,000 square feet of offices and 200,000 square feet of warehouse space.

That should jump-start a project that has been the victim of endless Wayne County politics and the lack of an economically realistic development plan. And getting Pinnacle off the ground is important evidence the larger Airport City vision has the wings to fly.

The agreement between the various local governmental units is equally encouraging, if only because it demonstrates that the local powers are united at last in support of the project. Signing on are the cities of Taylor, Belleville, Romulus and Ypsilanti, together with Ypsilanti, Van Buren and Huron townships.

Cobbling together something that appealed to their various interests, combined with those of Wayne and Washtenaw counties and the Airport Authority, has not been easy. Wayne County Economic Development Director Mulu Birru deserves credit for patience and persistence.

Meanwhile, the new man at the MEDC, Epolito, has succeeded in regaining momentum and morale as the state's main arm dedicated to economic development. He has a terrific opportunity to take the Airport City project to a new level by putting planning and marketing muscle behind the project.

Nobody in state government (including the MEDC) has much money these days, but what is needed at this point is coordinated planning and evidence of firm state support.

That's relatively cheap, and Granholm would be wise to jump on board as evidence she's serious about adding jobs to the hard-pressed southeast Michigan economy.

Frankel's right. The Airport City project could transform the area. And now that the local governmental units potentially involved have their act together, it is time for the state to jump in with both feet.

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.

Resistance to school vouchers serves politics, not children

I read Hugh Gallagher's July 30 *Observer* column "Drive for school vouchers serves politics, not children" with suspicion, believing as I do that at least as an idea, vouchers could work to reshape the educational landscape and consumers' expectations of same, both for the better. While we disagree, I salute Gallagher's concern for balance in presenting links to advocacy groups on both sides of the voucher issue and in inviting this opposing comment.

Gallagher cited the Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress report to indicate that while private schools perform better because



Paul Seibold

of their selective admissions, when students with various disadvantages are factored out of the equation, private and public schools perform about the same. One must take care to avoid hasty acceptance of the criteria and methods for factoring variables out of the NAEP results, for such legerdemain is not unlike the gender-norming practiced in the military and in firefighting to the possible impairment of those critical occupations. In any case, the ability of private schools to screen their applicants is often put forward as an argument against vouchers but in my view, that argument is more against excellence.

NAEP statistics notwithstanding, Gallagher seems to acknowledge that by some discernible proportion, a number of public schools are "troubled," and I suggest that to advocate withholding the means from aspiring students to escape such schools is to advocate the forcible subjection of all to mediocrity.

As a voter on the losing side of Michigan's 2000 initiative for vouchers, I had supposed that the topic was totally defunct but what may have moved Gallagher to write about it now was the story in the July 9 *Grand Rapids Press* reporting that gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos vowed in a 2002 speech to reopen the voucher initiative by "one person at a time speaking to another person in privacy." Gallagher characterizes this statement as proposing a stealth campaign but whether advocated through a media blitz or one on one, no voucher measure will take effect without approval by a majority of voters. Thus if DeVos persists in his goal expressed four years ago, I find his low-key strategy to be no more ominous now than a Vatican takeover of Michigan's educational infrastructure was likely under the 2000 initiative.

I was especially troubled by Gallagher's airy suggestion that "For those who want to

While I agree that universal public education is a great hallmark of the United States, the duty to educate resides with parents; and parents of ordinary or lesser means can find themselves hostage to an education system they might not prefer.

send their children to private schools, it's a great option" — omitting the key qualifier, "if only they can afford it." From the consumers standpoint, I think the essence of vouchers is to make educational options affordable.

While I agree that universal public education is a great hallmark of the United States, the duty to educate resides with parents; and parents of ordinary or lesser means can find themselves hostage to an education system they might not prefer. It's ironic that by opposing vouchers, equality advocates should be upholding an arrangement in which private schools remain a preserve of the affluent.

Gallagher argues that all Michiganders should bear the cost of public schools with the analogy that not everybody rides on all of Michigan's roads, but my reply is that not every Michigan household has children to educate. As an analogy on the other side, I submit that a resident who has paid a cable bill over a period of time will appreciate the economies inherent in a competitive environment.

Finally, I can't help but suspect that, as implied by its very title, Gallagher's column at bottom a defense of the public education establishment, or perhaps more precisely, a circling of wagons around the perquisites and prerogatives of the teachers' unions. Certainly the public schools as a totality have a purpose in keeping all funds to themselves. In what may be perceived as an improbable alliance between management and labor, they defend and promote that purpose with great vigor but whether out of altruism or self-interest is a matter for reflection.

As for me, I lament the plight of children in troubled schools, all the more because they have nowhere else to go. I also lament the future of excellence, as promising students in those schools continue to wait for the improvements that never seem to come. Must the speed of this convoy be the speed of its slowest ship?

Paul M. Seibold is a translator, member of the Michigan Bar and Army retiree who lives in Birmingham with his wife, Patricia, and daughter, So-Jin. The opinions expressed in this column are his own.

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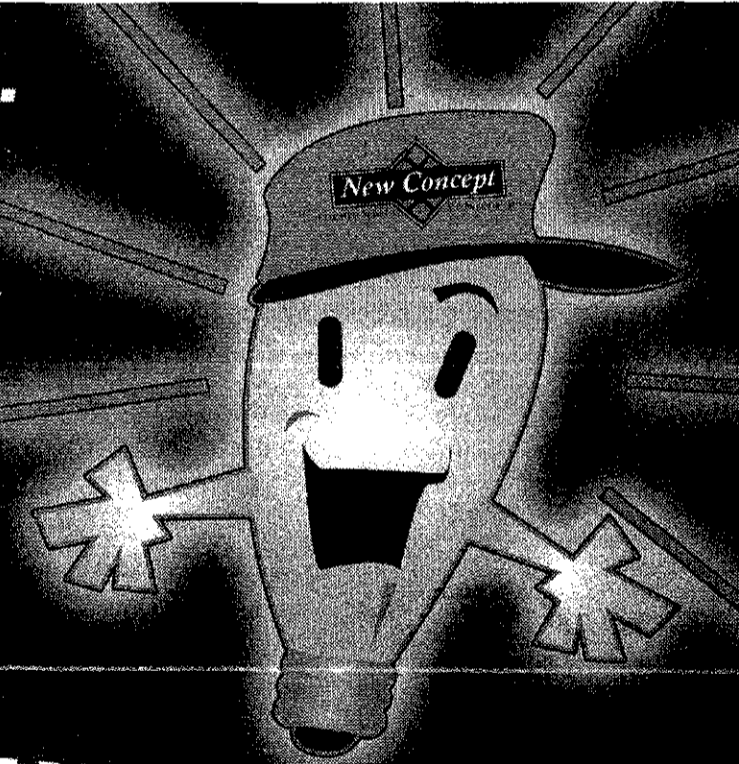
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Legislature approves death of Single Business Tax

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

The drive to repeal Michigan's Single Business Tax has reached fruition as the state Legislature voted to eliminate the tax by the end of 2007.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson kicked off the drive to repeal the SBT at his 2006 State of the County Address. He said the tax was stifling the state's economy by making the cost of business too high in Michigan.

The address started a petition drive that generated 150,000 more signatures than it needed. Because the legislation approved this week was generated by a petition drive, it is not subject to veto.

The SBT was created in the late 1970s in an effort to consolidate a number of business taxes into one, stable tax. The parcel of inventory taxes, corporate net worth taxes and others was unreliable and

tended to fluctuate.

But the state's economics have changed considerably since then. While it used to be the case that Michigan's economy was composed mostly of manufacturing jobs, it's now mostly service jobs. Under the SBT, service jobs are not taxed.

The SBT represents \$1.8 billion in tax revenues to the state — an amount equivalent to everything the state spends on higher education or corrections. When the tax ends, it will be up to the Legislature to decide how much of that revenue to replace.

Oakland County Democratic Party Chairman and County Commissioner Dave Woodward said certain state functions, namely higher education, need to be kept fighting trim or any benefit to the state's economy will be nullified.

"The bottom line is that the number one way to prepare workers for new jobs is to fund higher education," he said. "To

not come up with replacement funds will jeopardize our ability to attract businesses."

He said ideas like shifting the sales tax to service-economy workers or instituting business license fees are not going to replace SBT revenues. Until someone comes up with a replacement, he said, there's precious little reason for a business to relocate to Michigan at all.

"If I'm a business owner, why would I come to Michigan if I don't know what the tax plan is?" Woodward said.

But will the SBT become an issue in the November election?

Former Oakland County Republican Party Chairman Paul Welday said the SBT will be the critical issue in November.

"The debate is jobs and the economy in Michigan," he said. "Where people stood in the debate about the SBT is something every candidate will have to answer to."

The right moves

Debbie Felton's Academy of Dance is expanding its range. The Livonia-based school is now offering classes for home school students. Boys hip-hop has been added to the course schedule along with traditional classes in ballet, pointe, tap and jazz, as well.

Felton is offering open house days 6-7:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Aug. 21-24, at the school, 16312 Middlebelt, between Five and Six Mile roads. The public is welcome to stop in and learn more about the academy.

Students can register for classes from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14, and Thursday, Aug. 17, as well as from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Aug. 15-16.

Felton invites all who are interested to visit the expanded studio, learn more about new class offerings, and register to win a prize in an open house raffle. The new season of courses is less than a month away. It begins Wednesday, Sept. 6 in Livonia.

For more information of class registration please calls (734) 524-0104 or visit the Web site at www.feltondance.com.

WHAT'S IN STORE

Go to Beauty Camp

Secret Rituals Day Spa in Livonia is hosting a Skin Care and Beauty Camp for the second consecutive summer.

The hourlong two-day sessions will focus on skin care, make-up application, bra fittings, body image and self esteem building. It is targeted for girls between 12 and 16.

Owner Kelly Freeman said she organized the camp to draw younger clientele into the salon, though a lot of their parents are already familiar with the services.

From girls who idolize young stars like Lindsay Lohan to those with acne-prone skin, campers will learn how to appropriately care for their skin, rather than

cover it up with make-up.

There are still six spots available. The program is hosted by a qualified esthetician. For a \$30 fee, campers will receive all the necessary supplies and a gift bag. Camp is held from noon to 1 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 14-15, at the salon, Secret Rituals Day Spa, 31211 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

For more information, call (734) 422-3007 during regular business hours, which are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

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.



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