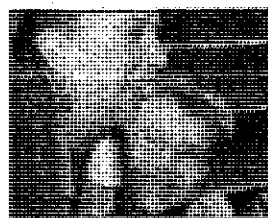


10/22



Urban legends of local haunted places  
HOMETOWN LIFE - C1

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Second-grader scores tickets to World Series  
LOCAL NEWS A3

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No shortage of flu shots this year  
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## New restaurant will bring 140 jobs to city

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Roadhouse will bring 140 jobs and a \$2 million investment to Westland with its new steakhouse, slated to open early next year, company officials said.

Ninety of those jobs will be full-time positions, officials said.

The announcement came as company officials

on Monday appeared before Westland city leaders to firm up some details for the new restaurant.

Texas Roadhouse, a company based in Louisville, Ky., is expected to open its Westland restaurant in February, manager Tom Jarulaitis said.

It will be located on the northeast corner of Ford Road and Dowling, west of Central City Parkway and across from the Westland city government complex.

Texas Roadhouse will open just west of the site where another steakhouse, Lone Star, closed its doors due to a declining customer base. Lone Star still stands empty at one of the city's major intersections.

Jarulaitis appeared confident that his restaurant will succeed in the same market where Lone Star failed, despite an economic slump in Michigan.

"We've stayed the course with our plans," he said, adding that the company has steadily grown since

it was founded 13 years ago.

The Westland eatery will become the seventh Texas Roadhouse in Michigan. According to a company Web site, others are located in Taylor, Sterling Heights, Roseville, Chesterfield, Madison Heights and Lansing.

"I think we'll be a good fit here in Westland," Jarulaitis said.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A tearful Venessa Cooper talks of how she went from being a drug addict with little hope to earning her master's degree and shopping for her own home.

## From bad to good

### Assistance programs help single mom turn her life around

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

On a cold, snowy day in 1995, Venessa Cooper took a bus to Westland from a temporary shelter where she had been staying in Detroit.

A victim of domestic violence, she had overcome her addiction to heroin, cocaine and alcohol, but she still hadn't found a way to make it on her own.

"I was in a bad place," she said. "I was desperate."

Cooper had heard that Westland was taking applications for Section 8 housing assistance, so she made her way, through a city she didn't know, to the Dorsey Community Center.

Now, 11 years later, she has earned her

master's degree in social work, and she is shopping for a house for herself and her youngest of four children, Charissa, 13.

Cooper has gone from being a single mother with no job and no hope to helping substance abusers as a clinical therapist for The Salvation Army's Harbor Light facility in Detroit.

She also works with the First Congregational Church of Detroit, writing grant proposals to raise money for a living museum at the historic church.

Cooper, 50, credits Westland's Section 8 and Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program with giving her the help she needed to return to school and rid herself of government assistance.

"Venessa is a very intelligent and outgoing individual who has extreme poten-

tial in succeeding in anything she puts her mind to," said Tonya Cramier-Onca, the FSS coordinator who worked with her.

The Section 8 and FSS programs helped Cooper pay her rent as she worked part-time and returned to school, first at Wayne County Community College. She eventually earned her master's degree in 2004 from Wayne State University.

She started her studies within a year of making that winter bus trip to Westland. Under the FSS program, as her income rose she paid a larger share of her rent from her own pocket. The rest of her federal aid went into an escrow account,

PLEASE SEE ASSISTANCE, A5



Venessa Cooper becomes emotional after receiving a check for \$7,730 - money that was put aside as she worked hard to become self-sufficient.

## Trial set in local man's beating death

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Charles McClain of Westland has waited more than three years for justice for his 48-year-old son, who was beaten to death on a Detroit street after he was involved in a traffic accident.

"I'm not a real emotional guy, so I've handled it all right," McClain, 77, said Thursday.

Still, he is encouraged that four Detroit men now face trial in December on first-degree murder charges stemming from the brutal beating death of his son, Ronald Wayne McClain.

"I'm quite satisfied that it's taking a desirable course through the legal system,"

McClain said.

The younger McClain died after he was beaten in July 2003 when a pickup truck he was riding in had an accident near Trinity and Midland, in a residential Detroit neighborhood near Fenkell and Lahser.

The accident snapped a utility pole that fell and injured one man in the street. The driver of the truck had swerved to hit some young men playing basketball, according to initial reports.

The driver fled, but Ronald McClain was attacked and beaten by a crowd, authorities have said.

The accident happened as the pickup truck was fleeing

PLEASE SEE BEATING, A5

## Toy calls opponent's ad on missing votes 'pretty low'

Her opponent's television commercial attacking state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, for missing votes in Lansing drew a strong rebuke Friday.

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, had been running the commercials questioning the effectiveness of Toy based on a high number of missed votes. The two are vying for the 6th District Senate seat, which covers Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City.

Both candidates spoke during a breakfast meeting focused on election issues and hosted by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Friday at Madonna University.

Toy went first, outlining her efforts to help the state economy and her view that more tax cuts will stimulate the economy.

Later, Toy admitted missing votes, citing her attending to a terminally ill mother who was "in and out of the hospital" and her own very serious auto accident. She said she continued to represent the district.

Toy said the commercial wasn't about issues, it was personal. "For the record, I think this is pretty low," she told the audience.



Toy Anderson

As she finished - and received strong applause - Toy left the room, before Anderson was introduced.

Anderson outlined his own views in supporting education and his legislative work supporting jobs growth - noting that his opponent had worked on but then ultimately voted against the 21st Century Jobs Fund. "We have to look beyond the rhetoric," Anderson said.

Turning to the commercial, Anderson said attendance on the job is indeed important. He asked the audience whether they could continue to hold their own job if they missed work 20 percent of the time.

"This is a serious question," Anderson said, "that someone can continue to represent you if they're not on the job." Anderson left the podium to polite applause.

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Number 43

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**Coming Thursday in Filter**

**Ferndale Fun**  
The tiny city is packed with action. Read some of the highlights in the next issue of Filter.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Janet Sowards, Margot McCormack, Carol Cockrum and Mary Ugorowski add new plants to the Central City Park grow zone.



Linda Noble plants False Indigo.



Lillian Dean and Carol Cockrum use a book to help identify some of the plants.

## City part grow zone gets new additions

The grow zone in Westland's Central City Park got a little help recently as volunteers showed to replace plants that didn't make it through the summer.

Led by Lillian Dean, the Rouge Education coordinator for Westland, the volunteers spent time identifying plants that made it through the summer and adding to the mix.

In May, students from Schweitzer and Edison Elementaries were at the site which straddles the park's walking path and the drainage way along the western edge of Tot Town to plant 800 wildflower and wild grass plugs.

The grow zone is part of "Rooting for

the Rouge," a cooperative effort of the city of Westland and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. The city and school district were able to develop the Rouge project, which ties in with the fourth-grade science curriculum, and gain support for education in the community.

Through "Rooting for the Rouge," students have been able to plant trees, stencil storm drains and create buffer growth zones like the one in Central City Park.

That grow zone features plants suited to soils and climate of Westland.

Among the plants provided for the grow zone were Switch Grass, Prairie

Dropseed, New England Aster, black-eyed Susan and sweet black-eyed Susan, Butterflyweed, Gray Headed Coneflower, Spiderwort, Michigan Lily, Swamp Milkweed and Prairie Milkweed to name a few.

The plants are native prairie species with deep roots that encourage storm water infiltration and filtering.

Their planting is a demonstration of a natural method for storm water management.

As the plants mature, they will form a vegetative buffer between the pavement and the Rouge River, helping to slow runoff and hold pollutants, Dean has said.

## INFORMATION CENTRAL

### Fall getaways

Kids are back in school, the leaves are changing color, and summer crowds have cooled. Oktoberfest may be over, but it is not too late to take a quick fall trip before the temperature falls too low and the holidays begin.



The Public Library of Westland has a variety of travel resources to help you get started. If you're just looking to kick back and relax in the country, the New England states are ideal. *Vermont, Off the Beaten Path* shows where you can stay at a historical barn on a 150-year-old dairy farm and pick apples.

*Massachusetts, An Explorer's Guide Beyond Boston and Cape Cod* tells of the charming and quaint the small towns after the summer crowds leave, where to get the best clam chowder, and where the finest bed and breakfasts are.

Equally as impressive as New England's fall foliage are the Adirondacks in New York. *Adventure Guide to the Catskills and Adirondacks* offers suggestions for enjoying the fall colors by train, car or canoe.

The west and southwest also offer many things to do in the fall. *Moon Handbooks: Arizona* recommends checking out the beauty of Sedona's colorful canyon walls and amazing sunsets with a tour of Red Rock Country.

Even if you missed Oktoberfest, it is still harvest season for California's Wine Country. You can learn about exquisite wineries where you can taste wine or join in on a grape stomp in *Wine Country: California's Napa and Sonoma Valley*.

If there's no time to venture around

the country or you want to stay somewhat local, you will still find many

books about Michigan. *52 Michigan Weekends* covers all seasons and *The Top 100 Most Beautiful Rustic Vacations of North America* gives some ideas of things to do specific to Michigan, such as fishing, hiking,

canoeing or relax in a forested setting.

So no matter if you want to go east, west, north, or south, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland offers many resources for researching your destination before you go. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at [www.westland.lib.mi.us](http://www.westland.lib.mi.us).

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Discussion: 7 p.m. Oct. 25.

Join in for what will prove to be an exciting discussion about Speculative Fiction. All adults with interests in the genre are welcome. Visit our blog, too, at <http://sfwestlandlibmius.blogspot.com>

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting:** 7 p.m. Nov. 1.

Join other teens and have your say in helping to elect books, programs and prizes for teen activities. All sixth-12th-graders are welcome.

**Coming in November - Monthly Independent Movie Night.** Call the library for more information at (734) 326-6123.

Information Central is compiled by Andrea Perez at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

## Man has 'air dominance' with F22 Raptor aircraft

BY RICH LAMANCE  
CORRESPONDENT

Langley Air Force Base, Va. — Working with the most advanced and lethal fighter aircraft in the world has gained the son of a Farmington Hills couple quite a bit of attention over the past several months.

It seems that just about everything he does lately finds him involved with rewriting the aviation history books.

Air Force Capt. Michael D. Schaner, son of David and Susan Schaner of Farmington Hills, is a pilot with the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft.

Schaner is a member of the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of only two Raptor units currently operational within the Air Force.

The 1995 Harrison High School graduate, and 1999 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Ariz., takes care of the world's most sophisticated and deadly fighter aircraft that integrates the latest avionics, stealth and super cruise capabilities.

"My job is to stay combat mission ready and to train/evaluate others in the squadron to do the same. As

the only operational Raptor Squadron in the world, all of our pilots must stay tactically proficient so they can provide air dominance when called upon to do so," said Schaner.

Over the past several months, Schaner and his fellow Raptor crewmembers have been rewriting the history books with a variety of firsts, not only for the F-22, but in many cases performing feats unattained in the history of aviation.

Those feats range from dropping weapons at supersonic speeds from 50,000 feet, to testing new bombs that can hit 400 percent more targets than they were previously capable of reaching, to flying and fighting in joint exercises with capabilities never before seen by aircraft of any kind.

"I feel very lucky and honored to be flying the F-22 Raptor," he said.

While life for Schaner as a pilot is quick-paced and hectic, he finds time to enjoy the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

"When I am not flying, I enjoy relaxing with my family while boating on the Chesapeake Bay. We also enjoy traveling, especially to upper Michigan," he said.

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48034 (248)263-3880 10/31/06 at 2:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of

- 118 - Janet Thibert - Household Items
- 503 - James Yates - computer, tool box, 7 totes
- 519 - Marilyn Ewings - Misc. items
- 539 - Mathew Pawlowski - coffee table, mattress, box spring
- 919 - Aaron, Cusmano - box spring, mattress, leather sectional
- 1008 - Brandy Neff - boxes, computer, trunk

Publish: October 15 & 22, 2006

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Personal property described below in the matter of

- 2061 - John Dingell for Congress - misc. items
- 2075 - Marsh @work solutions, Seabury - misc. items
- 3057 - Dwight Burch - household items
- 3062 - Robert - S-B Power Tool Co. - misc. items
- 3078 - April Roop - household items
- 4023 - Dequan Thomas - household items
- 5038 - Tracy Walton - household items
- 5039 - Scott Winer - household items
- 5049 - Tyrone Martin - household items
- 5069 - Carl Hicks - household items
- 5084 - Alondro Scott - household items
- 6011 - Mamoun Farraj - household items
- 6089 - Christine Morris - household items
- 6119 - Sherre Roy - household items
- 7016 - Jamie King - misc. items
- 7029 - Glen - Mansfield Sports Cards - misc. items
- 9029 - Eddie Roberts-Ellis - household items

Publish: October 15 & 22, 2006

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Personal property described below in the matter of

- A009 - Mohamed Elgendy - misc. items
- B084 - Eric McLenon - mattress, box spring, vacuum cleaner
- B093 - Shawn O'Conner - sofa couch, stove, refrigerator
- B143 - Joleen Clay - sofa couch, dresser, microwave
- B158 - Brandie Peoples - bags, totes
- B277 - Mettalikka Lewis - bags, box spring, mattress
- B283 - Robert Dajos - refrigerator, old records, stove
- B296 - Kenneth Alessi - Household Items
- B321 - Tisha Delaney - vacuum, boxes, air conditioner
- B353 - Joann Hill - boxes, bags, furniture
- B361 - Daniel Page - boxes, misc. items
- B406 - William Ferguson - bags, misc. items, appliances
- C002 - Melissa Offord - sofa couch, book case, love seat
- C013 - James Scruggs - desk, dresser, toys
- C015 - Alaina Silagy - misc. items
- D025 - John Jackson - household items
- E004 - Marilyn Lowe - misc. items
- E033 - Christina Smith - misc. items
- E042 - Sally Porter - bags, boxes, clothes
- E050 - Deborah Keast - power tools, end table, portable television
- F008 - Jeff Johnson - desk, dresser, clothing
- F010 - Robert Benjamin - misc. items
- F047 - Brian Thiel - tool box, air conditioner, portable television
- F049 - Juanita Connelly - refrigerator, stove

Publish: October 15 & 22, 2006

**Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section**

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Personal property described below in the matter of

- 1020 - Christopher Cash - household items
- 1442 - Alice Cross - household items
- 1486 - Paul Klingensmith - household items
- 2283 - Tammy Butler - household items
- 2396 - Waleed Salah - household items
- 3016 - Karl Kubinski - household items

Publish: October 15 & 22, 2006

**WILLIAM P. FAUST PUBLIC LIBRARY OF WESTLAND**

**INVITATION TO BID**

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

# Second-grader scores World Series tickets

Last year, Davis Burden sang *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* in his school's talent show.

As a second-grader, he'll soon get his wish. Davis was surprised Friday afternoon with four free tickets to the first game of the World Series. The Hamilton Elementary student will support his favorite team - the Detroit Tigers.

Though Davis didn't feel well during the afternoon, and actually asked to go home, he stayed at school and earned a surprise visit by Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans, who presented Davis with the tickets. Evans was joined by Greg Baracy, superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The tickets were among about 100 of those recently confiscated by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department during an undercover sting to prevent illegal online scalping. Confiscated tickets are then donated back to members of the community, like Davis.

Evans said there is no shortage of special people with which to share these tickets in Wayne County. Upon handing Davis his tickets, the 7-year-old shouted "Oh, yeah."

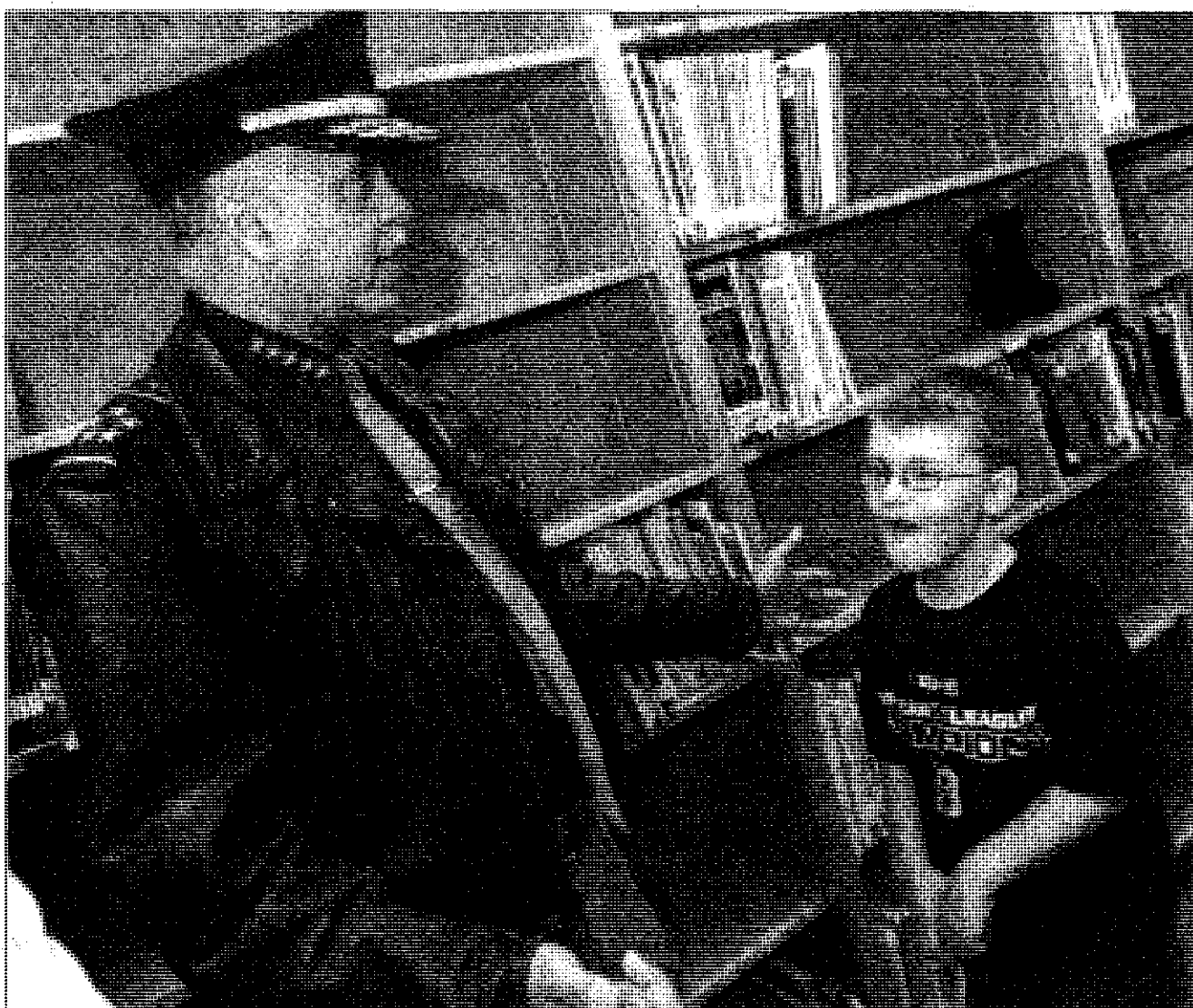
His mother, Erin Burden of Westland, called it a dream come true. When she got the call to come to school Friday, to meet the superintendent, she thought her son "did something really bad," she said.

Davis has been watching baseball since he was 2 years old. With encouragement from his family, he knows all the players and keeps track of the stats.

"I just hope the Tigers win," said Davis, holding the tickets tightly. "I can't wait to go tomorrow."

Hamilton Principal April Quasarano said he certainly deserved the surprise.

"He adds a lot of energy to the entire building," she said.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Stephanie A. Casola Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans presents Tigers fan Davis Burden with World Series tickets for Saturday's game.



Seven-year-old Davis Burden checks out his free tickets to see Game One of the World Series with his team, the Detroit Tigers.

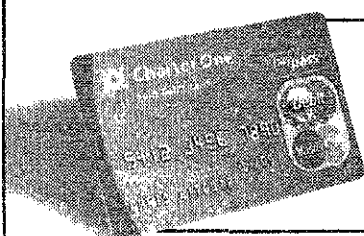


Davis Burden hugs his mom, Erin, after receiving the free tickets.



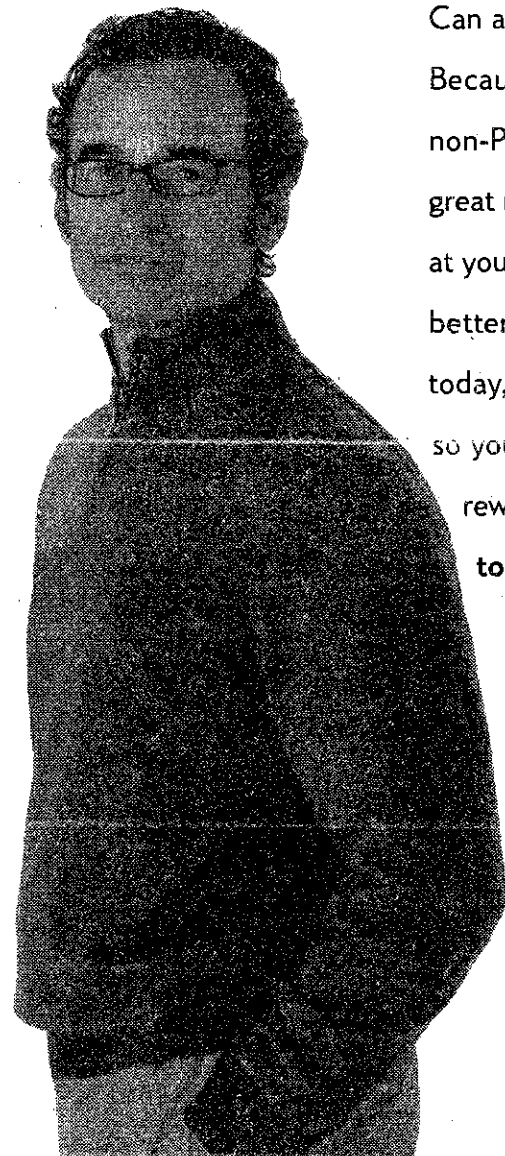
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# Hot stuff

## Sales heat up for salsa business founder

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Some eight years ago, Ron Willis and his wife had a business breakthrough when their two Great Danes tore up the garden.

"We bought our house in Canton," he said. When the dogs tore up the garden, he realized he'd have to put grass in. They had fixings for salsa from the garden and from that beginning grew the Plymouth Township-based business Sweet Heat Salsa.

"I mixed it up to my own tastes," he recalled of that first batch, what's now Amazing Medium and accounts for half of company sales. There's also Must Have Mild and Habanero Hot, with each of those accounting for a quarter of sales.

Ron Willis had worked for Ryder in logistics contracted to Metaldyne in Plymouth, and has just given that up to work full time in the salsa business. Wife Jennifer's a senior buyer at ACH corporate headquarters in Dearborn, and the couple has a 3-year-old daughter, Kylie, and two Great Danes, one a puppy.

He's found his new work life rewarding and less stressful. "I was being too stretched," Willis said of trying to run his business and handle a corporate job.

Sweet Heat Salsa now has a 3,100-square-foot production facility on Five Mile between Sheldon and Beck.

"I love making the salsa." Food sold in Michigan commercially can't be made at home, so the production facility's needed. Sweet Heat Salsa's sold at the 12 area Busch's stores. The Holiday Market at Cherry Hill and Lilley in Canton carries it under a private label, Holiday Market's Fresh Salsa, with the company name in small print.

"It flies off the shelf there," Willis said. "It's been amazing how the business has gone."

He's just picked up the six area Hiller's markets, where a private label is also planned and artwork under way. Willis started at the farmer's market in Plymouth this past May and picked up the Northville farmer's market later in the year.

"Whenever people try it, they fall in love with it," he said. "It's just taken off."

Customer Gerry Kruse of Canton agreed: "It's very tasty," he said.

The company's Web site, sweetheatsalsa.net, includes recipes and background information. (The office can be reached at (734) 414-0428.) Willis grew up with Web designer Nate Pride who's been a big help, as have others.

The product enjoyed suc-

cess at the 2006 Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-Off, taking second place in People's Choice for chili.

Willis works with his brother and another staffer.

"We're going and seeing a lot of these retailers and wholesalers. Just doing your own thing is much more rewarding," said Willis, who holds an M.B.A. from the accredited American Intercontinental University, which he completed online.

He gets compliments on the consistency and taste of the salsa, exact ingredients of which are kept secret.

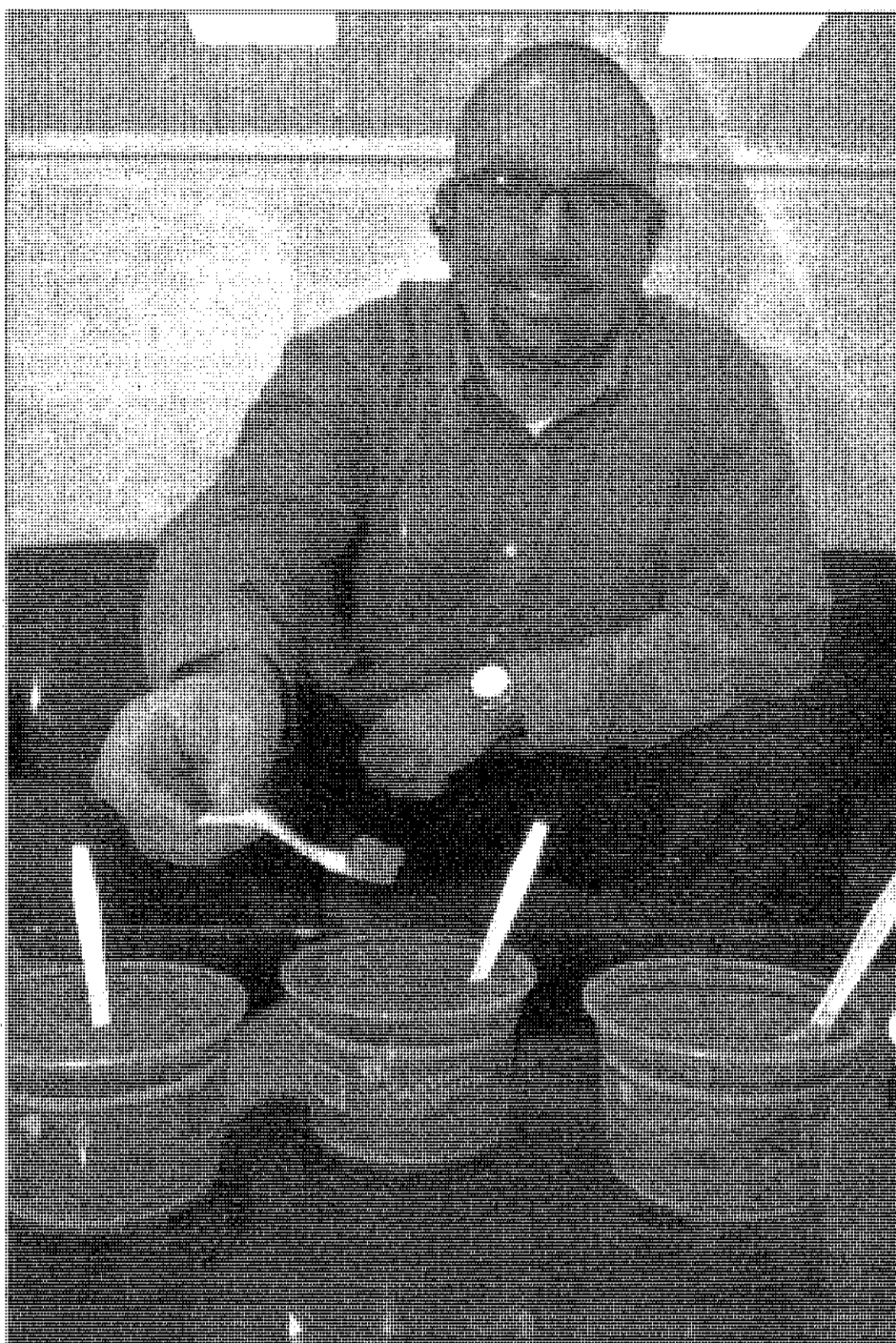
"Not too bad for a food product," he said of growing a business in a tough economy, noting sales pick up with sporting events.

There are two dominant salsa makers, he added, both based in southeast Michigan. "I'm hoping to get up to be No. 3. Everybody has said 'Yes, we want to carry it.' Nobody has told us no."

Denise of Canton submitted this recipe for SHS Meatloaf:

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 (16-ounce) Sweet Heat Salsa
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar

Preheat oven to 375°. Mix all ingredients well. Place and form loaf in 3-inch deep casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 55 minutes.



Ron Willis, salsa king, is proud of his products.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Tax accountant jailed for filing fraudulent tax claims, returns

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth tax accountant has been sentenced to 33 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$103,633 to the Internal Revenue Service for filing fraudulent tax returns.

U.S. Attorney Stephen Murphy announced Thursday that Brian Cox, owner of CFO Solutions, Inc., was sentenced

after pleading guilty in April to 42 counts of filing false claims and 11 counts of preparing false tax documents.

U.S. District Court records indicate that while Cox pleaded guilty to filing false income taxes for four companies, cheating the IRS out of nearly \$197,000, he also filed — but was not prosecuted for — fraudulent tax returns for six additional companies, bringing the total to

\$404,000.

According to court records, Cox, 49 — who lived in Salem Township before moving to Downers Grove, Ill. — was an accountant and tax preparer with an office on Main Street who targeted small business owners who were involved in tax disputes with the IRS.

"Cox devised a scheme to defraud the IRS by preparing and filing false and fictitious tax

documents which indicated that previously filed tax records were incorrect, and that tax refunds were now due, when in fact no refund was due," according to court papers.

One of his victims was Joe Willing of Plymouth Township, who as owner of C.J. Electric paid Cox \$3,300 in 2003 to help him with IRS problems.

"He was a pretty good con. I thought he was going to help me," Willing said. "I put up money that I thought was helping me get out of my problems. My wife (Cathy) felt uneasy about him, but I was duped into it."

"He was supposed to file tax returns for us and get some abatement, but he never contacted anybody," Willing added. "When we tried to find him, he

moved out of his office and we didn't know where to reach him."

Willing said he mentioned the problem to an IRS agent, who advised him to contact the criminal division.

"We thought he was going to help us get through our tax problems and show us how to operate properly," Willing said. "Instead, we ended up closing up the business after 10 years." Cox, according to court documents, was convicted on two occasions for defrauding tax clients, and has had his certified public accountant (CPA) license revoked in Michigan and suspended in Illinois.

"Our tax laws depend upon the voluntary compliance of our citizens, as well as the honesty and integrity of professional tax

preparers," Murphy said. "We take tax fraud seriously in this district, and we will continue to enforce tax laws that were set up for the good of all, and to deter those who would subvert them."

The IRS warns of scams that claim to save taxpayers money when filing income tax returns.

"There are always people who target and take advantage of individuals in a vulnerable position," said Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. "Don't compound your tax problems by buying into a 'too good to be true' solution, because no matter who prepares your tax forms, you are ultimately responsible for the financial burden left behind."

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**BEATING**

FROM PAGE A1

another nearby traffic altercation. The earlier incident resulted in Ronald McClain and his friend being chased by a vehicle whose occupants were firing shots, according to initial reports.

It appeared in 2004 that Charles McClain might get justice for his son, but Wayne County Circuit Judge Daniel Ryan dismissed charges against two murder suspects because a key witness couldn't be found.

McClain ultimately hired a private investigator, and the witness was found in July of this year — a move that eventu-

ally led to the arrest of the original suspects and two others.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Christine Kowal has confirmed that four defendants — Murray Warren, Marcus Strong, David Dunbar and Richard Montgomery — now face trial for allegations they beat Ronald McClain to death.

Even though Charles McClain described himself as not being overly emotional, he conceded that waiting for more than three years for a trial hasn't been easy.

With a trial now scheduled, he said, "That alleviates some of the stress."

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

**ASSISTANCE**

FROM PAGE A1

helping her save money for a house.

Earlier this month, Cramer-Oncza gave a tearful Cooper a check for \$7,730 — money that will help her buy her first home.

"Owning a home and being self-sufficient is everybody's dream, everybody's goal," Cooper said.

She held her FSS check in her left hand. The fingers on her right hand had to be amputated years ago due to complications from heroin addiction.

Cooper conceded that her road to success hasn't been easy, and she credited Cramer-Oncza with helping her to remain focused.

"She kept me boosted up when I was getting discouraged," Cooper said.

Those who enroll in the FSS program have to develop a five-year plan for becoming self-sufficient. Cooper already has achieved her goal, much sooner than her deadline of 2009.

Her ultimate career goal is to start a transitional shelter for women that also will focus on the needs of their children. She wants to be an inspiration to youngsters before they encounter the troubles she did.

Cooper is appreciative of the FSS program.

"It allowed me to have a safe home while I went to school and did what I needed to do," she said. "It's a wonderful program."

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**Madonna University posts Dean's List**

Named to the Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the winter term at Madonna University were Westland residents:

Amanda Kay Aalderink, sign language studies; Lisa Marie Abela-Tesner, psychology- mental health; Monica Therese Ajlouny, family and consumer science; Melinda Renee Alfredson, criminal justice; Donya Ali Alnasiri, undeclared; Mitchell Adrian Andries, criminal justice; Whitney Louise Balas, merchandising management; Laura Lee Bane, sign language studies.

Tiffany Borchardt, social work; Carrie Anne Boven, English; Emily G. Brennan, pre-nursing; Andrea LaCheryl Burston, English/Journalism; Kristin Campanella, criminal justice; Lisa A. Carico, management; Lacey D. Catarino, business administration; Lindsay Ann Cecil, nursing; Amanda Marie Christensen, undeclared teacher education; Sarah Elizabeth Cole, English.

Christopher Robert Cosselmon, undeclared basic nursing; Jennifer Leigh D'Annunzio, sport management; Mark A. Darket, social studies; Tamica R. Dean, television and video communication; Richard J. Dearing, nursing; Erin L. Dersa, nutrition and food science; Lindsay Mary Dixon, math for elementary (K-8) teachers; Meghan Katherine Edmonds, professional technical writing.

Traci Lynn Elstone, nursing; Margaret Veronica Fernandez, general science for teacher education; Adrienne Lee Gazdag, psychology; Kelli M. Gibbs, dietetics; Sarah Lynn Graff, nursing; Corey Dwayne Grant, criminal justice; Jennifer L. Grantham, psychology - mental health; Michele Lynn Greer, family and consumer sci-

ence; Lyndsay Kara Hage, nursing; Christina M. Haley, nursing; Melissa Joy Haller, business administration; Gail Ann Harris, forensic science; Noel Maurice Hathorne, television and video communication; Chad Michael Hensley, criminal justice; Joseph Anthony Horka, criminal justice; Amanda Marie Hubel, nursing; Robyn Lynn Hughes, nursing; Shannon Nicole Hughes, general science for teacher education.

Shane A Hughey, criminal justice; Kylie M. Igrisan, nursing; Jeffrey Scott Johnson, psychology - mental health; Barbara Ann Jones, child development; Crystal Marie Jones, nursing; Joseph Francis Keen, occupational safety, health and fire science; Kristin M. Kelley, pre-nursing; Jessica Anne Kelly, merchandising management; John Michael Kenger, sport management; Kimberly Dawn Kitzmiller, human resources management.

Amanda L. Knight, fine arts; Jennie E Lechel, criminal justice; Tracey Deanna Lidge, accounting; Lindsey Jean Litwinczuk, nursing; Daniel John Mahoney, sign language studies; Steven Mateja; Sandra J. McCausland, paralegal studies; Joseph William McFarland, social studies; Leigh Mara McGrath, business administration; Kreuza Meco, accounting.

Susan Ruth Mendenhall, writing and media studies; Matthew Allen Moenaert, criminal justice; Heather Anne Michelle Nipp, nursing; Amanda Noel, graphic design; Jennifer Lynn Paige, child development; Jeong-Eun Park, undeclared basic nursing; Jennifer M Parsons, clinical laboratory technician.

Christopher Robert Peplinski, social studies; Erica Lynn Progar, business administration; Mary Evelyn Przeklasa, psychology - mental health; Barry Edward Rafferty, nursing; Pamela

Joann Richmond, business administration; Catherine A Rivera, criminal justice; Natalie R. Rodriguez, nutrition and food science; Summar Denielle Ronning, general science for teacher education.

Brenda Lee Rupp, fine arts; Shannon M. Rushlow, language arts; Misty Dawn Sayar, natural science/pre-radiography; Rebecca Anne Sharoian, nursing; Ashley Marie Simons, family and consumer science; Jenifer A. Smith, hospitality

management; Melanie Elizabeth Smitt; management; Kelly Skye Stradtner, forensic science; Elizabeth Maryanne Tackett, family and consumer science.

John P. Tavara, applied science; Joel Roop Timm, fire science; Nikki Marie Troost, medical technology; James A. Walla, nursing; Jody M. White, family and consumer science; Jennene L. Wright, criminal justice; Luvenia D. Wright, mathematics; Carrie A Wrybowski, biology, and Tiffany Marie Zarernba, English.

★★★★ (out of four).  
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 The older you become, the more you require regular activity to keep these parts strong. You need a daily exercise program, and you should plan to do it every day. Events such as bad weather, illness, travel, and appointments will create enough gaps in a daily schedule to give your muscles the break in routine needed for resting.  
 You should put aside at least a half hour to an hour a day for your scheduled activity. The older you become the more imperative that you take an hour for exercise every day.  
 What exercise you undertake can vary. Walking outdoors is fine, as it takes no equipment, and being outside, except in rain, snow, and extreme cold, is emotionally invigorating. Using an indoor track or treadmill is excellent if you can overcome the monotony that often accompanies indoor exercise. Swimming is wonderful if you have no problem finding a pool at the time convenient for you. Whatever you do is fine, if you will do it consistently.

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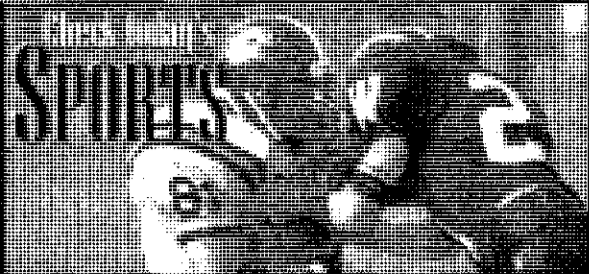
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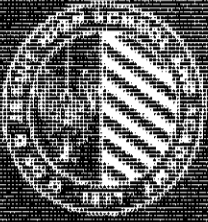


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## Local mom receives a new heart

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sherry Johnson and her husband, Tim, look over some old newspaper clippings about her mother's heart transplant in 1981. Sherry was admitted into the University of Michigan Hospital on Oct. 12 and she received a new heart on Oct. 16.

It was a gift that came sooner than anyone expected — maybe even sooner than anyone had prayed.

Sherry Johnson, the Farmington Hills woman we wrote about last month who has a heart condition known as cardiomyopathy, has received a new heart and is recovering at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

The 35-year-old mother of two sons, ages 4 and 6, who grew up in Livonia, was admitted into the hospital on Thursday, Oct. 12 and was placed on numerous medications. Her heart was failing and her condition was elevated to the top of the transplant waiting list. Before she went to the hospital, she was so weak, she could barely pull the covers over herself while laying on the couch, said Christine Rhines, her sister-in-law.

Then, the call came. A heart was donated by the family of an unknown person who had died.

"She called me at 3:44 a.m. on Monday," said Rhines, of Livonia. "It is an unbelievable blessing."

Rhines was married to Johnson's brother, Jim Jahns, of Livonia, who also had cardiomyopathy, the gradual enlarging and weakening of the heart. He had a heart transplant, which allowed him nine more years to spend with his family. He died three years ago at age 35.

Sherry Johnson and Jim Jahns' mother, Sharon Jahns, was one of the first successful heart transplant patients at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., in 1981. The surgery was considered experimental at that time. She died at age 32, one year after the heart transplant.

Johnson is doing well, according to daily email updates from her husband, Tim.

"The doctors have no concerns with her right now," wrote Tim Johnson on Tuesday. "They feel she is progressing fine and her 'new' heart function looks good."

Rhines is thrilled how things have worked out for her sister-in-law and she knows first-hand how much it means.

"On Oct. 16, Sherry started a new life," she said.

"And, her husband, her boys, her family — their lives were all changed on that day, too. In my prayers, I ask God to bless the donor family."

Tim Johnson said he is still waiting for it to seem real.

"The enormity of this whole thing is still sinking in," he said.

"Nothing in my life will ever match this gift."

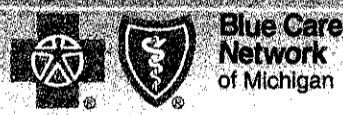
To find out information about organ donation, contact the Gift of Life of Michigan Organ and Tissue Donation Program at (800) 482-4881 or visit on line at [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org).

The family said it's so important for people to let their loved ones know if they would like their organs to be donated upon their death. Making that decision for the family ahead of time is critical, they said.

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## OUR VIEWS

## Vote no on Proposal 1

State Proposal 1 on the Nov. 7 ballot is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect several Department of Natural Resources funds.

The amendment would add sections to the constitution that would shift several restricted DNR funds by combining them into one large fund, the Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund, and places the fund within the state Constitution.

The proposal has the admirable intent of preventing the state Legislature from raiding funding that is intended for the protection of the state's natural resources and the recreational use of state land. By moving the funds from state statute to the constitution, the governor or state Legislature would not be able to use the money for other purposes.

These funds come from hunting and fishing licenses, recreational vehicle registration fees, portions of the gasoline tax, contracts and fees for use of state lands, snowmobile trail user fees, state park fees and permits, watercraft licenses and other water sport fees, and those wildlife license plates.

In the past, voters have voted to protect the Natural Resources Trust Fund and the State Park Endowment Fund within the constitution.

Under statute, these funds could certainly be subject to legislative diversion to balance the state budget. Diverting these funds would be a disservice to the programs they are intended to support and would constitute an extra tax on those who pay these fees with the understanding that they will support DNR activities. We agree that these funds should not be raided.

But we also believe that an addition to the state constitution is not the best way to proceed. Altering the amendment in the future would require another statewide vote. Putting the funds in the constitution would restrict the Legislature during a time of economic crisis. Yes, DNR funding should be protected. Any use of those funds for other purposes must be only in the most dire circumstances. But the Legislature needs to have that flexibility.

We support a no vote on Proposal 1.

## No vote on eminent domain

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Kelo vs. City of New London* that a government body could use its eminent domain authority to promote economic development and transfer property from one private entity to another.

The 5-4 decision was controversial and drew strong negative reaction from both conservative and liberal groups. But the decision left open to each state the opportunity to set limits on the legislative powers of its Legislature and municipalities in defining the proper use of eminent domain.

The majority cited the 2004 Michigan Supreme Court decision *County of Wayne vs. Hathcock* as an example of setting limits on eminent domain. In that decision, the Michigan court ruled against the county using its eminent domain power to acquire additional land for the proposed Pinnacle Aeropark development.

The state Legislature has placed a constitutional amendment on the November ballot, Proposal 4, that

builds on the Hathcock decision in setting limits on eminent domain. It provides that government compensate owners at 125 percent of market value when the property is a principal residence, restricts taking public property for transfer to a private entity, shifts the burden of proof on defining public use to the government and protects against future legislative or judicial actions that would jeopardize property rights.

We understand the concern about overreaching government and the misuse of eminent domain. But we also know that there are times when eminent domain is necessary for economic development.

The *Wayne vs. Hathcock* decision, which is now law in Michigan, goes a long way toward protecting private property rights without overstepping and limiting a necessary government prerogative for the general welfare. The proposed amendment would create barriers to eminent domain that could have serious consequences for future urban development.

We urge a no vote on Proposal 4.

## LETTERS

## Seniors, listen up

I see Gov. Jennifer Granholm met with the blacks, Latinos and other groups on what she can do for them. What about the seniors?

You politicians seem to take us for granted, or being stupid. You had better wake up. Just because we can't have an accountable leader since Claude Pepper doesn't mean we're stupid.

We are more than 45 million strong, and you had better start paying attention to us like you do for the other groups. We want paid insurance; we want our property taxes reduced after age 65 by 50 percent. No more 3 percent increase every year in our property taxes. We want more say in our destiny.

We're tired of asking, we're demanding! Granholm and DeVos, what are you going to do for us seniors? That doughnut you've been passing out isn't going to work any more.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mirth  
Westland

## Vote for Trupiano

At a League of Women Voters forum on Oct. 12, 11th District Rep. Thaddeus McCotter brought the house down with his comment that "the Republican Congress has been responsible" on deficit reduction. Unfortunately, this was not part of a stand-up comedy routine; this is apparently what he believes.

Is this the same Republican Congress that in 2001 faced a projected 5-year budget surplus of \$5 trillion, a national debt that stood at \$5.7 trillion? Or is this the current Congress which, with Mr. Bush's help, managed to raise the national debt to more \$8.5 trillion, and increasing on-average, more than \$1.5 billion every day? (See Web site [www.brillig.com/debt\\_clock/](http://www.brillig.com/debt_clock/)).

On the war in Iraq, Mr. McCotter now says that it is time to reduce the number of troops from the current 130,000 plus troops. But, we need to ask, what has Mr. McCotter, in his position as a member of the congressional majority party, done to achieve this reduction in troop levels? He has consistently supported the war funding bills for an administration that has vowed to "stay the course."

What has Mr. McCotter done to hold the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, or any other administration official, accountable for the failed Iraq policy? Mr. McCotter needs to know that just saying something doesn't make it true. Actions (or lack of) speak louder than words.

At the same forum, Mr. McCotter bemoaned the lack of time he gets to spend with his family. This is an unfortunate, but well-known consequence of serving in Congress. I'm guessing nowadays that many working people in the private sector have that same feeling, since they are working more but still struggling to keep up economically.

This Nov. 7, we can help eliminate that demand on Mr. McCotter and his family, we can help set a new course for the failed Iraq policy, we can help eliminate the "culture of corruption" that has built up over the last 12 years that Republicans have controlled Congress, we can help restore respect for this country around the world, we can hold the Republicans accountable. We can support and vote for Tony Trupiano, Democrat for the 11th Congressional District

John Zajechowski  
Garden City

## Look who voted for torture

Do you know what your representative in Congress has been up to?

Thaddeus McCotter, Joe Knollenberg, Mike Rogers, Candice Miller, Vernon Ehlers, Peter Hoekstra and Joe Schwarz just voted for The Torture Bill, euphemistically called the Military Commissions Act. This horrifying bill allows George Bush to detain and torture ANYONE, including US citizens.

Without a trial.  
That's right.

These public servants voted to deny you the right to see a judge, if arrested. Leading Republicans would like you to believe that they reached a "compromise" with Bush and that all is well with the Constitution and the Geneva Convention. NOT SO.

If you are arrested, you have no more rights than the "enemy combatants" currently rotting in Guantanamo. You are no longer guaranteed the right to know what the charge is, to see a lawyer, to confront your accuser or to see a judge.

How on earth could these representatives, Congressmen/women who vowed to uphold our Constitution, vote to deny us our fundamental Constitutional rights?

And then there's the torture part of the bill. Waterboarding seems to be the current torture of choice and McCotter, et. al., just made it legal. This rubber-stamp Republican Congress will tell you that this bill protects you from terrorists. IT DOES NOT. This bill is designed to protect the Bush regime from prosecution for crimes against humanity. The very same crimes for which the Nazis were executed after World War II.

How can this "Christian" Congress live with themselves?

To say we need to change our representatives is the understatement of this election year. For the sake of our rights and our conscience,

McCOTTER, KNOLLENBERG, ROGERS, EHLERS, HOEKSTRA AND MILLER ALL NEED TO GO.

Mary Ann Beaser  
Plymouth

## Misleading ads

Your editorial of Sept. 7 chastised both gubernatorial candidates for arguing about who is responsible for Michigan's job losses, "Granholm for her failed policies and DeVos for his company's shifting of jobs to Asia."

DeVos has called the latter assertion a "blatant lie." In defending the Democratic ad from which that was taken, Granholm says that it is fact that DeVos' company reduced its work force in Michigan and made investments in China.

Those facts are correct, except that the ad implied that DeVos shipped jobs from Michigan to China. That is not true. The job loss in Michigan was due to downsizing.

The new jobs in China were for the Chinese market, for products never produced in Michigan. They were in fact required by the Chinese to allow DeVos' company to do business in China.

The resulting profit from the Chinese venture helped the company here in Michigan and made further downsizing unnecessary.

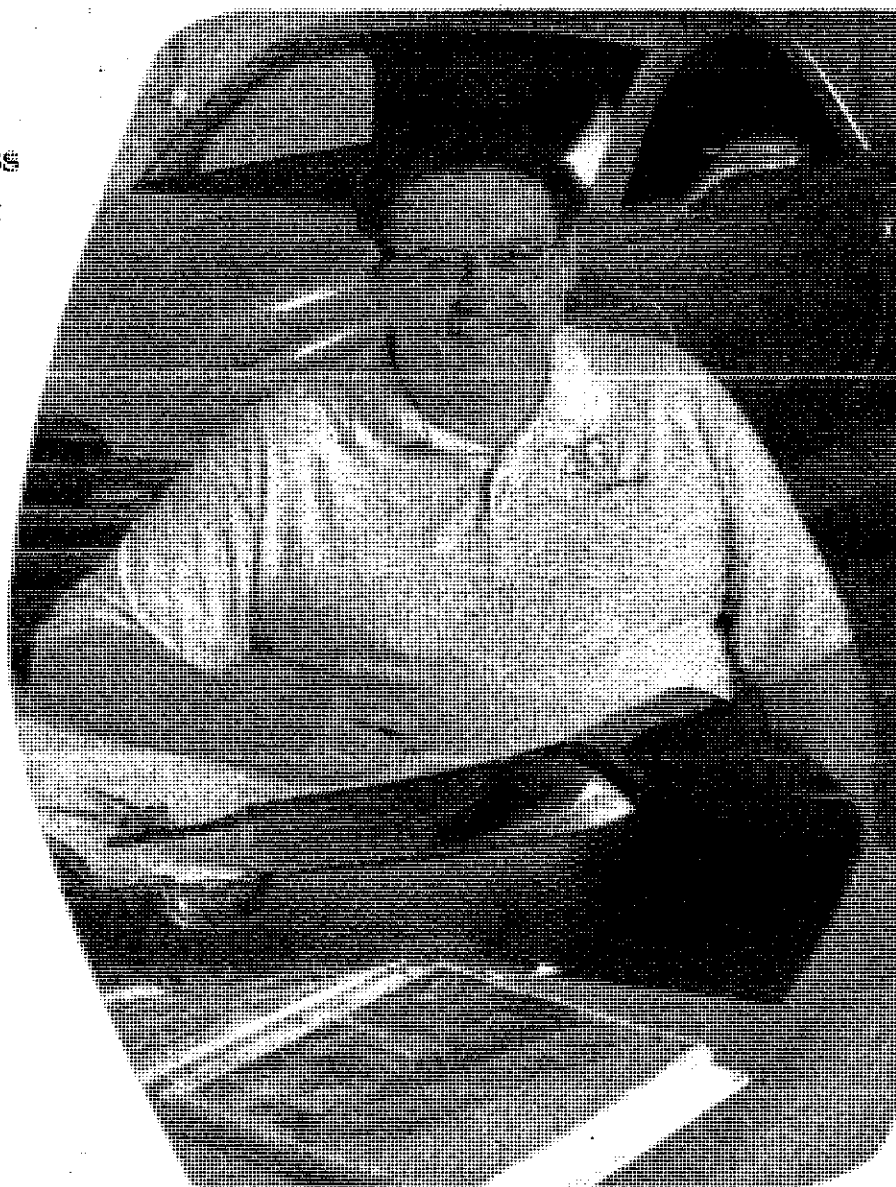
Jim Collins  
Farmington Hills

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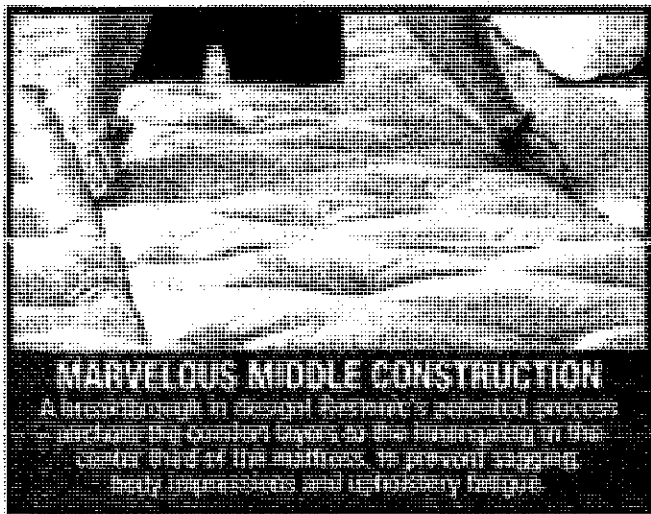
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	Durham Euro PT	
	WAS	NOW
Twin	\$899.99	\$449.99
Full	\$999.99	\$499.99
Queen	\$1099.99	\$549.99
King	\$1599.99	\$799.99

10 Yr. Non-Prorated Warranty

	Bristol Firm	
	WAS	NOW
Twin	\$1099.99	\$599.99
Full	\$1399.99	\$699.99
Queen	\$1499.99	\$749.99
King	\$1999.99	\$999.99

15 Yr. Non-Prorated Warranty

	Cameron Euro PT	
	WAS	NOW
Twin	\$1399.99	\$699.99
Full	\$1599.99	\$799.99
Queen	\$1699.99	\$899.99
King	\$2399.99	\$1199.99

15 Yr. Non-Prorated Warranty

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ROSELAND	3000 Roseland, Roseland, MI 48068	248-234-8300
ROYAL OAK	10000 E. Grand Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48068	248-308-1194
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TROY	3000 E. Warren, Troy, MI 48064	248-718-1088
TAYLOR	2000 E. Warren, Taylor, MI 48070	734-287-0454
WARREN	20000 E. Warren, Warren, MI 48090	588-750-1500
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