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ROARING to go

Students' poetry has Tiger spirit

Kelly Schopp's students at Vandenberg Elementary School in Redford can't help but get into the Detroit Tigers spirit. Her fourth and fifth-grade split class has been writing poems and participating in schoolwide Detroit Tigers spirit days since the team made it to the playoffs.

Now they're cheering on their teacher. Schopp was lucky enough to secure two tickets to the World Series. But the Westland resident gave up those seats to ensure that her father and brother can attend the coveted event.

"Basically it's like a religion," said Schopp, of her family's take on the Tigers. "My dad is a huge fan." He attended the 1968 World Series and will return again this year to cheer on his favorite team. The sentiment nearly brought him to tears, she said. As for her students? "They are totally into it," Schopp said. From spirit days to English assignments cen-



A huge fan, Westland's Kelly Schopp holds up her Tiger claw. Schopp, a teacher at Vandenberg Elementary in Redford, had her students write poems about the Tigers.

tered around the team and the sport, she's kept the students in high spirits. The celebration has provided a welcome break to MEAP standardized testing, she said. "We're going to give the Tiger treatment to our (class)room," she said. Visitors can expect orange and blue streamers and decorations galore this week at Vandenberg. "Go Tigers," Schopp said. By Stephanie A. Casola

TIGERS TALES

The Detroit Tigers' World Series run has captured the spirit of our community and we'd like readers to share their stories of this thrilling ride with their neighbors. Write up your Tigers moments - whether it was snagging tickets to watch the game from inside or outside Comerica Park, celebrating with family and friends in your decorated family room, or joining hundreds of strangers in a pub to share the excitement. Send along a photo or two of the event. The more unique or touching your story, the better. We'll select from those items sent in and share them with readers in upcoming issues of the Observer. Send your Tigers tales to editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com

Police look for motive in latest slaying

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland police are continuing to investigate the homicide of a 77-year-old man who was found dead in his home Sunday afternoon on John Hix Road north of Cherry Hill. The victim, Raymond Pankau, was described as a widower and a retired jazz musician who taught drum lessons. The victim had been stabbed, police Sgt. Chris Benson said. Authorities didn't have a suspect or a motive. Family members went to check on Pankau just before 2:30 p.m. Sunday because they hadn't heard from him, Benson said. "He didn't answer the door," the detective said. Relatives found Pankau when they went inside the home, Benson said. Fire department paramedics were called out, but the victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The man had lived alone since his wife's death a few years earlier, and he was typically alone at night, police said.

"He kept to himself," Benson said. Early this week, police hadn't found any neighbors who heard or saw anything amiss at the victim's house. Local authorities called in the Michigan State Police crime lab unit, which handled most of the evidence. Police believe that the victim is survived by two sons and a daughter. "Obviously it's a major shock to the family," Benson said. Anyone who has information about the homicide is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600. Anonymous tips also may be made for a possible reward to Crime Stoppers by calling (800) SPEAK-UP. Pankau's death was the second killing within five days in Westland. Four days earlier, Eduardo Enrique Garcia, 31, of Detroit was shot dead when he went to his ex-girlfriend's house and confronted her new boyfriend at Greenwood Villa, near Central City Parkway and Nankin Boulevard. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office decided the shooter should be released as the investigation continued. According to Westland police Lt. James Ridener, the prosecutor's office believed that Garcia may have been the aggressor and that the shooter may have been retreating from him before firing a .38-caliber revolver, killing Garcia.

22 years in making, local bars ready for large crowds

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

The party just got bigger. With the Detroit Tigers sweeping the Oakland A's Saturday to clinch a World Series bid, local bars have

started preparing. It's time to party like it's 1984 - the last time the Tigers emerged as world champions. Sure, the bar business boomed as the Tigers roared to an American League title Saturday over Oakland.

But local fans got to rest this week as the St. Louis Cardinals and the New York Mets battled for the National League title and a chance to play Detroit. They'll be ready for the party to resume this weekend.

"I think it will increase sevenfold. It's going to be nuts," said Joe Stout, manager of Buffalo Wild Wings in Westland. "It's going to be high adrenaline and large

PLEASE SEE BARS, A5

Littlest Tiger has date with the World Series

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Tigers should feel relieved that 3-year-old Kaden Dailide will be going to the World Series home games. All season long, in all of the 22 games he has attended, Kaden has had the same battle cry. Go Magglio. It's as if the Westland toddler knew all along that his favorite Tiger, Magglio Ordonez, would be the star player to hit the series-winning home run Saturday against the Oakland A's. It's as if Kaden knew that Ordonez would hit the run that gave the Tigers a chance to become world champions for the first time since 1984.

And he was there Saturday in his Tigers costume and face paint, sitting on grandpa Bud Somerville's shoulders when it happened. "I was happy," Kaden said. What an understatement. Just ask Somerville. "Kaden was on my shoulders, and we were jumping up and down," he said. Go Magglio. Indeed. Kaden - or The Littlest Tiger, as some call him - has emerged during this magical baseball season as a star in his own right. Detroit rocker Kid Rock, actor Jeff Daniels and other celebrities have had their pictures taken with him. He has been captured by television cameras and graced a page of *Sports Illustrated*. He will have quite the scrap-

book. Kaden arrived long before Saturday's game started, and he got close enough to the Comerica Park field to yell at Ordonez. "Magglio turned and looked and just started laughing and waving," Somerville said. "Kaden yelled at him to hit a home run." And did he ever. Last week, Kaden told the *Observer* that his trips to the ballpark hinge on one requirement from his mother, Tawny Somerville. "When I take naps, I get to go to the game," he said. So, Kaden, do all Tigers fans a favor before the World Series starts. Nap. And then go, Kaden.

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



Kaden Dailide plays around in front of Comerica Park before going to a game.

City officials agree: Gilbert leaves big shoes to fill

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

In his 20 years as Westland's housing and community development director, James Gilbert has led efforts to improve the lives of countless residents. He helped secure funding for a Westland-based Wayne County homeless shelter for families who have no place to call home. He worked tirelessly to bring The Salvation Army and its services to the low-income Norwayne neighborhood. He led the charge to start a local program that provides housing assistance for the frail and elderly. He organized an annual Christmas party and an after-school recreation program for Norwayne children, who often drop in the Dorsey Community Center where he works. He helped spearhead efforts to revitalize the city's southeast side by working with a nonprofit church group to build new homes and renovate older ones in Carver subdivision. During it all, Gilbert, 52, made Westland his home. "He has done a tremendous job for the city of Westland," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Monday.

PLEASE SEE GILBERT, A4

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Volume 42
Number 42



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Coming Sunday in Health

Health care providers aren't expecting shortages of influenza vaccine this season so there's no reason not to get your shot. Vaccination helps reduce the spread of the disease.

At 90, volunteer is school's own 'grandma'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Hilda Nacker goes by one name as she roams the halls of Webster Elementary during the week. That name is simply Grandma.

Nacker, who will turn 90 years old Monday, Oct. 23, has been volunteering in the Foster Grandparent Program for more than 15 years.

She works mornings at the Livonia school from Monday through Thursday, primarily in the media center.

Nacker began as a volunteer at Bulman Elementary School in Redford Union School District. After about five years in the program the teacher she worked for retired and she was placed at Webster Elementary. She's been at the school, which houses both special education and gifted student programs, for eight years.

"She's a very special lady," said Lorna Durand, Webster principal. "She works with kids who have special needs. She's a good role model."

Nacker, a lifelong Livonia resident, has six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren of her own — in addition to a schoolful of little ones at Webster.

Even a broken arm last winter couldn't keep Nacker away from her work at the school for very long. She returned with an arm brace before the end of the school year — and was welcomed back by the children.

Nacker said she found out about the program through friends who also live at McNamara Towers. She was looking for something to do and decided to give it a try.

Now she spends about four hours a day reading to and working on puzzles with chil-



Hilda Nacker walks through a hallway at Webster Elementary School in Livonia, where she volunteers as a foster grandparent working with students.



Hilda Nacker works in the media center at Webster Elementary School.

Most of the children she works with are 8 years old or younger.

"A lot of the children can't talk or read," Nacker said.

"I'm grandma to the whole school. They come and hug me around the neck. That's what it's all about."

Her daughter, Carol Burkhardt of St. John, visited

the school Tuesday. "This is just her life," Burkhardt said.

In addition to the Catholic Social Services Foster Grandparent Program, Nacker has spent several summers volunteering at a camp for children with autism and special needs. She'd spend six weeks making lunches and assisting children with camp activities.

"When she talks about the kids her eyes light up," Burkhardt said.

Nacker will celebrate her birthday with a family party Saturday. She'll continue to serve as a volunteer at Webster, as she said, "taking it one year at a time."

"It's a very rewarding thing that I do," Nacker said.

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School district looks at Legacy cost, savings

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools trustees mulled over the numbers last week, comparing the costs and the savings associated with the district's reorganization under the Legacy Initiative.

Lisa Levesque, director of finance, shared a five-year summary of the financial impact the Legacy Initiative is expected to have — both on the district's general fund and on other funds.

Beginning with the general fund, Levesque said the district stands to save about \$3.2 million each year for the next five years. "It's a conservative number," she said.

That savings is offset by the increasing cost of bus transportation. "We included a 5-percent increase for operations costs," she said, sharing a cost range from \$670,000 to \$765,000 per year.

The district planned on the addition of 20 new buses and routes under the Legacy Initiative. Ten of those buses were purchased last year for \$670,000.

Taking into account the busing changes and about \$650,000 in one-time implementation costs, Levesque anticipates a general fund savings totaling about \$11.4 million by 2011.

Levesque detailed areas of annual cost savings, including \$903,000 from a reduction of 15 custodians, \$500,000 from a reduction of four administrative positions and \$435,000 less in utilities.

In most areas, Levesque provided higher savings estimates as compared to figures originally proposed in November 2005.

However, board members did choose to retain more paraprofessionals in the lower elementary schools than the original plan had proposed. Rather than saving \$240,000, Levesque anticipates a savings in that area of \$44,000.

"We started with eight

parapro position reductions," she said. "Early in the process, we added three back at the K-4 schools. At the time, we had one technology parapro in each triad. Since that time, we decided to add back three additional parapro in the K-4 area, still serving the triad."

The result of these changes reduced the savings by about \$200,000. The one-time costs associated with putting the Legacy plan into action is about \$650,000, Levesque said. Those costs included all the work necessary in closing and updating buildings under the district's reorganization. Costs included \$110,000 in new playground equipment for Riley Upper Elementary and Rosedale School, as well as updates to Cleveland, Hoover and Kennedy schools. The expense came in \$90,000 lower than the original estimate.

Moving costs among the buildings totaled \$30,000, half of the original estimate. Other one-time expenses did not appear in the initial proposal. Informational mailings to parents, technology upgrades and facility upgrades came with a price tag of more than \$100,000. And summer staffing costs for maintenance and technology upgrades came in above its initial estimate, costing \$398,000.

Included in the one-time costs, Levesque said, are overtime costs associated with preparations at the start of the school year and increasing bus duty time due to new routes and schedules that required adjustment at the start of the school year.

Other school funds impacted by the Legacy plan changes include the district's sinking fund, building and site fund and technology fund.

District officials said with the addition of a new playground for Riley, the plan now "accounts for all costs," according to Levesque.

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WILLIAM P. FAUST PUBLIC LIBRARY OF WESTLAND

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Sealed proposals will be received by the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **November 2, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions) for the following:

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Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Debbie Nogle at 734-326-6123. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids

Debbie Nogle
Executive Assistant

Publish: October 19 & 22, 2006

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS

Absent voter ballots are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons that are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

There will be ADA compliant equipment for use at every polling place.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, November 4, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office up to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2006.

Eileen DeHart, Westland City Clerk

Publish: October 19, 2006

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Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, October 28, 2006 at 1:00 pm.

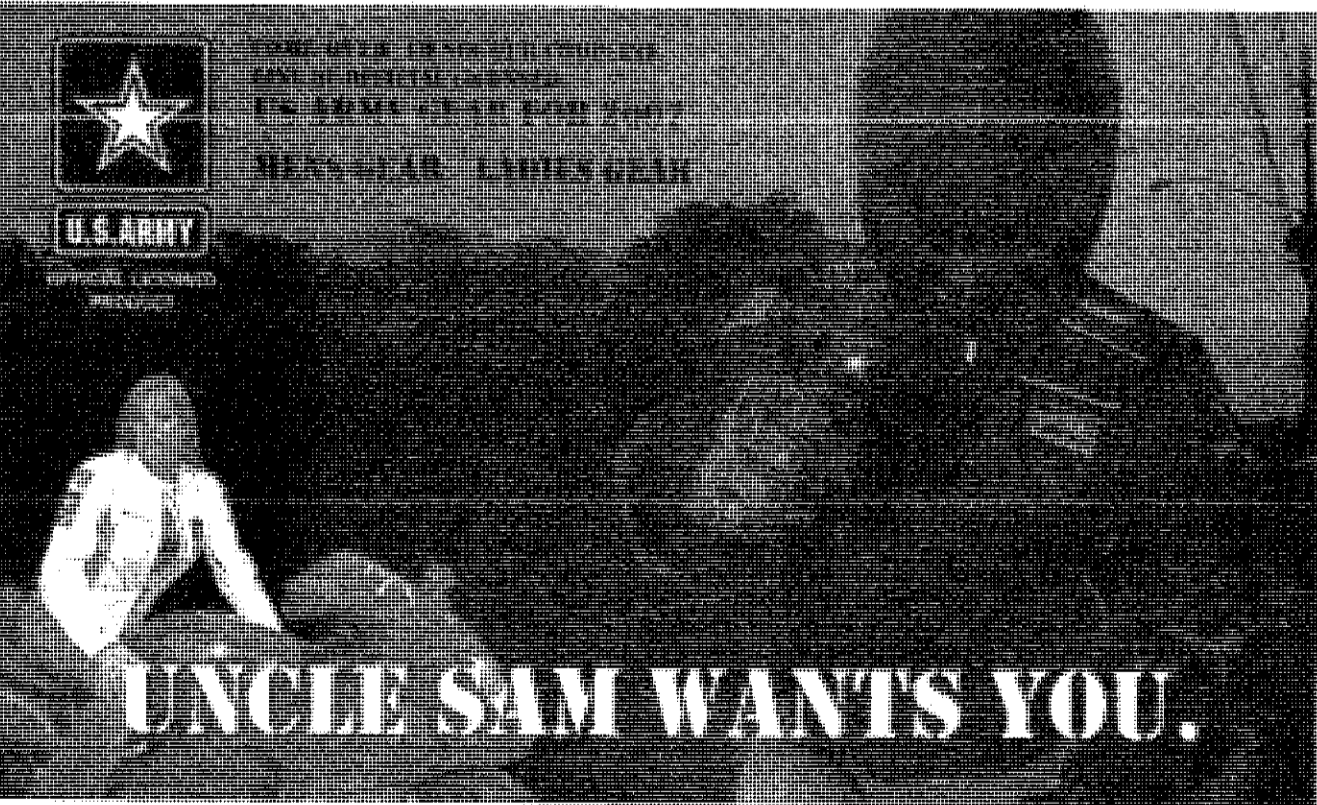
#317 Patricia Berzsenyi, #735 John Bessent, #228 Laverne Shelton; #205 Joe Thomas, #813 Ardra Hunter, #504 Chad Norton, #1337 Bonnie Schrader, #442 Jeff Coalson, #302 Joan Glover, #1222 Anthony Wells, #706 Dujan Hanspard

Units contain: misc household items.

Publish: October 15 & 19, 2006

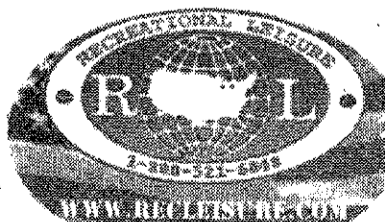
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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

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Right answer puts her in new car

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Winning a 2006 Hyundai Sonata can be a mixed blessing when you live in the state where driving domestic cars is sometimes paramount socially. And when your husband works at Ford it drives the loyalty issue home even harder.

But, Rebecca Culvert said getting a new car by answering the right question during a *Live With Regis and Kelly* show came at just the right time, even if it was the wrong manufacturer. She was in an accident in January and her car was totaled and she'd been driving a 1993 Cherokee ever since.

"Oh, my God," the Westland resident said. "Me and my sister were jumping like it was Christmas day."

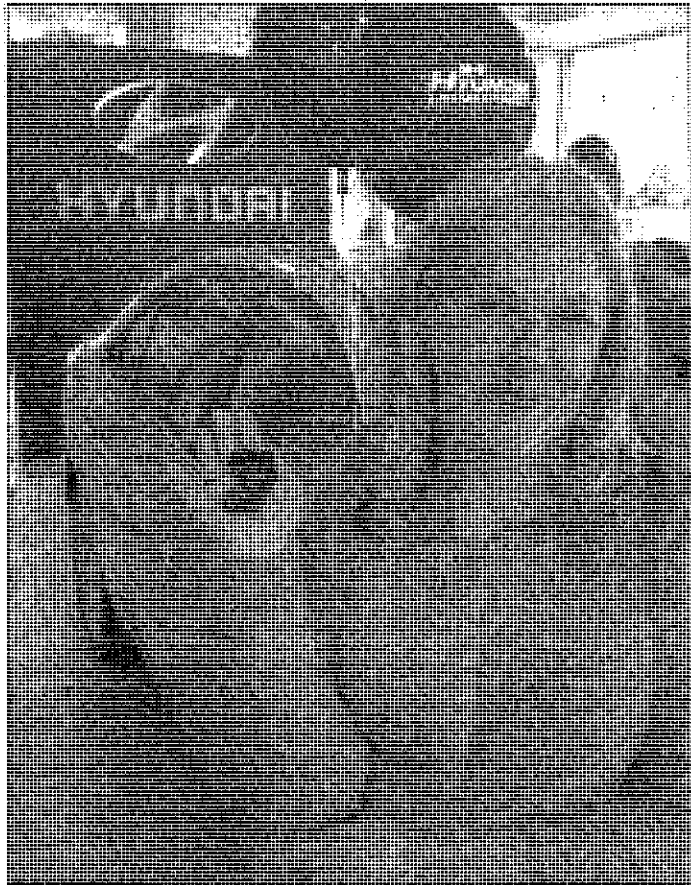
She got the call from *Live With Regis and Kelly* producers at 8 a.m. Aug. 10 saying that she would have a chance to answer the trivia question during the show. The question is always something taken from a previous *Live With Regis and Kelly*.

Her prize was determined by spinning a big wheel with prizes valued between \$3,000 to \$21,000.

Her first thought, she said, was that she had to win something, even if it was just pots and pans.

When she heard the wheel stopped on the car she thought: "I just won a car," she said. "But, oh no, because my husband (James) works at Ford and he's going to kill me. I could really use a new car and he's getting over that, because it was a free car."

As for her allegiance to *Live With Regis and Kelly*, Culvert said watching the talk show between 9-10 a.m. on ABC isn't as easy as it



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rebecca Culvert shows off the keys to a new Hyundai Sonata she won after having the right answer for the Trivia a-Go-Go portion of the *Live With Regis and Kelly* show.

once since she had her son, Trevor, a year ago.

Culvert, 31, also watches her niece and nephew, who are 18 months old and age 3. She quit her job at Marshall Field's (now Macy's) hair salon in Westland after she had Trevor.

"I try to watch the best I can, but sometimes with three that young and getting them breakfast, it's not possible," she said. "But, I always watched it before."

After she got the initial call from the television producers, Culvert gave them her sister's phone number to call back during the show. Amy Bullock of Westland would have to go into work a little

late so she could watch the three children while Culvert tried to answer the question during the Trivia a-Go-Go portion of the show.

The question was: "What country is Elisha Cuthbert from?" Luckily, Culvert knew the answer was Canada.

Culvert finally got the keys to the silver blue 2006 Hyundai Sonata on Tuesday, Oct. 10, from Ralph Thayer Hyundai on Plymouth Road in Livonia and has been driving the car ever since. The sticker on the car said, \$21,000.

Culvert was only responsible for paying the taxes that were less than \$1,500.

New DEQ grant appears likely for Cooper site

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A project to redevelop the contaminated Cooper School site will likely receive another \$1 million state grant, boosting the total in state aid to \$3 million, a Lansing legislator said Monday.

The announcement by state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, came during a Westland City Council meeting and received a chilly response from Mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

Cicirelli responded to Anderson's remarks by saying that city officials had been asked by state officials not to announce the possible grant until it became a certainty.

"But we're pleased," she said. The latest \$1 million Clean Michigan Initiative grant would be given to Livonia

Public Schools by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Anderson said.

Cicirelli said that she, Livonia school Superintendent Randy Liepa and project consultant Jack Kirksey - former Livonia mayor - have been to Lansing on several occasions to lobby for additional state money.

Cooper School, on Ann Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt, was closed by Livonia school officials in 1991 amid a contamination scare and concern for students. The school was built on a former landfill.

A group of developers has received a rezoning and preliminary plan to redevelop the 37-acre site. The plan calls for hauling old soil to a landfill, building four single-story medical office buildings and, in a later phase, constructing a sen-

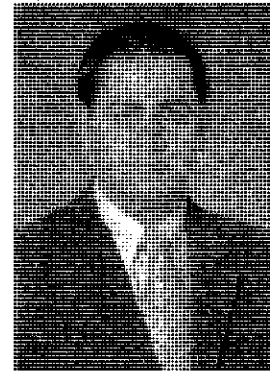
ior housing complex.

On Monday, Anderson described MDEQ as being on the verge of approving another \$1 million grant to help with the project. He said the latest announcement should be formally made within a week or two.

Grant money has been viewed as critical to making the project affordable. The school was demolished last year after developers raised new hopes that the site will be readied for redevelopment.

Developers still have some hurdles to clear, such as receiving final site plan approval from the city. However, most city leaders have been enthusiastic about redeveloping the site and generating new tax revenues.

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BARS

FROM PAGE A1

crowds. It's been 20 years in the making."

Bars are stocking up on beer, wings, nachos and other appetizers, and they're cleaning any post-American League series dust off their big-screen televisions.

Over at Frankie's bar in Garden City, owner Frank Alessandrini recalled when the Tigers beat the San Diego Padres during the 1984 World Series. He was in business even then.

"This is good for business," Alessandrini said. "If it's like it was in 1984, the World Series should be pretty lucrative."

Already, crowds have packed Frankie's, on Ford Road east of Merriman, to cheer on the Tigers against Oakland in this - Detroit's first winning season in... uh, never mind.

"Everybody's happy. They're so happy they're jumping up and down," Alessandrini said.

All that activity can make even the fittest Tiger fan work up a thirst and an appetite.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

During a visit to fanatic U in Garden City, Detroit Tigers pitcher Jason Grilli strikes a pose, wearing what has become his trademark goggles with wipers after he wore a pair during the champagne celebration after winning the American League championship.

"We're making sure we've got plenty of beer and food," Alessandrini said.

Since the Tigers last won the World Series, local sports fans have celebrated championships by the Detroit

Pistons in basketball and the Red Wings in hockey.

"They'll do it for the Tigers, too," Alessandrini said. "It'll be crazy."

All of the workers at Frankie's will be wearing

Tigers T-shirts, he said.

At Beaver Creek, a Westland bar and restaurant on Wayne Road south of Ford, manager Kimberly Ryan said she and her workers are preparing for the



Bill Hill of Garden City, security guard at Fanatic U, gets Detroit Tigers pitcher Jason Grilli to sign a baseball bat.

World Series by stocking up on party supplies.

"We'll be selling a lot of nachos and wings," she said. "Business already has been good (during the American League games.) We've been completely full."

Like other bars, Ryan said, Beaver Creek will be ready.

"We've got lots of experience from the Red Wings playoffs," she said.

Back over at Buffalo Wild



Wings, on Wayne Road near Hunter, manager Stout knows that many Tigers fans would rather be at Comerica Park than a bar.

But when the World Series begins, when the crowd

unites in a common goal, when the winning games hopefully come Detroit's way, he said, "It's like you're there."

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Marlene O'Neill of Detroit got help purchasing a baby gift at Fanatic U from Detroit Tigers pitcher Jason Grilli who was at the Garden City store Monday. Grilli also autographed the outfit.

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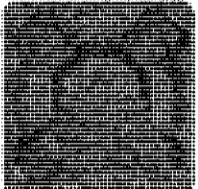
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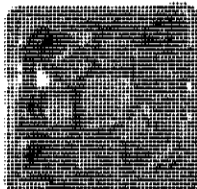
LEISUREBAYSPAS

"Flores"



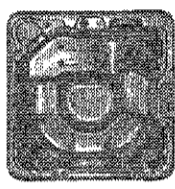
93 in. X 93 in. x 41.25 in.
6-8 Seats
Total of 38 Jets
1 Niagara, 2 Waterfall
4 Volcano, 5 Cyclone
4 Shoulder, 26 Euro Jets

"Mediterranean"

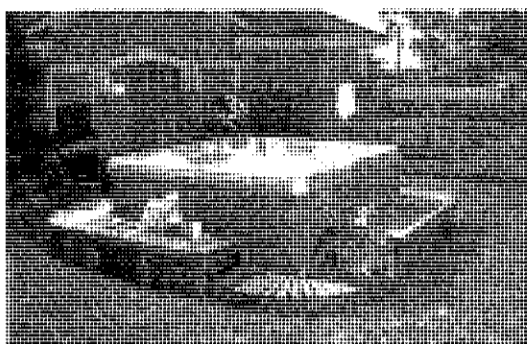
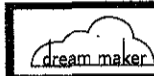


91 in. X 91 in. x 37 in.
2 Seats, 2 Lounges
Total of 33 Jets, 1 Master Massage, 4 Poly Monster Jets, 1 Feature Jet (Waterfall), 8 Adj. Nozzle Cyclone Jets, 19 Euro Jets

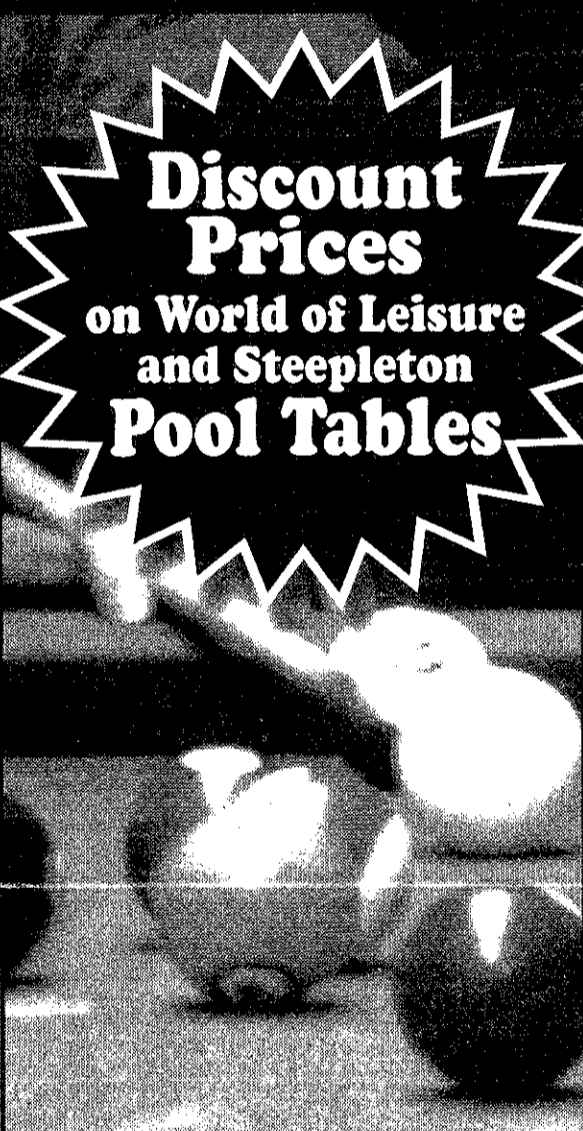
"Salida"



79.5" x 79.5" x 34.75"
2 Seats, 2 Lounges
Total of 33 Jets, 1 Master Massage, 4 Poly Monster Jets, 1 Feature Jet (Waterfall), 8 Adj. Nozzle Cyclone Jets, 19 Euro Jets



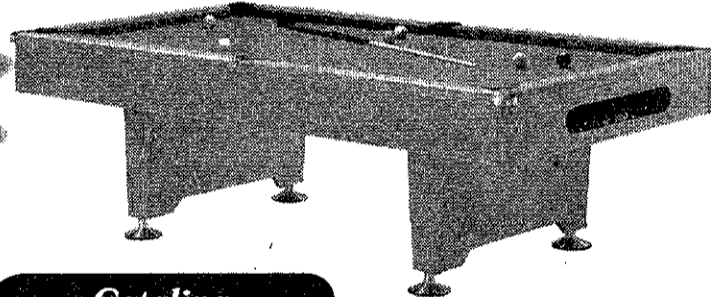
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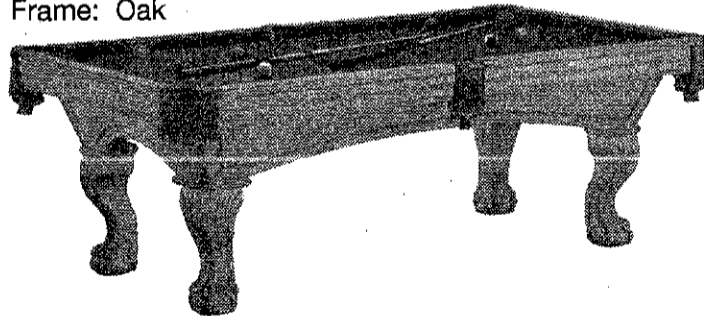
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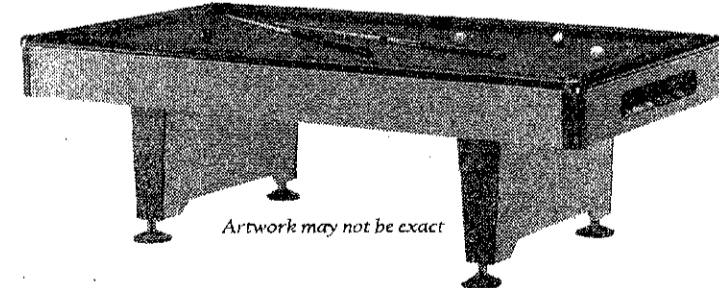
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Frame: Oak

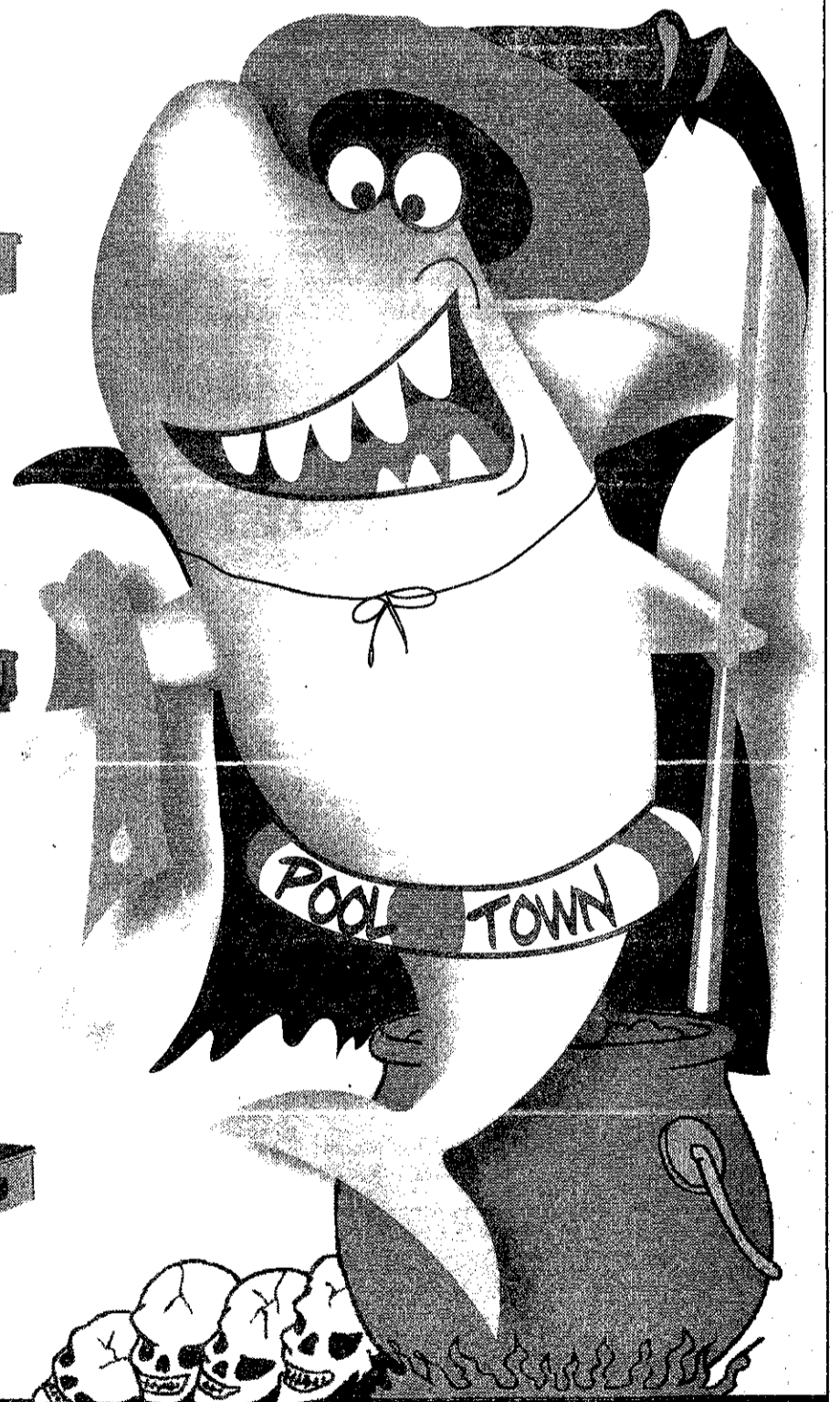


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Frame: Melamine



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Hospital fund-raiser a 'shoe-in'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Own a pair of shoes that are wild, wacky, weird, colorful, comical or outrageous? If you do, then don't miss the chance to show them off at Garden City Hospital's 15th annual Fall Fund-raiser, "Isn't it Grand!"

It's what's on the feet that will be the center of attention for the benefit Friday, Oct. 27, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The evening features marketplace food stations, silent auction, theme basket raffle and Ferrante and Teicher-esque dueling pianos, played by Cool2Duet.

"It won't be the classics, it won't be Bach vs. Bach. It's more like The Beatles vs. Elton John," said Gary Ley, hospital president and CEO. "It'll be music from the '60s, '70s and '80s, fun music. There'll be singalongs and plenty of audience participation."

"It's something that's being done in a club setting and the piano players know how to get the crowd involved. We'll see how it translates into a big group."

Joyce Pappas, president of the board of the Garden City Hospital Foundation, credits Sue Methner with coming up with the theme for the evening.

"Every year she comes up with a suggestion for a theme and presents it to the special events committee. It's very exciting to have people who get involved. They really get in there and put their heart into the event."

One of the highlights of the evening is the themed baskets raffle.

The baskets are put together by hospital employee groups. According to Ley, the employees compete to see who has the best basket, and the maintenance group blew away the competition last year with its rubber raft filled with power tools.

Party-goers buy \$10 tickets to enter to win one of the baskets, most worth more than \$300. Employees who don't attend the fund-raiser will have a chance to put in a bid when they're on display in the hospital cafeteria two days before the party.

There also will be more than 70 items available to the highest bidder in the silent auction.

The fund-raiser got its start as a Romanian dinner for 60 people at the home of John Santeu. This year, organizers hope to have 600

people in attendance.

Tickets cost \$75 each. Reservations can be made by sending a check payable to the Garden City Hospital Foundation, to the foundation at 6245 Inkster Road, Suite 209, Garden City, MI 481835, or by calling the foundation office at (734) 458-4331. Reservations will be held at the door.

The event is hosted by the foundation and honorary chair Dr. Richard Spinale. Proceeds will benefit the future Garden City Hospital Surgical Center.

The hospital is planning to construct a one-story addition beside the medical office building. The proposed project will cost \$15 million, so all of the fund-raising the next few years will go toward the addition, Ley said.

"The surgery suite on the third floor was designed before ambulatory services and robotics," Ley said. "We need bigger quarters."

The new addition will be 23,000 square feet, 10,000 feet large than the current surgical area. It will have the same number of surgical rooms — six — but there will be a better flow, Ley said.

"Fund-raising has become critical for us," Ley said. "We're an independent hospital, we're not part of a big system. The more we can fund-raise, the less we have to borrow and the better off we'll be financially."

"We're a nonprofit," Pappas said. "We need the philanthropy. The foundation always accepts donations and they can be designated to the surgical center. If they want to do that, it would be very nice."

The hospital is working through the state approval process and Garden City will need to give its approval to the addition.

Ley said the hospital has been talking on the project for 1½ years and that he "won't be excited about it until I see the steam shovel."

The hospital attracts patients from not only Garden City, but Westland, Redford, Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Detroit.

"If you live in the area or work in the area, if you have a medical problem, this is where you come," he said. "People need to focus on that and realize we're a nonprofit."

As for the Fall Fund-raiser ...

"It's a great night, everyone always has a wonderful time," Pappas said.

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

League puts its Voter Guides in libraries

Looking for information about candidates in the Nov. 7 general election?

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County recently distributed 8,000 Voter

Guides to public libraries in the area. Each library was given a set of Voter Guides produced by the League of Women Voters of Michigan, which contain non-partisan candidate information

about the statewide candidates as well as pro and con positions about the five ballot proposals.

Voters can pick up both guides for complete election information.

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Observer & Eccentric
Novi News

Garfield Elementary school turns 50

Garfield Elementary School, in the Livonia Public School district, is celebrating 50 years in education this year.

"We would like for community, past students and teachers to come and celebrate," said Janey Masters, Garfield art teacher.

A birthday party is planned for 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, at the school, 10218 Arthur in Livonia. The community is welcome to attend, have a slice of birthday cake and peruse Pumpkinfest. The school's annual fall event will

also be in full swing.

Visitors may purchase pumpkins, donuts, apples, popcorn and drinks.

"There are so many students and teachers who have been part of Garfield," said Masters, "it would be difficult to invite them all."

But that's just what school staff and administrators hope to do. For more information about the birthday celebration or Pumpkinfest, call (734) 744-2717.

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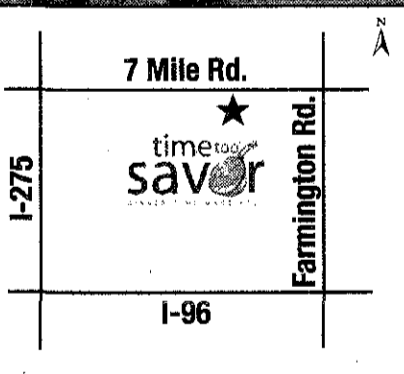
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Driver flees accident, causes a second crash

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

A 42-year-old Garden City woman has died of injuries she sustained in an automobile accident at Maplewood and Henry Ruff last week.

Police have declined to identify the victim who was treated for her injuries at Garden City Hospital Thursday, Oct. 12, and then airlifted to University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor where she died early Monday morning.

The accident occurred at 12:30 p.m.

According to police, a 2002 Ford Windstar, driven by a 42-year-old Westland woman, was traveling westbound on Maplewood at a high rate of speed when it ran the stop sign and slammed in the passenger side of the victim's 2001 Toyota Celica which was northbound on Henry Ruff.

The impact pushed the car into a utility pole "hard enough to cause a six-hour blackout," said Garden City Police Detective Lt. Mel Maier.

"It was a terrible crash," he said. "Fire Rescue had to use extreme measures to

get her out of the car."

The Westland woman was fleeing the scene of an accident at Middlebelt and Warren, but was not being chased at the time of the crash. When a Westland police officer, who was writing up a report about the initial accident, heard about the second crash, he drove to the scene and "positively identified" the Windstar as being involved in the earlier incident, Maier said.

"We're not sure why she left the scene of that accident, we're not sure she had a valid driver's license," he said. "That

might have had something to do with her leaving."

According to Maier, the black boxes from both cars have been recovered and are being analyzed, as are the results of search warrants that officers executed as part of their investigation.

Maier also said that "alcohol was a factor in the accident" and that blood samples are being tested. Results won't be in for several weeks.

Once the investigation is completed, the results will be turned over to the Wayne County prosecutor to determine

what charges could be brought against the Westland woman.

"We do expect charges," Maier said. "It'll take the next couple of weeks to determine the charge."

The Westland woman also was treated for her injuries at Garden City Hospital and then released. According to Maier, she is seeking further treatment for her injuries. He added that she was not taken into custody because of her injuries.

"The officers have a lot of things to do and a lot of ground to cover," he added.

AROUND WESTLAND

Pancake breakfast

Westland Civitan Club will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Applebee's Restaurant on Warren at Central City Parkway in Westland.

Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee, tea or milk. Tickets are \$6 each with children age 3 and under free. Proceeds will be used for ongoing community projects that enhance the quality of life for those in the Westland community who are physically and mentally challenged.

Quilt Show

Christian Union Church at 1046 Wayne Road will hold its second annual juried Quilt Show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. There will be quilts on display, quilting demonstrations, vendors, a bake sale, and hourly door prizes. A \$3 donation is requested for admission. For more information, call Mary Surbrook at (734) 721-6871.

Vegas Night

St. Bernardine Parish at 31463 Ann Arbor Trail at Merriman, Westland, is having a Las Vegas Party 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 20. No smoking rooms will be available and hot dogs, potato salad, snacks and pop are included in \$7 admission. Beer also will be available at \$1 a glass.

Games include Black Jack, Roulette and Beat the Dealer, and there also will be hourly 50/50 drawings and a raffle.

Country breakfast

AMVETS Post 171 and its auxiliary will hold a country breakfast 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Oct. 22, at the hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill in Westland.

The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for kids up to age 12 for hash browns, pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, coffee and tea. Milk and juice will be available for an extra 50-cent charge.

'Ports of Call'

The Village of Westland will host a "Ports of Call" open house focusing on the Upper Peninsula cuisine, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, for seniors and their families.

Come get a taste of the U.P. and experience the community at the Village of Westland on Cherry Hill just west of Merriman in Westland.

Call 734-762-8896.

Attention, shoppers

Westland Shopping Center and Macy's will sponsor a half-day "shopping extravaganza" starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the mall. The cost is \$25, and the event is open to the first 100 people who respond.

The event is being presented by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Guests will report to Macy's for a continental breakfast provided by Panera Bread and a holiday make-up presentation by Clinique. The day will continue with shopping for holiday gifts at participating merchants. Every participant will receive discounts and giveaways at certain stores.

The day will end at 1 p.m. at Lakeshore Grill with lunch and door prize drawings.

To sign up or for more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Train show

Westland Rotary will hold a toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland.

There will be new and antique toys, collectibles, non-sport cards, action figures, die cast toys, movie items, model cars, NASCAR, Matchbox, Hot Wheels and more as well as raffle prizes and refreshments.

Admission is \$3 with kids under age 12 free. The VFW Post 6896 is at 28945 Joy Road. For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8315.



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State proposals add to lengthy election ballot

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Ballot Proposal 2 will greatly restrict affirmative action programs; Proposal 5 will lock educational funding for K-12 schools — both of these initiatives either affect millions of people or millions of dollars.

But there are three other ballot initiatives that will appear on the Nov. 7 general election ballot that will affect natural resources budgeting, hunting regulation and public policy related to private property. The latter three don't have the high-profile attraction of the first two, but their passage or rejection will have a definite impact on residents all over Michigan.

Proposal 1 asks voters to amend the Michigan constitution to protect Department of Natural Resource funds by combining them into one fund. The fund, protected by its enshrinement in the state constitution, would be held inviolate and could not be raided by other state departments during

budget time.

On the plus side, when the state goes into annual budgeting, DNR funds could not be used to shore up other state departments. On the minus side, adding the 1,800-plus words to the constitution means any changes needed for functional purposes, no matter how small, necessary or urgent, would have to be first approved by statewide referendum.

DOVE HUNT

Proposal 3 would allow the hunting of mourning doves within the state, something currently allowed as a pilot program.

A yes vote on the measure would change the classification of the mourning dove from song bird to game bird — opening it up to hunting. Construction manager Frank Rewold, a Rochester-based hunter, said the initiative would put the state on the same regulatory footing as 41 others.

"There are a lot of mourning

doves. They reproduce quickly and only live a couple of years," Rewold said.

Those favoring the ban argue mourning doves are popular among bird watchers. They argue the doves are at a low weight during the hunting season and therefore cannot be considered a source of food. To hunt them, they say, would be hunting for hunting's sake at best or target practice at worst.

While he's personally concerned that the opponents of the dove hunting initiative are using it as a gateway issue to ban all hunting in Michigan, Rewold said non-hunters can get behind the initiative because of the impact it will have on the state's economy. "Hunting and fishing are important," he said. "Hunters represent \$3.3 billion to the economy."

LAND GRAB

Proposal 4 would amend the constitution to further regulate the governmental power of eminent domain. Eminent domain, the ability of the gov-

ernment to take private property for the public good, has long been inherent to the federal as well as state and local governments.

The proposal would allow eminent domain if it served "public necessity of the extreme sort;" provide public oversight after transfer to a private entity, and the property is selected based on "facts of independent public significance," rather than the interests of the private entity receiving the property.

According to Farmington Hills Attorney Joel Grand, of the law firm of Grand & Grand PLLC, Proposal 4 is a reaction to situations outside Michigan rather than a reaction to something homegrown.

"In the 2005 decision of *Kelo vs. the City of New London*, the U.S. Supreme Court said it did not violate the federal Constitution to use eminent domain to turn someone's private property over to another private concern for development," Grand said. "Now there's an outcry across the

country to restrict this. Several states are looking at it."

Currently, the Michigan Supreme Court, in the ruling *Wayne County vs. Hathcock*, has set relatively restrictive rules concerning when the government can condemn private property for development use. Most recently, the ruling was cited when the city of Detroit was condemning and consolidating land for the development of riverside casinos.

The problem with Proposal 4, Grand said, is the last provision which refers to the *Hathcock* case.

"If passed, there would be language that refers to language not in the Constitution," he said. "It's not well-written, it doesn't add clarity."

For more information on these ballot issues and exhaustive information and analysis on all ballot initiatives, go online to the Citizen's Research Council of Michigan's Web site, www.cremich.org.

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

American Harvest opens for dinner with new menu

The very best in Michigan and American comfort foods will grace the menu when Schoolcraft College's American Harvest Restaurant opens for dinner on October 18. The fall and winter menus will reflect the bounty and quality of local farms and regional suppliers.

"We will continue to present high quality cuisine," said Bruce Konowalow, director of the Culinary Arts Department. "We have created a menu where the quality, food and price are very attractive."

The restaurant will be open 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Reservations are encouraged but walk-in patrons will be welcomed. For reservations, call 734-462-4488.

AAA warns drivers 'Don't veer for deer'

With the days getting shorter and the state's deer herd on the move, AAA of Michigan is warning drivers to keep an eye out for migrating animals.

That's a natural, but what they're asking drivers to do, though, may seem counterintuitive. This year, the safety message coming from AAA and the state is "Don't Veer for Deer."

"Statistics show that most motorist deaths and injuries occur when drivers swerve to avoid hitting the deer and strike a fixed object, such as a tree or another vehicle," said Michigan Deer Crash Coalition Chairman Jack Peet. "No one wants to see a deer destroyed but striking the animal is often the safest action."

In 2004, there were 1,551 car/deer crashes in Oakland County. In 2005, that figure rose to 1,704 — a 9-percent increase. Statewide, there were

58,741 incidents where cars and deer crossed paths in 2005. The crash figure is 6 percent less than the previous year, but significant considering the least impact with a deer can represent a \$1,000 loss.

This year, the MDCC says the deer herd will be as large as 1.75 million head. Crashes, overall, will cost the state as much as \$130 million in damages.

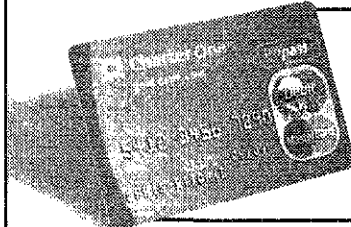
The MDCC estimates that more than 17 percent of all crashes in the state involve deer — nearly half of those coming between October and December — and in those crashes nine people died and another 1,700 were injured.

Copies of MDCC literature can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/ohsp or obtained by sending an e-mail request to trafficsafety@michigan.gov or by calling (517) 333-2722.

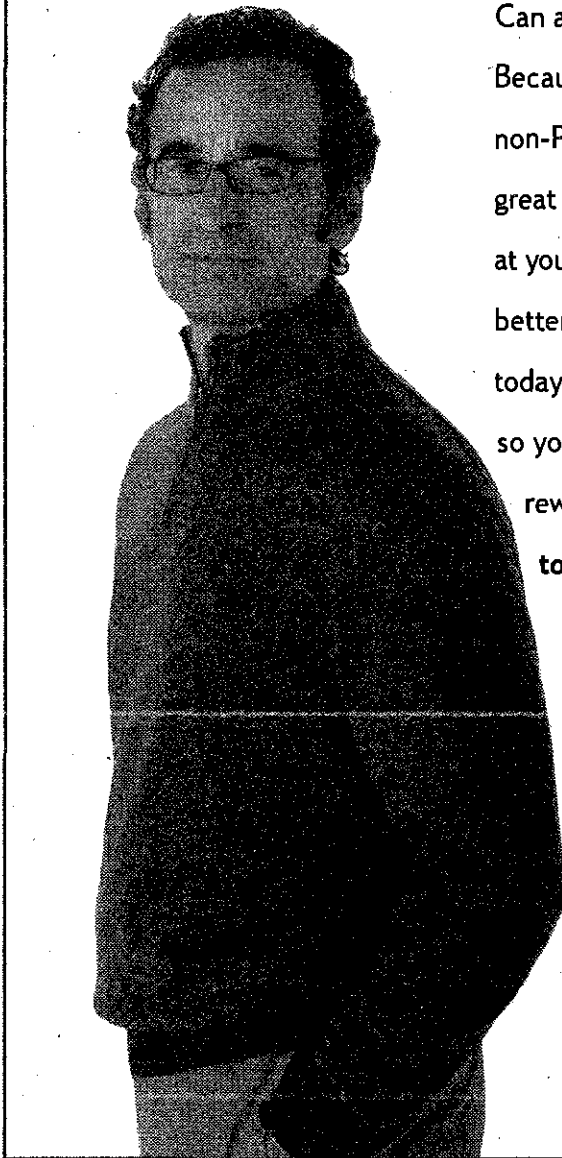


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OUR VIEWS

In 18th District, LeBlanc is best

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, Westland voters will be asked to find a successor for 18th District state Rep. Glenn Anderson, who leaves the Legislature after six years due to term limits.

Richard LeBlanc is carrying the Democrat standard, with Sam Durante representing the Republican Party and Harold Dunn championing the U.S. Taxpayers Party.

Each candidate brings their own views to a race that, we believe, clearly belongs to **Richard LeBlanc**. His many years of service on the school board and city council give him the skills, knowledge and ability to represent Westland in Lansing.



LeBlanc

LeBlanc is a people person. He is responsive to the needs of his constituents, asking questions on their behalf and getting answers. He's not afraid to ask the difficult question and make the equally difficult decision.

He is meticulous and organized; he knows it will not be easy being a Democrat in a Republican-dominated Legislature, but it's not uncharted territory. More than once, he has found himself in the minority on council.

Through his many years on council and his time on the Wayne-Westland school board, he has gleaned an understanding of the problems facing local government and education. He also has done his homework and, as a result, has developed a strong understanding of state issues. He's prepared to address those issues as a lawmaker.

His skills and knowledge will serve him well in the state House and are what set him apart from his challengers. He has the drive and commitment to serve the city and residents in Lansing.

We believe **Richard LeBlanc** is the only choice for state representative in the 18th District and urge residents to vote for him in the Nov. 7 general election.

Roar on Tigers, good luck in World Series

When Magglio Ordonez hit his second home run Saturday night, a collective *roar* spread across Michigan from Monroe to Copper Harbor.

After 22 years of waiting, the Detroit Tigers finally won the American League pennant.

Baseball is special. It's America's game, even though some of the best players come from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Mexico, Japan and Korea.

It's a game that crosses generational lines, racial divides and class differences. It embraces everyone.

It's a game that plays long into the summer and now autumn night. It's a game of precision — by pitchers, batters and fielders. It's a game of managerial chess, at which the Tigers' Jim Leyland is obviously a grand master.

So congratulations to Mike and Marian Ilitch, Dave Dombrowski, Jim Leyland and the wonderful 2006 Detroit Tigers on a great American League season and good luck in the World Series.

As the old song from the Tigers' 1968 triumphant season says "We're all behind our baseball team."

It's a community thing. Get in the game!

No to Proposition 3

Supporters of mourning dove hunting in Michigan say to stop the season would be the first step to curtailing other forms of hunting in Michigan.

That's highly unlikely and appears to be a scare tactic on the part of supporters of the referendum. Michigan has a rich tradition of hunting that won't be harmed by the lack of dove hunting. Even without doves, hunters have some 40 other species of birds to hunt.

The vast majority of those urging a no vote on Proposal 3 do so to retain Michigan's 100-year-old ban on hunting doves — a traditional backyard songbird.

We urge a no vote on Proposal 3 for the following reasons.

Doves are not overpopulated. According to experts, they are not pests and they do not damage farm crops.

Dove hunting will not be an economic boon to the state.

Doves are small and, for the most part, will become target practice.

There's no overriding economic or social reason to enact a permanent dove hunting season. Vote no on Proposal 3.

Flying Tigers



STAFF ART, TIGERS! 10-19-06/2006 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GARY BROCK

Elect Cicirelli to judgeship

Our community faces an important election on Nov. 7. For the first time in 14 years we will be electing a new judge to the 18th District Court.

I have been very fortunate to be a prosecutor in the 18th District Court for more than 11 years. I have also been very fortunate to have represented clients in local district, and county circuit courts throughout the State of Michigan.

Based on this experience, I believe there are two factors that are very important in being an effective District Court Judge: A strong background of community involvement, and a strong background in the legal field. Both of our current judges, Judge Gail McKnight and Judge C. Charles Bokos, have served the Westland community for more than 25 years each, and both had stellar legal careers and experience before taking the bench.

In this election, there is only one candidate with a strong history of community involvement. Sandra Cicirelli, has served this community in a variety of elected and appointed positions, and involved herself in a variety of community groups for more than 20 years. Most notably she has served this community on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the City Council and as Council president and mayor.

In this election, there is only one candidate with a strong legal background. Prior to becoming mayor, Sandra Cicirelli practiced law in a wide variety of legal areas in a number of different Courts throughout Wayne County. In fact, Sandra Cicirelli has been endorsed by 36 judges outside of the city of Westland that she has appeared in front of, or worked with, during her legal career, a significant accomplishment in itself.

Even more significant, she has been endorsed by our community judges, Judge Gail McKnight and Judge C. Charles Bokos, because they know she is the right candidate to keep our court's reputation high.

The 18th District Court is one of the busiest district courts in the state. Sandra Cicirelli is the only candidate who has the ability to efficiently and fairly administer justice.

Please give the most qualified candidate the natural and appropriate transition and promotion to judge of the District Court, by voting for Sandra Cicirelli on Nov. 7.

Mark McConnell

Assistant Westland City Attorney
Westland

Trupiano: Better fit

Michigan's 11th Congressional District is currently being represented by Thaddeus McCotter who is misrepresenting his opponent's positions in order to keep his seat in office.

I was at the Livonia City Hall for last Thursday's League of Women Voters candidates forum when Mr. McCotter asserted that democratic candidate Tony Trupiano supports amnesty for illegal aliens. He has even gone so far as to have his own campaign office fund a mailing showing Mr. Trupiano in a spaceship, being abducted by space aliens, labeling him "Far left, far out

Tony." Nothing could be further from the truth.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Trupiano has always stated that he doesn't support "amnesty," however, he would favor some kind of "work visa" for some illegal aliens to begin funneling them into the system. Further, Mr. Trupiano believes we need the National Guard patrolling our borders preventing more illegals from entering the U.S.

When he pointed this out in rebuttal to Mr. McCotter's assertion, the response was: "The only liar in this campaign is you." He did not elaborate further on how it was he believed Mr. Trupiano had lied. He did, however state "Politics is the only place where a skunk says you stink".

Unfair characterization and name calling are not activities in which I wish to see a representative participating in. Some people will stoop pretty low in order to protect the office they currently hold. I have to believe voters will recognize the real truth and see through the lies when they cast their ballots on Nov. 7. I say Tony Trupiano would be a better fit for our district.

Patricia Linna

Westland

Campaign ad wasn't fair

Dear Mr. Glenn Anderson, Your TV ad against Laura Toy for not voting isn't fair to her. She had been in a terrible car accident by a drunken driver. She was confined to her home and, regrettably, she couldn't vote.

Please revise your ad and give her the justice she deserves. She needed time to heal.

Thank you, Sen. Toy.

Don and Edna Venturo

Westland

Remove the un-Americans

A few weeks ago I listened intently to an author discussing his book during a radio interview. He had researched the Iran hostage crisis that occurred at the end of the Carter administration, interviewing Iranian officials that had been running the government at the time. He was shocked to learn that Americans had paid to hold the hostages until after the election, Republican party members. They had paid \$20 million to hold Americans hostage.

The Carter administration was trying to negotiate a release and they had gone behind the back of U.S. officials and intentionally negated the actions of the government. This rings of treason, but being Republicans, those men won't ever have to answer for their criminal behavior.

When the hostage taking had occurred, I had a feeling something didn't make sense. President Carter's administration had tried countless ways to prevent the hostages from being abused or interrogated and hasten their release. Then they were released the day Reagan was installed in office. I knew something was quite wrong 25 years ago.

Lately, I have had the same sense of something else being wrong. The spying on Americans by the Bush administration just isn't right. Congress has allowed, by law, to spy on anyone, any time. All the FBI and the Bush administration needs to do is apply to a secret

court with a request to do spying and it can be done, even a day after the fact. The legislated plan was to keep a check in the system of checks and balances, to prevent a branch of government from running rampant.

Logically, we can conclude the Bush administration is spying on Americans within this country and that they have no connection with terrorism. The administration is most likely listening to and spying on political opponents to maintain control of government and suppress democracy.

This thoroughly explains the administration stance that it cannot submit all its spying even after it is done. This is highly illegal, immoral and un-American, but typical of the Bush administration. And it makes perfect sense. This is probably the reason the administration is so adamant about blocking all efforts at any oversight (remember democracy and balance of power) for fear Americans will call for his ousting from office for this outrageous behavior.

Our representatives in Washington should be very aware of the pattern of deceit of the Bush administration and should stand firm to holding him accountable of breaking the law. This is their job and duty as representatives and as Americans to stop illegal behavior. The outcry from our Republican representatives has been lukewarm at best in opposition. Perhaps they also are in collusion with this spying program as well. This makes sense as well.

It is now high time to remove these un-Americans.

Frances Meese

Westland

Keep War Crimes Act as is

The War Crimes Act must not be changed unless it to be even more strictly against torture and inhumane treatment of SUSPECTED enemies of our country, including prisoners of war. Hitler's Nazi record was a lesson that must NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

I am so very ashamed of what has already happened. We cannot allow legalization of treatment that shames us as a nation and as a people. Even animals do not act like this. It takes true evil to torture another living being.

Barbara Rinehart-Gray

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

"We're just supporting the team. The Tigers haven't done anything in 18 years. Now they're great, they're fantastic, and this is our way of supporting them."

Rema Aneed, manager of Play Ball, about the huge inflatable tiger on the roof of the store.

WESTLAND Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY



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

Both gubernatorial candidates playing shell game with voters

William Shakespeare's famous lines from *MacBeth* about history being "a tale of sound and fury, signifying nothing," were written before there was a Michigan.

But the bard could just as well have been commenting on the race for governor between Gov. Jennifer Granholm and challenger Dick DeVos. The fact that his words apply so well at a time when we badly need straight talk and solutions is a tragedy in itself.

Granholm argues the terrible state of our economy isn't her fault (quite true), blaming instead the wrenching restructuring and downsizing of the automobile industry (also true) and President Bush (doubtful, but he's an easy target).

DeVos asserts the governor has done a lousy job of fixing Michigan's economy (mostly not true, but something he hopes sounds good to folks losing their jobs). He claims it takes a businessman to solve our economic problems (possible, but then why do so many businesses fail?).

Granholm says her 21st Century Jobs Plan is the boldest and most comprehensive economic development plan in Michigan history (probably true, but it likely will take years to show results). DeVos says if elected he'll take personal charge of Michigan's economic recovery (dramatic ... but does he really want that?).

Yet both candidates are producing little more than sound and fury when talking about our basic problem: Michigan state government is essentially broke. After six straight years of budget-cutting, there's virtually nothing left to cut. And every politician in the state is terrified of even thinking about increasing taxes.

The state still faces a chronic structural budget deficit of at least \$500 million, even after something like \$4 billion has been cut from state spending over the past six years. Tax revenues are not going to improve, as they used to do from an upturn in the auto industry.

And the costs of Medicaid, corrections and public employee health care and pensions are going to do nothing out go up. But DeVos says taxes are too high. Last week, he proposed to cut business taxes by a net \$950 million.

He'd endorse last summer's legislative

repeal of the Single Business Tax, throw in a new business tax based essentially on corporate profits, and go on to eliminate \$1.7 billion in personal property taxes. Throw into the cauldron the existing structural deficit, plus the effects of an earned income tax cut adopted last month by the Legislature, and you have a state budget deficit of nearly \$2 billion — more than 20 percent of the state's \$9.3 billion general fund.

That would mean disaster. DeVos has repeatedly been asked how he'd manage the enormous resulting deficit. He's ducked the question every time. This is simply irresponsible for somebody running for the highest office in Michigan.

Granholm's 2007 budget calls for more spending on education and health care. Where she'll get the money to do so is anybody's guess, but at least she wants any tax that might be adopted to succeed the now-dead SBT to be revenue-neutral.

And naturally, she is very carefully staying away from talking about increasing taxes ... because she has to get re-elected.

And neither candidate is coming anywhere close to addressing the fundamental fact facing Michigan: If we're going to get out of the jam we're in, we are going to have to invest in Michigan's competitive resources, which include our universities, the skills of our workforce and our research and development capability.

But unless we resolve the chronic budget deficit, there simply will not be any money available to invest on our future.

The state has to have the money it needs to do the job that we need it to do. Yet bluntly put, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans have the courage or political will to face this plain fact.

And until both parties face this reality, they will continue to turn off most intelligent voters. Thinking people can easily see the terrible and damaging disconnect between the campaign rhetoric the candidates are spewing and simple economic reality.

Most people I talk with are simply fed up with the kind of shell game both parties are playing. Maybe the politicians will change after Nov. 7, when we find out who won and who lost.

But don't hold your breath.

Phil Power is the founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are his own and do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. He welcomes comments at ppower@cmnet.com.



Phil Power

Literature is offensive

As a longtime Westland resident and political observer, I came across this week one of the most vicious race-baiting election fliers in my career. It was composed and distributed by the Michigan State Republican Committee in promoting the re-election campaign of state Sen. Laura Toy in the upcoming Nov. 7 election.

The objectionable material labeled Toy's opponent, Democrat Glenn Anderson, a six-year veteran of the state House of Representatives, as a "liberal" in the same tone as if a liberal were in the same category of a pedophile or drug dealer.

The Republican flier claimed Anderson "caved in" to approve state funds for the Detroit Public Schools. What's odd about that claim is that those appropriations must have been approved by the Republican-controlled House and Senate, which leads me to wonder how Ms. Toy voted on the same legislation.

The Republican Party material was so offensive that if I were planning to vote for Ms. Toy, I would change my position and instead vote for Mr. Anderson.

I hope Ms. Toy would publicly and emphatically disavow the racist material and vow that she had no advance knowledge of the material and/or had a hand in its preparation. If not, she would sound like the racist political literature by politicians in the southern states in the 1950s and 1960s.

Leonard Poger
Westland

Vote for Glenn Anderson

We feel privileged to write in support of Glenn Anderson, candidate for the Michigan Senate.

As our current state representative and former Westland City Council member, Glenn Anderson has maintained his integrity. During difficult times both at the state level as well as the city level, Mr. Anderson was known to make the tough decisions based on his values that continue to guide his statesmanship.

It is difficult for some people to realize that some of our "politicians" do not find it necessary to compromise their values in exchange for votes. True, when confronted with tough choices, after exhausted discussions, after considering all sides of an issue, Glenn Anderson arrives at a decision concurrent with his values.

In recent weeks, we have received "trash" from the Michigan Republican Party discrediting Glenn Anderson. We believe that this "trash" is personally degrading and borders on slander. If that "trash" is confirmed by our current senator, then we find this even more disgusting. The current senator, based on this "trash" alone, does not deserve to be re-elected to the office of senator. She brought it down to a level of disgust. If she does not condone this "trash," she should have called it off a long time ago. Is this who you want to send back to the Senate? Don't we deserve higher standards of statesmanship?

All of this "trash" that continues to be mailed from the Michigan Republican Party in Lansing does not deserve to be recycled. It goes directly into the garbage along with all other trash.

Some of the issues Mr. Anderson fought for and will continue to fight for are keeping our jobs here, putting consumers first, working for better health care, making

LETTERS

education a priority, to name but a few. The road is tough due to the one-party House and Senate.

We envision a new direction for Michigan with Gov. Jennifer Granholm at the helm again, but this time with a supportive Democratic House and a Democratic Senate. That is our hope for Michigan.

Won't you join us in turning Michigan Around by putting into office people who work for the "working class," for the "middle class," for the people who believe in Michigan and not in lining the pockets of the rich and powerful who continue to exploit the "hard-working" citizens of our great state.

We are asking you to send Glenn Anderson to the Michigan State Senate, along with the other Democrats who jointly, with Gov. Granholm, will enable our state to flourish once again.

James and Mary Murphy
Westland

A nest egg

(Gov. Jennifer) Granholm's ads make reference to how much DeVos has spent so far on ad campaigning. Granholm's expenditures for that were, according to the ad, about one-third of what DeVos has spent. They tentatively suggest that DeVos is "buying" the election with his millions.

Well, two months shy of the election, Granholm has found a little nest egg of "tobacco settlement money." She now proposes to offer it as loans to potential employers who locate in Michigan. Just off the cuff, I would be surprised if the positions involved many blue collar jobs. It's much more likely we are talking high tech employment.

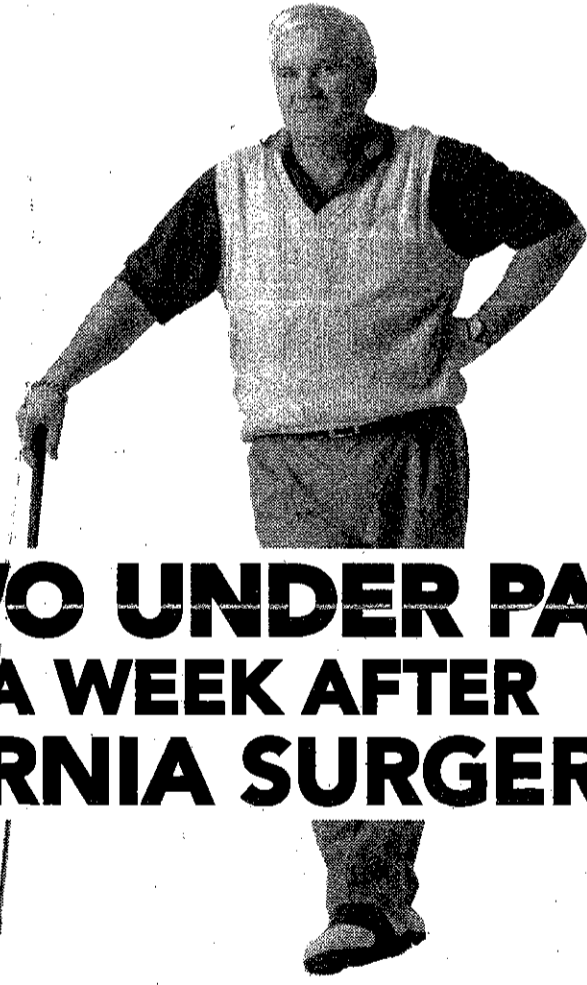
Who will re-train the Michigan blue collar workers? And what of this "pre-election offering" to placate followers who are fast growing weary of her promises?

This is blood money. It was paid to the State of Michigan to assist in health care costs caused by tobacco use. Michigan being one of the very few states who, in opposition to CDC guidelines, allocates zero dollars of the settlement money to tobacco cessation, prevention and related health care costs is saying, by Granholm's example, that there was never concern for the health care costs, the addiction of citizens, prevention and cessation of smoking. This was a game for the money.

Granholm has "J.G. Wentworth'd" the funds. She has "securitized" those funds by selling future revenues for a lump sum settlement. Hence, her \$2 billion nest egg. Granholm's ad states that it is a "novel" way to handle the tobacco settlement money. Shame on her. The majority of the states have allocated, at the least, CDC minimums while Michigan has stockpiled the money, caring nothing for the citizens who have been so affected by this addiction.

You know? I would vote for Dick DeVos with his millions any day ... rather than endorse an incumbent governor who is literally "stealing" funds, acquired by unscrupulous motives, to further her campaign. Granholm has finally started spending money on her campaign ... but goodness knows, she isn't spending her money. Again, she is taking from honest citizens and feathering her own nest with our "nest egg."

Alice Parrish
Troy



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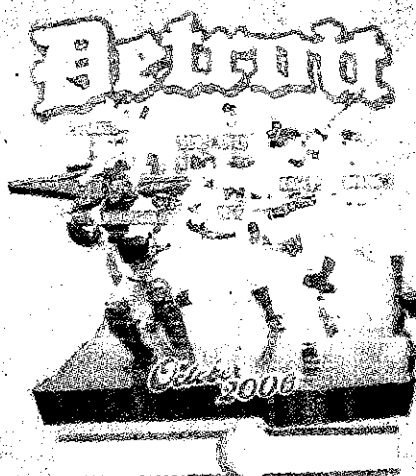
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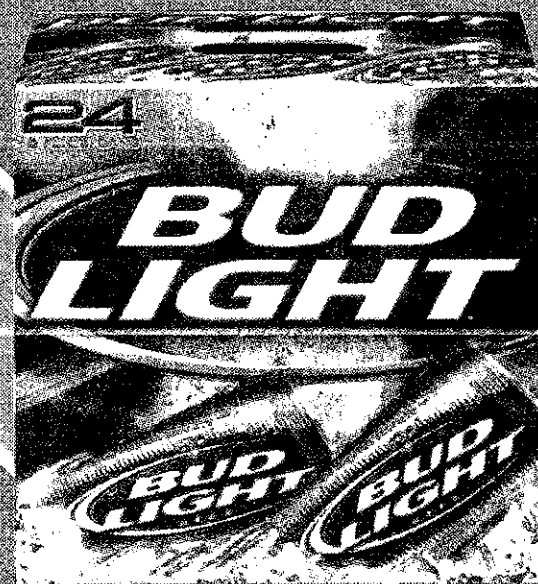
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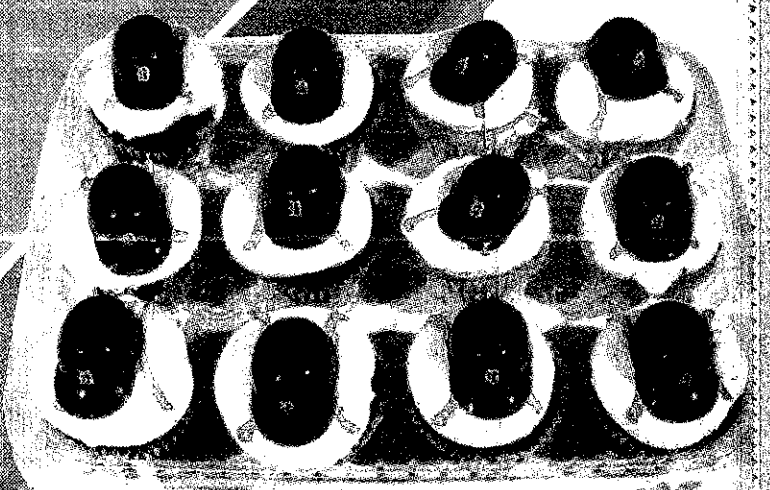
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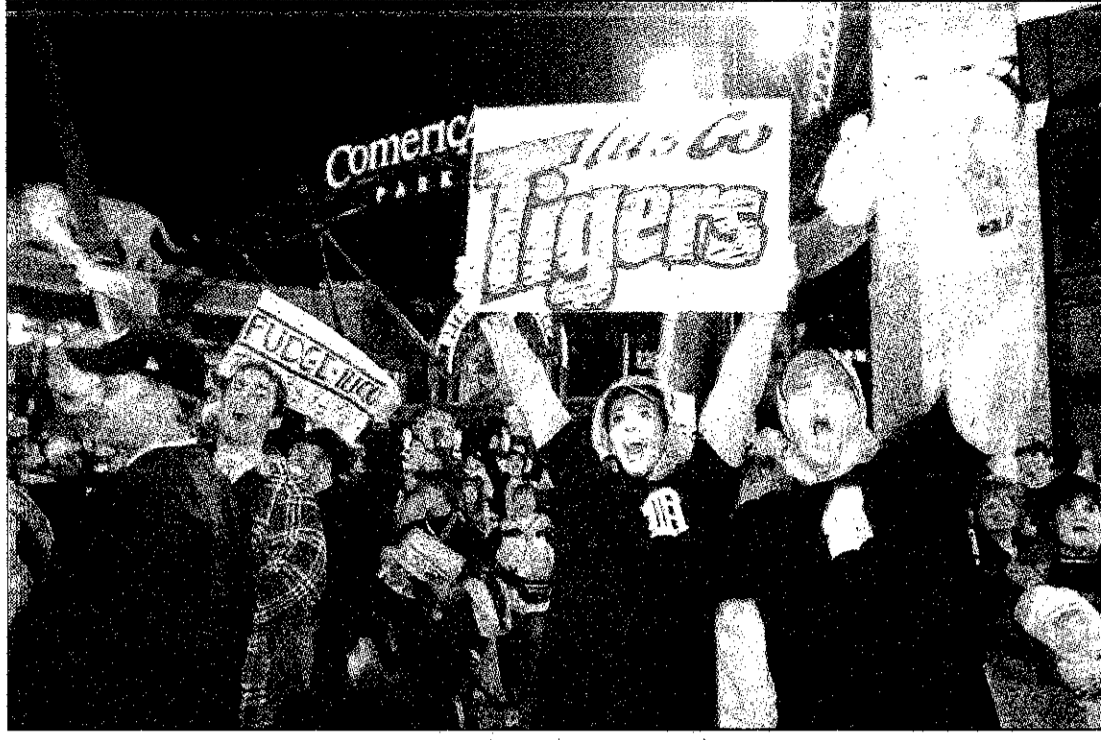
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Celebrate good times

Tigers fans throw a party outside Comerica Park

It was party time in downtown Detroit Saturday. Bottom of the ninth inning, two out, two on, the score was tied 3-3. Magglio Ordonez came to the plate and blasted a line drive home run, leading the Detroit Tigers to a 6-3 victory over the Oakland Athletics and their first American League pennant in 22 years. The standing-room only Comerica Park crowd streamed out to mingle with another crowd already forming around the stadium, ready to party and celebrate the long-

awaited victory. The celebration at the ballpark was an ignition to celebrations all across the state of Michigan. Police report that the celebration was spirited but generally trouble free. Now it's on to the World Series against the winner of the St. Louis Cardinals-New York Mets National League Championship Series. *Observer & Eccentric* photographer John Stormzand was at Comerica Park to capture the color, high spirits and sheer joy of a pennant victory.



It seems that everyone had their own special sign to cheer on the Tigers at Comerica Park.



These masked marvels could play the phantoms of the ballpark. They were among the celebrators at Comerica Park Saturday.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



As this fan demonstrates the Tigers did a clean sweep of the Oakland A's in the American League Championship Series.



A young fan gives a tiger roar as Detroit Tiger fans streamed out of Comerica Park Saturday to celebrate a four-game sweep of the Oakland A's to clinch the American League championship.



It was high-fives all around as Tiger fans streamed out of Comerica Park.



These fans came prepared to announce the next step on the Tigers' road to a baseball championship.

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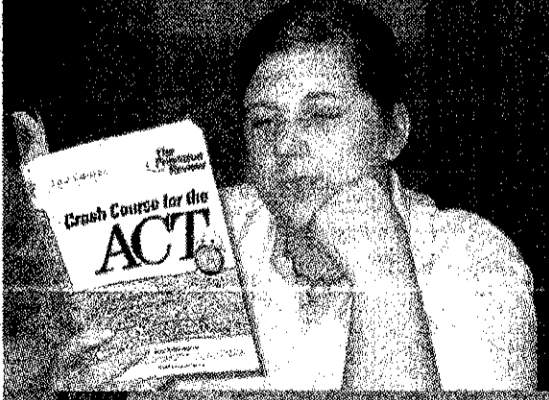


High School Placement Test

Nov. 18th, 2006 at 7:30 A.M.
Refreshments served

Test/College Data: Graduating Class of 2006					
ACT Standings					
	Eng	Math	Reading	Science	Comp
National	20.6	20.8	21.4	20.9	21.1
Michigan	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.7	21.5
Divine Child	24.2	22.9	25.0	23.1	24.0

Class of 2006: Attending College 99%
Academic Scholarships 70%
Scholarships Earned \$4.4 million

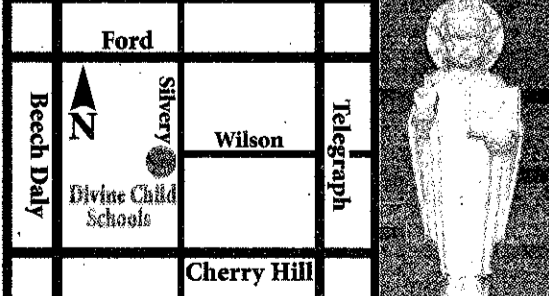


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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finding records

The Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present a program, "Finding Your Irish in the Canada/U.S. Border Crossing Records," at 1:30 p.m. Saturday Oct. 28, at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Ave., west of Tiger Stadium, in Detroit. The speaker will be Jan Zaleski, the author of Guide to Records of Border Crossings between the United States and Canada 1895-1954. Zaleski is an accredited genealogist, a civilian employee of the Detroit Police Department and a volunteer at the Family History Center in Westland.

Crafters needed

Crafters are needed for the 18th annual juried arts and crafts show Saturday, Nov. 18, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church Hall, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Virginia or Deb at (734) 522-9653 or (248) 348-6823.

Wedding workshop

The Meeting House grand ballroom in Plymouth is the site for a wedding workshop, "How to Plan Your Wedding in 90 Minutes," 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24. A panel of experts will answer questions ranging from tips on making a wedding run smoothly, avoiding the most common wedding mishaps, educating yourself to create a stress-free wedding and saving gas and time. Reservations in advance are complimentary; tickets at the door cost \$10. All couples attending will get a free engagement portrait. Light refreshments and desserts will be served. The Meeting House is located at 499 S. Main in Plymouth. For reservations and more information, call (734) 416-5100.

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.

Childbirth classes

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

Childbirth Association

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

Fibromyalgia

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

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a pack-

et. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. Call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum

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

BINGO

VFW Bingo

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

St. Mel Church

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

Shamrock Bingo

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

K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the

Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

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

Senior dinners

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

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every 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

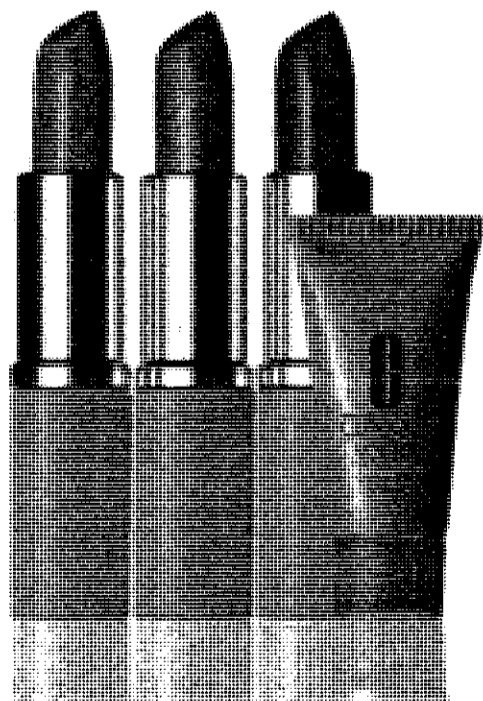
The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight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

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Oyer 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.

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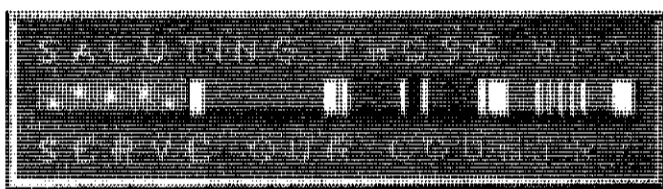
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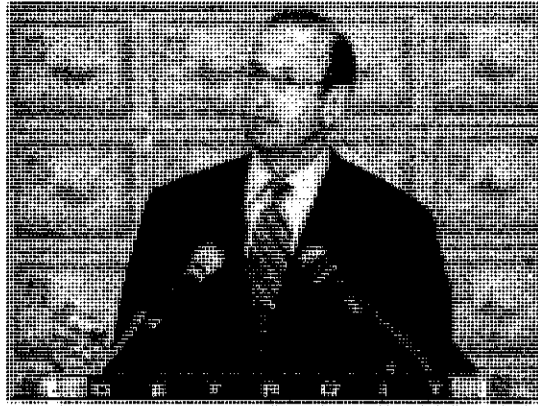
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Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm told members of the Detroit Economic Club Michigan must compete to be the best place to do business.



Republican challenger Dick DeVos asked the Detroit Economic Club the age-old campaign question: "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?"

DeVos, Granholm press their case before Economic Club

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Unlike the two previous gubernatorial debates, last week's Detroit Economic Club luncheon was a chance for Gov. Jennifer Granholm and challenger Dick DeVos to make their claims about who is best-suited to be Michigan's chief executive.

Granholm and DeVos each were given 15 minutes to convince the crowd of Motor City movers and shakers that they were the one with the plan to take the state forward.

The full house, nearly 1,200 people, at the Riverview Ballroom in Cobo Center was

capped off by a cross-section of some of the most powerful names in Michigan politics. Attending the event were Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, U.S. Reps. John Dingell, John Conyers and Sander Levin, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, members of the Oakland, Wayne and Macomb county commissions and representatives of the Detroit consulates of Japan and Italy.

Granholm won the backstage coin toss and addressed the crowd first. She said comments about it being "time to fire the governor" miss the essential point of elected office.

"My contract is up at the end of this year. This is the world's longest job interview," she said. "I've had a few more job interviews than my opponent."

Similarly, she said focusing solely on what can make Michigan a cheaper place to do business misses the point, too. In a competition with China and southeast Asia, she said Michigan can never be the cheapest place to set up operations. What it can do is offer the best competitive value.

"We have to offer the best workers," Granholm said. "I want to make Michigan more competitive and we can win by investing in our human capital."

To do that, she said she's pushed for a K-12 educational curriculum that's the third-toughest in the nation and set a goal of doubling the current number of college graduates.

"I've pushed for \$4 billion in projects to renovate roads, bridges and other infrastructure that will create 40,000 jobs," Granholm said. "I've also pushed for the largest investment of any state for diversifying the economy — \$2 billion."

DeVos told the crowd that Granholm's skill in job interviews will come in handy and wished her all the best in her next round of interviews. He said residents are asking themselves how they feel about the governor's performance and vowed that his administration would be markedly different.

"I would take charge of the (Michigan Economic Development Corp.) myself and call a special session of the Legislature to replace revenues for the Single Business Tax and repeal the personal property tax," DeVos said.

He also said he would set up a fund to improve teachers and pay for it by cutting the educational bureaucracy around the state. His plans include cutting permit times for new businesses to 30 days and setting up economic trade offices in 10 countries, starting with Japan.

There can be no resurgence of Michigan, he said, without a resurgence of its largest city.

"I will meet with Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick," DeVos said. "Detroit's success is critical to Michigan's success. I will work to make Michigan the state of opportunity we know it can be."

He finished his comments with the age-old political question: Are you better off now than you were four years ago?

"I will get more done in 45 days than Gov. Granholm has in the last 45 months," he said.

Both candidates used the forum to urge people to vote against Proposal 2, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative.

Waterford resident and Democrat Ray Goodman said DeVos did better in this debate than he has in previous ones, but that didn't change his opinion of the candidate.

"I have more respect for DeVos, but I fear what he might do to the economy," Goodman said.

West Bloomfield resident and Republican Richard Fritz said he's been wavering close to voting against his affiliation, and the DEC event changed his mind.

"From a business standpoint, (DeVos) is right for the job now," he said. "Granholm inherited a lot of problems, but she's said that too many times. There are fewer people with jobs now and it's not easy to find one."

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Comedy comes to Canton

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Jon Sandberg tries to stay out of the spotlight. Lately, he's been busy building sets, painting backdrops and writing a second sketch comedy show with his group, Not Raccoons.

The 7-member cast takes to the stage 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge, in Canton.

Tickets are \$5 and available at the door. For more information, call (734) 812-7860.

The 20-year-old Canton resident began writing comedy in 2001 during his sophomore year at Plymouth Canton High School where he joined the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (PCEP) Improv Club. Most of the members of Not Raccoons were part of the Sketchy at Best improv group hand-picked by teacher Jordan Brun to produce an annual show. Sandberg performed in his last show at the high school just before graduating in 2005. After living in Chicago for six-

months then returning home to Canton, he reunited with PCEP core members to put on Not Raccoon's first show in July 2006. The second show is rated PG13 and targeted for high school and college students but funny for all ages except those younger than 13.

Cast members range in age from 17-20.

"Our format is we follow one character through the show. You can see how the world around this character," said Sandberg, the director and head writer. Sandberg hopes one day to professionally produce shows and film sketches for their Web site www.notraccoons.com.

"In the first show one character studied science and was supposed to be first man on the moon, but never made it. He was on the moon but the Neil Armstrong character pushed him out of the way.

The second show is a surprise and revolves around two characters that had appearances in the first show."

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Disc Herniation?

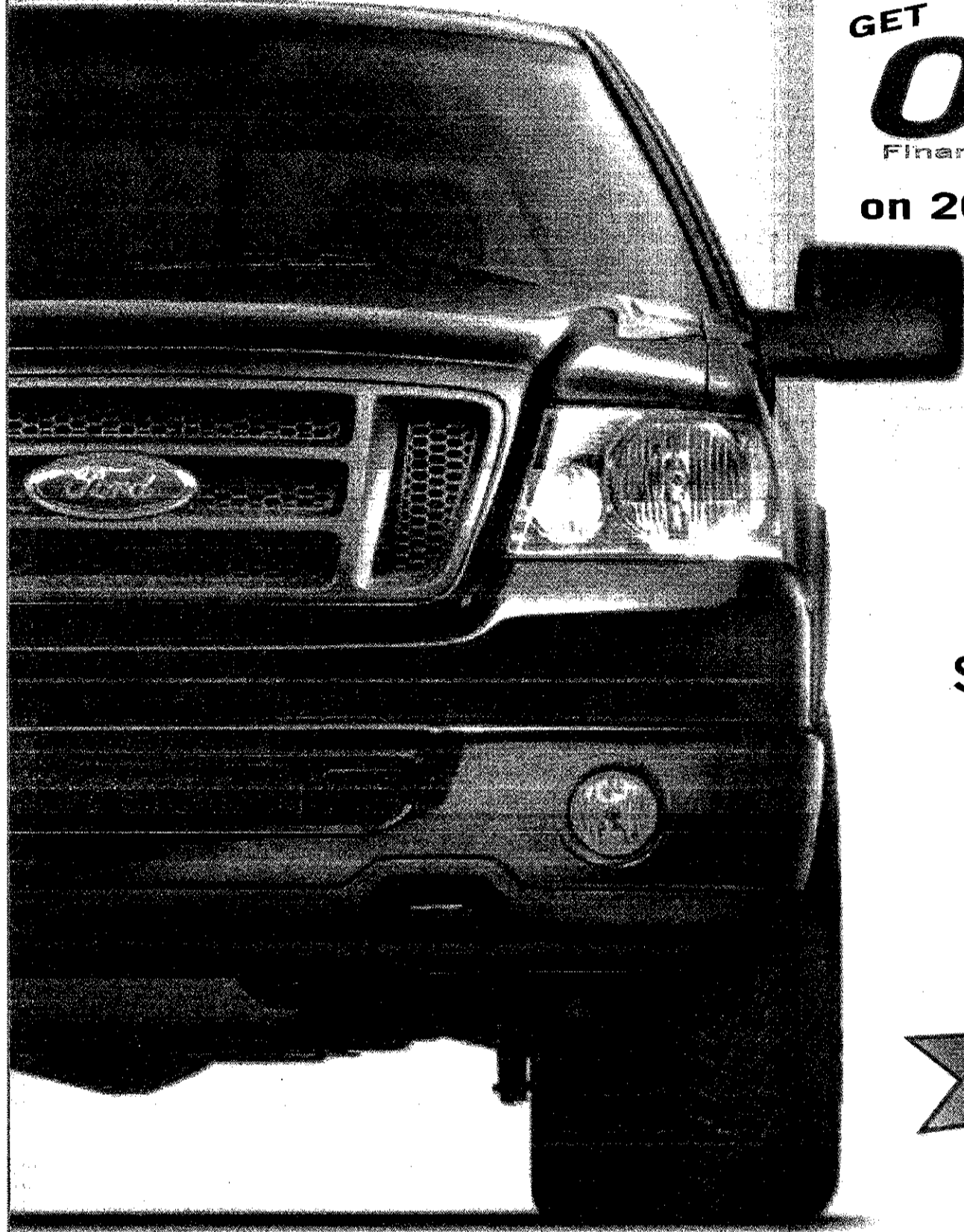
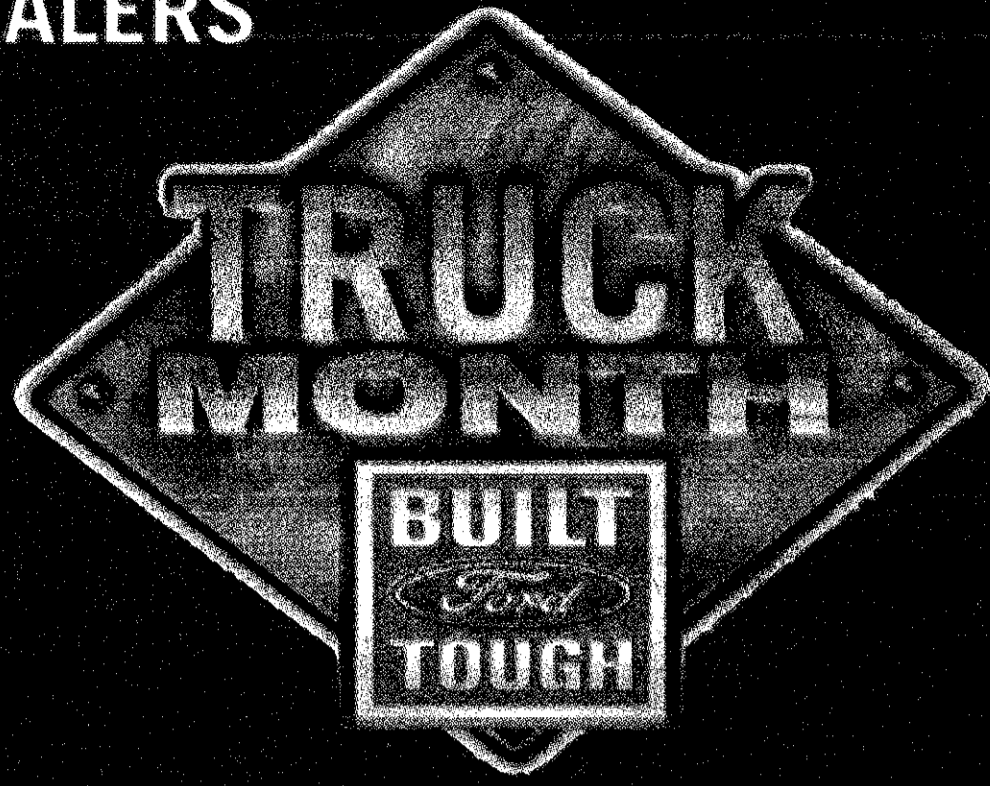
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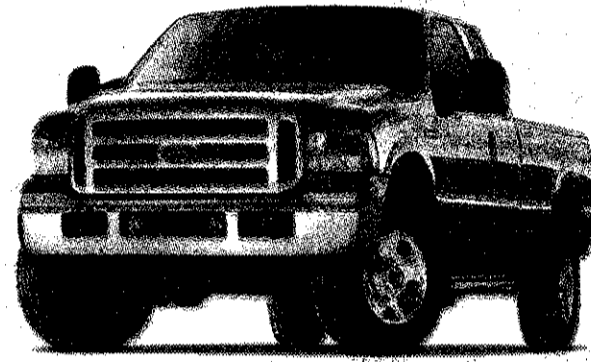
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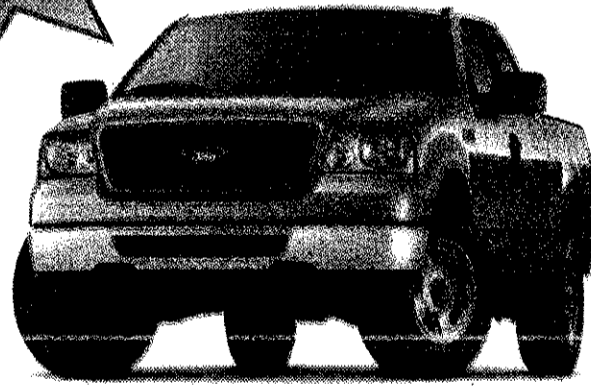
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(1) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease. Payments may vary. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees. Residency restrictions apply. For special lease terms, RCL Cash, and FNCC bonus cash. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 10/31/06. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. See dealer for complete details. Customers must finance through Ford Credit. ** Not all buyers qualify for Ford Credit limited term financing. Not available on Ford SD Harley models. \$4,000 cash back on 06 F-Series Super Duty (excludes diesel & Harley). \$7,500 on F-150 super cab, \$7,000 on F-150 regular cab and \$4,500 on F-150 Supercrew. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 10/31/06. See dealer for qualifications, and complete details. ** Security deposit waived.

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