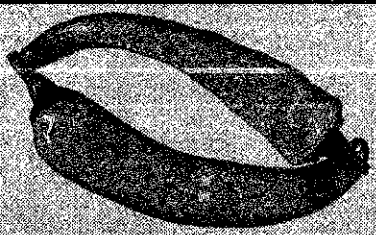


128
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pink PAGE - D8



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HOMETOWN LIFE - D1



Geeked about
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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
September 28, 2006

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Judge rules smoke shop owner was entrapped

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

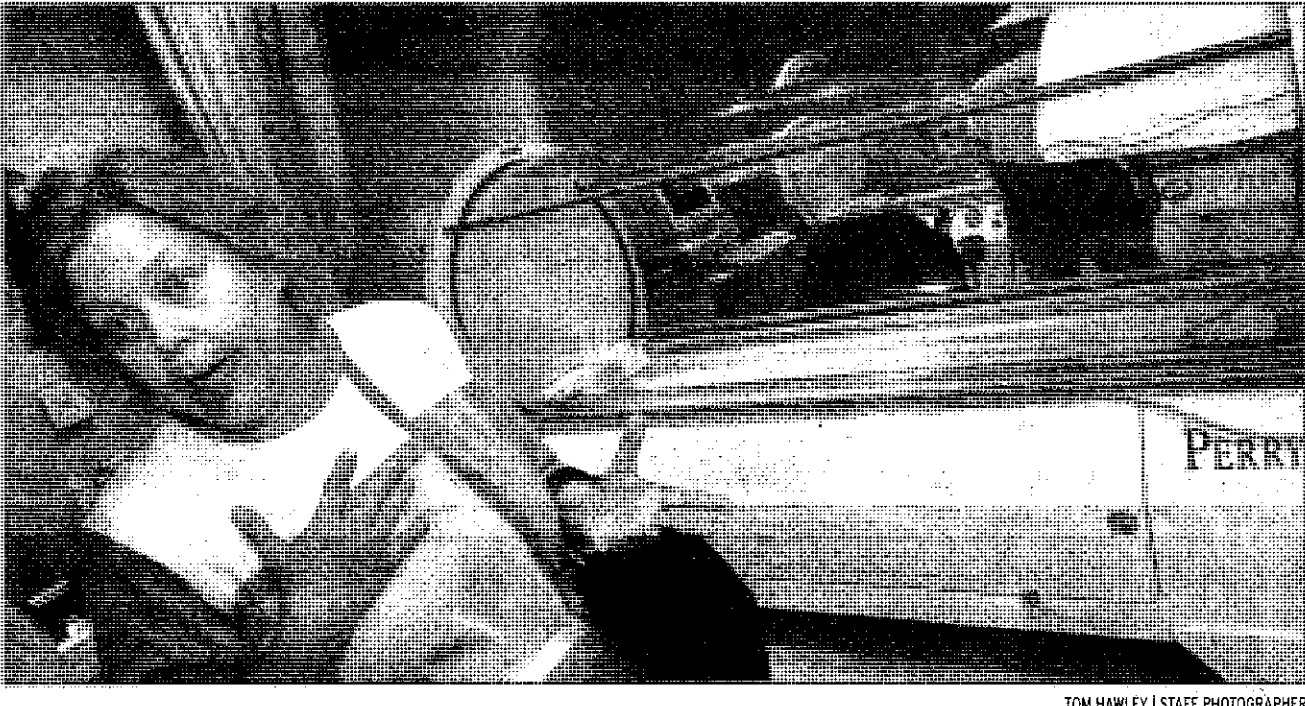
A former Westland smoke shop owner has been cleared of allegations he used the Internet to arrange for sex with a supposed 15-year-old girl. Jonathan Nunoo, 39, spent nearly five months in jail awaiting trial for criminal charges that a Wayne County judge has now dismissed, saying police entrapped him. Circuit Judge Patricia Fresard dropped the charges earlier this month, ruling that police entrapped Nunoo by sending a 17-year-old girl into All-Star Smoke Shop to engage him in conversation. The girl told Nunoo that she was 15 and obtained e-mail addresses from him. She turned them over to authorities, and Wayne County

Sheriff Cpl. William Liczbinski testified during an April 6 court hearing that he posed as a girl who chatted with Nunoo online about sex, movies, school and other topics. Police arrested Nunoo on March 15 when authorities said he went to Town & Country Lanes bowling alley on Wayne Road to meet a girl. Fresard dismissed charges against Nunoo on Sept. 14 following an unusually long, four-day evidentiary hearing. "The judge ruled that the police were involved in entrapment activity and dismissed the case," Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Keith Clark said Monday. The prosecutor's office is reviewing the judge's decision and may seek to have it overturned, he said. "I believe there will be an appeal," Clark said.

During an April 6 preliminary hearing in Westland District Court, Liczbinski testified that Nunoo invited what he believed was a 15-year-old girl to his house for dinner and sex. Police had sent a girl to Nunoo's now-closed business, on Wayne Road south of Marquette, to investigate whether he was giving or selling cigarettes to minors and possibly asking for sexual favors, according to police. Liczbinski's testimony against Nunoo prompted Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos to order the defendant to stand trial on two counts of using the Internet to commit a crime and one count of child sexually abusive activity. In his ruling, Bokos said that "there's no doubt in my mind that Mr. Nunoo thought he was dealing with a minor all along." Nunoo was a Westland resident who came to

the United States from Ghana a decade ago with a green card. He had no known criminal history. Defense attorney Bertram Johnson argued in April that Nunoo shouldn't be charged as an Internet sex predator because Liczbinski - not Nunoo - initiated the online contact. "I don't think a jury could ever find that there were any elements (of criminal wrongdoing)," Johnson said at the time. Nunoo had been jailed from March 15 until he finally was able to post a bond on Aug. 8 for his release. If convicted, he could have faced penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison. This week, prosecutor Clark said it wasn't known when a possible appeal of Judge Fresard's ruling might be formally filed.

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



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patient Debra Vroman of Canton talks about the positive effects hyperbaric oxygen therapy has had on two wounds she has had difficulty healing during the grand opening of Garden City Hospital's Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center in Westland.

Under the 'sea'

Garden City Hospital opens one-of-a-kind center for wound healing, hyperbaric oxygen therapy

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

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

If you make a dive 200 feet below sea level, you'd expect to see marine plants and fish of all shapes and sizes. Not so with Debra Vroman, who looks out the acrylic tube she's in during her dives to watch TV and talk to people like Mike Brown.

Her dives have nothing to do with water and everything to do with healing wounds. She's a patient at Garden City Hospital's Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center in Westland. "I had my reservations about going in the chamber, it took a week and half to convince me to go in there," said the

PLEASE SEE CENTER, A5

Helping out: Return trip to Nigeria is family affair

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Kelley Fulkerson will leave the comfort of her Westland home Sunday to provide health care for rural Africans. Her two-week trip will be much like one she took last year. She'll be working in mobile health clinics, treating rural villagers, and providing medicine for everything from hypertension to malaria. But, Fulkerson's trip to the southeastern Nigeria state of Abia will be significantly different this year. She's taking her 17-year-old son Troy, a Livonia Franklin High School senior. "I want him to learn that the world is a very big place outside of what we know and see each day," said Fulkerson, 49. Troy Fulkerson didn't hesitate to go, no matter how far removed Nigeria is for a high school cellist who also sings in the metal band Gomorra and who hopes to study animation at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. "I jumped all over the chance to go," he said. "It's a chance to go to a different country and help people." The Fulkersons will go with a small contingent from Silver Cross Medical Ministries, started by Kelley Fulkerson's friend Flora Smith, a California resident formerly of the Detroit area. "We helped well over 400 people



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland mother Kelley Fulkerson and son Troy will be leaving Sunday to help provide health care in rural Nigeria. last year," said Kelley Fulkerson, a Livonia Stevenson graduate. Her trips to Nigeria seem a logical extension of her work at home. She is a contractual employee who does health care training in nursing facilities, and she is an adjunct professor in Madonna University's gerontology department. Moreover, she is involved in St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia, and she is president of the Council for Action on Aging, an agency that provides financial help for low-income seniors. In Nigeria, the Fulkersons will stay in government housing and work with health care providers in rural, mobile clinics. The program involves routine physical exams, distributing potentially life-saving

PLEASE SEE NIGERIA, A5

Police look for suspects in 2 recent home invasions

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland police believe the same suspects may be involved in two home invasions at gunpoint that occurred within six days on the city's northwest side. The latest incident occurred about 2:15 a.m. Monday at Fountain Park Apartments, on Newburgh south of Joy. It followed a similar home invasion five days earlier at Westwood Village Apartments at Joy and Hix

roads. "They're very similar," police Lt. James Ridener said. In the Fountain Park incident, a 72-year-old man told police he was awakened about 2:15 a.m. Monday and found four men in his bedroom. One suspect armed with a handgun forced the victim to stand up and face a wall. The intruders ransacked the apartment and took the victim's money and other personal property. They also took his car keys and fled in his 2005 Saturn, which was later found

at nearby Scotsdale Apartments, according to police reports. The victim told police that he believes the intruders entered his apartment through a sliding door that he admitted leaving unlocked. He described the intruders as black males, 5-foot-9 to 6 feet tall, their weight proportionate to their height. He said they wore scarves or bandanas over their faces and wore dark clothing. The earlier incident happened about 2 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Westwood Village Apartments,

where a 46-year-old tenant said a black male armed with a semiautomatic handgun came through the doorwall. The intruder ordered the victim to the floor at gunpoint, put the gun to the back of his head and ordered him not to move, according to reports. The victim told police that at least two other suspects accompanied the gunman. As he lay face down on the floor with a gun to his head, the victim told police that he could hear the other intruders rustling through

papers, drawers and cupboards. The victim reported that he was robbed of several guns, his wallet and other personal items. The intruders also took his car keys and fled in his 2005 Monte Carlo, according to police reports. Canton police found the car a short time later near Joy and Haggerty roads. Anyone who has information about the incidents is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

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Coming Sunday in Health
Experts talk about the latest treatments for breast cancer.

Lounge Lizards win M*A*S*H* Olympics

A fund-raiser dubbed the M*A*S*H Olympics, patterned after the old television show and movie, has raised more than \$600 for charity.

The event was sponsored Sept. 9 by the Bova VFW Post 9885 in Westland to benefit the Wayne-Westland Special Olympics and World Medical Relief, a Detroit-based organization that helps impoverished veterans.

The money was raised even though Mother Nature dumped rain on the party.

"It poured," said Joseph L. "Larry" Tebor, Bova post commander.

Still, four teams rounded up enough members to compete in such events as races with hospital gurneys and crutches.

Coming in first place was the Limpin' Lounge Lizards, whose members were identified by Tebor as Brad Combs, Veronia Beauvais, Erin B., Rodney Bowman, LauRen Szpara and Holly Poteracki.

Other teams were the Westland Warriors, Potter's Porkers and Special Ones. Event organizers also sold



A wheelchair race was one event included in the M*A*S*H Olympics, sponsored by the Bova VFW Post 9885 in Westland.

food and had 50/50 drawings and raffles.

The VFW post is continuing to sell certain items, such as T-

shirts and dog tags, to raise money for the two charities, Tebor said. The cost is \$10 each or three for \$25.

For more information, call (734) 728-3231 or stop by the post, located on Hix Road south of Warren.

AROUND WESTLAND

Register to vote

Westland residents who want to vote in the Nov. 7 election and who aren't yet registered - have until the Oct. 10 deadline to sign up.

Residents can register at the clerk's office at Westland City Hall, on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne, or go to a Secretary of State office.

Those wishing to register must turn 18 by Election Day and be a resident of the city in which they're voting and take a picture identification to the place where they register.

Resident who want an application for an absentee ballot should call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3188 or (734) 467-3187. Voters who think they might not be able to make it to the polls are encouraged to ask for an absentee ballot.

Vaudeville show

The Friends of the Westland Historic Village Park host The Petticoat Ladies - and men - in "Old Tyme Vaudeville" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, at the Westland Senior Friendship Center on Newburgh south of Ford.

The vaudeville show will include historical presentations, singing, dancing and comedy. In addition to the show, there also will be a drawing for door prizes.

Proceeds will benefit restoration of the Octagon House in the city's historic village.

Tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens. Advanced tickets are recommended. They are available by calling Johnson at (734) 522-3918, Georgia Becker at (734) 729-1605, the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7628 or the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620.

Flu shots

The Village of Westland at 32001 Cherry Hill will offer flu shots to seniors age 62 and older 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 5-6. Call (734) 762-8895 to schedule and appointment.

Westland Maple Drugs also will be offering flu and pneumonia shots and sponsoring a Diabetes Day 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the store on Ford Road at Hunter. A second round of shots will be offered 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9.

The shots will be available on a walk-in basis and cost \$25 for the flu shot and \$40 for the pneumonia shot. For people with Medicare Part B, there will be no co-pay.

As part of Diabetes Day, the store will be giving out free meters and free samples as well as providing education and answering questions about the disease. For more information, call Chuck or Danielle at (734) 729-2200.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland.

For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Open enrollment

McKinley Cooperative Preschool, a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-discriminatory organization owned and operated by parents and licensed by the State of Michigan, offers a three-year-old and four-year-old preschool program and a toddler/parent program for two-year olds. The program is offered at 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For information call (734) 729-7222 or visit the McKinley Cooperative Preschool Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

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. The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4.

Judge delays Peer trial until Oct. 23

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER



Peer

Westland teenager Jeremy Peer's trial has been delayed on charges he fled the scene after he drove off a Florida road in a Jeep Commander, killing a woman and injuring her husband.

Peer, 18, had been scheduled for trial Monday in Bay County Circuit Court for a spring break accident that killed Colleen Martin, 33, and injured her husband, Montey, 42.

But, Florida state attorney spokesman Joe Grammer confirmed Tuesday that the trial

has been delayed until Oct. 23. Grammer wouldn't immediately confirm whether the trial was postponed to give prosecuting and defense attorneys time to reach a possible plea agreement.

Peer, a 2006 Livonia Franklin graduate, also has a court date scheduled five days before his trial is set to begin.

Attempts have been unsuccessful to discuss the case on the record with friends and

family members of the Martins.

Similarly, Peer's mother, Janet, has said her family has been advised by an attorney not to comment. She made a brief statement in April, saying that her son "is doing the only thing that he can do right now, and that's wait."

Janet Peer also asked for prayers for her son and the victims of the April 17 accident.

Peer, a former Franklin athlete, is listed as being a defensive back on the Adrian College football team. Some people who are following the case have e-mailed the *Observer* to ask why he is being allowed to go on with his life with the

criminal charges pending against him.

According to Florida authorities, Peer's family posted a \$175,000 bond for his release from jail after the accident, allowing him to finish his senior year at Livonia Franklin and move on to Adrian College.

An attempt was made Tuesday to contact the college to determine its policy on students who have criminal charges pending against them. A spokeswoman said she was looking into the policy, but she hadn't called back as of Wednesday morning.

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NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Please take Notice that the General Election in the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the City of Westland General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, is Tuesday, October 10, 2006. Persons registering after 4:00 in the evening on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 are not eligible to vote at the General election.

You may register at the Westland City Clerk's office or at any Secretary of State Office.

EILEEN DeHART
Westland City Clerk

Publish: September 28, 2006

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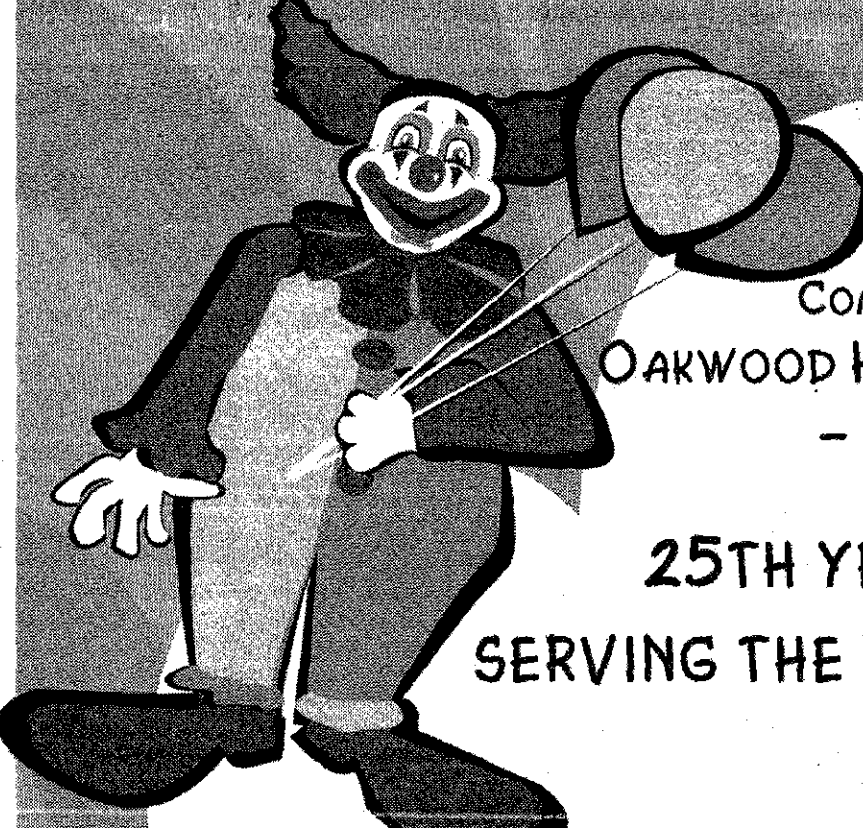
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MHS looks into staffer's comments about squirrel

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Gary Locke's recent experience at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care has left him wondering why the organization doesn't know where to take a wild animal for care and rehabilitation.

So much so that he planned on delivering a printout of the home Web page for Ann Arbor-based Friends of Wildlife to the facility.

He was hoping a baby squirrel he found last week in the parking lot of a CVS store in Farmington Hills would go to that type of organization. But a woman at the counter told him the center euthanizes baby squirrels, he said.

Shocked by the statement, Locke said he told the woman he wanted the animal to be taken care of, not killed, and told her the animal should be taken to someone that can care for him.

"I did not want him to be put to sleep. I wanted him to at least have a chance," Locke said. "And by this attitude of the humane society, I was positive that he had no chance there."

What Locke was told is alarming for the MHS, which does take in wild animals — 613 in 2004, and 655 in 2005 — and does work with animal rehabili-

tators, said Jan Cantle, MHS marketing program manager.

In fact, Locke's baby squirrel was one of five squirrels brought to the Berman center last week.

"We're concerned about what was said and if we have a problem with customer service," Cantle said. "We work with rehabilitators, we work with them closely, but we don't place animals with them that can't be released back into the wild. We're concerned we may have a problem with the staff."

Locke speculated that the animal may have been blown from its nest during last week's rainstorms and may have found refuge under a car, dropping off while it was in the CVS parking lot.

He used a work glove to pick up the animal and put it in a box. When he put his hand in the box, the squirrel would climb in it and grab on to his finger.

"I checked first to see if it was bleeding," he said. "Its eyes were open and it was cold, but once he climbed in my hand, he calmed down."

Like Locke, the animal evaluator who looked at the squirrel determined that it most likely fell from its nest.

According to Cantle, the evaluator also determined that the squirrel had "neurological damage and would not be able to fend for itself in the wild."

"It had a bump on its head that it wasn't going to come back from," she said. "It's important that we do what is right for the squirrel. Putting it back into the wild when it can't fend for itself would have been cruel."

Cantle added that if Locke "was able to pick up the squirrel, it was one that needed help."

She is hoping to talk with Locke about what happened and correct any misinformation he was given.

While the MHS' primary focus is companion animals, it does help with injured wild animals, abandoned exotic animals, or birds and livestock.

Resources, however, determine the extent to which it can help in those situations. It does "try to provide helpful information and assistance as it can."

"We'd like to let him know about what we do," she said, adding that if the incident is a problem with staff, it will be addressed.

Locke said he has lost confidence in what MHS does. He has donated to MHS in the past, but may not in the future.

"Euthanizing shouldn't be the first thing they do, it should be last resort," he said. "That's not the right way to be treated. Taking that baby squirrel there was the worst thing I could have done."

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

Patriot, Spartan bands snare 2nd-place trophies

BY DIANE HANSON
CORRESPONDENT

Franklin and Stevenson high schools both marched off with second-place trophies at the Woodhaven Invitational in Brownstown Township on Saturday.

The Franklin Patriots took second place in Flight II, following first-place Southgate Anderson. Farmington came in third.

"This is the second show of our season and they're doing very, very well," said a pleased Kristi Jasin, director of bands at Franklin. "We're really proud of them."

This year's program, "Kaleidoscope," also brought home a third-place trophy for the 75-member band at last week's competition in Novi.

"The program was one our drill writer and music arranger, Tom Weidner, came up with," said Jasin. "We really liked the concepts of light, color and shape and decided on the name 'Kaleidoscope.'"

"I really like this year's show a lot," said flutist and junior drum major, Rachel Wood, a Franklin junior. "I think it's really put together well and our drill is amazing."

Senior drum major Justin Johnson is happy with how far the band has progressed this early in the season.

"I think our band is amazing," he said. "From the very first time the kids even looked at the music until now is so much of an improvement. I would have never thought they would have come this far so fast."

It was the season opener for the Stevenson Marching Spartans.

"This was our first competi-



PHOTOS BY DIANE HANSON

Front-row flutists Caryn Fogel (left), and Kelly Kile keep their eyes on the drum major for correct timing during the Patriot marchers' competition performance Saturday at Woodhaven High School.



Also saxophonist Kyle Boyd gives it his all during Franklin's award-winning performance of their competition program, "Kaleidoscope."

tion of the season," said David Booker, in his 20th year as band and orchestra director at Stevenson. "The students did very well. We chose this show because the level of difficulty is right for this year's marching band, the tunes are recogniza-

ble and popular and the students enjoy playing them."

This year's approximately 10-minute competition piece is entitled, "Motown," and includes selections from "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Love Child," "My Girl," "Get Ready," and "Never Can Say Goodbye."

"This year's program is really fun," said senior color guard member Emily Fortner. "It's allowed us to be more creative with costumes, like using boas, and with the dancing. We incorporated moves from the 1950s and '60s, the era the songs are from."

The 79-member band captured the second-place trophy in Flight I. Flights I - IV are determined by the student enrollment with Flight I comprised of the largest schools. First place in Flight I went to Plymouth-Canton.

Next up for the Livonia marchers is the John Glenn Invitational in Westland Sept. 30 and Franklin's own invitational on Oct. 7.

Give pint, get pizza benefits Red Cross

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Nothing goes better with pizza than a pint, right?

But Jeri Stollings isn't talking about beer.

Stollings, owner of Porky's Pizza 'N' Bar-b-cue in Westland, will offer a free small cheese pizza for those who donate a pint of blood to help the American Red Cross battle a critical shortage.

Stollings already offered a pint for a pint — ice cream for

blood, that is — at the King Kone business she and her husband, Gene, own in Garden City.

"We thought we'd try it at the pizzeria, too," she said.

Porky's will offer a pizza for a pint from 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10. The Red Cross will bring a mobile unit to the business, located at 1409 S. Merriman between Avondale and Palmer.

Donors may sign up by stopping by the pizzeria or, if they're in a hurry, simply by using the next-door drive-through service at The Pit Stop, a family owned


convenience store.

Those who don't reserve a time slot may walk in the day of the blood drive, Stollings said. For more information, she said, call (734) 728-7470.

Stollings, a Garden City resident, has sponsored blood drives for six years at King Kone. She helps the Red Cross because her late mother, Gertrude Stollings, depended on the blood supply before she died years ago after losing a battle with myeloma, a cancer that affects the blood and bones.

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Entries sought for VFW competitions

Area high school students have an opportunity to participate in this year's Voice of Democracy scholarship competition, according to VFW Post 6896 Commander John Welchman and Ladies Auxiliary President Barbara Gucwa.

The annual audio essay brings winning participants thousands of dollars in scholarships and a free trip to Washington, D.C., as well as dozens of other awards.

Students begin by competing in the local VFW post level, with a deadline of Nov. 1. Local winners will advance to district and potentially state competitions.

The state winner will get a four-day tour of the nation's

capital, along with winners from every state and some other countries.

In the last 60 years, more than seven million students have participated by writing and then recording a three-to-five-minute essay about this year's theme, "Freedom's Challenge."

State winners will receive at least \$1,000 and will be in competition for a \$30,000 award.

The Patriot Pen Essay Competition is for students in grades six through eight.

Students may compete in a local essay contest and, if they advance, they also could win thousands of dollars in U.S. savings bonds and a free trip.

Students begin by competing

at the post level, and winners advance to district and state competitions.

State winners compete for more than \$75,000 in U.S. savings bonds and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Each year, more than 130,000 students compete. Participants are invited to write an essay between 300 and 400 words long. This year's theme is "Citizenship in America." Deadline for entry is Nov. 1.

Interested students and teachers should contact the VFW Post 6896 by calling (734) 525-9454 or by writing to Sgt. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896, 28945 Joy, Westland, MI 48185.

Man accosts teen on way to school

Accosting scare

A 16-year-old girl told police that a stranger tried to get her in his car as she was walking to Wayne Memorial High School about 7:30 a.m. Monday.

The girl, a 10th-grader, told police the incident happened near the corner of Norene and Steiber when two men drove by in what was possibly a Ford Focus. She reported that a passenger got out of the car, threw a \$20 bill at her and ordered her to get in the vehicle. She said she refused and began walking up a nearby driveway of a home.

The girl told police the man picked up the \$20, returned to the car and left traveling north on Norene. She said she had never seen him before. She described him as a black male, about 19 years old, 5-foot-7 and 200 pounds with cornrows.

Camcorder, car stolen

A 29-year-old woman told police that some-

CRIME WATCH

one entered her unlocked doorway at Point West Apartments, on Palmer Road between Newburgh and Wayne, between 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Saturday. The woman reported that a camcorder was taken from a bedroom. She said the intruder also got her car keys from a coffee table and stole her vehicle.

Break-in

A 33-year-old woman told police that someone broke into her home on Julius Boulevard, but she didn't notice anything missing. She said the incident happened between 9 a.m. last Friday and 12:45 p.m. Sunday.

The woman said she is in the process of moving. She said most of her belongings were packed. She said someone broke in the back door and that an alarm could have scared off the intruder.

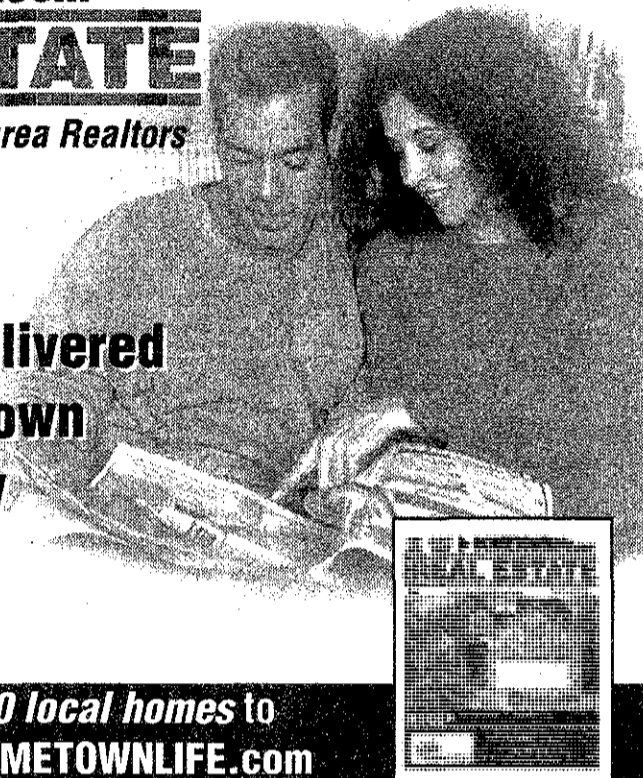
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Week to honor 4-H Struggle leads to man's stabbing

The Wayne County 4-H - its more than 12,000 club members, and the parents, volunteers and community members who support them - are ready to celebrate National 4-H Week Sunday-Saturday, Oct. 1-7.

During National 4-H Week, 4-Hers share their accomplishments with their communities.

Club members will be wearing green and white or their Club T-shirts on Oct. 2 to make it easy for community members to recognize them and ask them questions about their 4-H experiences.

The 4-H colors of green and white represent the ideals of the 4-H program.

The white symbolizes purity and high ideas. Green is nature's most common color and is symbolic of youth, life and growth.

Also during National 4-H Week, a Club Development and Prospective New Leader Training will be held 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, and Saturday, Oct. 7, sixth floor office, at the 640 Temple St. in Detroit.

Adults from the Westland community interested in

learning more about 4-H and the development of a club are welcome to attend one of these sessions.

Michigan's only youth development program directly connected to the technological advances and latest research of Michigan State University, 4-H helps members learn leadership, citizenship and life skills through hands-on projects in science, engineering and technology, healthy living, or citizenship.

Topics are as varied as animal science, public speaking, gardening, photography, nutrition, and community service.

It also helps young people reach their full potential. Recent studies show youth who participate in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel safe to try new things, achieve a sense of self-esteem, and develop lasting friendships.

For more information on the 4-H program or to register for the Club Development and Prospective New Leader Training, call Laurie Rivetto, 4-H Youth Educator, at (734) 727-7236 or by e-mail at rivetto@msu.edu.

A 49-year-old Westland man was in police custody Wednesday, awaiting to be formally charged on allegations he stabbed an acquaintance at a home in Livonia's Eight Mile-Middlebelt area Tuesday afternoon.

"This appears to be the result of a fight between two men who knew each other," said Livonia police Lt. Greg Winn. "We don't know exactly what happened yet, but this was not a random incident."

The 48-year-old victim continued to receive critical care at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills on Wednesday. Winn said the man was conscious and doctors expect him to recover.

Problems began at the victim's home on Beatrice Street shortly before 3 p.m. A verbal exchange escalated, Winn said, when the 49-year-old man stabbed the other man twice, once in the abdomen and once in the arm.

The victim was able to walk to a nearby business at the corner of Beatrice and Eight Mile to seek help. Workers there called police and took the man to the hospital. Investigators found the Westland man at his brother's home in Detroit.

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CENTER

FROM PAGE A1

Canton resident. "But literally before my eyes, I'm seeing improvement and it allows me to have a positive attitude. I make a conscious effort to remain positive."

The center is housed in the hospital's Sports Rehab Center on Central City Parkway next to Dick's Sporting Goods in Westland. It's a one-of-a-kind facility in Wayne County, offering one-stop wound healing and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

It took 15 months to bring the project to fruition. Dr. David Connett, the hospital's chief medical officer, was the key administrator that initiated it. Referred to as the Thomas Edison of the center, he saw the need for a hyperbaric facility while a U.S. Air Force flight surgeon based in Denver. That wound care center had a four-state catchment area.

"We talked about doing it for four-five years, we had ongoing discussion, but couldn't seem to get it over the hump," said hospital President and CEO Gary Lay. "Dave was the energy and the push at the hospital to do it, and we appreciate that."

DEVELOPING THE CENTER

Connett worked with Kenneth Locklear, president of the American Baromedical Corp., on developing the center which cost an estimated \$500,000. Locklear recommended what would be needed to open the center.

"It's one of the fastest-growing fields in health care today," said Locklear, whose company is sharing the risk with the hospital.

Locklear provided the "must-have rules and covered the Medicare guidelines." He determined the design and how much square footage was needed and left the set up to be determined by center director Scott Figlio.

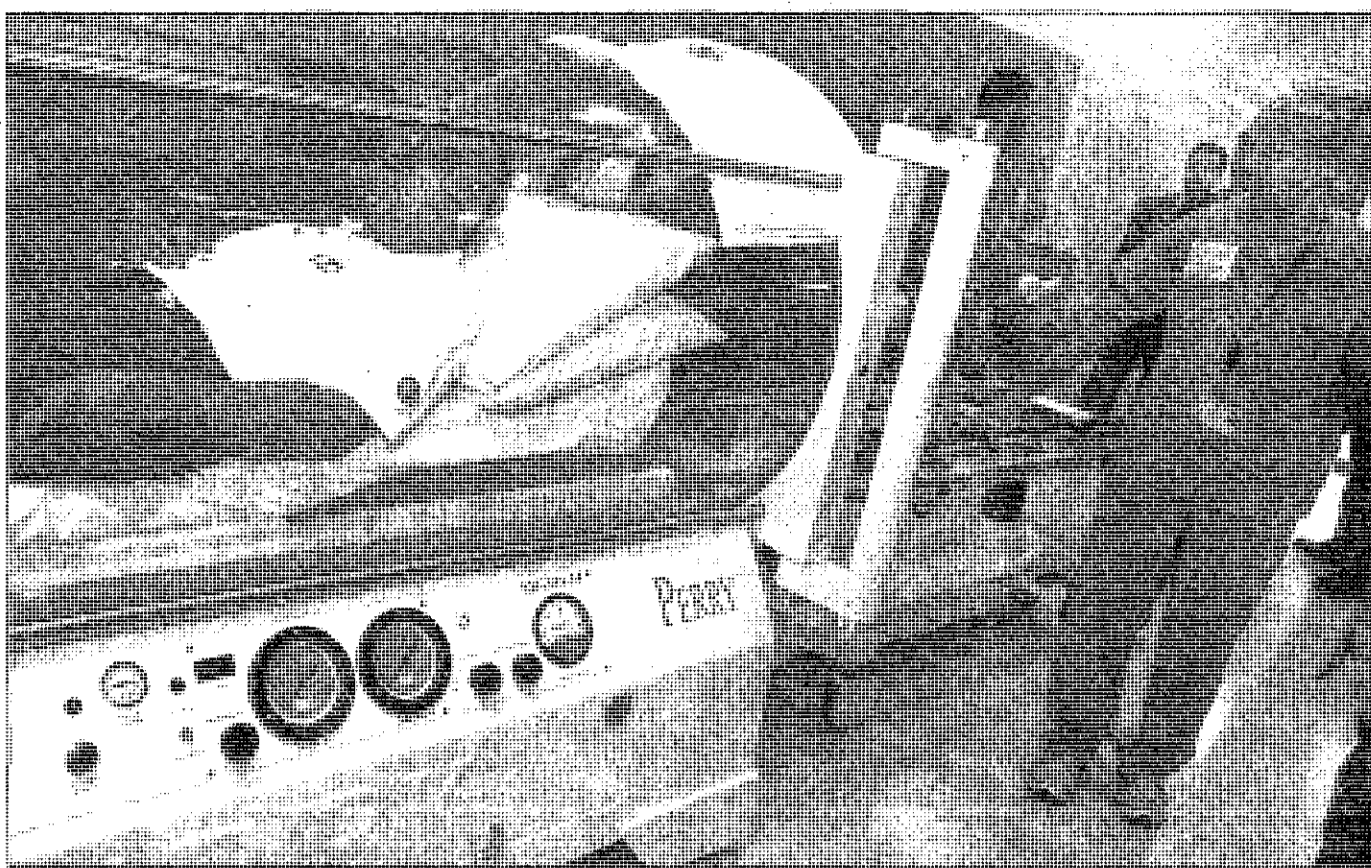
"One of the things I like about being off-site is the parking-to-treatment ratio, the distance from the parking lot to the center," Figlio said. "It's a short distance, one reason we picked being here."

Any physician can refer a patient to the center for treatment in one of the center's two hyperbaric chambers.

Figlio anticipated having 11 patients make use of the chambers when the center opened in September, but it was more like 83, he said.

"That's how great the need is in the area," he said. "We knew it was needed, but we didn't expect it to be that much."

A treatment generally lasts about 90 minutes. According to hyperbaric technologist Mark Brown, 100 percent oxygen is circulated in the chamber at a certain rate and as it is compressed, the



Pete Eichinger of Performance Creative Resources Inc. sees what it is like inside the chamber in a demonstration by hyperbaric technologist Mark Brown during the grand opening of the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center.



Garden City Hospital President and CEO Gary Ley and Mayor Sandra Cicirelli use a pair of oversized scissors to cut a piece of gauze bandage as the part of the grand opening center. The gauze was used instead of ribbon to signify the traditional treatment of wounds.

temperature increase, about 4 degrees.

"When you come in to use the chamber, you come in clean — no makeup, no hair products — you come in the way God made you," he said. "The hydrocarbons could cause a spark."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Vroman said she "makes the best out of what God dishes out." She is a sec-

ond-time breast cancer survivor. She was originally diagnosed at age 35, only to have the disease return seven years later. She also is a diabetic and vascular patient.

"If you can use lucky and cancer in the same sentence, that's me," she said. "Both times the cancer was found very early. It was very small and no lymph nodes were involved."

She has a standing 8 a.m. appointment at the center five days a week.

It's helping clear up two wounds, one the size of quarter on her back and one on her breast, a complication from surgery.

Her doctor sent her to the center because she would be a challenge. After 2½ weeks, she's already seen remarkable results. The breast wound that was 3-by-2 centimeters is now 2½-by-1½ centimeters in size and has gone from a depth of 2½ centimeters to close to 1 centimeter.

She can't say enough about the center from the positive impact it's having on the wounds to such things as the privacy, including providing two gowns that "are huge and cover every part of you."

"It's all done with a great deal of dignity," she said.

Admittedly, the first day is the scariest and the hardest, but she said it's worst to think about it than to do it.

"Personally, I'm very happy that there's a place out here that can help me," she said. "For a while I wasn't holding out much hope that someone out there could help me. I've done 10 dives and two chemos with no problem."

The Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center of Michigan is at 35550 Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 762-9935.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-3112

NIGERIA

FROM PAGE A1

medications, handing out reading glasses and delivering school supplies.

"It's for people who live in villages who can't get to the cities," Kelley Fulkerson said.

The volunteers will buy most of what they need in Nigerian cities and take the supplies to rural areas where villagers live in grass-and-mud huts.

"With my faith and my prayers, I think we will be shielded from any violence."

Kelley Fulkerson

However, they'll deliver reading glasses and school supplies — even some Beanie Babies — from the United States.

The Fulkersons said they will not be deterred by reports of oil-related kidnappings and killings in Nigeria.

"With my faith and my prayers, I think we will be shielded from any violence," Kelley Fulkerson said.

Her husband Doug, a Ford Motor Co. engineer, and her mother, Angie Watson of Livonia, are supportive of what she and her son will be doing, but they have implored them to be safe.

"My mother made me promise we will come home safely, especially with her grandson going," Kelley Fulkerson said, smiling.

The Fulkersons have had their share of immunizations and other precautionary measures for their trip.

"I've had plenty of shots," Troy Fulkerson said.

His friends and teachers are excited that he will be receiving such an experience at a young age.

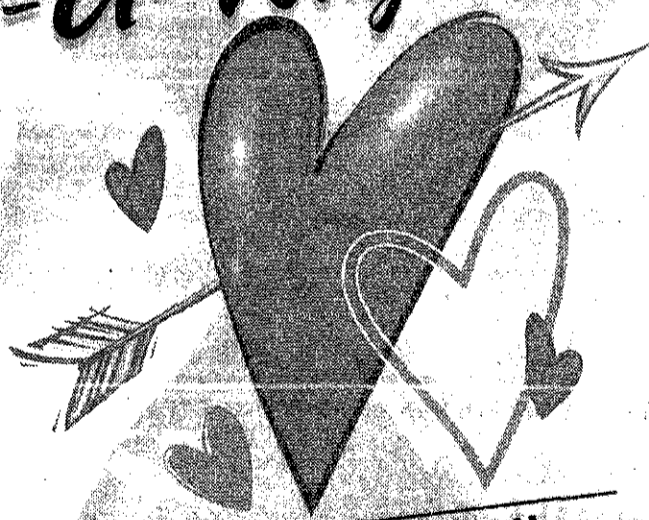
"Some of them didn't believe me when I told them," he said.

Kelley Fulkerson simply wants to teach her son what it means to have a passion for helping others — far beyond Westland, Livonia, Michigan and the United States.

Although she is mindful that she is helping others, she said, "I think I receive a lot more than I give."

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OUR VIEWS

1 step up, 1 needed for board ethics

Livonia school board members took one step forward recently in talking about board ethics. We hope they consider another one.

The positive step was an agreement that they should rewrite a board "vision" policy item to remove what some had called a "gag order." The policy draws a line between a board member being an advocate for the board versus acting as a spokesperson for the board. It tells board members that only the superintendent and board president will act as spokespersons, and that only a spokesperson "addresses items and issues that have not yet been formally addressed by the board."

Based on that definition, it can be read that the board's new community conversations with small groups of board members could violate the policy if anyone but the board president answered a question or talked about something that had not previously been "formally addressed by the board." Of course, this is a literal interpretation, but it carries a symbolism of secrecy that the board can ill-afford in these post-recall attempt times. Board members realized this when they agreed a few weeks ago to clarify the language.

Less positive — in terms of community perception, anyway — was the discussion at that same meeting that focused on the ethics of school board members voting on contracts for employees or other issues that provide personal or family gain.

Tom Bailey's apology and explanation were understandable — he said he never realized he should have abstained from voting on a contract that affected his wife, a part-time paraprofessional. The issue of ethics in such votes isn't something that board members regularly discuss publicly.

Two other board members defended Bailey's right to vote, even encouraging it. The Michigan Association of School Boards says it's not a problem because these are large groups and board members don't actually do negotiating, Trustee Cynthia Markarian said.

There certainly are limits to the "personal gain" issue. However, board members should also clarify a specific board policy on contracts or pay raise votes.

If they agree that board members should be allowed to vote on such contracts, the policy should at least require board members to announce their personal connections or family conflicts publicly each and every time they vote on such contracts or similar issues. That should be a minimum.

Tigers roar lifts ball happy city

Go get 'em, Detroit Tigers!

In the grand scheme of things, 19 years isn't that long a time period. The 1987 season was the last one the Detroit Tigers made it into the Major League Baseball playoffs. It's only been 22 years since the roar of the 1984 Tigers sent a chill through every baseball fan as the team marched triumphantly to a World Series championship, in first place from beginning to end.

That's a short time compared to the long stretches endured by last year's champion Chicago White Sox, who had last won a World Series in 1917, or the 2004 champion Boston Red Sox, who last won in 1918. And the north side of Chicago has waited since 1908 to see their beloved and bedeviled Cubs ascend to the pinnacle of baseball.

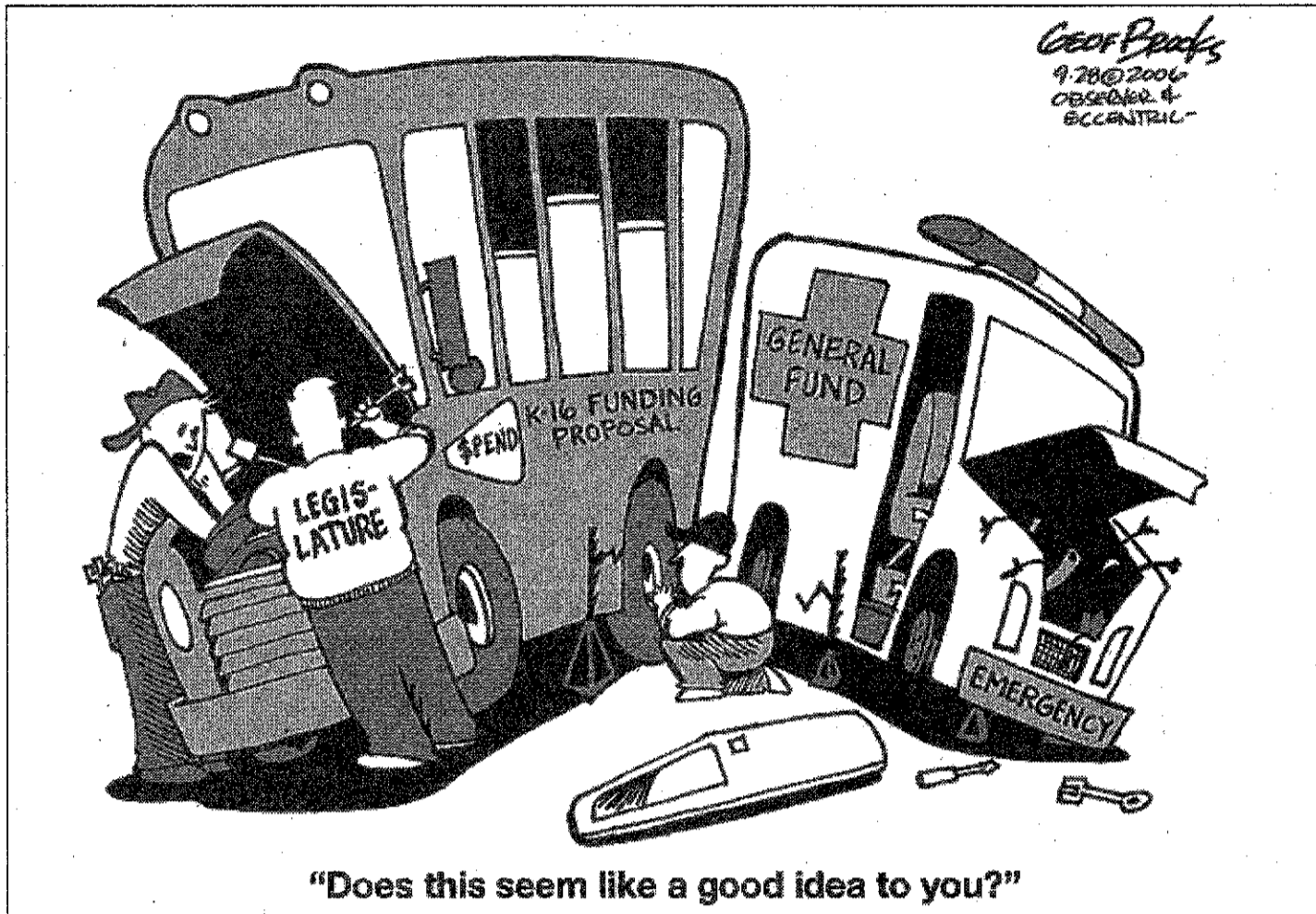
But what a long and sorry 19 years it has been since the homer hankies of the wildcard Minnesota Twins waved good-bye to the Bengals in a first-round playoff exit.

Year after year, the Tigers have struggled to even be in the game. Manager after manager failed to bring glory back to the Motor City. Hope always springs eternal. When Alan Trammell, the quiet, effective, level-headed shortstop of that magical 1984 team, took over as manager, it seemed like a perfect match. But in 2003, the Tigers plunged to a new low with 119 losses and prospects for the future looking dim.

A new manager, a new mix of players and a better pitching staff have made the Tigers the surprise team of 2006 and their success has been a boon to the city and all of Michigan. Wherever you go, people are talking about the Tigers, watching the Tigers or listening to the Tigers on the radio.

We've had professional championships recently in basketball and hockey. Those sports have intense followings. But the Tigers have always drawn a wider audience and their success seems to reach beyond the realm of sports into a shared communal experience.

As they prepare to enter the playoffs against either Oakland or New York, we wish Jim Leyland, Pudge Rodriguez and all the Detroit Tigers a long October of baseball toward another World Series championship.



"Does this seem like a good idea to you?"

LETTERS

Hard to take sides

Those who have been in Westland long enough will surely remember the old stone house at the corner of Hix and Cherry Hill, complete with huge mature tree in the front yard. I used to walk through the field behind the house as a teenager to get from home to my best friend's house.

If you've driven past this corner lately, you'd probably have a hard time picturing the old house anymore. Instead you will see a strip mall and an entire new neighborhood full of condominiums and houses. This new neighborhood brought me back to Westland. I now live on the same field I used to walk through 20 years ago.

Working in the construction industry for the past decade makes it more difficult for me to take a side in the debate over keeping treed areas as vacant land and preserving wetlands or building new developments. Building new developments has fed my family for many years, yet the sight of all those trees being cut down always tugs at my heart just a bit.

I have also always wondered where all the animals went after their "home" was built on top of. Apparently, they wonder the same thing as they dart in between cars while crossing busy roads to find a new place to live, or a safe place to hang out for the night.

For the developer, builders and the city, the bottom line is money. For those of us living through the construction and the congestion and the loss of greenery, we may focus more on what more homes or more stores in our area would do to our everyday lives. Thinking of more traffic, or looking at another house instead of the trees that you have seen out your window for years would probably make me less excited at the prospect of a new development in my area.

It seems like the easiest solution to hopefully make everyone happy would be to say build half the houses and keep half the trees, but that drives costs up. I came back to Westland because it was affordable. I was able to purchase a brand new condo, yet still be able to afford to eat and drive a nice car. Not many cities have that option anymore in this area.

Hopefully in the end, city officials, the Westside Westland Homeowners Action Committee and the developer will all have a little bit of a say in the final outcome.

Tracey Carlson
Westland

Vote Democratic on Nov. 7

Thank you for a good selection of editorials and letters recently. Obviously, our hometown paper has its finger on the pulse of the issues concerning our citizens. With so much going on these days, there seems to be no shortage of opinions.

For those people who think this country is moving in a positive direction, I have to wonder if they've been paying attention to the headlines in Michigan. For those who think the only important election impacting our livelihood is a presidential election, they haven't been reading beyond the headlines.

There is an election coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 7, and I challenge voters to change their habit of only voting in presidential elections and begin a new habit of voting in every election, starting this November.

Our family has become very involved in campaigning over the years and for good reason. Our future is at stake and we feel it is in our best interest to hold our elected

officials, at all levels, accountable. To vote the good ones in, and vote the bad ones out.

I understand the partisan games that can be played and I know first hand, that when it comes to politics, being the member of the minority means your voice doesn't count for much.

In Lansing, Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a Democrat, is outnumbered with a majority of state senators, state representatives, attorney general and secretary of state all Republican — all with a Republican agenda that I don't view as being one for the average middle-class person.

My husband is an autoworker and is facing a job loss in 2007. We face unfair trade practices, resulting in job placement overseas due to cheap labor or up in Canada, where the government provides healthcare. We are not witnessing a system unraveling at the seams, but a systematic dismantling of the American Dream. It began beyond Michigan's state line and long before Granholm took office.

In Washington, Republicans make up the majority, from the top down. The minority of Democrats are fighting daily to protect American jobs, protect Social Security, protect the rights of labor, protect pensions, protect the environment, protect our public education system and yes, protect the security of our borders.

Whenever I hear Republican candidates say things like, "there is enough blame to go around" or "we don't need to be finger-pointing," that is a clear indication that they want the spotlight off of themselves. Why? Because it's their party that is controlling the ship. And it's sinking!

You may be OK with the current state of affairs, but for the sake of my family, I am not!

This November, I am voting straight Democratic. I can personally vouch for my favorite candidates — Glenn Anderson for State Senate, Richard LeBlanc for State House of Representatives and newcomer Tony Trupiano for Congress from our 11th Congressional District. I know them to be men of integrity and tenacity. They are honest, trustworthy and extremely dedicated to working on behalf of Michigan's middle class.

Help tip the scales to allow true representation this year, vote Nov. 7.

Cheryl Graunstadt
Westland

Vote out the failures

The current Republican Party has followed a striking form since the rise during Newt Gingrich era. They have been slowly changing our government to benefit business, corporate America and moved the burden of operating the government to the middle class and poor.

The wealthy have gained significantly both economically and in power of the government. Maybe if government was thought to be only to benefit the corrupt it has been exceedingly successful. But there is one problem.

The government of the UNITED States was put forth to benefit all people of this country. It was not created to allow more powerful people to take advantage of others. This nation's government is to serve the good of all its people.

The United States' democratic government is not to serve only a small group of individuals. That is a fascist government. As an administration within a democracy, Mr. Bush and his comrades have failed America completely.

From his start on the campaign trail, Mr. Bush had used a line that he was going to unite this country in his bid for election in 2000. He has done nothing but to divide it, separate people into supporters or accuse his detractors of his own faults.

He also claimed he would operate a responsible government, closely controlling spending. The corruption within the walls of the White House has never been so excessive before. The deficit has grown higher in proportion than any administration before from the greatest surplus in history.

The reorganization of the intelligence and security administration has resulted in appointments of unqualified political hacks further draining the resources of the government. The ongoing war in Iraq, the response to Katrina, the covert subversion of the democratic process with spying on Americans are all complete failures of government serving the people in a democracy.

The latest failure is the plane crash in Lexington, Ky. The association of air traffic controller studies required two controllers, the FAA regulations required two controllers, but the new Republican hacks serving as management of the FAA felt they could reduce the number of controllers to one, based on cost reductions.

The Republican Party celebrates failure, embraces it as a foundation of their platform. A recent vote in Congress made it illegal to escort or aid a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion. The party members replied it was necessary to have their pregnant girls at home where they could be taken care of at home.

What part of failure did these Republicans miss? Any underaged teenage girl having sex without protection, without an understanding of sex is a failure. Did these Republican parents forget to love those girls and make them feel needed, or maybe explain the facts of life and how to be safe, or maybe explain the burdens of parenthood?

There are not enough pages in this paper to list the complete failures of Bush and his party in this American government and perhaps one corner of one page to celebrate the successes.

Michigananders need to vote for success and vote out the failures in the coming election and until the current and hopeful Republicans speak out against the administration, they will not be representatives of the citizens of Michigan.

Frances Meese
Westland

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

"I want to build, per square foot, the best (entertainment complex) that I've seen in America. This is not just about George Marvaso. This is about jobs in Michigan."

George Marvaso about his hope to build Electropolitan, a huge entertainment complex along the I-275 or I-96 corridors.

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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.

Keep lawmakers far away from new science curriculum

As if we didn't need one more reason to sigh... the state Board of Education voted 6-2 to delay adopting the science portion of Michigan's new high school graduation requirements.

What's this all about? You guessed it. Evolution, again. The delay was requested by the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees to placate state Reps. Jack Hoogendyk (R-Portage) and John Moolenaar (R-Midland).

They want language jammed into the standards that would legitimize teaching creationism and so-called "intelligent design."

The standards now direct science teachers to show how fossils, comparative anatomy and other evidence "may" demonstrate evolution. Hoogendyk and Moolenaar want "may or may not" language which allows teaching of creationism or intelligent design as alternative explanations and, thus, credible science.



Phil Power

Here's something that is really credible: If Michigan becomes known as a place with schools unwilling to teach accepted scientific reality, high-tech businesses will avoid us like a new Ice Age. And we can forget about evolving into a prosperous high-tech economy.

There may be better news soon. Topsiders in the Department of Education say the board's delay in adopting standards was a tactical maneuver. It did that to help out legislative leaders who want some time to calm down some of the crazier members of their caucus. The state board also wants to develop a method for lawmakers to provide "legislative input" in the design of teaching standards. That may sound silly, but that's far less intrusive than a now-sidetracked House bill that would have dictated entire standards.

We'll see. The state board meets next Oct. 10. Board members tell me the votes are there to adopt a clear teaching standard that rules out creationism. We better hope so.

Throwing a bone to legislative leaders may be good politics. But opening the door to teaching wacky "science" is the worst possible thing Michigan could do at this moment in our economic crisis.

Come to think of it, though, Hoogendyk and Moolenaar may be rather more acute than we may realize.

We might even extend their healthy skepticism about prevailing theories to all manner of things previously viewed as certain.

The teaching standards for math could be

revised to indicate that two plus two "may or may not" equal four, as appears to be the case in some alternative universes.

The Bible "may or may not" represent literal truth. The allies "may or may not" have won World War II; if so, the curriculum standards for history could stand some revision.

Even the prevailing notion that reducing business taxes automatically leads to economic growth could be subjected to the "may or may not" skepticism test.

But there's no "may or may not" in considering Michigan's economic crisis. We're in a lot of trouble. GM is cutting 30,000 jobs and closing plants. Ford just last week announced 44,000 cuts plus several more plants to be shuttered. DaimlerChrysler says it will lose \$1.5 billion this summer, and that may be just the start.

Things are bad now, and they're going to get much worse.

Michigan is going to prosper — if it prospers — by attracting high value added companies like Pfizer and Google that need a highly educated work force. The highly productive and profitable Chrysler engine plant in Dundee requires even its workers on the line to have at least a community college degree.

Dithering over inserting "may or may not" into the Michigan curriculum with respect to evolution is the easiest way to drive off any companies that need a skilled and educated work force.

The state Board of Education must not fold in the wrong way at what, for our state, would be the worst possible time.

Footnote: I'd like to correct last week's column, which attacked the so-called K-16 proposal to increase at no less than the rate of inflation state appropriations for schools, community colleges and universities. Because fully two-thirds of the extra money will go to shift the costs of teacher and school employee pensions from local school districts to the state, I called K-16 a cynical sham.

The measure does relatively little to improve education for kids, regardless of what the nice TV ads supporting it might say.

That is still the case, but I want to correct an incorrect assertion I made in my column. I said there were things local school districts could do to reduce the cost of school employee pensions.

That's just not so. The Legislature is in full control of these matters, and I should have known so.

Phil Power is the founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. Opinions expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Comments are welcome at ppower@hcnnet.com.

LETTERS

McCotter extremely helpful

It has become obvious to me that the Observer newspapers have become a tool to smear the good name of my Congressman Thaddeus McCotter. I have had many dealings with the Congressman and his staff over the past couple years and I have found them both to be extremely helpful, especially in my application process to become an officer in the U.S. Navy. I believe quite the opposite of what has been painted by previous letter writers, who obviously have never had any interaction with Congressman McCotter or his staff. They are likely just supporters of his opponent, and I am disappointed to see such a bias projected from my hometown newspaper.

Anthony Sandoval
Westland

College finance plan a win-win

Representative Glenn Anderson recently made a proposal that provides Michigan families with a means to send their kids to college without having to go to the poor house.

With the high percentage of our high school graduates in Livonia attending colleges and universities, I see this as a great incentive for Livonians. Not only that, but the proposal would encourage our overall economic growth by providing incentive for new cutting-edge companies to come to our state and create jobs. This is a win-win situation, and I am proud that Anderson is representing our best interests. Interest-free loans for our kids are just one of many great things that would come from more forward-thinking people like Anderson in the Legislature.

Joan Gebhardt
Livonia

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 Corp., 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' 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

Courage commended

I commend and thank the Montes family for their courage and community concern in sharing

their loss with us. As a community, we need to understand that drug use and abuse has no boundaries, and as such Livonia and Livonians are not exempt from this terrible scourge. We can sit back and take the attitude that "it really isn't that big of a problem" or "it won't happen to anyone in my family," or we can be proactive and adopt an attitude that together we can work to educate families in the hope that it won't happen to them.

That African adage that "it takes a village to raise a child" could not be more true than in this case. If enough concerned citizens are informed and take an active role in the lives of our young people, we can minimize the effects of peer pressure and drug influence. Mentoring our young people is one way to make a difference. Joining the anti-drug task force in Livonia is another way. It is my hope that the leadership in the city of Livonia and the Livonia Public Schools will promote and assist the anti-drug task force in its formation and implementation. We all belong to this "village."

Ronaee Bowman
Livonia

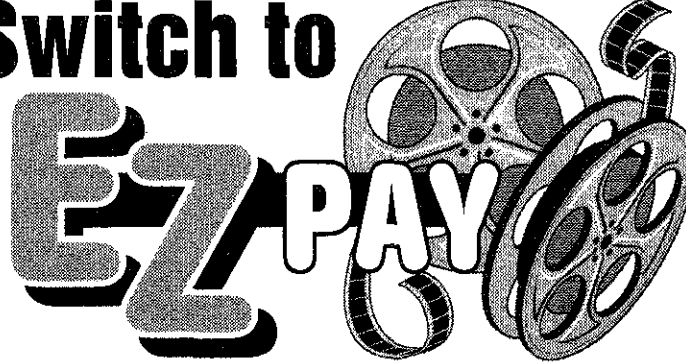
Prop. 5 isn't correct solution

After reading Phil Power's editorial piece from Sept. 14 on the K-16 Initiative, which will be otherwise known as Proposal 5 on the Nov. 7 ballot, it is necessary to make sure all voters understand what the dire consequences of voting yes for this ballot proposal really means to you and I... the taxpayers. Proposal 5 guarantees that the taxpayers will fund exponentially increasing educational pension and benefit expenditures at the cost of services such as public safety and health care.

These costs come directly from the same general fund which is targeted by Proposal 5 to guarantee one industry what they desire, but leave all of the others to suffer the consequences. It would be negligent to think that cuts in all other critical services will not happen if Proposal 5 passes on Nov. 7. They will. They have to. There is just no way around it. And the plain fact is that the state budgets cannot carry the additional loads, so cuts will have to be made. If Proposal 5 passes, you will see municipalities, counties and the state making cuts in police, fire, health care, and other essential services to offset the cost of Proposal 5. The alternative is to pass new taxes onto the citizens and businesses of Michigan to cover these costs, but in our current economy that is not a viable alternative either.

I urge everyone to do your homework, study the proposal carefully, look at who supports and who opposes this ballot issue, and make an informed decision based on facts... do not be swayed by the "it's for the kids" rhetoric. It's not for the kids, it's all about guaranteeing pensions and benefits, nothing more. Go to the following Web site, www.crcmich.org/election/index.html#04 and view the nonpartisan, objective data that clearly defines how Proposal 5 will cause more harm than good. Then go to the polls and vote no on Proposal 5 on Nov. 7.

Brad Wolkan
Livonia



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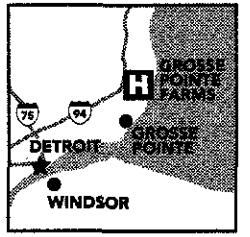
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Siemens awarded airport baggage design contract

Siemens announced Tuesday it was awarded a \$19.1 million design and build contract from Walbridge/Barton Malow LLC for an inline baggage handling system as a part of the new Detroit North Terminal redevelopment project.

The \$418 million North Terminal project includes the razing of the older Davey Terminal and the construction of a new, two-level terminal with 26 gates and approximately 685,000 square feet of space. The new terminal is expected to open in 2008 and will accommodate the airlines currently operating out of the Smith and Berry terminals.

Siemens will design, build and integrate the baggage handling system, which includes 9,577 feet of conveyor and 23 patented high-speed diverters to route all checked baggage through explosive detection systems before loading onto departing aircraft. The system will provide automatic and unobtrusive 100 percent screening of checked baggage. Siemens will also supply six baggage claim units. Additionally, the

contract includes Siemens' integrated software solution that will monitor, control and report on all system activity.

"With Siemens design/build and total life-cycle cost approach, we hope to recognize the great potential for cost savings and a smooth, on-time opening of the new North Terminal," said Lester Robinson, CEO of Wayne County Airport Authority.

"Siemens is committed to providing world class technology and performance to Detroit Metro Airport," said Art Kostaras, vice president, Airport Logistics Division, Siemens Energy & Automation Inc. "The new system will make check-in noticeably easier on passengers and enable the airport to maintain a comfortable flow of traffic throughout the terminal's public spaces."

The Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport served more than 36 million passengers in 2005, representing a 3.2 percent increase from 2004. The airport handles approximately 1,320 arriving and departing flights per day.

Forget the flowers ...

Edible Arrangements are a fresh alternative

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Brian Dougherty was looking for a way to thank a client who sent his business his way. After looking on-line for suggestions, Dougherty, manager of an Extended Stay America Hotel, located in Southfield, came to Edible Arrangements, a new store located in the Village Commons Mall in downtown Farmington.

The store is at 32730 Grand River between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road.

"I wanted to thank the lady who sent us the business," Dougherty said.

He ordered an edible bouquet. It was a fresh fruit design overflowing with juicy strawberries, pineapple, grapes, cantaloupe, honeydew and oranges - some specially cut in unique shapes.



Vikki Hardy Brown, owner of Edible Arrangements in Farmington, stands with a Berry Chocolate Bouquet.

"All of the arrangements are made the same day," said owner Vikki Hardy Brown.

Brown owns the independent franchise with her husband, Jason. The Troy couple plans to move into the Farmington area.

Brown, who worked as a senior vice president in advertising for BBDO Detroit, focused on business for DaimlerChrysler for 10 years before she decided that it was time for a change. She also wanted to spend more time with Jason, their son, who is 18 months. Her husband, Jason, works in medical device sales.

"I was always on the plane because it is a global company," she said. "We started looking around for something we could put our hearts and souls in but still have family time."

Edible Arrangements, which is headquartered in Connecticut, started in 1999. The first franchises began in 2001.

"Inc. Magazine has ranked it number four in its top 500 companies as a company which had the largest growth," Brown said.

MORE INFORMATION

Name: Edible Arrangements
Address: 32730 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48336
Phone: (248) 888-9676
Web address: www.ediblearrangements.com
Franchise date established: Aug. 28, 2006
Number of employees: 8
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Closed on Sunday.
Edible arrangements are edible bouquets. They are made from a fresh fruit design overflowing with juicy strawberries, pineapple, grapes, cantaloupe, honeydew and oranges - some specially cut in unique shapes.
"You probably have not seen anything like it," said owner Vikki Hardy Brown. "It is healthy and good for you."

"We were looking for a community that was strong, stable and had good people," Brown said. "We have a lot of friends who live in this area."

The Farmington franchise, which opened Aug. 28, is located in what Brown calls "a delightfully modest 1,200 square foot space."

Edible Arrangements offers a unique collection of fresh fruit bouquets that can be presented for any holiday, celebration or business occasion.

"This is a beautifully designed arrangement that you can eat," Brown said. "It's made fresh every day. Nobody gets it the day before and we don't recommend that."

No preservatives are used. "Our fruits are all natural," she said. "They last as long as a strawberry lasts. If it has chocolate on it, probably not longer than two days."

If you are picking up an arrangement but you are not going home right away, a reusable cooler can be pur-

chased to store the arrangement for about four hours, she said.

Because the arrangements are so fresh and handmade every day, Brown appreciates about a couple hours notice to prepare the product.

For more information about the Farmington store, call (248) 888-9676.

Ficano appoints Land Bank board members

Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano recently appointed three board members to the Wayne County Land Bank Corporation. The board consists of five members including County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz and County Commissioner Keith Williams. The executive's appointees are: Phillip Cavanagh, George Barnes and Bella Marshall.

Cavanagh has been a member of the Wayne County Commission since January 2001. Cavanagh represents the communities of Redford Township, Dearborn Heights and Garden City.

George Barnes has a long history of owning and operating businesses within the City of Detroit. Most notably, Barnes

opened Heritage Optical in the City of Detroit in 1975 when it became Michigan's first African-American-owned full service optometric dispensary. Barnes also owns the Traverse Group, a highly successful environmental engineering firm in Southeast Michigan. In addition to Mr. Barnes' success in business, he has been a very active member of the Detroit community.

Bella Marshall currently serves as the chief operating officer for Wayne County. Prior to this assignment, Marshall held numerous public sector positions in Michigan including chief financial officer for both Wayne County and the City of Detroit, and director of the Detroit Area Office for MSHDA.

Because the first franchise in Michigan was already located in Troy, their hometown, the Browns decided to look further to start their business.

Environmental Non-Profit Seeks Request for Proposals

Friends of the Rouge, a non-profit, 501(c)(3), environmental education organization is seeking candidates to submit proposals detailing a plan to develop and implement an all-inclusive database for the organization. Submission deadline: October 15, 2006. For a complete copy of the RFP go to www.therouge.org and click on FOTR Database RFP. Or you can contact Carolyn McCaughey at 313-792-9627 or ed@therouge.org to obtain a copy. Publish: September 28 & October 1, 2006

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Church's 60th anniversary kickoff a runaway hit

When Bonnie Danic suggested her Redford Township church hold a fun run to mark its 60th anniversary, then volunteered fellow parishioner Jim Soter to help organize it, the longtime runner, well, took it in stride.

"She put an elbow into my side and said, 'Jim could help me,'" said Soter, of Plymouth, remembering a meeting of St. Valentine Catholic Church's anniversary committee.

Excited about doing something different, the committee adopted the idea, and co-directors Danic and Soter, their spouses and other volunteers spent weeks planning the event. A spaghetti dinner for about 300 people, cooked by John Cubba, a parish member and Redford's finance director, followed the run/walk.

Sunday's 5-kilometer (3.1 miles) fun run and walk brought about 170 people to the tree-lined streets around the church and attracted veteran racers, fitness walkers and runners and those out for fellowship and an afternoon stroll.

"That was the idea, just to keep it in the neighborhood," said Danic, a Plymouth resident and secretary in the parish's faith formation department. "It just made the nice community feel for



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Gathering at the starting line before Sunday's St. Valentine 5-kilometer Fun Run and Walk are (from left) Abby Pawl, Hallee Garcia, Devon Ruczko and Angela Nicola. The event drew about 170 participants and was followed by a spaghetti dinner for about 300 people.

St. Valentine."

Participants included students from the parish school, their parents, school graduates and longtime church members. "We ran the whole gamut of age groups, so that was wonderful," Danic said.

Soter, who is planning to run his 28th Detroit Free Press Marathon next month, said the event allowed him

to see a race from an organizer's perspective.

"It also gave me a better respect for race directors and all the stuff they have to go through," he said. The event's sponsors included Runner's World magazine, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, plus FamilyMeds Pharmacy and other local businesses.

The run/walk was the first in a series of events planned

to mark the parish's 60th anniversary, which is next year.

The winners in the men's category were Neal Martinuzzi, 20 minutes, 20 seconds; the Rev. Tim Laboe, St. Valentine's pastor, 21 minutes, 15 seconds; and 13-year-old Mike Ryan, 22 minutes 8 seconds. All are from Redford.

In the women's category,



St. Valentine parishioners Stephanie and Larry Toth dressed up to work the fun run's pirate-themed aid station at about the 1.5-mile mark.

the winners were Lindsay Parsell of Troy, 21 minutes, 34 seconds; Marybeth Dillon of Livonia, 22 minutes, 33 seconds; and 15-year-old Clare Meernick of Redford, 25 minutes, 19 seconds.

Soter said it was gratifying to see so many people enjoying the event. "That was more pleasing to me than anything else," he said.

- By Matt Jachtman



Runners, including (from left) Marie Graham, Ashlei Garcia and Bob Neaton, head onto Fox Drive, near Western Golf & Country Club, during the first mile of Sunday's St. Valentine 5-kilometer Fun Run and Walk in Redford.

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Affirmative action ballot proposal debate on tap

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Activists on both sides of the debate over civil rights in Michigan will gather in Bloomfield Hills next week to lay out their cases for and against Proposal 2.

The Women Officials' Network, a group founded to help women develop leadership skills, will host a debate on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 6 at the Radisson-Bloomfield Hills, 39475 Woodward.

Proposal 2 is the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative which would amend the Michigan Constitution to ban affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes.

MCRI Media Relations Director Max McPhail said the issue before Michigan voters is simple: to reaffirm residents' commitment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"There should be no discrimination based on race or gender," he said. "The Grand Rapids schools give their contracts out 90 percent based on price and merit and 10 percent on race. I don't think the voters of Michigan are going to move toward a colorblind society when they base their decisions on race."

McPhail, however, won't be the one to defend the MCRI at the Radisson. That duty will fall to MCRI Executive Director Jennifer Gratz, who sued the University of Michigan after being denied enrollment. The Supreme Court struck down the school's admissions policy in 2003.

Former state Rep. Maxine Berman, the governor's director of special projects, said she's been working with One

United Michigan to defeat the MCRI. The people with the most to lose if Proposal 2 passes, she said, are women.

"I remember what it was like before affirmative action, I don't want to roll back the clock," Berman said. "When I went to the University of Michigan in the '60s I had two choices — teacher or nurse."

She said the jobs of the future are going to be science-based and women are already underrepresented in those fields by a margin of four to one. In the corporate world, the numbers are even more stark.

"There is a minute level of women and minorities in corporate America. They represent 50 percent of middle management and 3 percent of upper management," Berman said. "By not providing a level playing field, we'll deny the country brain power and opportunity."

WON Administrator Barbara Moorhouse said the organization has always had guest speakers, but lately has tried to add contemporary politics to the discussion.

"We wanted to do something on a ballot proposal," she said. "We're not taking a position on the MCRI, but we'd like to hear how the MCRI would affect women."

In the past few years, the organization has dipped its feet into the political waters by hosting a candidates night in the Secretary of State race two years ago. It's always looking for a speaker or topic that will draw a crowd, but it's also interested in discussing topics it considers underreported in regular channels.

Reservations for the event are being taken through Oct. 3. Tickets are \$25 and checks can be sent to the WON, P.O. Box 404, Birmingham, MI 48012.

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

Plymouth man is Wayne State vice president of development

David W. Ripple has been named associate vice president of development and alumni affairs for Wayne State University.

A Certified Fund Raising Executive, Ripple has more than a decade of broad fund-raising experience. Most recently, he served as executive director for Community Counselling Service, directing nonprofit clients on multi-million dollar campaigns, including Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

Earlier in his career, Ripple served on the fund-raising staffs of Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, the American Red Cross Southeastern Chapter and Angela Hospice in Livonia. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Greater Detroit Chapter and has served on numerous AFP committees. Ripple is also

an adjunct assistant professor in the English and Communications Arts departments at Madonna University in Livonia.

"David Ripple's extensive fund-raising experience will be of significant assistance to the university as we work to complete the Wayne State Capital Campaign on schedule," said Susan Burns, vice president for Development and Alumni Affairs. "The Campaign is of critical importance to the urban mission of the university and we are fortunate to have someone of David Ripple's caliber in this key position."

Ripple earned a bachelor's degree from Madonna University and a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. He resides in Plymouth with his wife and two daughters.

Wayne State University is a premier institution of higher education offering more than 350 academic programs through 11 schools and colleges to more than 33,000 students.

Teen journalists: The Observer is looking for you

The Observer Newspapers is looking for students (ages 13-18) who are interested in producing local newspaper pages and online material for teens by teens.

Teens will report, write, edit and take photographs for the hometownLIFE.com print and online sections which will appear periodically in Sunday editions of the Observer.

The first pages and online stories are scheduled to appear in November.

To participate, email a brief resume and at least two short writing samples to hgal-

lager@hometownlife.com. Make sure you include a phone number and email address.

"We want teens to take ownership of the section both in print and online," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"Teens will decide what to cover, what to write about - what's important to them. They'll be mentored by reporters, editors and photographers at the O&E," added Rosiek.

Deadline to apply is Wednesday, Oct. 4.



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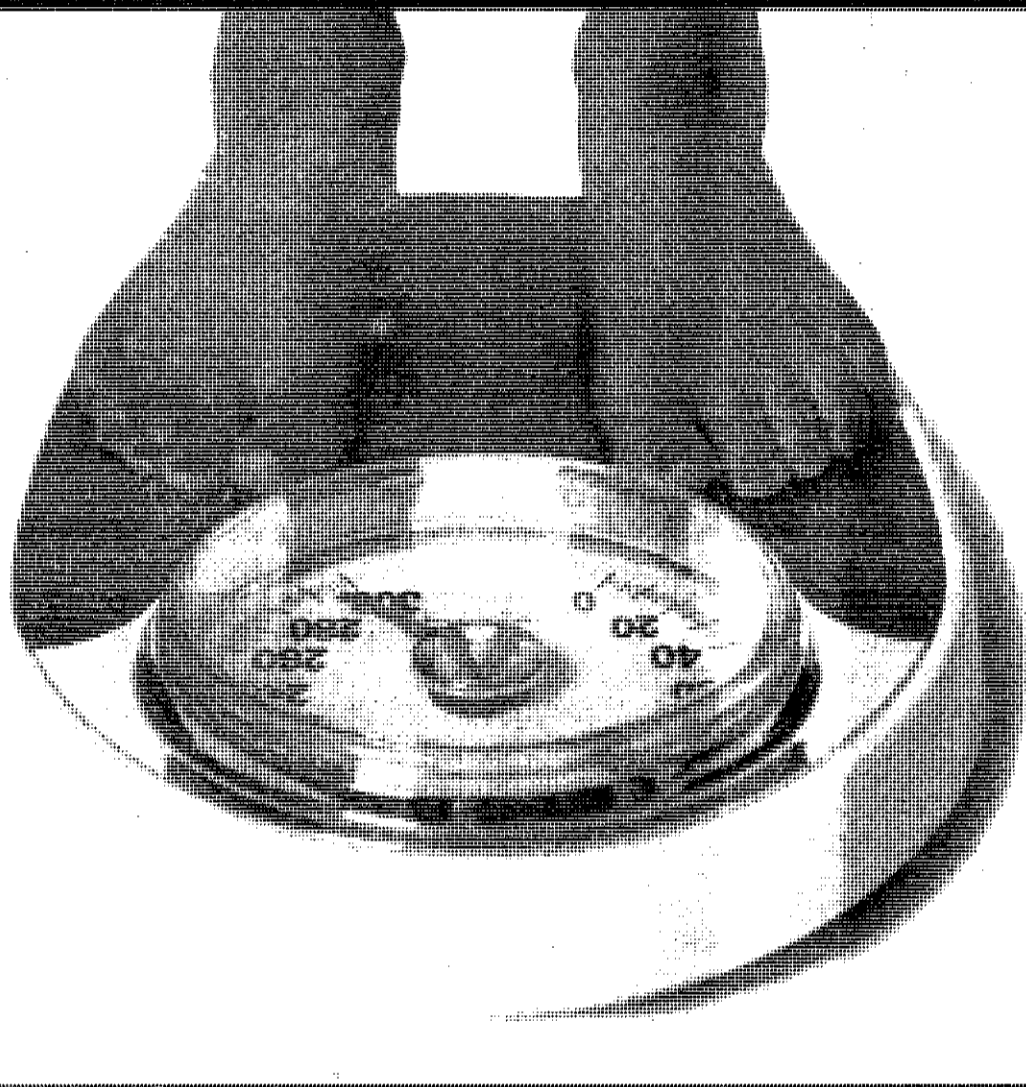


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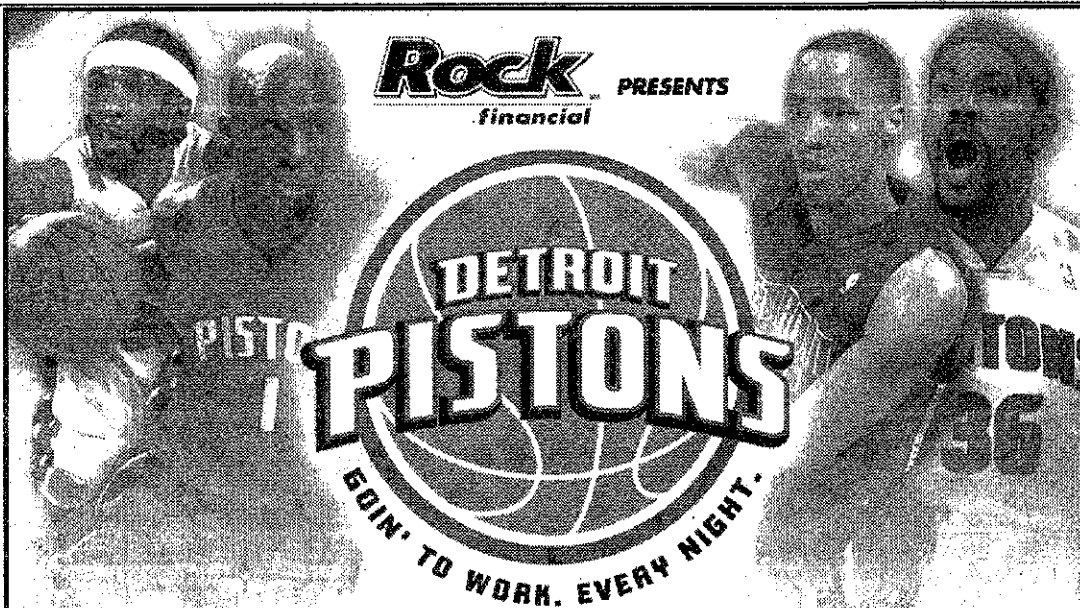
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12/5	Portland Trailblazers
12/31	Phoenix Suns
1/17	Utah Jazz
2/6	Boston Celtics
2/14	San Antonio Spurs
3/5	Golden State Warriors
3/20	Philadelphia 76ers
4/1	Miami Heat

PLAN B

The return of Ben Wallace and the human highlight reel, LeBron James, are featured.

11/15	NO/Oklahoma City Hornets
11/24	Charlotte Bobcats
12/17	Seattle SuperSonics
1/13	Boston Celtics
1/26	Washington Wizards
2/2	Milwaukee Bucks
2/12	Los Angeles Clippers
3/7	Cleveland Cavaliers
4/4	Chicago Bulls
4/11	Orlando Magic

10 REGULAR SEASON GAMES FOR THE PRICE OF 9 PLUS A SPECIAL BONUS — ONE FREE PISTONS PRESEASON GAME

PLAN C

Everybody loves rivalries — and there's no finer in sports than Pistons vs. Pacers, Lakers & Cavs.

11/17	Washington Wizards
12/1	New York Knicks
12/26	New Jersey Nets
1/10	Charlotte Bobcats
1/28	Indiana Pacers
2/8	Los Angeles Lakers
2/21	Orlando Magic
3/26	Denver Nuggets
4/8	Cleveland Cavaliers
4/17	Toronto Raptors

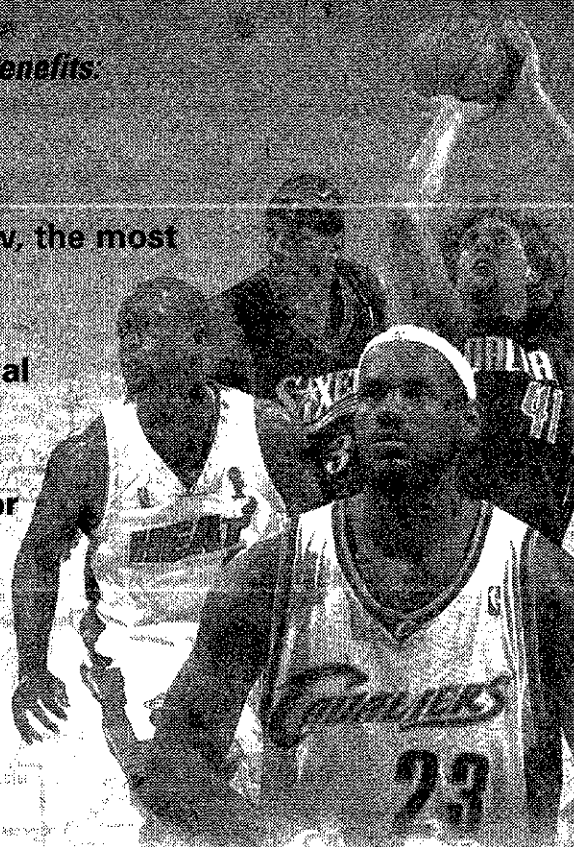
PLAN D

Can't make weekday games? Plan D features all weekend games, including the return of Big Ben.

11/4	Memphis Grizzlies
11/18	Houston Rockets
12/23	Atlanta Hawks
12/29	Indiana Pacers
1/20	Sacramento Kings
2/10	Toronto Raptors
2/25	Chicago Bulls
3/18	Dallas Mavericks
3/30	New Jersey Nets
4/15	Philadelphia 76ers

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN THE PISTONS CREW, CALL 248-377-0100 OR VISIT PISTONS.COM.

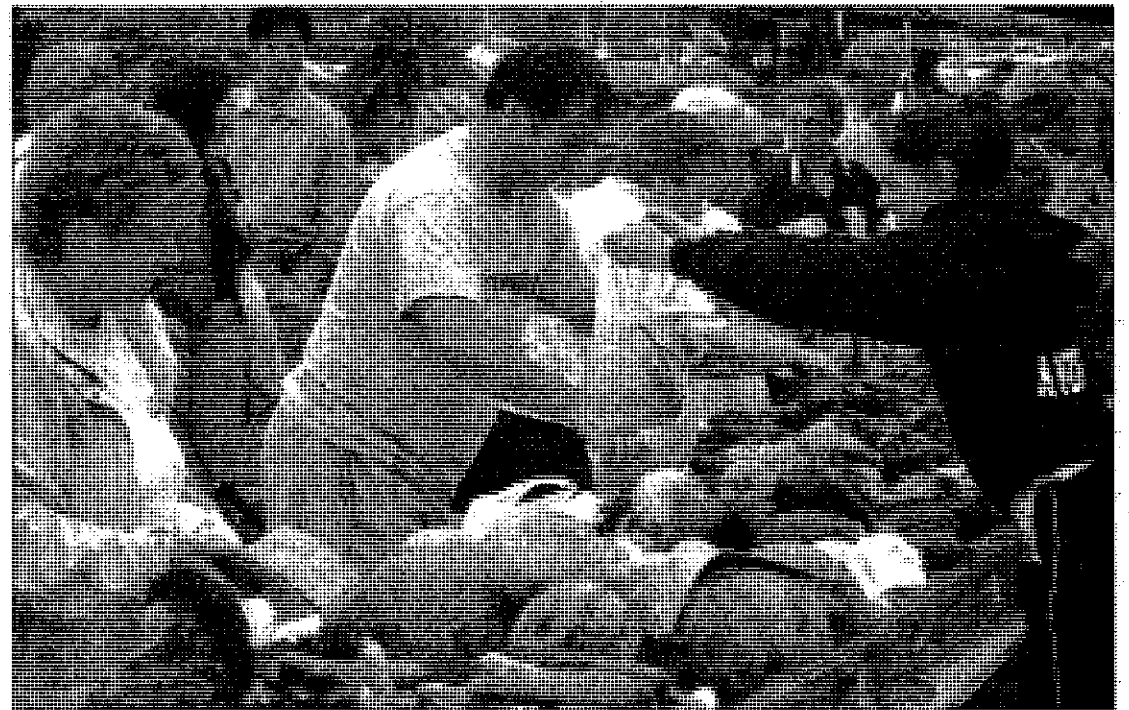


PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Market-goers gather their fresh produce at the Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market, which is open every Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the end of October at the pavilion in downtown Farmington.

It's harvest time in Farmington

Farmers & Artisan Market beams with season's glory

Autumn harvest has arrived at the Walter E. Sundquist pavilion in downtown Farmington.

A special two-day Harvest Moon Weekend Celebration is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8.

The market will continue every Saturday through October.

Special activities for all ages include a scarecrow contest in Riley Park, a Harvest Breakfast Café by Penny White from the Breakfast Club restaurant, chef demonstrations, games, face painting and a minstrel storyteller.

The farmers and artisans are regular attractions at the market.

A Harvest Moon Dance will be held 5:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at the pavilion located on Grand River, east of Farmington, for adults 21 and over. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at Farmington City Hall, John Cowley & Sons, the Downtown Development Authority office at 33314 Grand River or the Farmers Market information booth from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority and Farmington Farmers & Artisans market committee once again will host a scarecrow building competition with cash prizes as a way to welcome the harvest season and decorate the town in a unique and fun way.

Entry forms can be found at the Saturday Farmers Market information booth, the DDA office and online at www.DowntownFarmington.org. Judging will take place at noon Oct. 7. Winners will be announced at noon Sunday, Oct. 8.

Official categories include 9 years and younger; ages 10-17 and 18 years and above.

Winners in each category will receive \$150 for first place, \$50 for second place; and a Civic Theatre Movie Basket for third place. Additional non-cash awards will go to "Mayor's Choice," "Best Merchant Entry," "Best Group Entry" and "Harvest Mooner's Choice," as voted on during the Harvest Moon Dance event.

The scarecrows will be mounted in Riley Park and throughout the downtown for public viewing for the remainder of October. The winning scarecrows will be displayed Oct. 10 during "Hay Days" at Heritage Park. For more information, call the DDA at (248) 473-7276 or contact Mary Burk, scarecrow chairwoman, at (248) 471-0144.

A horse-drawn Harvest History Tour to the historic Governor Warner Mansion includes carriage rides, a mansion tour and cider and doughnuts. The \$3 round trip will be narrated by Brian Golden of Pastways Inc. Boarding begins at the pavilion.

The tours will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. during festivities Sunday, Oct. 8.

Strolling minstrel and storyteller Genot Picor will again bring his talents to the market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8. Last year, Picor delighted children and parents alike with his stories and songs about nature and Native Americans, American exploration and the great frontier.

The Farmers Market is sponsored by the Williams Family Sports & Medical Center of Farmington.



Five-year-old Delaney Taylor of Farmington searches for just the right yellow peppers at the Farmington Farmers Market on a recent Saturday.

HARVEST MONTH EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 7

- Harvest Cafe by the Breakfast Club, 8-11 a.m.
- Musician Joy Sparks, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Farmers Market, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Chef Demo by Five Restaurant, 10 a.m.
- Face Painting by Jannie Annie, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Harvest games, Sack Races, Egg-in-Spoon Relay, Gourd Toss, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Musician Billy Brandt, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Hay Bale Races, Noon, 1 and 2 p.m.
- Harvest Moon Dance: Music by The Hummingbirds, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., Dragonmead microbrew beer, wine and Oktoberfest fare served by John Cowley & Sons, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 8

- Harvest Cafe by the Breakfast Club, 8-11 a.m.
- Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Genot Picor, minstrel storyteller, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Chef demonstration, 10 a.m.
- Face painting by Jannie Annie, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Harvest games, Sack Races, Egg-in-Spoon Relay, Gourd Toss, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Musician Mark Reitenga, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Horsedrawn Harvest History tour, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Board at the pavilion for narrated tour to Governor Warner Mansion; \$3 includes roundtrip, mansion tour, cider and donuts
- Scarecrow winners announced at noon
- Hay bale races, Noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 14

- Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Chef demonstration by Tribute, 10 a.m.
- Arts 'n Scraps hatmaking for kids, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Music by John D. Lamb Acoustic/vocals 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- Scarecrow Dress-up
- Polaroid booth, Noon-2 p.m.
- Hay bale races, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21

- Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Chef demonstration, 10 a.m. by John Cowley & Sons
- Musician Bob Monteleone, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Straw scramble, 11 a.m.
- Pumpkin painting, 11:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- Pavilion birthday celebration, noon
- Straw scramble, 12:30 p.m.

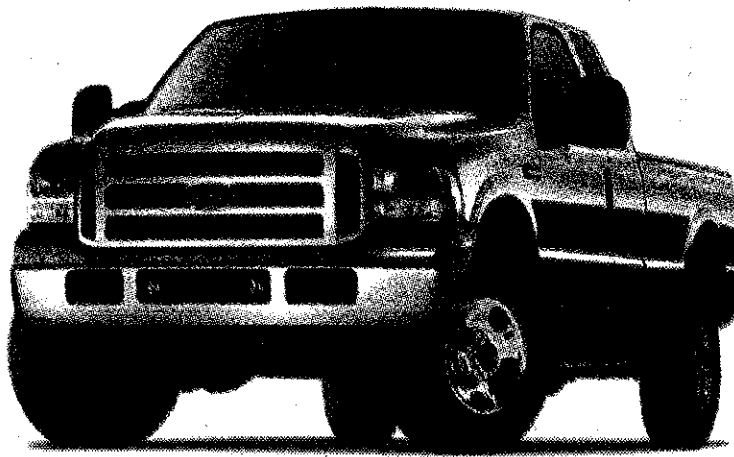
Saturday, Oct. 28

- Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Iron Chef Pumpkin Carve off, 10 a.m.-noon
- Musician John D. Lamb, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Trick or Treating throughout the downtown business district, 3-5 p.m.
- Costume contest, 5 p.m.
- The Spoonman, an entertainer, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

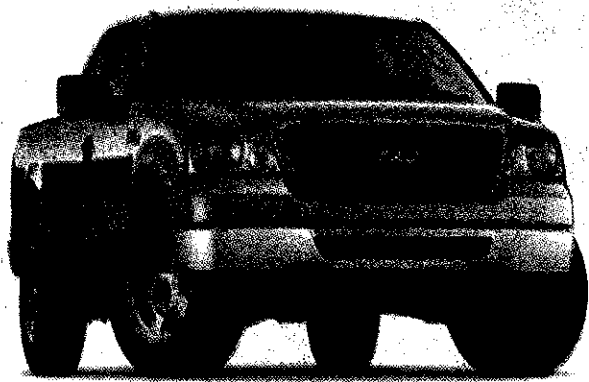
For more information, visit www.DowntownFarmington.org or call (248) 473-7276.

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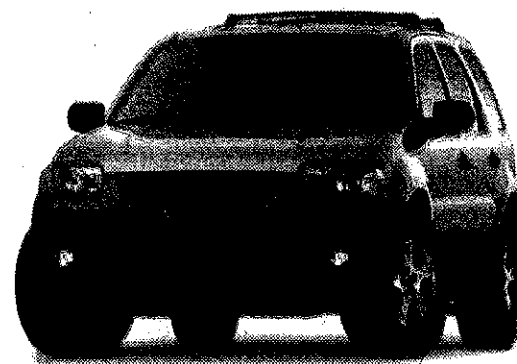


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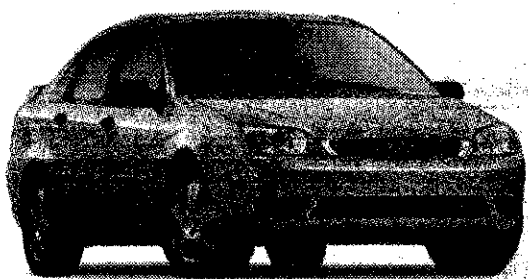
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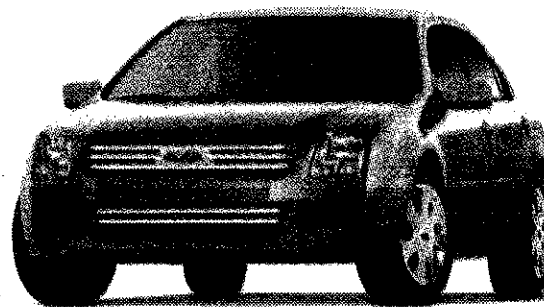
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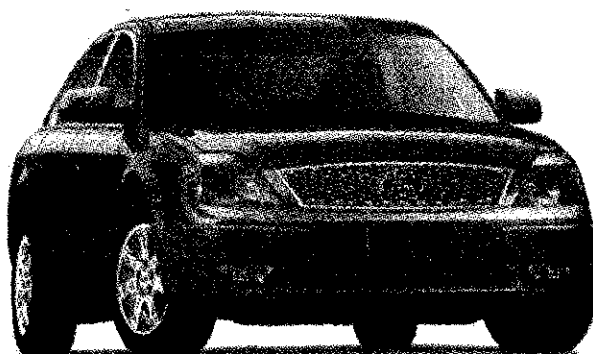
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