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9/7 THURSDAY September 7, 2006

WESTLAND Observer

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Back to school

Student teacher finds that 1st day in classroom is 'wonderful'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

They picked a letter of the alphabet, then spent part of the morning finding products in a supermarket circular that started with the letter.

Each find was cut out, slathered with glue then stuck on a circle map, a way of helping youngsters pair ideas with an alphabet letter.

Welcome to first-grade, welcome to the first day of school at Lincoln Elementary in Westland where youngsters made their first forays into learning Tuesday with the 2006-2007 school year.

"It's wonderful," said Sandy Koelzer. "We have an amazing class."

Three hours into her first day as a student teacher in Kristi Bowman's first-grade class, Koelzer admitted she had the jitters. But by mid-morning it didn't show as she worked with the children on their circle maps.

"I was somewhat nervous, but Kristi is outstanding. She spent the last few weeks working with me, preparing me for

PLEASE SEE **FIRST DAY, A6**



PHOTOS BY TINA HUBBY FOR THE OBSERVER

It wasn't just the first day of school Tuesday for students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, it also was the first day in the classroom for student teacher Sandy Koelzer who talks with the first-graders at Lincoln Elementary about the circle map they worked on.

Parents, students ready for 1st day

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Bryce Stewart was ready for school - very ready - but his twin brother Brandon wasn't so sure.

"Bryce never wanted school to end," said Gail Like who was at Lincoln Elementary School Tuesday morning to enroll them in kindergarten. "He was very angry when it ended last year."

Like was among the steady stream of parents who one by one stepped to the counter to register their children for the 2006-2007 school year.

While the Stewart twins squirmed on chairs, Like worked with the school staff to complete the paperwork, much of which was faxed over from Schweitzer Elementary where they had been in Wayne-Westland's Young Fives program last year.

At Like's request, the twins were placed in an afternoon kindergarten class, but like most parents and students who came in Tuesday, the twins

were sent home for the day. Their first official day of school was Wednesday.

The twins, sporting Class of 2019 T-shirts and backpacks given to them as part of the registration, promised they would be good in class.

"They've been wanting to go to school for three years, ever since my nephew started here," Like said.

Down the hall from the office, the more than 250 Lincoln students sat cross-legged on the floor of the gymnasium/cafeteria, listening to Principal Jennifer Munson go over the school's three rules and make some important announcements.

"It's important that you be learners," Munson stressed in announcing that the school will hold four award assemblies around report card time. The ceremonies will recognize students of the month, those who have perfect attendance during the marking period or have been tapped by their teachers for doing something special.

"You have to be at school



Twins Bryce and Brandon Stewart show off the T-shirts and backpacks they received after being enrolled in afternoon kindergarten classes at Lincoln Elementary Tuesday morning.

every day on time and you can get the award more than once all year long," Munson told the students, "Our goal this year is that every kid in this school gets one award."

"This is kind of like a little family, take care of friends. Everyone can be helpful."

This is Munson's third year as principal at Lincoln and she showed her command of students' names as she fielded questions from the crowd. She admits there's some she has to dig back through her memory to find, but most she knows.

"If they were here last year, I

know their names," she said.

After touching on the school's three rules - be safe, be respectful and be learners - and an announcement about assigned tables at lunchtime to accommodate the new card system for hot meals - "You'll have assigned tables, but not assigned seats," - she sent them on their way to let the learning begin.

"This is a really good school, I love it," Munson said. "It keeps me busy all the time and it's a lot of fun."

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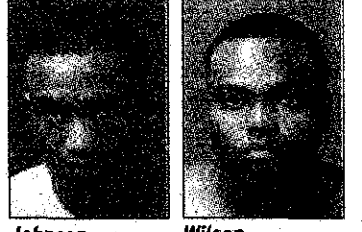
Police: Arrests connected to home invasions

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Two men suspected of breaking into homes in at least six communities were nabbed by Farmington Hills police Tuesday immediately after a home invasion on Harrow Drive near Orchard Lake and 13 Mile.

Anthony Jamarr Johnson, 20, of West Bloomfield, and James Everett Wilson, 20, of Detroit, were arraigned Wednesday in 47th District Court on home invasion, second degree, a 15-year felony and other charges of receiving and concealing stolen property and driver's license violations.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said the suspects are likely responsible for home invasions in Livonia, Westland, Canton, Plymouth Township, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Township.



Johnson Wilson

PLEASE SEE **ARRESTS, A5**



Come Saturday morning, the temporary Marshall Field's banner will come down, revealing the Macy's name in a change that's expected to bring out a day-after Thanksgiving size crowd at Westland Shopping Center.

Mall's new shopping destination - Macy's

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Have a trip planned to New York City with a stop at the Macy's Department Store? Well, you can get that New York feeling Saturday and you won't have to go to the Big Apple.

Just stop by Westland Shopping Center where the Marshall Field's store will officially become Macy's as part of the retailer's nationwide launch as "America's Department Store."

"We're very proud to have Macy's at the mall," said Denise Mills, the center's marketing manager. "We're looking at a new era at the mall."

Doors will open at 9 a.m. to a storewide shopping party, featuring RC DJ and Video

What do you think about this story? E-mail your responses to smason@hometownlife.com

Productions on the store's patio, strolling food sampling from the Lakeshore Grill and special events in the cosmetics area.

There will be a ribbon cutting and red carpet at the Cowan Road entrance to the store, but if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, the festivities will be moved inside to the store entrance in the mall's East Court.

If that's not enough to entice you, try this. The first 500 customers coming in the

PLEASE SEE **MACY'S, A5**

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Coming Sunday in Health

Author looks at better methods for childbirth in her book 'Easy Labor.'

Pupils, parents celebrate on big first day of school

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Through some tears, smiles and quick waves good-bye, the first day of classes in Livonia Public Schools zipped by for students and parents alike.

Parents were a key part of the events at Coolidge Lower Elementary School - which includes grades K-4 this year.

Principal Ann Kalec hosted the Coolidge First Day Holiday, festivities that follow a concept established by the First Day Foundation.

"It's just a great thing to do, make it a celebration," said Kalec. With the merging of two former elementary school populations, Tyler and Coolidge, she said the party atmosphere was meant to make all Coolidge kids - and their parents - feel at ease.

She kicked off the day with a welcome and open house orientation, then encouraged parents to wander the halls, visit classrooms and meet teachers.

Students sought out familiar faces, and learned about their new classrooms. Tristan Neumann, a fourth-grader, wasn't just new to Coolidge. He was new to the United States. His family recently moved from Germany.

His mother, Lisa Neumann, accompanied him to the first day celebration. "I think it's going to be great," she said.

The First Day Foundation's celebration program aims to promote such family involvement; encourages employers to allow parents time off to participate in the first day of school; and allows parents and teachers to build partnerships from day one.

Beth Hathaway, a first-grade teacher who previously worked at Tyler, said the school year got off to a "fantastic" start.

"I think all children are anxious about it," she said. "Having mom and dad here can only be beneficial."

Hathaway said the first day celebration gave teachers a chance to meet parents, and parents a chance to meet one another.

"It's so nice to see parents with their kids," said Ann Brady, a third-grade teacher. She enjoyed the celebration and said the students were excited to get started. "They got their lockers," said Brady. "They're thrilled."

Brady was also excited about the new K-4 concept. As one of five third-grade teachers in the building, the new format will foster a collegial atmosphere.

"That's going to be awesome," said Brady. "We're sharing ideas already."

Paraprofessional Linda Leventis was busy welcoming parents into another classroom where students buzzed about sipping apple juice and showing

off their new desks. "Kids don't care where they go to school," she said. "They just know they have to go."

At the same time, fifth- and sixth-grade students filled the districts three new upper elementary buildings for the first time Wednesday. At Johnson Upper Elementary in Westland, students divided into one of two "houses," each meeting in one of the gymnasiums.

Some students were dropped off at the school doors and simply gave their parents a wave good-bye. Others wandered in wide-eyed at their new surroundings.

"It's big," said Casey Davis, a sixth-grader from now-closed Adams Elementary.

"I like the gym," added Tyler Jones, a fifth-grader, also from Adams.

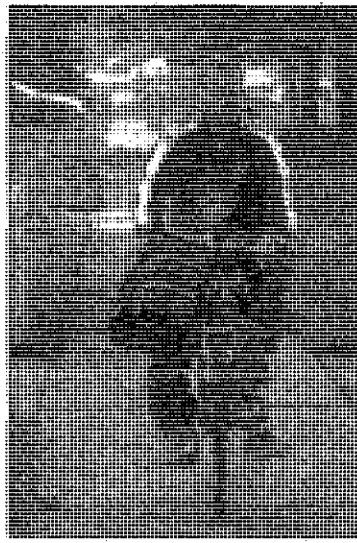
Casey's mother, Jennifer Grover, said Johnson seemed like "a warm environment" and "the staff is really nice."

Jeff Jones, Tyler's father, noted "the staff seems to have more energy."

Dianne Jaroszewicz accompanied her sixth-grade son, Jason, to the first day at Johnson Upper Elementary. She said he's been looking forward to meeting his teacher. "He's excited about the new building," said Jaroszewicz.

Jason said he's looking forward to specials classes like gym. And he may play the saxophone in band.

"We're raring to go," said Chris Coletta, a learning specialist



Artan Petriti and his son Mario beat the first day of school parking problem at Coolidge Elementary by taking a bicycle. Mario started first grade on Wednesday.

who moved from Washington to Johnson school.

Those sentiments were echoed by Supt. Randy Liepa Wednesday. He said a lot of preparation went into the first day of school in the district this year - and staff members could hardly wait to get started.

He said the reorganization of buildings looks to be achieving the district's goals - class sizes remained low, and the district had "few, if any" split classes and kindergarten overflow issues.

Hayes Elementary was the only building still undergoing construction when school started this week. The new bus loop was not yet complete. Liepa said he worked with city officials to secure a neighboring parking lot for parents. The district provided a shuttle bus system for school and open house events at Hayes.

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Teacher's book, workshop aim to help students study

Susan (Woodcock) Kruger wasn't always an expert on learning strategies for how to study, organizational skills and how to manage homework.

However, the former teacher has written a book and set up an online tutorial workshop designed to help students and parents learn to handle just those issues.

"I always struggled in school," Kruger admits. "When I entered college, I had the opportunity to learn several strategies that made college much easier for me than high school, and I earned a far better GPA, too."

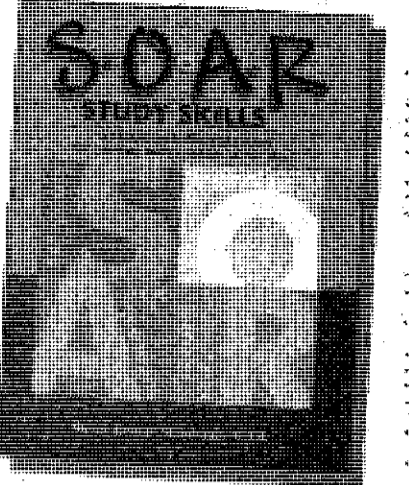
Kruger's success in college, paired with her budding teaching career, led her to begin tutoring peers and high school students as a "side job" before she even graduated from college. The demand for her tutoring grew so fast that Kruger created her SOAR Workshop, which was taught in Livonia Community Education and elsewhere over eight years.

Three years ago, a newspaper story about her study skills class prompted over 200 phone calls to her from exasperated parents who all shared similar frustrations over homework and had no idea where to go for help. As a result, Kruger left her full-time teaching career to pursue a career in study skills.

Her book, SOAR Study Skills, which will be published later this month, teaches core study and organizational skills to help students and families manage homework.

Study skills are typically not taught in schools because the state-mandated curriculum is so demanding; teachers struggle to cover the requirements and do not have any extra time in their day.

"Many teachers also tell me that they have had a hard time finding practical resources for teaching study skills," Kruger



explains. "I hope to change that."

In fact, she said, one middle school used her book as their main curriculum for summer school this year.

"I essentially created this program while I was still a student - and then used the strategies again to get through grad school," she explains. "So, I think that has really helped me connect with other students and parents because I can relate to their frustrations."

In addition to the book, Kruger will also be launching virtual homework classes for students and parents that will meet via tele-conference line, the Internet, and e-mail.

"I'm very excited about these Homework Action Groups because they will allow me to work with students and parents in a much more effective way than I ever have before."

Participants can "attend" from home and e-mail their feedback from the workshops. Kruger will also be providing students with audio recordings of each session in case they want to re-listen to sections or have to miss a session.

Her Web site is www.soarstudyskills.com, where the book can be pre-ordered at a discount before the official publication date of Sept. 20. Online workshops begin Oct. 23 and Nov. 7.

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Woman loses \$78,000 to foreign lottery scam

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Police are warning people to stay away from foreign lotteries and estate awards that promise huge payouts — especially if those contacted are asked to pay thousands of dollars to start the process.

The police warning was spurred as investigators look into a case where a 68-year-old Livonia woman said she lost \$78,000 in payments to Spain's Loteria Primitiva. She was responding to the Madrid-based sweepstakes' documentation that stated she won \$789,000.

"This is very prevalent and they are preying on older people," Lt. Greg Winn said. "Disregard these notifications, especially if you do not recall enrolling in these contests." "Do not send them any money," Winn said. "Call the police to make us aware of these organizations."

The Livonia victim, who lives in the Inkster-Plymouth area, told police she was notified in March that she was one of 17 winners to share a cash prize of \$13.4 million. Through the course of several months, she was asked to pay a \$3,000 deposit, \$13,000 for insurance

and \$49,000 for another service charge.

The woman became suspicious over the summer and called an official with the organization to ask for her money back. She was asked to make several additional payments to receive a refund.

After she paid out \$78,000 to this organization, she was asked to make tens of thousands of dollars in additional payments before her money would be returned. She did not comply with these requests. She notified Livonia police Tuesday.

According to documentation sent to the alleged lottery winners, they are asked to disclose banking information, such as bank account and routing numbers. Also, they are asked to agree to a provision where 10 percent of the winnings are paid to a security company when the winner receives the money.

"We've seen this happen a number of times where people are bilked out of money," Winn said. "Often, there's not much we can do because this money ends up being sent overseas and it makes it difficult to track where it went."

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Nichole Maxwell of Belleville looks over a "bouncy seat" she got during a baby shower for needy mothers put on by the Warm Hearts charity group.



Nadiyah Myles of Inkster shows off some of her gifts gathered during the shower.

Warm Hearts 'showers' mothers-to-be

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Young, pregnant and short on money, 28 women will have a better start with their babies thanks to a Westland charity.

The group, Warm Hearts, collected strollers, diapers, toys, blankets, children's books, stuffed animals, games, booster chairs, bibs and other items for the expectant mothers.

Warm Hearts director Carol Sharp and her helpers gave out the gifts during a recent baby shower hosted by the Westland-based Salvation Army.

The event also brought in experts to teach classes about breast-feeding, nutrition, budgeting, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other child-related issues.

"It was really good. I learned a lot," said 18-year-old Alexandra Worthy, an Inkster woman expecting her first child.

While Worthy was on the

receiving end this time, she's no stranger to volunteer work herself. She used to help young students during the Salvation Army's after-school tutoring program.

Six months pregnant with her second child, 26-year-old Toya Westmoreland of Canton praised Warm Hearts for helping young mothers learn how to better care for their children.

"There's a lot of information for new parents to learn, whether you're 26 or 16," she said. "When you have kids, you really need to know how to budget your money."

Grateful for receiving help, Westmoreland said she plans to volunteer to help Warm Hearts the next time the group sponsors a baby shower.

Connie Costner, a Michigan State University extension educator, attended the baby shower to provide parenting tips for the women. She said she also goes into their homes to provide one-on-one help.

Martha James, child care



Cassandra Madden of Detroit gets herself measured for the "biggest pregnancy contest" during the baby shower at The Salvation Army.

director for the Detroit-based Coalition on Temporary Shelter, also was on hand to offer help for women who may need a place to stay.

During the shower, Westland City Council President William Wild pulled up outside with a pickup truck and unloaded box after box of diapers.

"It's a great program," he

said, as he carried the diapers into the Salvation Army building.

Sharp offered a simple reason why she and other Warm Hearts volunteers are trying to help the expectant mothers.

"We're trying to make it a better world," she said. To help Warm Hearts, call Carol Sharp at (734) 595-8305.

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Ceremonies honor 9/11 victims, everyday heroes

Five years after terrorists hijacked four airplanes and flew them into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Shanksville, Pa., residents in Wayne and Westland will pause to remember the almost 3,000 people who died that day.

In Westland, St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School will sponsor a memorial service at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, near the flagpole behind Westland City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road.

Pastor Kurt Lambert will address participants and two St. Matthew school choirs will perform patriotic songs.

Westland police and firefighters also will be honored.

In Wayne, community and civic leaders will gather at 8 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11, for a service of reflection at the Veterans Peace Memorial on Wayne Road between east- and westbound Michigan Avenue.

Police, fire, city officials, local churches and community leaders will take part in the ceremony.

The Wayne Public Library also will feature a display of books about 9/11 and sponsor programs for all ages. More information about the program are available at the library or on its Web site at www.waynelib.mi.us.



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Kicks 4 Kids

UNO Chicago Grill is joining with Kicks for Kids in a fundraiser to benefit the construction of a soccer complex at Curtis Wood Park on Palmer west of Wayne Road.

The restaurant, located in Wayne Road in front of Westland Shopping Center, will donate 20 percent of food purchase between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. to the Kicks 4 Kids Project at Curtis Woods. The project includes the creation of three U8 soccer fields at the park.

Participants need to present a coupon, available at all city buildings, when they pay for their order to get the 20 percent contribution. Call the Westland Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 722-7620.

St. Damian events

The St. Damian festival featuring Christian rock bands Remedy Drive and Photo 7 will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at the church, on Joy Road east of Merriman. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. The concert is expected to run until 11 p.m. or so.

Also, from noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, there will be inflatable rides, a casino tent, food, drinks, raffles and more. A Texas Hold-Em tournament, with tickets \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door, will run 6-11 p.m. Saturday. A spaghetti dinner is scheduled 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Garage sale

Westwood Community Church will hold a garage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at 6500 Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. Proceeds will go to cancer programs.

Euchre returns

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties will be back at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland beginning Friday, Sept. 8.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. and play starts at 7:30 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The scheduled dates are Sept. 8, 15, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 27, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1, 15, Jan. 7, 5 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16.

St. Bernardine Parish is on the southwest corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

Poker tournament

Put on your best poker face because the Westland Civitan Club is hosting a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Check-in time is between 3 and 3:30 p.m., with the first round starting at 4 p.m. The entrance fee is \$60 and includes \$1,000 in chips. All registration fees of \$60 will be collected in advance, and registered players will be given a

ticket to ensure a seat assignment. Tickets will be limited to the first 112 players. There will be open registration, if there are any tickets available. All ticket holders must be 19 years old of age and older.

The prize pool will be 50 percent of the entrance fees, and the cash prizes for the top finishers, which will be announced prior to the start of the gaming, will depend on the number of entries.

To register or to purchase tickets, call Pat Savage at (734) 595-6039, Dave or Donna Jensen (734) 729-8075 or Ron Falkner at (617) 546-8547 and leave your name and a phone number.

Family Festival

First Baptist Church of Wayne is inviting the community to a free Family Festival Saturday, Sept. 9.

The festival will begin with a picnic at noon. There also will be a classic car show, live music, games, a moon walk, face painting, soap box derby cars, hayrides, ice cream novelties and much more.

Participants also will have an opportunity to meet First Baptist's new pastor, Phil DiLernia.

The church is at 36125 Glenwood, between Wayne Road and Newburgh in Wayne. For more information call (734) 721-7410.

Flea Market

A flea market will be held 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. Call Ray or Jackie Gagnon at (734) 722-7225 for more information.

Marathon Bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harris Kehrer VFW Post 3323 is holding a marathon bingo noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the post 3323 is at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Adoption event

The Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven is hosting an adoption event to raise funds and awareness for pet rescue and help find local, homeless Samoyeds a new home for life at the Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland, on Saturdays throughout July and August. The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 9, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4.

Senior dinner-dances

The Wayne Ford Civic League will be holding a senior dinner and dance at noon Sunday, Sept. 10 and 24 at the hall at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee, and pop and dancing to the live entertainers.

Seniors must be at least 60 years old to attend. Tickets are \$8 for league members and \$10 for non-members. Memberships are on sale year-round and cost \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, call (734) 728-5010.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, 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.

Wedding Cakes 101

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe will offer Wedding Cakes 101, a two-hour everything you ever wanted to know about wedding cakes, but didn't know who to ask event, 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Oct. 10.

The program for cake decora-

tors, caterers or the bride and groom will look at the correct size cake for guests, different icings, how a mousse filling compares to cream filling, what fondant is and pricing wedding cake.

Taste testing of a variety of cake flavors will be available. Cost is complimentary for those who register in advance and \$5 at the door. Space is limited.

The cake shoppe is at 8036 N. Wayne Road. For more information, or to register, call (734) 261-3680.

Garage sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will have a garage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at the church, 32500 Palmer east of Venoy, Westland. There will be a \$2 a bag sale starting at 4 p.m. Large items will sell for \$2 at the bag sale.

Yard-craft sale

Watch for the big, big tents on Sept. 16 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland.

The church will be holding a yard, craft, etc. sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring household items, miscellaneous items and specialties items like Avon, candles, tools, houseplants and crafts of all kinds. There also will be a \$1 a bag used clothing sale inside the church, a food court to get refreshments, and a special drawing for two elephants!

All money raised will be donated to area organizations to be used to help people in our community. In the past, the church has made donations to the Salvation Army, Wayne County Family Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, World Hunger (Crop Walk), St. Mary's Outreach Center and John Bolde Food Depot and Trinity Lutheran Church, its mission partner, as well as provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to Adam Junior High families.

Internet safety

St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School in Westland will sponsor an Internet safety class at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20. The class will be for older students and for parents who may want information on how to keep their children safe online. It will provide information on what information youngsters

should avoid putting online. The class is free and open to the public. The school/church are at 5885 N. Venoy.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly "Best Spaghetti Dinner in Westland" returns to the Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, Friday, Sept. 23. Dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. The cost is \$6 for spaghetti, including salad, desert, entertainment and dancing. For additional information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Second Wind will perform. There will be a prize for best hippie attire. Those attending also are urged to bring their 70s photos.

There will be food, raffles and a cash bar. For more information, call (734) 525-9454.

Mom 2 Mom sale

St. Damian School is hosting a Fall Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006. New this year will be a Dad 2 Dad Sale which will take place at the same time at the school, 30055 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman. Table rental is \$20 table rental for the Mom 2 Mom Sale and \$15 outdoor space rental for the Dad 2 Dad Sale. For more information, call Dawn at (734) 983-0221.

Crafters sought

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is seeking crafters for an annual fall craft show that will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. The post is located at 28945 Joy Road. Tables and chairs are available. Reservations are needed by Oct. 4. Call Dianna Welchman at (313) 278-3784.

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women Craft Show on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail No. 10) to reserve a table.

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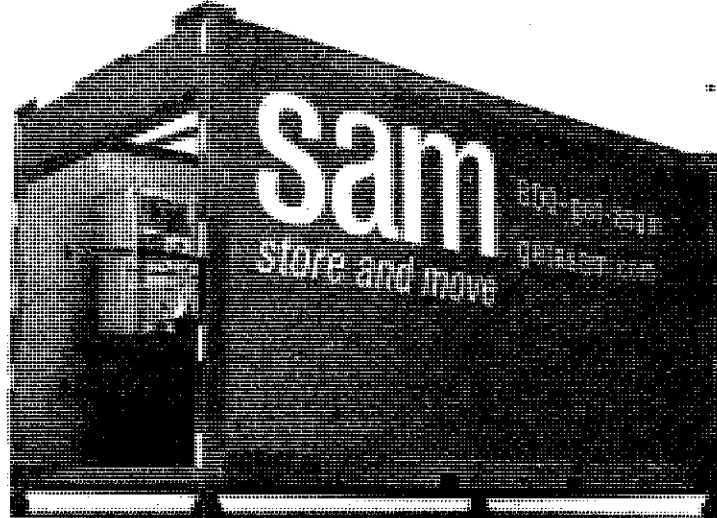
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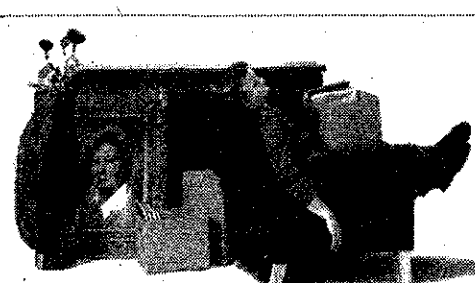
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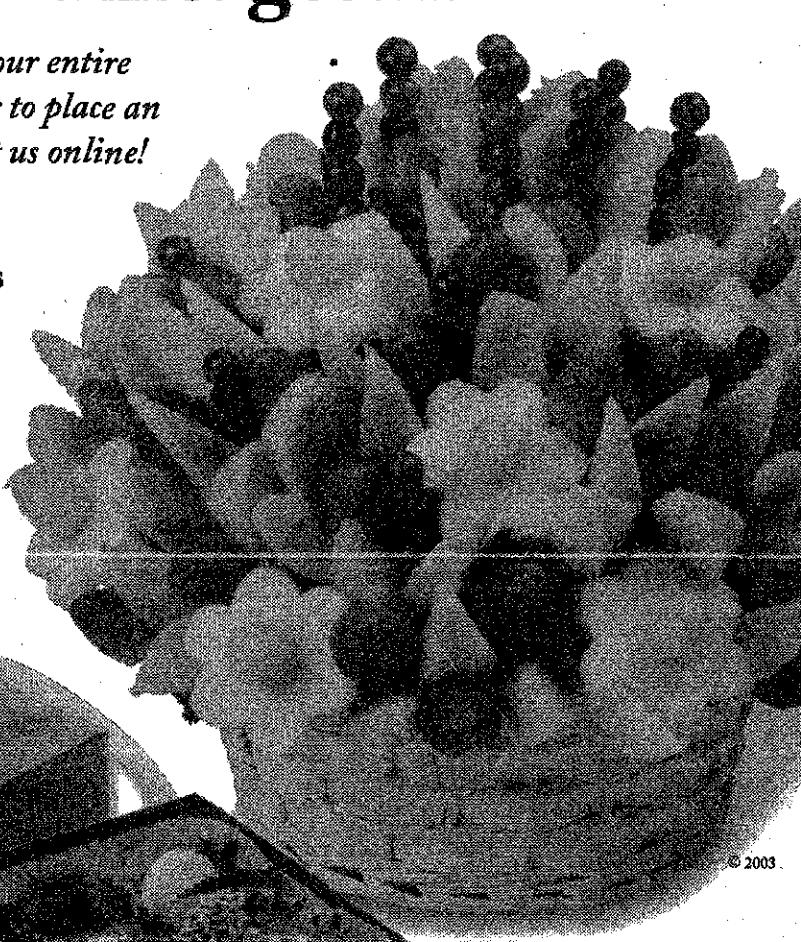
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MACY'S

FROM PAGE A1
store through the Cowan Road entrance will receive \$10 Macy's gift cards and one lucky recipient will get a \$1,000 Macy's gift card.
Carol Smith-Greene has the store on her to-do list for Saturday after hearing about its opening. The Redford resident is familiar with the store after visiting Macy's during a trip to Chicago for a family reunion.
"We kept driving around the block and I told my husband to drop me off and keep

driving around the block," she said. "I went in shopping and he drove around Chicago ... with the grandkids in the car."
"I'm going Saturday. I need makeup, and you can only get it at stores like Macy's and Marshall Field's. I want to be there."
The mall began doing exterior and interior work in August in preparation for the changeover, with Marshall Field's banners covering the Macy's name in advance of the official opening, Mills said.
This is the third name change for the mall's oldest

major tenant. It opened as J.L. Hudson in July 1965, but was converted to a Marshall Field's in 2001 by former owner Target Corp.
New owner Federated Department Stores Inc. is dumping the Marshall Field's name for its flagship chain, Macy's.
Macy's is an institution in New York City, where it opened in 1858 at the corner of 14th Street and 6th Avenue.
By 1902 it was moving uptown to its Herald Square location at Broadway and 34th Street.

Through acquisitions and mergers, it's become Federated's largest retail brand with 800 stores in 45 states as of the Saturday ribbon-cutting ceremonies.
"This is a truly monumental and historic moment for Macy's," said Frank Guzzetta, Macy's North chairman and chief executive officer. "How often do you get to bring the best of a great American institution to millions of new customers across the country? It's been a spectacular undertaking, and we hope that our new customers are as excited to have us as we are to

be a part of their communities."
Guzzetta is right in talking about excitement. According to Mills, not only shoppers, but the mall's other tenants are anticipating the official opening of Macy's.
"From the calls they've been receiving, they think they'll have a day-after-Thanksgiving crowd for the opening," she said. "And there's just as much excitement in the rest of the mall."
And Macy's isn't waiting to become an active member of the community.
On Sept. 16, it will host

Shop for a Cause designed to help local nonprofits. Participating organizations like the Westland-based Community Hospice are selling \$5 shopping passes to the event which provides savings offers on merchandise.
Participating groups get to keep 100 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the shopping passes.
They also can be purchased in the store with proceeds being divided up equally among at participating organizations.
smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2121

DEATHS

- B**
Mary "Eileen" Beaudoin
Beaudoin, 65, of Livonia, died Sept. 3.
- Carl Lewis Bills II**
Bills, 85, of Waterford, died Aug. 25.
- C**
Jean D. Chalfour
Chalfour, 70, of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 26.
- Martha Clemons**
Clemons, 80, of Rancho Bernardo, Calif., died Aug. 30.
- E**
W. William (Bill) Eldridge III
Eldridge, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Aug. 6.
- F**
Phyllis Jean Farr
Farr, 80, of St. Clair, died July 3.
- G**
Catherine M. Graham
Graham, 83, of Livonia, died Aug. 30.
- Louis Joseph Graziano**
Graziano, 81, of Clarkston, died Aug. 26.
- M**
Gerald R. Moyer
Moyer, 77, of Plymouth, died Aug. 26.
- L**
Edith L. Lockwood
Lockwood, 88, of Pontiac, died Aug. 28.
- O**
Joyce L. Orr
Orr, 88, of Northville, died Aug. 24.
- P**
Sheila A. Pearson
Pearson, of Taylor, died Aug. 24.
- Josephine Mae Piazzi**
Piazzi, 74, of Westland, died Aug. 30.
- Evelyn L. Prokop**
Prokop, 86, of Westland, died Aug. 26.
- R**
I. Elizabeth Ridenour
Ridenour, 57, of Farmington, died Aug. 25.
- S**
Emily (Millie) V. Spakoff
Spakoff, 79, of Harbor Beach, died Aug. 23.
- V**
Martha S. Vel
Vel, 93, of Rochester, died Aug. 27.
- W**
Alvina Meta Wentz
Wentz, 84 of Clarkston, died Sept. 2.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A17.

ARRESTS

FROM PAGE A1
Dwyer said Hills police found a class ring with a specific inscription, which belonged to a Canton home invasion victim, in the suspects' vehicle.
Livonia Police Lt. Greg Winn said Wednesday his detectives were talking to the suspects regarding three home invasions in the Joy Road/Hix area of Livonia last week. The home invasions occurred within a two-hour period Aug. 29.
In Tuesday's incident in Farmington Hills, a female resident returned to her home at about 10:45 a.m. to find a suspicious vehicle occupied by one male, idling at the curb of her home. The driver honked the horn twice, police said, to alert the second suspect, who was inside the home. The second suspect fled out the garage door and the homeowner called police with a description. The vehicle was spotted by Hills police officers Larry Hernandez and Brian Harbaugh west-bound on 13 Mile.
"They were able to recover a number of stolen items from the vehicle," said Dwyer, including watches, earrings, bracelets, electronic devices such as an iPod, cameras and a CD player. "These officers certainly did an excellent job. It was excellent work on their part."
Dwyer said his department is working with agencies in the other jurisdictions and he expects further charges in those communities will be forthcoming.

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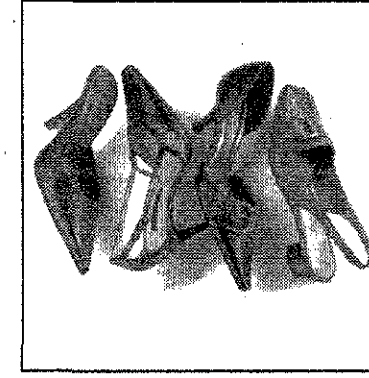
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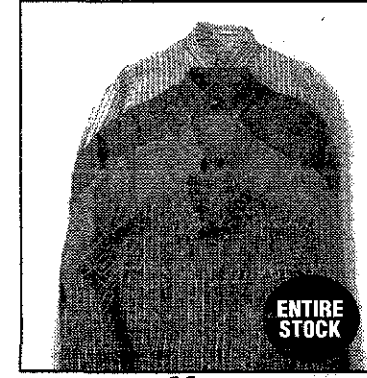
14.99 ENTIRE STOCK of sleepwear separates from Hue. Orig. 20.00-30.00. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.



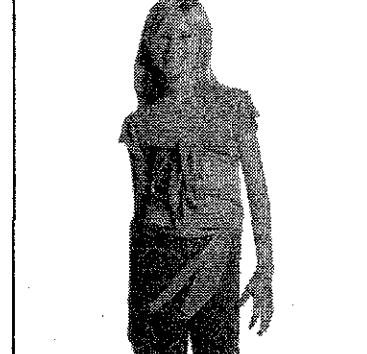
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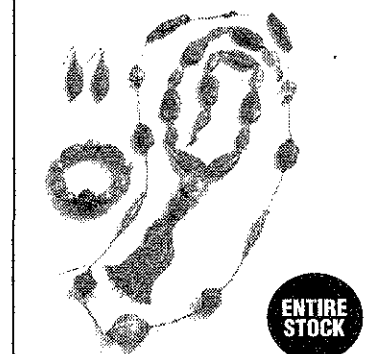
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First-grade teacher Kristi Bowman works with Dale Graham on his circle map during the first day of school.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arbor Hospice and BraveHeart offering grief support groups

Arbor Hospice and Home Care and BraveHeart Grief Services have several grief support groups available to community members to help them deal with the loss of a loved one.

BraveHeart offers a variety of support groups to share experiences in a safe environment and learn to manage grief. Everyone copes with it differently and many individuals welcome a helping hand to support them.

Pathfinders for Children, Teens and Adults is an eight-week support group and is designed with the family in mind. The group allows each family member to understand and experience their own grief. Sessions will take place on Mondays in Ann Arbor at Gretchen's House Child Care Center, 2340 Oak Valley Dr., 6-8 p.m. Oct. 2 through Nov. 20. Participants must register by Sept. 25.

New Pathways is an eight-week support group for adults who have experienced the loss of a significant person. Discussion topics include understanding grief, how the holidays affect grief and the wide range of emotional responses in the grief process.

Sessions will meet on Wednesdays in Ann Arbor at The Residence of Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr., 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 18 through Dec. 6. New Pathways also takes place at the Arbor Hospice-Downriver branch in Trenton, 19145 Allen Road, Suite 110, 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 16 through Dec. 4.

Adult Loss of a Spouse or Partner helps individuals address the unique issues associated with the death of a spouse or partner. Sessions meet in Ann Arbor at The Residence of Arbor Hospice 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 18 through Dec. 6.

Adult Loss of a Parent helps adults cope with the issues

and emotions unique to the death of a parent. Sessions meet 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 17 through Dec. 5, at The Residence of Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor.

Loss of an Adult Child helps parents address the issues associated with the loss of an adult child. Sessions meet 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 19 through Dec. 14, at The Residence of Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor.

Survivors of Suicide helps survivors understand the grief issues specific to a death by suicide. Sessions will take place 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 19 through Dec. 14, at The Residence of Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor.

BraveHeart's newest support group, Healing HeARTS, incorporates an art project into two sessions providing a special opportunity for healing and growth.

This special group takes place on 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 19 through Dec. 14, and is held at the Plymouth Community Arts Council in Plymouth.

All of the support groups are offered free of charge to residents in southeastern Michigan community.

BraveHeart Grief Services are offered to community members who have experienced the death of a significant person. BraveHeart is committed to supporting adults, teens, children and families through their journeys of grief and loss by providing numerous opportunities for support. BraveHeart support groups are offered several times a year, along with special workshops and memorial services.

For more information about any of the support groups offered by BraveHeart Grief Services visit www.braveheartofmichigan.org or call (734) 662-5999, Ext. 177. Participants must register by Oct. 9.

FIRST DAY

FROM PAGE A1

today," the Canton resident said. "So, was I nervous? Yes, but I was prepared."

Koelzer isn't your average young college student. She made her decision to pursue her dream of being a teacher after having a discussion with her own children about what they wanted to do as adults. They posed the question to her, and she had to admit her dream had always been to be a teacher.

So, when the discussion ended, she joined her children in enrolling in college. For her, it was Wayne State University.

For five years she has worked as a part-time secretary in Wayne-Westland's Family Resource Center at Lincoln and spent her springs and summers studying education.

"When my kids went off to college, so did I," she said. "We study together, got frustrated

together and along with my husband, they've been an amazing support system," she said.

When she started college, she was working full-time at Wayne Memorial High School, but "when it became too much," she transferred to a part-time position at the Resource Center, which she describes as "the gem of the Wayne-Westland schools."

When she finishes next May, she will have a planned minor in teaching all subjects in kindergarten through fifth grade and a major in teaching cognitively impaired students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"I believe every single child can learn and would like to reach every single child," she said of her choice to be a special education teacher.

Bowman can relate to Koelzer's first day nervousness. She was beginning her teaching career just as Koelzer was entering college.

"I want her to take her own beliefs in teaching, the things that work for her and use them,"

said Bowman. "I believe all children need to be cared for and know they're cared for for learning to take place."

"I see this as more of a collaborative effort, we're working together."

And work together they did, moving among the group of students, helping them identify products that started with their alphabet letter.

According to Koelzer, the finished maps will be laminated and become part of a classroom book that will be referred to when they focus on a particular letter.

"We'll open it up and see what that student found to go with that letter," she said. "It's environmental imprinting. They make a connection between school and the world. Learning doesn't stop at school. They learn everywhere."

And even though she's in the classroom teaching, Koelzer still has some learning of her own to do. After her four-hour session in Bowman's classroom, she

heads to the resource center for her four-hour shift as a secretary.

Then it was off to WSU's Oakland campus where she's taking her last two classes in preparation for a full day of student teaching starting in January and graduation.

Her husband packed her dinner - a sandwich, banana and juice - since it will be well after 8 p.m. when she gets home to a family waiting to hear how her first day of school went.

"I'll probably have to call them on my cell phone," she said.

Koelzer said she is far more appreciative of her college education now than if she had gone in right out of high school and of her family which has pitched in, doing the laundry, the dishes and meals, so she can get her degree.

"I couldn't ask for a more supportive family," she said. "I've learned so much from them."

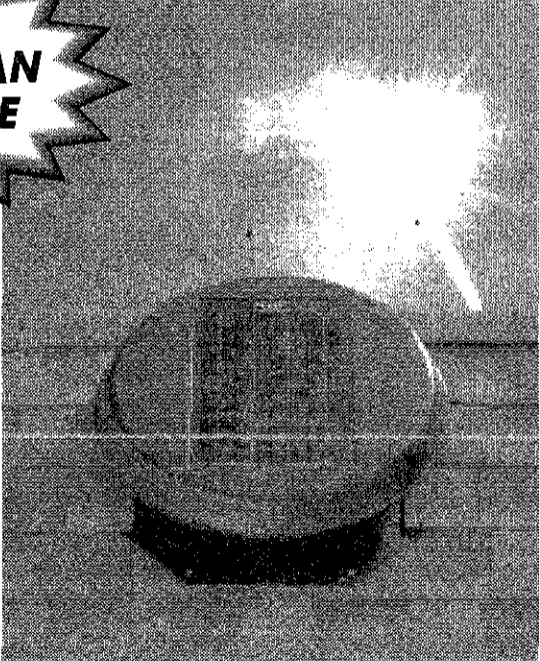
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Auditions open for American Girl Doll fashion show

If your daughter, granddaughter or niece has dreamed of becoming one of the American Girl Dolls, now is her chance.

Auditions for models and narrators for an American Girl Fashion Show will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Sheraton Detroit Novi, located at 21111 Haggerty Road at Eight Mile in Novi.

Approximately 30 female models who can wear a child's size 10 are being recruited for a total of four shows. Four female narrators, ages 16-18 are also needed. The actual fashion shows will be held Nov. 11 and 12.

Now in its third year, Friends of Suzette hosts the American Girl Fashion Show to benefit Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit. Friends of Suzette is a group of women who came together to continue the fight against breast cancer when their friend, Suzette Herskovitz, lost her fight with the disease in 2001 at the age of 32.

Initially, the group raised

funds for a bone marrow transplant that Suzette needed. Now, the group is committed to raising \$50,000 for Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit.

"Proceeds from this year's shows will allow us to surpass our \$50,000 pledge to Gilda's Club and honor our dear friend Suzette," said Leah McLean, one of the show organizers and a founder of Friends of Suzette. "The fashion show is a fantastic opportunity for girls and their families to peek into the past and see their favorite historic American Girl doll brought to life."

Gilda's Club is a non-residential clubhouse located in Royal Oak where people affected by cancer can find social and emotional support in a home-like community atmosphere with others who are living with cancer.

In addition to programs for adults and teens, Gilda's Club offers support groups and activities specifically for children under 13. Named to honor the late comedian Gilda

Radner, this free cancer support organization held a special place in Suzette Herskovitz's heart.

American Girl offers fun, educational, and high-quality products and experiences that build self-esteem and reinforce positive values.

From engaging dolls and books to clothing and tech tools and room accessories, American Girl inspires the imagination and individual style of girls ages 3-12 while fostering pride in traditions shared by generations of American girls.

For more information about the auditions and the show, please contact Leah McLean at (248) 210-5591 or Debbie Bienstock at dbienstock@twmi.rr.com.

Tickets for the fashion show are \$30. Shows will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 and at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Nov. 12. Attendees will receive favors, a chance to win a host of door prizes, either a light brunch or a snack, and more.



Auditions will be open for the third annual Friends of Suzette American Girl Doll Fashion Show to benefit Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit.

The ultimate gift

Death of teen donor has meant a decade of sight for girl

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

About nine years ago, Connie Ayres received the news that to most parents is unimaginable. Her 16-year-old daughter, Amanda Siners, was pronounced dead after the car she was driving hit a tree near her home in Davison, a small Genesee County town.

As devastated as she was, Ayres made the decision to make her daughter a donor. She felt that's what her daughter, who was a senior in high school and an excellent student, would have wanted.

"She always said she wanted to be a doctor so she could help people with medicine. I guess in a way I got to help her do that," Ayres said. "And it helped us in our grief, because something good came out of something so bad."

Ayres said she sat down and cried after she received a letter a couple weeks later telling her several patients benefited from organs and tissue provided by her daughter. One of those recipients was a little girl named Carmen Muglia, who had been blind since her birth a year before. Two days after Siners died, Carmen Muglia received one of her corneas. Her other cornea was also a gift from a donor.

"Carmen was born blind. Both of her corneas were thick and blurry, almost like her eyes had callouses. It was like her corneas were wax paper," said Cesar Muglia, Carmen's father.

Today, Carmen, who will be 11 next month, is a fifth grader at Tonda Elementary. Although her eyes are sometimes sensitive to bright light, Carmen's vision is pretty good. Her family, which also includes mother Nancy and Carmen's two sisters, has lived in Canton for about seven years. Her father says she is an above-average student and an excellent soccer player. Above all, though, he says Carmen is just a regular kid. And he knows, in large part, it is due to the amazing donation she received from Amanda Siners.

"It was the ultimate gift," Cesar Muglia said.

Over the years, Ayres and the Muglias have stayed in touch. Ayres has even gone to a couple of Carmen's birthday parties. Carmen is the only one of the group of recipients of her daughter's donated organs that Ayres has met.

"I have a picture of Carmen in my purse. I kind of show it off just like I do pictures of my grandkids," she said.

Recently the families reunited during an Aug. 18 trip to a Detroit Tigers game at Comerica Park. They were there to promote a group called the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan, which is comprised of hospitals, organizations, and individuals in Michigan dedicated to educating the public about the dire need for more registered, informed organ, tis-

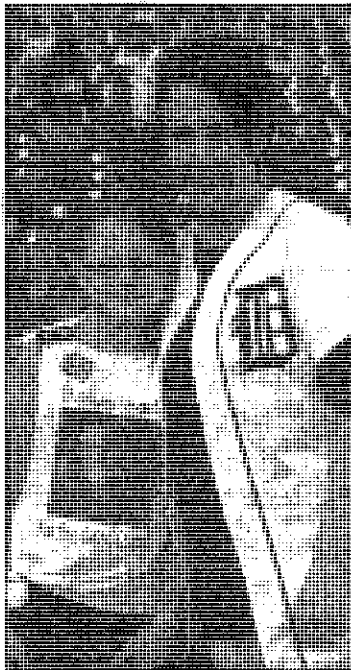


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAIGE BAKER

Carmen Muglia, 10, of Canton recently met for the first time Michelle Pugmire, sister of Amanda Siners, who died nine years ago and was donor of Muglia's cornea, which has given her the gift of sight. They went to a Tiger game together and promoted the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan.

sue and eye donors.

In addition, the outing also allowed Carmen Muglia to meet Siners' only sibling, Michelle Pugmire, who for years had a certain level of apprehension about meeting the people who benefited from her sister's death. Ayres said her daughter was thrilled after meeting Carmen.

"Carmen is such a sweet girl, and she's a good student. My daughter wants to meet with her again in the future. It just makes us feel good that Amanda was able to help such a nice girl," Ayres said.

Cesar Muglia said the idea of organ and tissue donation was something that really never entered his mind, until it "fell into our lap." Ever since Carmen's surgery nine years ago, the Muglias have been big promoters of organ donation. He said one donor can help up to 50 patients.

Unfortunately, he and Ayres believe there are many misconceptions in the general public about organ donation. Not enough people make the choice to become donors, either because they don't understand it or realize how big an impact it can make on another person's life. Just like it did for Carmen Muglia.

"I just wished more people would do it," Ayres said.

To learn more about the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan please call Peggy Burkhardt at (248) 770-5172, or visit the group's Web site at www.donatelifemichigan.org. To learn more information about becoming a registered organ donor, visit giftoflifemichigan.org. To learn more

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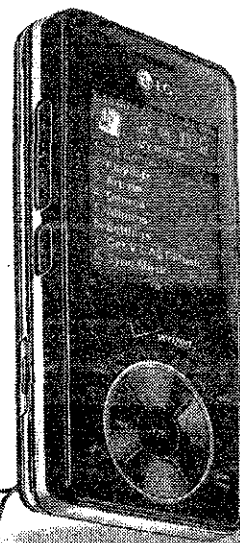
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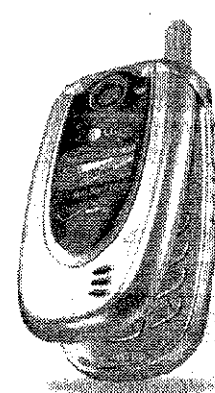
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SMART, DDOT to coordinate hours

For a number of years, SMART and DDOT have been operating local service along sections of Grand River, Plymouth, Greenfield and Woodward Avenue in the City of Detroit. With improved service by DDOT in those corridors, SMART is looking to reallocate service hours to increased service in the suburbs.

"This is a good news story for SMART, for DDOT and most importantly people that use public transportation," says Dan Dirks, SMART general manager. "With the hours that we saved, SMART will be able to add more transportation in some of the outlying suburbs."

During the month of September a series of meetings and hearings have been scheduled to receive input from customers and others interested. SMART will reduce service on Plymouth Road, Grand River, Greenfield Rd. and Woodward Avenue. Service will be added on Sunday along Greenfield Road in

Oakland County and Grand River in Farmington and Farmington Hills, additional service will be added on Nine Mile and Ford Road/Eureka Rd. service to Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

"We applaud SMART for their continuing work to increase coordination with DDOT and improve service," says Megan Owens, director of Transportation Riders United, a local non-profit transit advocacy group. "We appreciate their efforts to involve riders and incorporate rider ideas and suggestions into route changes and service improvements."

For details of service changes, public hearing meetings and route information, go to www.smartbus.org or call (866) 962-5515.

SMART is the regional transit system for Southeast Michigan with over 600 buses serving people in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Kids invited to enter float contest

The Parade Company and Skillman Foundation are giving kids an opportunity to be a part of the 80th celebration of America's Thanksgiving Parade through the 15th Annual Skillman Foundation Float and Balloon Design Contest.

The annual contest, made possible by a grant from the Skillman Foundation, invites students in the fifth grade and lower to submit a colorful and creative drawing of their favorite children's story, legend, song or classic fairy tale to The Parade Company.

Two students, out of the thousands of expected entries, will be selected to have their art magically transformed into a giant float or balloon and march alongside their creation down Woodward Avenue on Thanksgiving Day.

"We invite students to be a

part of this wonderful tradition and help create new and lasting memories for our Parade," said Joan LeMahieu, president of The Parade Company. "We are delighted to once again partner with The Skillman Foundation and assist kids in expressing their imagination and gain a greater interest in the arts while watching their drawings turn into larger than life creations."

Two winners, along with their creation, will be announced at The Parade Company and Skillman Foundation Press Conference

in November 2006.

Twenty additional students will be awarded with Honorable Mention Certificates. Last year's winners were Emma Cox, a home-schooled fourth-grader from Auburn Hills, and Aroma Ahmed Naeem, a third-grader from Crescent Academy International in Canton.

Submissions are due by Sept. 22. To get an application or learn more about the contest, visit www.theparade.org or call (313) 923-7400. Children up to the fifth grade are eligible to participate.

Religious leaders meet on affirmative action

Religious leaders from various faith traditions in southeastern Michigan will meet in September to discuss their opposition to a Michigan ballot proposal which will ban affirmative action.

Clergy leaders will meet 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Bethany Baptist Church, Detroit. Lay leaders will meet 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at Hope United Methodist Church, Southfield. The meetings are cosponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice - Michigan and One United Michigan.

Speakers include Rabbi Arnie Sleutberg, Imam Sayed Hassan Qazwini, Monsignor Pat Halpenny, the Rev. Samuel Bullock and Dr. Carlyle

Stewart III.

Both meetings are designed to inform leaders about the implications of the ballot proposal and discuss how it violates universal beliefs regarding social justice, according to the Rev. Dr. Dan Krichbaum, president of the National Conference for Community and Justice.

"We will empower clergy and lay leaders to educate members of their congregations about the upcoming ballot issue and how it will harm communities throughout the state," Krichbaum said. "Affirmative action is critical to ensure that all Michiganders have fair and equitable opportunities with education and business organizations."

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OUR VIEWS

Governor's race should be about issues, not attacks

The Michigan State Fair has packed up for another year. Children across the state are back in school. Stressed trees are already starting to show their fall colors.

While our glorious summer slowly comes to an end, a different season of sorts begins in earnest — election season.

The results of this year's general elections will chart the course of this state for many years to come. Starting with the governor's race and continuing through a series of critical state ballot proposals, it is an election that no resident who cares about their home state, and hometown, should miss.

With the November general elections a mere nine weeks away, it is time for the two candidates for governor to educate residents about where they stand on the issues and why they should be elected.



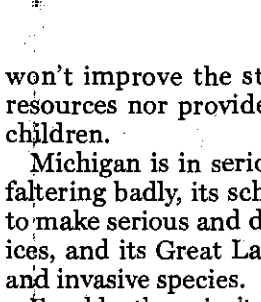
Granholm

Sadly, it is far more likely that the camps of incumbent Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Republican challenger Dick DeVos will spend the time launching personal attacks and smear campaigns against one another.

According to one recent poll, the governor's race is just about a dead heat. DeVos, who spent millions of dollars of his own money prior to the August primary building name recognition, has lost his early lead.

His campaign already is shifting away from his own platform, to discrediting the credentials of the first-term Democratic governor.

Instead of arguing who is more responsible for Michigan's severe and continuing job losses — Granholm for her failed policies and DeVos for his company's shifting of jobs to Asia — we'd like to hear what the candidates are going to do to stop the bleeding and reverse the trend.



DeVos

It's easy to play the blame game, but playing the game won't improve the state's economy, protect its natural resources nor provide a quality public education for its children.

Michigan is in serious trouble. Its primary industry is faltering badly, its schools and municipalities are having to make serious and dramatic cuts to programs and services, and its Great Lakes are under siege from pollution and invasive species.

Frankly, there isn't much great about the Great Lakes State right now. And it is going to take much more than a slew of political attack ads to solve the state's problems.

Michigan voters should demand that both candidates — and indeed their political parties — articulate what specific programs and initiatives they will support to turn the state around.

Simply providing lip service, or pointing out why we should not vote for the other person, won't get the job done.

Beyond the governor's race, the so-called Michigan Civil Rights Initiative ballot proposal has garnered the most attention, but there are other important proposals that demand voters' attention.

Two ballot proposals would guarantee funding levels for the Department of Natural Resources and K-16 public schools by amending the state Constitution. If approved, the governor and state Legislature would lose their oversight on these critical portions of the state budget, regardless of the overall economic condition of the state. Simply put, the proposals would give the two entities funding priority over the remaining state departments.

And for those who believe in the old adage that a person's home is their castle, another ballot proposal would make it more difficult for private property to be seized under the state's eminent domain law when the property would be used for a private enterprise.

The gubernatorial candidates have their work cut out for them in educating voters why they are the best person to prevent the state from slipping further into decline. But voters also need to educate themselves on the rest of the ballot so they can make well-educated decisions come Nov. 7.



LETTERS

Keeping the public safe

"The only means we have of traveling is by bus, cab or automobile, in which case he may not be able to afford (it)," said Diana Fox, in a statement she emailed to the *Observer*. "There may not be a bus or cab that would take him at the time he wished."

Fox described herself as appalled by comments made by Gregory's daughter, Anita Gillman, who has said the state of Michigan or Kosmyna's family should have been more watchful of his driving skills and should have taken away his license.

"I'm sorry for her loss," Fox said, "but (she) should not go around making cruel comments on the elderly. We will all soon be there, and then what?"

I would like to take this opportunity to address the comments Diana Fox made in the *Observer*.

Medical advancement and technology have made it so we can expect to live longer lives. This means that as baby boomers grow older, we will have many more elderly drivers on the road. I do not see any "cruelty" in expecting the law to keep the public at large safe.

We don't allow drunk drivers on the road. We suspend habitually bad drivers from the road when they have accumulated too many points to sustain their licenses. Why in the world would we allow someone — anyone — behind the wheel of a vehicle when they are a potential danger to other drivers because they are elderly?

Taking someone's license away because they turn a certain age is something no one would want nor expect. However, there is solid scientifically documented evidence that as we age, we have a diminished ability to see, hear, and respond quickly, among other things. When we can no longer function within a range of safety — it's time to hang up the keys or have them taken away.

Who should be deciding when an individual is no longer capable of operating a vehicle safely? I believe, as I stated in the last article, that adult children are the most aware of their parents' current circumstances — their ability or lack of ability to operate a large and potentially deadly machine. If not the children — certainly a neighbor, friend or their doctor. But if a person's family, friends, or doctor fail to detect the fact that they may be a danger behind the wheel, certainly it is the law that should step up and set some standards.

It is important, yes, that individuals stay as independent as possible for as long as possible. I'm sorry — I don't feel an individual's independence supersedes the safety of all other drivers on the road or innocent pedestrians. If people are living longer and require transportation, we need to address that need — not allow them to drive simply because there is little else available. We test drivers in order to grant them a driver's license, why wouldn't we test them after a certain age in order for them to keep it?

Yes, we will all grow old, and none of us like the idea of being dependent on others to get us where we need to go. But we might like less — the idea of burying someone we love because another person wanted to go to the grocery store.

Anita Gregory Gillman
Shoreham, N.Y.

She will be missed

Friends of the Museum were saddened to learn of the passing of Evelyn Prokop, a former Friend, two days too late to attend the memorial for her (obit Aug. 31, *Westland Observer*).

Evelyn came on board the newly formed Friends of the Museum organization in 1989. Her smiles and laughter were spontaneous, a fun person to be around, she helped with fund raising, adopt-a-tree-day, and assisted the historical commission with Open House on Saturdays at the museum. She often shared the past with us since she had lived in Nankin Township long before it became a city. One of our recollections was her loaning a large, jointed, antique teddy bear for the holiday displays each year.

Then one day Evelyn departed from the Friends for the lure of the Friendship Center with all of the fun activities offered there, it was the place for her to be. Last fall, seeking recipes of former Friends for our cookbook fund-raiser, Evelyn was called upon one Saturday morning to share a couple of her favorite recipes. Three hours later she arrived at the museum with two of her cookie recipes. She gets credit for fastest recipe response!

It was old home week in March when she came to the museum to purchase one of the cookbooks. Spreading her sunshine, she visited with Edna Parker, Virginia Braun, myself and others in the parlor of the farmhouse.

The last I saw of her was at the State of the City Address this year in her sharp-looking peach outfit. Now I am glad we not only spoke afterwards, but ended the conversation in a lengthy hug.

Thank you, Evelyn, for your volunteerism to your community, you will be missed by all who knew you.

Ruth Dale
member

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum

Guide disgraces Moving Wall

Fresh in our minds are the events of the everyday news of the war on terror. We are also reminded everyday of military men and women fighting for freedom. Some have given the ultimate sacrifice for "FREEDOM."

Not long ago, the Westland Festival Committee along with a number of area veterans' organizations brought in the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall. By doing so, we feel that not only does the Wall bring the families and veterans closer, but reminds us of what is going on today.

It brings me to something that angers the community of veterans and, from who I have talked to, a number of businesses, Westland City Council and the community. The edition of "SHOPPER STOPPER" publications by ACT Cent, a shopping guide advertisement paper syndicated the week of the Moving Wall June 27-July 5, 2006.

This company used pictures from previous Walls, unauthorized use of Westland Festival Committee logos and by inserting a birthday cake and logo on a picture of a Moving Wall memorial.

This to me is a disgrace to those veterans that gave their lives for freedom. I

cannot tell you how the veterans of the Wall Committee that represents 30 different veterans organizations are still furious with this disgraceful and distasteful presentation of a paper, along with area merchants, and our City Council.

This company has taken this memorial event and made it into a birthday party celebrating rather than respecting and honoring those on the Moving Wall. The Wall Committee has allocated that all profits from this event would go to both veterans hospitals — Detroit (John Dingell) and Ann Arbor hospitals — NOT Veterans Haven, as mentioned in the ACT Cent Shopper Stopper Guide by its president, Samuel J. Corrado.

I as a Vietnam veteran and a commander of VFW Post 6896 of Westland have friends not only on the WALL, but have members that are going back to Iraq to fight for freedom. I represent thousands of veterans and especially my brothers and sisters of the Vietnam veterans, merchants, and the Westland community, and surrounding cities in this note. We understand you must advertise to promote your product, which is part of doing business. "If the business hurts or insults the community heart, the community heart hurts the business."

John Welchman

Politics, school vouchers

It was gratifying to read Hugh Gallagher's editorial on politics and school vouchers. Dick DeVos has cleverly distanced himself during this campaign from the failed attempt for school vouchers. In addition, he fails to mention Amway Corporation from which his fortune came or that his wife is the former state Republican chair. All the while claiming not to be a politician. Go figure!

The funds for public schools would most certainly be negatively affected by vouchers, one of Mr. DeVos's top priorities. As you pointed out, the public schools, which must accept and educate all children, are the backbone of the democracy and must be supported by the populace.

It is important for the state's electorate to realize the hidden agenda of his candidacy for governor. You have served this purpose well with your editorial.

Janet Muir
Farmington Hills

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

"Our cafeterias will strive to only have healthy items on the menu this year. The Type A, the basic school lunch, will be all baked, nothing will be fried, and we're happy about that."

— Linda Kempton, senior executive director of business and operations, about the changes being made in the food available in Wayne-Westland's school cafeterias

WESTLAND
Observer
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

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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.

New school year, new school: New way of doing homework

It was a comment I thought I'd never hear from my son, but last Friday he loudly announced that he couldn't wait for school to start.

This comes from a child who we thought might not make it to middle school on his first try, but there he was Tuesday morning, pass in hand, boarding the bus for the roughly 10-minute ride to school.

It was almost enough to bring tears to my eyes. It wasn't all that long ago he was standing in front of the school sign, a smile on his face and his latch key tag on a piece of yarn around his neck, on his first day of kindergarten.

That day, we stood in line together, walked in together, found his hook to hang up his jacket and his seat together. We spent a few minutes getting the lay of the land and then it was time for me to go. I was dismissed with that look - Aren't you ever going to leave?

That day we started a tradition that he grudgingly shared with his sister - a photograph in front of the school sign on the first day of school. Big smiles, nice, clean clothes and backpacks weighted down with school supplies. But each year, it's become increasingly more difficult.

I've heard more than my fair share of "come on, Mom" groans from my son, more interested in reconnecting with his buddies than saying cheese for a photograph that gets sent to his grandmother by day's end. Last year, we had to do it in the driveway lest his friends see him indulging his mom in such a childish thing. Ditto for this year. But Mom is persistent, doesn't take no for an answer, and gets the photograph. Must be the journalist in me.

As I watched him board the bus, I realized how much his world has changed in the three short months since the last school year ended and how much more change is yet to come. And that thought was driven home Monday afternoon as he rifled through our box of photos, looking for snapshots - of himself, of course - to put up in his room. He and his sister spent more time asking who this was and that was in photos, laughing at the goofy ones and hearing their Uncle Jimmy tell them that those first-day-of-school photos were priceless.

I'm sure some of his excitement is the reconnecting with his buddies, especially a former soccer pal who is in five of his seven classes, but a lot of it is the fact that this is something new. Bobby can get scared about some of the most minuscule things, but throw him in a crowd of strangers and he walks out with a bazillion friends.

Mom is stepping back from the sitting for hours on end, all but doing homework, especially the math homework. I'm not the mechanical engineer my dad hoped I'd be because I decide early on math wasn't for me.

Yes, there were some jitters on registration day, but by the time we took his schedule and walked the halls from classroom to classroom, practiced opening his locker and scoping out the gym on parents night that was gone. He was excited about the prospect of showing his dad his new school and didn't mind that his sister tagged along, although he did stress to her that this was HIS school. Unfortunately, only for one year. She moves over there next fall.

My concern about opening his locker went poof when he opened it on the second try. He introduced himself to all of his teachers and even admitted to one teacher that he didn't like social studies, only to hear that if he didn't like it now, he would by the end of the class. I could tell by the look on his face that the teacher had already tweaked his interest.

I hope his excitement carries over beyond the first day. A friend described her son's first year of middle school as his turn-around year, and I hope it's the same for Bobby. He's the child who bombs out in class, but somehow manages to pull it together and meet state standards on the MEAP.

Usually, the first few weeks of school are a struggle as we re-establish his school routine. Last week, I took time to create my homework drawer - paper, pencils, rulers, a good eraser and the all-important math book, all the things he and his sister will need to do their homework, with emphasis on *their*.

Mom is stepping back from the sitting for hours on end, all but doing homework, especially the math homework. I'm not the mechanical engineer my dad hoped I'd be because I decide early on math wasn't for me. I did my time in the trenches, did my homework and managed decent grades. Now it's time for my son - and my daughter - to do the same.

I will offer assistance in helping where I can, but any work that goes out the door will be their work, not mine, not my husband's. It won't be easy, so I'm really hoping my friend is right. That sixth grade will be the turn-around year ... for all of us.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. If you have a comment, send it to smason@hometownlife.com.



Sue Mason

LETTERS

No McCotter, no more!

Recently, the *Observer & Eccentric* advertised "Congressman to hold office hours," this being our own Congressman Thaddeus McCotter.

I was excited to go and meet with my elected representative of the U.S. Congress to discuss my concerns about issues such as health care, and the economy. However, much to my dismay, Thaddeus was not present at the Bailey Center in Westland. In his place was an intern who appeared to be either unable or unwilling to listen and discuss my very sincere concerns.

This encounter has been sadly very reflective of OUR representation in the short time that McCotter has been the district's representative in Congress. Over the last four years, he has been DETACHED from the concerns and needs of his constituency. While our economy continues to suffer due to Bush's economic policies, McCotter has continued to side with BIG BUSINESS and SPECIAL INTERESTS.

TONY TRUPIANO is a new independent voice that is in touch with the demands and concerns of the 11th Congressional District. Unlike Thaddeus, Tony has taken the time to speak with his neighbors throughout this district. While going door-to-door, he took the time to sit down with my elderly mother and myself and carefully listened and heard our thoughts and views.

Tony is genuinely concerned about the condition of this district and state. Tony Trupiano knows what needs to be done, and he knows how to get results. That is why both, my mother and I will be voting for Tony Trupiano on Nov. 7. Please join us.

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

MHSAA should give up fight

Enough is enough. After eight long years and not one win, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) should practice the good sportsmanship it preaches and give girls the equal opportunities they deserve.

Last Wednesday, just after the Sixth Circuit ruled for the second time that MHSAA discriminates against young women and violates the Constitution, Title IX and state law by scheduling girls' sports in off seasons, MHSAA defiantly vowed to ask the full court to rehear the case. The law and the facts are stacked against MHSAA, but it refuses to end its discrimination and do what is best for the girls of Michigan.

In light of MHSAA's vow to ask the full Sixth Circuit Court to rehear the case, we appeal to you to write about why MHSAA's prolonging of this battle is bad for girls and Michigan

schools.

Following are some of the facts: There is no question that MHSAA is discriminating against girls and violating the Constitution, Title IX and state law. The district court and the Sixth Circuit (twice) ruled against MHSAA. The association now is simply stalling and asking the Sixth Circuit to rehear the case on a technical legal question that does not relate to whether the scheduling of girls' sports in nontraditional seasons is discriminatory.

Schools are required by law to provide equal educational opportunities for boys and girls. Scheduling only girls' sports in nontraditional seasons violates the law and hurts girls' opportunities to obtain college scholarships and reach their potential as athletes.

MHSAA is the last state in the country where the major girls' sports (basketball and volleyball) are played in nontraditional seasons.

At one time, several states around the country scheduled young women's sports in off seasons. All have settled cases or voluntarily decided to treat girls the same way they treat boys and allow them to play sports in the appropriate seasons.

This case began in 1998 when Communities for Equity sued MHSAA for scheduling six girls' sports - and no boys' sports - in nontraditional seasons, resulting in significant harm to girls.

For example, because they are scheduled to play volleyball in the winter, Michigan girls can't play club volleyball due to MHSAA-imposed restrictions on dual participation. As a result, girls lose out on valuable skill-building opportunities, as well as opportunities to be recruited by college coaches at club events.

After trial in 2001, the district court held that MHSAA's scheduling of girls' seasons violated Title IX, the United States Constitution and Michigan state law. The Sixth Circuit in 2004 upheld the district court's decision on the constitutional claim, finding it unnecessary to rule on the Title IX or state law issues. MHSAA appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which last year remanded the case back to the Sixth Circuit and asked the court to consider whether girls can sue under the Constitution in addition to Title IX.

Even after repeated decisions in the girls' favor, MHSAA has continued to appeal, which has denied countless numbers of Michigan girls the opportunities they deserve. It's high time for MHSAA to stop stalling and ensure equity for all students in its athletics programs.

Marcia D. Greenberger
co-president,
National Women's Law Center



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Jewish groups host 'ballot box' forums

"What You Need to Know At The Ballot Box" will be the focus of two electoral forums to be held from 7-9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, and Tuesday, Oct. 3, at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills.

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Council and the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section, in partnership with a host of local Jewish organizations, the programs are designed to prepare the Jewish community to make informed decisions prior to casting their votes.

Detroit News columnist Laura Berman will serve as moderator for the Sept. 18 Candidates Forum, where a

group of candidates will present their platforms and participate in a panel discussion. Candidates from the governor's race and the U.S. Senate and U.S. Representative races have been invited, along with candidates for the Michigan 13th District Senate race and Michigan 39th District House race.

Brian Dickerson, columnist at the *Detroit Free Press*, will serve as moderator for the Oct. 3 Ballot Initiatives Forum, where spokespersons for three ballot proposals will present their positions.

The program will explore: The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), a ballot proposal to amend the state constitution to ban all state-

sponsored affirmative action programs; The Stop Overspending Initiative (SOS), a proposal to cap state spending at the rate of inflation and tied into population growth; and the K-16 Proposal which would require annual funding increases equal to inflation for K-12 public schools, state-funded community colleges, and universities.

For more information about the forums, contact the Jewish Community Council at (248) 642-5393, Ext. 0, or the National Council of Jewish Women at (248) 355-3300, Ext. 0.

Adat Shalom is located at 29901 Middlebelt, south of Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

Mystery writer given Author Award

The Michigan Center for the Book today announced Steve Hamilton as the winner of the 2006 Michigan Author Award. Sponsored jointly by the Michigan Center for the Book (a program of the Library of Michigan) and the Michigan Library Association, this annual award honors a Michigan writer for his or her contributions to literature, based on an outstanding published body of work.

Steve Hamilton's first novel, *A Cold Day In Paradise*, won the Edgar Allan Poe Award, one of the mystery genre's most prestigious awards. That book introduced Alex McKnight, a reluctant private investigator living in the small town of Paradise, Mich. Hamilton has won several other awards since then and his books are now translated into 12 languages. *A Stolen Season*, the seventh book in the McKnight series, is scheduled for release in early September 2006.

"It's always a delight to pay tribute to one of our state's true literary treasures with the Michigan Author Award," said Michigan Center for the

Book coordinator Karren Reish. "Steve Hamilton has stayed true to his Great Lakes roots and manages to affectionately weave pieces of Michigan into his always entertaining storytelling."

Hamilton was born and raised in the Detroit area and graduated from the University of Michigan, where he won the prestigious Hopwood Award for fiction. He currently lives in New York's Hudson Valley with his family. "I'm still a Michigan boy at heart," he said. "I can't even tell you what this award means to me. It feels like the whole state is calling me back home, to let me know I did something worth celebrating. It's overwhelming."

The Michigan Author Award will be presented at the Michigan Library Association conference in Detroit on Friday, Oct. 13, as part of the Author Award luncheon. Tickets are available from the Michigan Library Association at <http://www.mla.lib.mi.us/>.

A panel of judges representing Michigan librarians and the Michigan Center for the Book chooses the recipient of the Michigan Author

Award, based on overall literary merit. For more information on the Michigan Author Award, please see <http://michigan.gov/mcfb> or <http://www.mla.lib.mi.us/units/committee/maac/index.html>.

Previous winners of the Michigan Author Award include Christopher Paul Curtis (2005), Patricia Polacco (2004), Diane Wakoski (2003), Nicholas Delbanco (2002), Thomas Lynch (2001), Janie Lynn Panagopoulos (2000), Jerry Dennis (1999), Gloria Whelan (1998), Loren Estleman (1997), Elmore Leonard (1996), Janet Kauffman (1995), Nancy Willard (1994), Charles Baxter (1993) and Dan Gerber (1992).

The Michigan Center for the Book, a program of the Library of Michigan and the center's affiliates, aims to promote an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and Michigan's rich literary heritage. New affiliates are welcome. For more information about the Michigan Center for the Book and its programs, visit www.michigan.gov/mcfb.

Group planning trip to 'Air Zoo'

The Detroit Historical Society and the Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society are sponsoring a train trip to the Kalamazoo Aviation Museum better known as the Air Zoo. The one-day excursion on Saturday, Oct. 21, departs Birmingham and Dearborn aboard Amtrak's morning train *The Wolverine*, and returns on the afternoon *aboard The Wolverine*.

The Air Zoo's new main building has 85 historic aircraft dating from the 1903 Wright Brothers Flyer replica to modern jets, including the enormous Lockheed SR-71B Blackbird spy plane, which flew three times the speed of sound.

Besides many civilian airplanes, there are World War I, World War II and later American, British, German, Japanese and Russian "war birds." The temporary exhibit "Aerial Paintings by Sy Ellen" provides a view of how birds see the landscape below. The Air Zoo's many attractions include flight simulators enabling visitors to "fly" a jet fighter or space travel aboard the Space Shuttle. And you can view the Kalamazoo International/Battle Creek Airport runways from the old hangar at the Air Zoo, which is the 10th largest U.S. aviation museum.

A shuttle bus to the Air



The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Detroit Historical Society are sponsoring a train trip to the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum, known as the Air Zoo.

Zoo will be provided. The visit takes at least two hours and for aviation enthusiasts it could take four.

Downtown, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts has "Fish to Fowl: Animals in Art," a temporary exhibit from the KIA's collection.

The Air Zoo express departs Birmingham at 6:53 a.m. and Dearborn at 7:45 a.m. aboard Amtrak's morning arriving in Kalamazoo at 10:24 a.m. The return departs Kalamazoo at 4:45 p.m. arriving back in Dearborn at 7:22 p.m. and Birmingham at 8:17 p.m.

Adult tickets include the \$19.50 Air Zoo admission and if ordered before Sept. 8 are \$79 and \$85 thereafter. Children ages 2-15 are \$57

before Sept. 8 and \$63 after. Ticket orders must be placed by Thursday, Oct. 19. Order early, since these Detroit Historical Society-Bluewater Amtrak trips sell out quickly.

For more information and to order tickets using VISA, MasterCard or Discover cards, call the Bluewater Chapter at (248)541-1000 or (800)594-5162 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Or send by mail to Post Office Box 296, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0296 making checks available to the Bluewater Chapter, NRHS. More information available on at www.bluewaternrhs.com, www.airzoo.com or www.detroithistorical.org.

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Fall Color Tour Getaways Lodging from \$130 per night Join us for northern Michigan's spectacular autumn color season. Local attractions include chairlift rides, Benzie County's Fall Fest, self-guided winery tours, scenic drives and much more.	Spooktacular Family Weekend Two nights from \$130 per person October 20-22 and 27-29 These spooky Halloween getaways include hayrides, Haunted Forest, trick-or-treating, chairlift rides, bonfires and a gaggle of other spooky delights!

Stay free valid any time in October, 2006, excluding October 14, 2006. Buy two consecutive nights of lodging or a two-night package and receive your third night of lodging of equal or lesser value. Rates based on double occupancy and are subject to taxes and resort fee. *Valid midweek thru October 27 and weekends beginning on September 29, 2006. **Double whirlpool rooms subject to availability. ***Up to three children 17 and under stay free when sharing accommodations with two adults.

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'Wasted Spaces'

Local family clears clutter for TV show

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Theresa Voyles stood at the entrance of her dining room, in awe of its transformation in just a day and a half.

"All of my life was partitioned in this room," said the Farmington Hills woman, as she pointed to empty spaces where her scrapbooking supplies, her Mary Kay products, business-related papers and more, were once piled up.

She stood in her large Briar Hill Drive back yard, where many of her family's belongings had been transferred from the basement, onto large, blue tarps on the ground and sorted into categories.

And, it wasn't a yard sale. This organizational wonder happened this week to the Voyles family, compliments of the DIY Network and RivrMedia.

A camera crew, construction workers from Ann Arbor's Paul Davis Restoration, Andrew J. Mellen, a Detroit-area native and an organizational expert, and DIY Network host Karl Champley, converged on the Voyles ranch home Aug. 27, with less than 24 hours notice.

The Voyles were informed Aug. 26 they won the DIY Network contest, "America's Biggest Pack Rat," and will be featured in a 1-hour special premier of the DIY Network's *Wasted Spaces*, a new show that

helps everyday people get organized and get rid of clutter. The premier will air in February.

GOING FOR IT

Tom Voyles and his sons, Alexander, 9, and Zachary, 5, saw the commercial for the contest and they knew they had a shot at winning.

"We saw it and I said, 'This is mama — we've got to do this,'" Tom said.

The trio secretly made a video without Theresa's knowledge, documenting the clutter in their basement and other rooms of the house. Tom and Theresa, like many couples, have held onto things they don't use or need anymore. They've inherited boxes and boxes of items from family members and have allowed others to store stuff at their large home.

"I'm bad, too, but she is the queen," said Tom, about being a pack rat. The couple will soon celebrate 13 years of marriage.

TONS OF STUFF

Karl Champley, *Wasted Spaces* host, said the Voyles home is cluttered, but it's not the worst he has seen.

"These guys have a lot of stuff," said Champley, who also hosts *DIY to the Rescue*.

In the end, they'll appreciate all the help, he said.

"They will be very tired and they'll be really excited that they'll be able to see all of the parts of their home when we're

finished," said Champley, who noted the Voyles are participating every step of the way in this Do It Yourself project.

Normally, the crew works with homeowners on one project or one room of the home, Champley said. But, the Voyles are getting the royal treatment. Their 1,800-square-foot basement, their garage, dining room, a section of the kitchen area and the boys' bedroom are being transformed into clutter-free zones for the special 1-hour show.

Theresa said she didn't know where to start with various organizational projects, because something else would always need to be done before an organizational project could start.

LETTING GO

Seeing her stuff fly out of the house and into a Dumpster on Monday took a little getting used to.

"I think it was kind of a shock," she said, with tears in her eyes. "We're just so grateful; everyone here is so amazing. They're not just here to do a show. It's very touching."

Theresa admits she has a hard



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Voyles family, of Farmington Hills, was picked to be featured on the DIY Network's new show, *Wasted Spaces*. The show's host, Karl Champley, on right, works with Tom Voyles on a project in their driveway while the camera crew films the action.

time throwing things away.

"It's kind of in my family to save things," said Theresa, who is an optometrist for Dubin Optometric in downtown Farmington.

But, with organizational expert Andrew Mellen by her side, she was getting pretty good at tossing stuff out.

"Going through it with someone else really helps," she said.

Especially if that someone is a true expert.

"They have a lot of stuff," Mellen said. "I've certainly seen worse, but they have a decent-sized home and a lot of stuff

inside the home."

He suggested putting "like with like" items — organizing the stuff into categories such as tools, office, seasonal decor, etc.

Purging old items is a must.

"You have to know how to decide what to keep and what to let go," he said. "You have to be clear about what you're keeping and why, so you're not stuck in a broken memory loop."

Mellen said disassociating old items from loved ones is a good thing, and the outcome is always a relief.

"It's hard," he said. "First, they're enthusiastic, then pan-

icky, then emotional, then there's a feeling of liberation and exhilaration. Then, the things just start flying out of the house."

Tom Voyles, who is an enthusiastic participant in the project, said he's so glad they won the contest.

"It's going to change our lives forever," he said.

The crew will check in on the Voyles periodically to see if they practice their new-found organizational skills after the crew is gone.

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2131

College Night is Oct. 4

Area high school students and their families can investigate the programs of approximately 65 colleges and universities during Schoolcraft College's annual College Night on Wednesday, Oct. 4. The event is free.

The schools, primarily from Michigan and the Midwest, will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on degrees, fields of study, admission requirements, cost and extracurricular activities. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Physical

Education Building on the Livonia campus and continues until 8:30 p.m.

A sample of in-state schools attending includes Michigan State University, Central, Western, Northern and Eastern Michigan universities, Adrian and Albion colleges, Ferris State, the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses, Lawrence Tech, and Wayne State University.

For more information, call (734) 462-4426.

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dementia Diary talk

The Friends of Madonna University Library will host author Robert Tell discussing his book, "Dementia Diary: A Caregiver's Journal," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Madonna University Library. Tell, a resident of Farmington Hills, tells the story of an only son and his mother as they cope with her descent into dementia. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Toys and Trains

Ss. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and-swap, toys and trains show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer, one mile west of Merriman, one mile north of Michigan Avenue. There will be approximately 150 Dealer tables available at \$10 each. There will also be operating train layouts. Dealers will begin setting up at 9 a.m. on the day of the show. To reserve a table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. The public is welcome; admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family.

Genealogical Society talk

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets on Monday, Sept. 18, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. At 6:30 p.m. will be a video, "Finding A Maiden Name," and, at 7:30 p.m., the program called "Understanding Migration and Immigrant Communities," will be led by keynote speaker Cecil Jensen. Visit the group's Web site is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miwccs/> or call Margie at (734) 522-4050. Meeting, class, and program are free of charge and open to the public; guests are welcome.

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 3-3:30 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 Friday 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.

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 50. 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/PlymouthCantonVA 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) 485-3D21 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capiliberators/.

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 Venoxy 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.

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

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.

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATUS OF
YEAR XXXI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
AND SUBMISSION OF THE CAPERS
(July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006)**

The City of Westland will be holding two (2) public hearings on the status of its Year XXXI Community Development Block Grant and HOME program. The first is the Monday, September 18, 2006, meeting of the Westland City Council in the Council Chambers at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan. The second is Thursday, September 21, 2006, at the City of Westland Community Development Citizen's Advisory Committee at 7:00 pm at the Dorsey Community Center at 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive questions and comments on the Year XXXI Community Development Block Grant and HOME projects and programs for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2006. All interested persons, especially LOW AND MODERATE INCOME PERSONS, SENIOR CITIZENS, COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS AND MINORITIES are encouraged to attend. In addition, written comments may be received at the Mayor's Office at the Westland City Hall or the Office of Community Housing and Community Development, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186. Oral questions and comments, as well as written comments will be received on the following Year XXXI projects:

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS
EXPENDED FOR PERIOD FISCAL 2005/2006**

Project	Status	Amount
C.D. Administration	Annual, Completed	\$244,208
Rehabilitation Administration	Annual, Completed	\$166,846
Housing Rehabilitation	Annual, Completed	\$110,689
Senior Programs	Annual, Completed	\$181,000
NSA Transportation Program	Annual, Completed	\$2,973
Hegira Programs	Annual, Completed	\$11,343
First Step	Annual, Completed	\$5,000
Youth Assistance Program	Annual, Completed	\$30,000
Friendship Center Section 108 Loan	Annual, Completed	\$34,847
Fire Education/Code Enforcement	Annual, Completed	\$17,500
Carver Sub. Mass Grading	Project Underway	\$21,197
Outreach Ordinance/Code Compliance	Annual, Completed	\$91,000
Carver Sub Fire Station Section 108 Loan	Annual, Completed	\$92,635
Neighborhood Resource/Code Compliance Officer	Annual, Completed	\$70,000
Norwayne Watermain Phase VII	Project Underway	\$34,000
Dorsey Park	Project Underway	\$11,818
Cayley East Park	Project Underway	\$13,495
Rehabilitation Code Enforcement	Annual Completed	\$8,017
Fire Dept. Emergency Extraction Equip.	Project Completed	\$50,400
Pointe West Apts/Fire Hydrants	Project Completed	\$26,248
Firefighter Park Playground Equipment	Project Underway	\$12,750
TOTAL CDBG EXPENDITURES YEAR XXXI PROGRAM		\$1,225,965.00

HOME FUNDS EXPENDED FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD 2005/2006

HOME Administration	Annual Completed	\$35,311
Peoples=Community Hope for Homes, Inc. (CHDO Set-aside)	Program Year Completed	\$59,003
HomeBuyer Program	Program Year Completed	\$11,239
Veterans haven Transitional Housing	Project Completed	\$10,000
Our Saviour's Manor Senior Apartments	Project Completed	\$15,000
Rental Rehabilitation Program	Program Year Completed	\$247,421
Liberty Hill Scattered Site Group Home Rehabilitation	Program Underway	\$11,299
TOTAL HOME EXPENDITURES YEAR XXXI PROGRAM		\$389,273

Total program income received into the Federal Reporting System for the Year XXXI CDBG Program is \$79,000.

Total program income received into the Federal Reporting System for the Year XXXI HOME Program is \$14,269.

*All financial data is subject to final reconciliation and audit adjustments.

In conjunction with reviewing the progress of Year XXXI Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs, the City will be submitting its annual CAPERS to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on September 28, 2006. The draft CAPERS will be available for review and comment during the period September 13, 2006 through September 27, 2006 (15 day comment period) in the Office of Housing and Community Development, Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. All written comments, if requested, will be forwarded to the Detroit District Office of HUD.

James Gilbert, Director
Housing and Community Development

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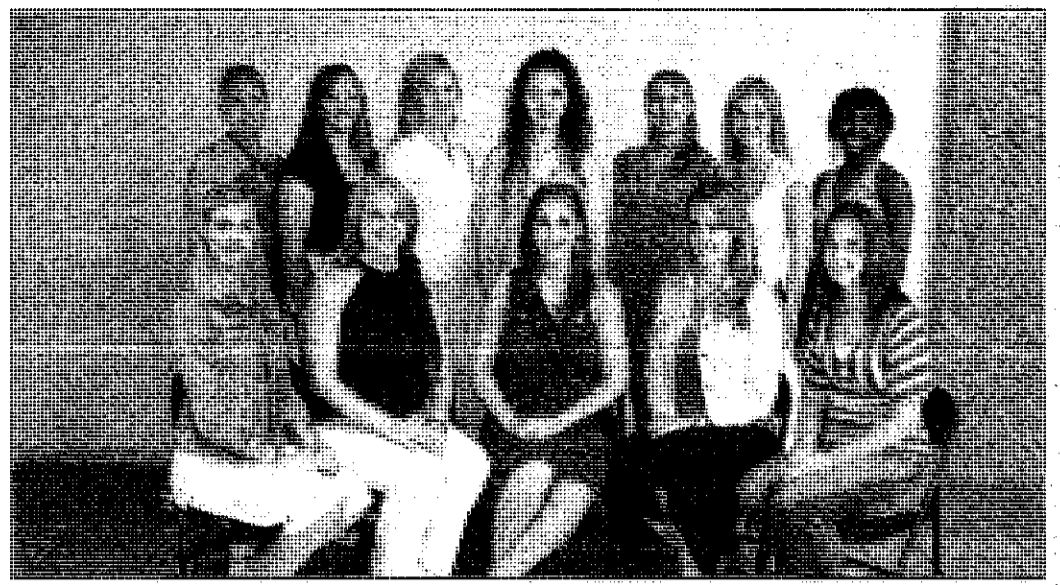
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Miss Wayne County

The 2006 Miss Wayne County Scholarship Program, 'Down on the Bayou,' will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, in the main auditorium at Churchill High School in Livonia. Tickets are \$15 at the door and a portion of ticket sales will be donated to Churchill's Creative and Performing Arts program (CAPA) which helps put on the program. Twelve contestants from all over the metro Detroit area will vie for the crown in five phases of competition: interview, talent, evening wear, swimsuit and onstage interview. Seated L to R: Nicole Blaszczyk of Novi; Jill Tremoni of Westland; Gina Valo, Miss Wayne County 2005, of Dearborn; Katie Lorenz of Plymouth; Kim Rutkowski of Canton. Standing L to R: Abby Brennan of Westland; Erica Andrus of Dearborn; Christina Hastie of Dearborn; Holly Hofsess of Westland; Leah Potvin of Wayne; Alicia Jaros of Riverview; Velon Willis of Romulus. Not pictured Kandace Carr of Westland. For more information about the Miss Wayne County Scholarship Program, please visit www.misswayneco.com.

Families sought for exchange students

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester and year program homestays, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) Executive Director, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it is a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has students from Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Macedonia, Hungary,

Korea, Mexico, Australia, Yugoslavia, China, and many other countries. P.I.E. is also participating in two special government-funded programs to bring scholarship students from the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union as well as predominantly Islamic countries such as Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar to the U.S. P.I.E. is a non-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 students from 45 countries since its founding in 1975. Wayne County area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at (866) 546-1402.

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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. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

SEPTEMBER

Laugh out loud

Guest comedian is Nazareth 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets \$5. Free child care. Presented by Single Point (age 30 and older). Call (248) 374-5920.

Mom2Mom sale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church and School in Redford. Admission \$1 per adult. Strollers welcome. If you are interested in renting a table at the sale, there are still some available. Call (313) 415-1977.

Bicycling group

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, take I-275 south to Exit 1A (South Huron Road), east on Huron to park entrance, south to Washago Pond. Single Point (age 30 and older) 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 at (248) 374-5920.

Mom2Mom sale

Table renters wanted for sale 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Garden City First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman at Maplewood. \$1 admission. Bake sale. Cost is \$25 for 6-ft. table, \$30 for 8-ft. table. Call Rhonda Harris for rental reservations or more information (734) 532-7818 or send e-mail to Harrisar@aol.com.

Family festival

Begins with a picnic at noon Saturday, Sept. 9, at First Baptist Church of Wayne, 36125 Glenwood, between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Highlights include a classic car show, live music, games, moonwalk, face painting, soap box derby cars, hay rides, ice cream novelties, and much more for all ages. Come meet the new pastor Phil DiLernia. The festival is free and all are invited. For more information, call (734) 721-7410.

Vendors wanted

For Yard and Craft Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Denton Faith United Methodist Church, 6020 Denton, Belleville. Space available indoors and outdoors. Call (734) 941-2378 or (734) 495-0811.

GriefShare

A free recovery seminar and support group begins 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at Romulus Wesleyan Church, 37300 Goddard at Huron River Drive. Call (734) 941-1511 or (734) 941-1670. For more information, visit www.griefshare.org.

Remembrance service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Levee, Redford, will hold a service of prayer, music, and scripture 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, marking the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country. Please join us in worshipping our Lord and Savior as we commemorate/remember lives that were lost and place ourselves in God's hands. Any questions, call (313) 937-2415, or e-mail jmanor@hosannatabor.org.

Spirituality of aging

A look at our spirituality and our purpose in life now, at this age and time, with Sister Arlene Kosmatka, O.P. beginning 9:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950.

Ladies Bible studies

Begin Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600. Women of the Word offer the Life Change Study of the book of Genesis by NavPress 9:30-11:15 a.m. (\$15 registration fee includes interdenominational materials and free child care for ages through 5, and a study of the Patriarchs by Beth Moor 6:45-8:15 p.m. (\$20 fee and no child care).

Lay Caregiver program

Register by Sept. 13 for program with Dr. Paul Melrose, executive director of Samaritan Counseling Center, who discusses what is the safe and appropriate sense of space and distance between people 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$10. Call (248) 474-4701 or send e-mail to info@samaritancounselingmichigan.com.

Yard sale

Various tables of goodies including used household items, miscellaneous items and specialties such as Avon, candles, tools, houseplants and crafts of all kinds 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a used clothing sale inside the church for \$1 a bag (plastic grocery). For information, call (734) 722-1735.

Monthly breakfast meeting

Bethany Suburban West meets Saturday, Sept. 16, at Leon's Family Dining, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. Bethany Suburban West is a Catholic

organization providing peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian denominations. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479 for information.

Brunch praise and worship

Fall Into The Arms Of Jesus with speaker Robin Sullivan at Brunch, Praise & Worship, Fellowship 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Sheraton Hotel on Haggerty, Novi. \$18 per person by Sept. 8. \$22 at the door if available. Order at Robinsullivan.com or by phone at (248) 921-5453. Limited seating.

Community picnic

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at New Beginning United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Join in the fellowship, fun, games, and food. For information, call (313) 255-6330.

Victorian tea

ROC International Church of Northville will again be sponsoring a Breakfast Tea to celebrate Northville's Victorian Festival 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. A delicious breakfast, the finest teas and an atmosphere of genteel friendship will set the tone for this year's inspirational message of faith. Beginning this season, the Tea introduces the series, A Victorian Romance. The Proposal will be the first of a three part journey of romance and love. Subsequent teas will highlight The Wedding (2007) and finally A New Life Together (2008). Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at Northville's Victorian Shop, Northville Chamber of Commerce, La Corsetiere or by calling (248) 982-7489. Victorian Dress is optional.

Rummage sale

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Sept. 18-19, at St. Mel's Church activity building, 7506 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (734) 425-0732.

Re-marriage retreat

Remarried Ministries present a weekend getaway to Maranatha Retreat and Conference Center in Muskegon Sept. 22-24. Cost is \$299 per couple and includes two nights lodging, five meals, speakers Brent and Bonnie Keen, music by Bonnie Keen. Campfires, fun and fellowship. Remarried couples can call (248) 374-5912.

Religious education

Registration now being accepted for children's religious education on Sundays, sessions begin Sept. 24, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950. Attend 9:30 a.m. Mass as a family on Sunday followed by separate education sessions for children and adults that runs until noon.

Mom2Mom sale

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Garden City First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman at Maplewood. \$1 admission. Bake sale. Call (734) 421-8628.

Mom to Mom Sale

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 30, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne and Newburg, Livonia. If you are interested in renting a table at the sale call (734) 422-0149. Infant to pre-teen clothes, maternity clothes, furniture, toys and more. \$2 admission. Strollers welcome.

Catholic programs

You've been coming to Catholic liturgies for years with your spouse, but just haven't taken the plunge to become Catholic yourself. The opportunity has arrived at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington road, Livonia. Sept. 5th sees the start of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for those who would like to become Catholic. Call David Conrad, Director of Faith Formation, at (734) 425-5950 to discuss your conversion journey and begin formal entrance into the Catholic Church.

Remarried workshop

Continues 7-8:15 p.m. Wednesdays to Dec. 13, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. This course is a must for any couples thinking about remarriage or already remarried. We can assist couples in blending families, parenting issues, communications, and finances. Call (248) 374-7400 for more information. No charge. Come for 1 session or all 13.

Prosperity program

Stretton Smith's 4 T Prosperity Program continues 8 p.m. Wednesdays to Nov. 22, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Sign-up fee including book is \$35. Call (734) 421-1760.

Bible study

Explore the Gospel of Mark, chapters 8:22 to 16:8 Thursdays for eight weeks beginning Sept. 7, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950.

Divorce recovery program

Continues 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays to Sept. 28, and Oct. 19 to Dec. 4, (no workshop Thanksgiving Day), presented by Single Place Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Northville. For information, call (248) 349-0911.

St. John Bosco Church celebrates its 50th anniversary with a 11 a.m. Mass Sunday, Oct. 1, with Adam Cardinal Maida presiding, reception follows the mass in Sheltreau Hall, 12100 Beech Daly, Redford. For more information, call (313) 937-9690.

Blood drive

The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, in the Parish Hall at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins are welcome. Call (734) 464-1222, Ext. 309.

Parish mission

7 p.m. Sunday-Thursdays, Oct. 8-12, at St. John Bosco Church, 12100 Beech Daly, Redford. Refreshments follow in Social Hall. Rev. Richard Hart OFM Cap. presents Sharing the Good News. Sunday evenings topic is What is the Treasure We Share?, Monday - Too Good a Secret to be Kept, Tuesday - Do You Love Me?, Wednesday - Are we a Forgiving Community? (reconciliation service), and Thursday - A Work that Cannot Fail. For more information, call (313) 937-9690.

Crafters needed

Riverside Park Church of God is sponsoring a craft bazaar Oct. 21 at the church, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. If you would like to purchase a table for this event, contact the church office to register at (734) 464-0990.

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

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a non-denominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.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.

Bible and playtime

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

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.

Worship schedule

New schedule continues to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 3, summer worship, coffee hour follows in Fellowship Hall. Sunday school has been canceled 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, 6500 N. Wayne Rd. at Hunter, 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.

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.

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 be open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Worship services

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

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 at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

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

Detroit World Outreach

A 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.adat-shalom.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.

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 afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong

The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid the 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.

Community Bible study

Studying the Book of Proverbs, breakfast 7 a.m. or Bible study 8-9 a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779.

Contemporary service

New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620.

Trinity Episcopal Church

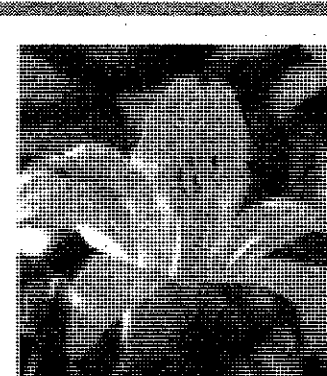
Trinity worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

New contemporary service

9 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

Prayer group

Join in 7 p.m. Thursdays for music, singing, prayer and friendship at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Come to the back of the church, enter entrance No. 2. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.



In Memory Of

IN MEMORY OF KITTY DAVENPORT

To: Friends of Kitty Davenport

A celebration of Kitty's life will be held at: 11:00 a.m. on Saturday September 9, 2006

Cranbrook House
380 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI

In her memory, Kitty's family has established the Kitty Davenport Memorial Fund to benefit the Brookside School Children's Garden. Contributions may be made by check, Visa or Mastercard. Make checks payable to Cranbrook Schools with designation to the Kitty Davenport Memorial Fund. If paying by credit card, please include your card number, expiration date and signature. Contributions may be mailed to:

Cranbrook Schools
Office of Advancement
P.O. Box 801
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0801

MICHAEL CHEREPKO

Age 88, of White Valley, PA, died Monday, August 29, 2006. Survived by his loving family; 2 daughters Judy (Tom) Ferko of Canton, MI and Jackie (John) Planc of White Valley; four grandchildren Vicki (Kevin) Rennells and children Henry and Dennis of Plymouth, MI, Susan (Wayne) Sourbeck and children Kylie and Lauren of Canton, MI, Melanie (Tim) Stetzer and children Emily and Steven of Plym and John Jr. (Elaine) Planc and daughter Mary of Greensburg, PA. Arrangements by the Wolfe-von Geis Funeral Home, Export, PA.

TIMOTHY FORMIGAN

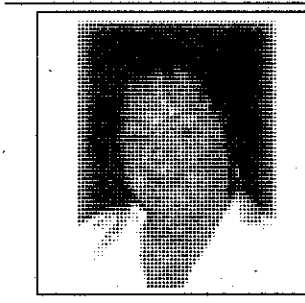
"Sensei Tim". Age 59. September 2, 2006. Beloved husband of Colleen "Connie". Dear father of Naomi (Jeremy) Palmer and Andreas. A funeral service was held September 6th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Westland. Arrangement handled by Hackett-Metcalf Funeral Home, Dearborn, MI.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

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MARY "EILEEN" BEAUDOIN

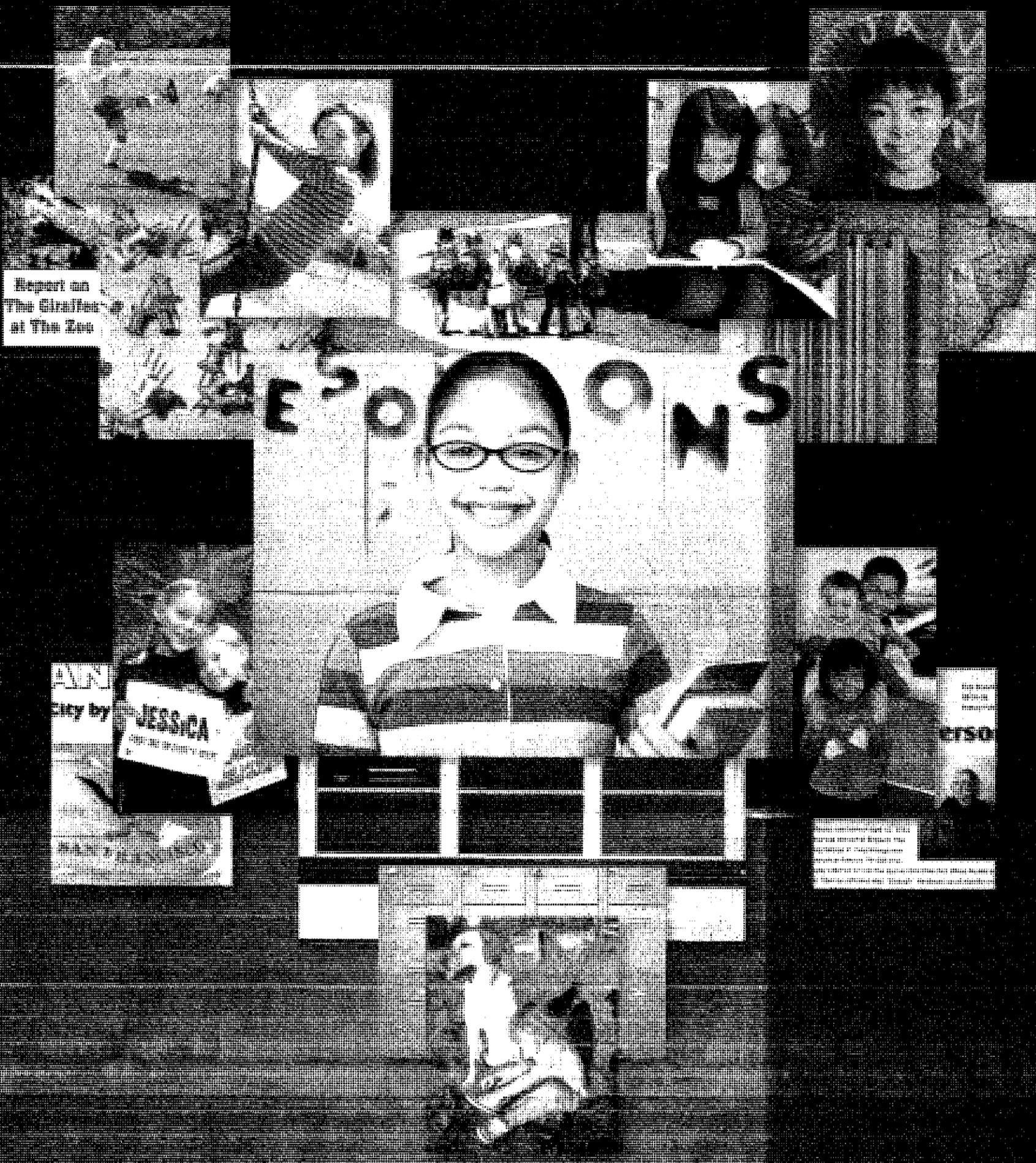
October 31, 1940 - September 3, 2006. Age 65 of Livonia, MI. Beloved wife of the late Thomas H. Beaudoin. Loving mother of Thomas (Kathy), James (Sherry), Jack, Patrick (Karen), David, and Eileen (Gary) Billings. Dearest grandmother to 11 grandchildren. Sister of the late Margaret King, the late Thomas Brown, Justine (Donald) Mullett, the late Walter Brown, the late Albert (Marcy) Brown, and Patrick (Babe) Brown. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Mom was a great person who deeply loved her children, grandchildren and family. She will be in our thoughts daily and will be greatly missed.

RICHARD WILLIAM PARENT

Age 52, September 5, 2006. Beloved husband of Kathleen (McDonald). Father of Gregory, Matthew, Teresa. Son of Richard S. and Terry Parent. Son-in-law of Duncan and Alice McDonald. Brother of Mary (Doug) Biding, (Gary) Norden, Steven (Eileen) Parent, Thomas (Cheryl) Parent, and Joseph (Suzanne) Parent. Brother-in-law of Ruth (Terry) Olexy, Sue (Roger) Bessler. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Lifelong friend of many, especially his childhood friend David Levitan. Family will receive visitors Wednesday 5:30-9 and Thursday 1-9 with a Scripture Service at 7 pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Funeral Mass will be Friday, instate 9:30 am until the time of Mass 10:00 am at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials are appreciated to the family. Interment Glen Eden Memorial park.

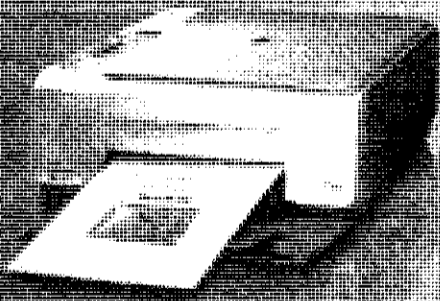
PHYLLIS JEAN FARR

Age 80, of St. Clair and San Diego, died July 3 in California. She was born May 13, 1926, in Findlay, Ohio, to Edward and Caroline Keiser. She married John Farr on February 14, 1948. Jean is survived by her husband John



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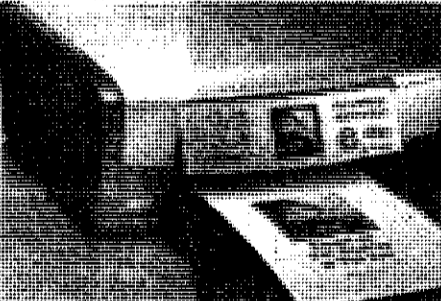
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Prints, copies, scans and faxes. Includes HP Easy Copy and Easy Scan. It's the HP's fastest All-in-One. \$199**

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